

SALVATION

Receiving Jesus Christ as your personal Savior is the most important decision you will ever make in your lifetime. This simple decision of childlike faith carries profound significance for all of eternity.

The key word of this lesson is:

RELATIONSHIP

The key questions this lesson answers:

What does it mean to be born again?

How does salvation affect my relationship to God?

The key purpose of this lesson:

To briefly explain what took place in your life when you received Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and how that decision has changed your standing with God.

The key point of this lesson:

Our relationship with God is now a perfect father and child relationship.

MEMORY VERSES:

*“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast.” – **Ephesians 2:8-9***

*“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” – **John 1:12-13***

YOU LIVE WITHIN ONE OF TWO SPIRITUAL FAMILIES

A. Satan's Family

1. Every person in the world is born into Satan's family.

John 8:31-44; 1 John 3:10

2. You entered into Satan's family through a **PHYSICAL** birth by your earthly father, who is ultimately a descendant of Adam. The descendants of Adam are all born in the image and likeness of a fallen sinner.

Genesis 5:3; Psalm 51:5

3. You inherited a sinful nature from your father, Adam.

Romans 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-3

4. The bible is clear that as a result of your sin, you are sentenced to die.

"For the wages of sin is death..." – Romans 6:23

THE ONLY SOLUTION TO YOUR SIN PROBLEM IS TO TRUST IN JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR SAVIOR.

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." – John 14:6

– **Jesus is the way.**

The bible says mankind will die in their sins if they are not saved from the punishment that they deserve through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Jesus became the way to your salvation by dying in your place on the cross, being buried for three days and three nights, and rising again in victory over sin and death.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Colossians 1:12-14

– **Jesus is the truth.**

The bible says that mankind rejects the truth of who God is by choosing to worship themselves and creation. Jesus is the truth they are seeking, and mankind needs to worship him as the one true God.

Romans 1:20-25; 1 John 5:20

– **Jesus is the life.**

All mankind is born into sin, and they are condemned to be separated from God in an eternal death in the lake of fire. They need the eternal life that is found in Jesus Christ.

Revelation 20:15; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9

B. God's Family

1. You enter into God's family through a **SPIRITUAL** birth by your heavenly Father. By trusting Jesus Christ as your Savior, you become a son of God through spiritual birth. This is what the term "born again" means.

John 3:3-7; 1 Peter 1:23

2. This new birth is described for us in ***John 1:12-13***.

"But as many as received him..."

Although Jesus died for all, you must place your trust in Christ as Lord and Savior, and choose to become his disciple.

"...to them gave he power to become the sons of God..."

God enables you to become a son of God and enter into his family.

"...even to them that believe on his name..."

You must believe by grace through faith that Jesus payed for your sin by shedding his blood in death, and that he rose again in victory.

"...which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man..."

You do not enter into God's family through a physical birth (*blood*), through your effort (*will of the flesh*), or because someone else wants it for you (*will of man*).

"...but of God."

Your entrance into God's family is through a spiritual birth.

3. God becomes your heavenly Father when you are adopted into his family.

Romans 8:15

4. After your salvation, God will no longer deal with you as a sinner, but as his child.

1 John 2:1; Ephesians 5:1

THE KEY POINT OF THIS LESSON!

Our relationship with God is now a perfect father and child relationship. Unlike many earthly fathers, God never makes mistakes when He deals with His children.

"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?"

DISCUSSION:

When did you enter into God's family?

The only way that you can be saved and spend eternity with God is to believe that Jesus died, was buried, and rose again for you. You receive this amazing gift by calling out and asking Jesus Christ to save you.

- If you cannot point to a time or place that you got saved, then it is possible that you either cannot remember, or have not really been born again.
- Some people have had a religious experience, but never really understood their need for the Gospel. Others may have said a prayer, but they were not sincere.
- If you are still unsure of your salvation, why not settle the issue and ask God to save you right now?

Romans 10:9-13

How does your relationship with your earthly father affect how you view your relationship with God as your heavenly father?

IT IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND HOW YOUR LIFE HAS CHANGED SINCE YOUR SALVATION

A. You now have the Holy Ghost dwelling inside of you.

"That good thing which was committed unto thee by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us." – 2 Timothy 1:14

"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? – 1 Corinthians 3:16

B. You are now a new creature in Christ.

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." – 2 Corinthians 5:17

C. You now possess eternal life.

It is yours right now; you are not waiting to receive it sometime in the future. The verses below mention your current spiritual life in the present tense.

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life..." – John 3:36

"...He that believeth on me hath everlasting life." – John 6:47

"He that hath the Son hath life..." – 1 John 5:12

D. You now possess a new spiritual nature.

1. Just as you inherited your human nature from your physical birth, you have inherited God's divine nature through your new spiritual birth.

2 Peter 1:3-4

2. Now that you have a new nature in Jesus Christ, the Bible commands you to live a life different from that of the lost.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Though you became a "new creature" (a "new man") in your soul and spirit the moment you were redeemed (**2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 4:24**), your "old man," with all of the lusts and passions he had prior to your salvation, is still lodged in the members of your fleshly body and mind. (**Eph. 4:22; 2:3**) There will, therefore, be a constant conflict between your flesh and the Spirit of God within you until you die, or until you receive the redemption of your body at the rapture. (**Gal. 5:17; Rom. 8:22-23; Col. 3:3-5**) The only way to daily overcome the lust of the flesh — is by walking in the Spirit and renewing your mind. (**Gal. 5:16; Rom. 12:1-2**)

2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 4:24; 4:22; 2:3; Galatians 5:17; Romans 8:22-23; Colossians 3:3-5; Galatians 5:16; Romans 12:1-2

SOME COMMON MISUNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT SALVATION

A. Is all of mankind part of one large family of God?

No. We can only be God's children by faith in the resurrected Jesus Christ.

Galatians 3:26

B. Do we have to earn/work our way to heaven?

No. Doing good works does not earn us our salvation. We do good works because we are saved.

Ephesians 2:8-10; Romans 4:4-5

C. Are there many different ways to get to heaven?

No. Jesus is the only way to be with God.

Acts 4:12

SOME BASIC QUESTIONS YOU MAY BE ASKING

A. Will I sin after I am saved?

Yes. You still have the same body and brain you had prior to your salvation, and they will seek to draw you into sin for the rest of your life. We must learn to renew our minds, and put the members of our body to death.

Romans 7:18-25; 12:1,2; 6:11-14

B. How does sin affect my relationship with my Heavenly Father?

Your sin will cause your fellowship with God to be broken, but your relationship as his child will not change. However, God will discipline you because you are his child.

Hebrews 12:5-11; Proverbs 3:11-12

C. What should I do when I sin?

Begin by confessing it! When you confessed you were a sinner as you called upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to save you, the blood of Jesus cleansed you from all sin: past, present and future. (**1 John 1:9**)

Confession of sin then becomes characteristic of those whose sins have been cleansed. You confess your sin, however, not TO BE cleansed, but because you HAVE BEEN cleansed! As sons and daughters of God in whom the Spirit of God now walks, He tells us that we are to “cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.” (**2 Corinthians. 7:1**) In other words, we are to take biblical ownership and responsibility for removing any and all sin out of our lives!

1 John 1:9; 2 Corinthians 7:1

Discussion:

How has your life changed since your salvation?

Do you think that you would be able to tell someone how they can be saved and become a child of God? How would you begin that conversation?

Do you have any questions about this lesson?

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

1. Use *1 Corinthians 15:1-4* to define the gospel.

2. The only way to enter into a family is through birth. Describe in your own words how people enter into Satan's family and God's family.

3. How has your life changed since you accepted Jesus Christ as Savior?

4. How would you explain the daily conflict between the flesh and the Spirit?

5. Write down how your relationship with your Heavenly Father compares with your earthly father.

6. What is the key purpose of this lesson, and what has it taught you?

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

Read *Ephesians 2:8-9* and describe why no one can be saved through their efforts.

According to *Romans 10:9-10*, how does someone come to salvation?

Your relationship with God is pictured by the earthly relationship between a father and his son. Read the following verses and write down some of the ways that God cares for his children.

Psalm 46:1

John 14:26

Colossians 3:21

Matthew 4:4

Romans 8:28-30

Hebrews 12:5-11

Matthew 18:5-6

Philippians 4:19

1 Peter 5:7

Read *1 Thessalonians 1:9-10* and describe how the lives of the believers in the Thessalonian church changed after their salvation.

Read *Colossians 1:12-14* and describe in your own words what happened in your life because of your salvation.
