# SALVATION LESSON 5: Trusting in Christ Alone

***In this Sunday school lesson, the children will discover that faith is the key to receiving the gift of Salvation. Out of faith we are able to trust in Christ alone, confess His Holy name before others, be repentant of our sins, and finally in obedience to His Word, be baptized.***

#### TOPICS

Salvation, Born Again, Baptism, Faith, Forgiveness, Sin, Trust

#### AS KIDS ARRIVE (10 minutes)

**Verse Worksheet 2**
Have the children take Verse Worksheet 2 from their folder, and have them **paraphrase** the last three verses (John 3:36; Romans 10:9; and Acts 2:38. When finished, ask for two or more volunteers to share their paraphrases for all six verses. Then have them place the worksheet back into their folders to take home.

#### OPENING PRAYER AND PRAISE (5 minutes)

After prayer, ask the class about their homework assignment. They were to read about the time Jesus calmed the storm from Matthew 8:23-27.

**Discussion Question:**
1. Why did Jesus tell the disciples they had little faith? (They were putting their faith in their own abilities rather than in Jesus. They knew they had no power over the storm, but also they did not fully believe that Jesus did.)2. How is faith related to not being afraid? Afraid of what? (Fearful things will still exist, but having faith in Jesus will help keep us from becoming powerless because of fear.)

#### CLASS EXERCISE (5 minutes)

Faith can be described in this way.(Write the following acrostic on the board and encourage all the kids to copy it somewhere on their folder.

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| **F – orsaking                   A – ll                   I                   T – rust                   H – im** |

#### MEMORY WORK (15 minutes)

**"Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven.”
Matthew 10:32 NIV**

Have everyone find this verse in their Bible, and read it together several times.

Jesus is speaking these words. "Acknowledge" in this instance means to announce before others that Jesus is who He claims to be, and to accept his power and authority over your life. In other versions of the Bible, the verse may read, "Whoever confesses me before men..."

Have everyone read the verse again, but this time replace the words acknowledges and acknowledge with the words confesses and confess. Have everyone recite the verse one more time after discussion of the following:

**Discussion Questions:**
1. Who should we acknowledge Jesus to? (Other people)
2. When we acknowledge Jesus before men, to whom will Jesus acknowledge us? (God)
3. Why do you believe Jesus says that we must acknowledge or confess Him before others?
4. What may happen if we don't acknowledge or confess Jesus? (He will not acknowledge us before God.)
5. Is it enough to simply state that Jesus is who he says he is? (No, we also must put our trust in him, and accept his power and authority over our lives.)

#### SCRIPTURE READING AND DISCUSSION (15 minutes)

**Introduction:**In our Bible study today, we will be picking up just after the Disciples received the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost. Shortly after that, Peter addressed the crowds, and preached the Good News to all of them about who Jesus really is and what He accomplished on the cross. Let's pick up the story in Acts 2: 37.

**Read Acts 2:37-47**

**Discussion Questions:**
1. Why does Peter say "repent" in verse 38? What does "repent" mean? (To turn from - to change directions. Peter says we must turn from our sin and turn to Jesus as Lord and Savior.)2. What else does Peter suggest the people do besides repenting of their sin? (To be baptized.)
3. What is promised to the people if they do what Peter suggests? (Their sins will be forgiven and they will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.)4. Peter lets the crowd know who can be saved. Who? (Those hearing, their children, people far off, all who the Lord calls.)
5. Do you believe the Lord is calling you? (Allow for answers.)
6. What changes took place in the lives of the new believers? (Allow the class to look through verses 42-47 and list them on the board.)

•They devoted themselves to the apostles teaching•They had fellowship with each other•They broke bread and ate together•They prayed together•They were filled with awe•They saw many wonders and miraculous signs done by the Apostles•They were together•They had everything in common•They gave to anyone who had a need•They met every day in the temple courts•They gave praise to God

#### CLASS EXERCISE (10 minutes)

**New Life in Christ (Object Talk)** dThis Sharing Buttons

**Baptism expresses the forgiveness of our sins and the freedom to live a new life in Christ.**

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| TOPICS:Baptism, Forgiveness, Obedience, Sin  MATERIALS:Roll of toilet paperLarge bowl or bucket of waterPaper towel for drying handDURATION:Approximately 10 minutes | Baptism and Cross |

#### WHAT YOU WILL DO:

You need one volunteer for this little experiment. First, you will take toilet paper and wrap it around the fingers of one hand about ten times, so the fingers cannot be spread apart. Then you will have the volunteer submerge his or her wrapped hand into the bowl of water. After about 20 seconds, he or she will be able to spread his or her fingers apart and remove the hand from the water free from the toilet paper. The toilet paper represents being bound by sin, and the water shows how baptism expresses how we are free to walk a new life in Jesus, forgiven of our sins.

Note: Many Christian churches believe immersion is the best way to express this new life we have in Christ, while others say the spiritual meaning is what matters, and not the method. However, baptism by immersion is consistently found in scripture.

#### WHAT YOU WILL SAY:

I need a volunteer. Great! Now hold out your hand. I'm going to wrap a lot of sin around it. (Take the roll of toilet paper and tightly wrap it about ten times around the fingers of one hand. Make sure it is snug so the volunteer cannot spread his or her fingers apart.)

Your hand now represents how each of us are bound by our sin. Can you spread your fingers apart? (The answer should be No.)

Because of our sin, we are separated from God. We are spiritually dead. But Jesus forgives our sins. He cleanses us from all unrighteousness, so we can receive the gift of the Holy Spirit and live a new life in Jesus. This truth is expressed by baptism. Let's see how it works. I want you to submerge your hand in this bowl of water. Keep it in there. Everyone else, let's count to 20.

(After counting to 20) Now can you spread your fingers apart? Go ahead and spread your fingers, and remove your hand leaving all the sin behind. Great job, you can now dry off.

We are baptized out of obedience to the Word of God for the forgiveness of our sins. (Acts 2: 38) When you are baptized for real, you may hear something like the following: "Because of your confession of faith, and in obedience to Christ, you are now baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, for the forgiveness of your sins, and for the gift of eternal life or the Holy Spirit."

**Discussion Questions:**
1. What should someone do before they are baptized? (One must first accept and trust in Jesus.)
2. Why should someone be baptized (Out of obedience, because Jesus commands it.)
3. When should someone be baptized? (As soon as they can after accepting Jesus into their heart.)

#### Closing CLASS EXERCISE (5 minutes)

**My Prayer of Faith**
Have the children take **"My Prayer of Faith"** completed during lesson 2 from their folders. Suggest each student take some time to review their prayer of faith, and then allow time for each student who is ready, to actually pray their prayer to God. Afterwards, have those who prayed their prayer of faith to raise their hand, so you will know who is ready to make a commitment to follow Jesus, confess publicly, and be baptized according to the specific practices of your church here.

#### APPLICATION (10 minutes)

We covered quite a lot of information during this lesson series. We learned that no matter how hard we try, we will never be good enough to get to Heaven on our own. Yet, it is a free gift. We also learned that we are sinners. Sin will keep us from having a relationship with God in Heaven, and God is just. He must punish sin, which is eternal death. However, God is also merciful. He loves us and does not want to punish us.

In order to save us, He sent His only begotten Son, Jesus to die for us. Jesus was completely without sin. He got what He did not deserve, to keep us from getting what we do deserve, death. Finally, we learned that when we put our faith and trust in Jesus, we can take hold of the Grace of God, and receive eternal life.

By praying the prayer of faith, we turn our lives over to the Lordship of Jesus. By confessing His name before others, we show that we acknowledge that He alone is Lord, our Lord and Savior. We can then take hold of the promise that Jesus forgives our sins and gives us the Holy Spirit. In obedience, we repent of our sins, meaning to turn away from them and live a new life in Christ, and express this through baptism.

#### CLOSING PRAYER (2 minutes)