

Salvation

How are we Saved?

OPENING:

Today we will discover that Jesus is God's answer to our sin. We will learn that Jesus died on the cross for us, and purchased our place in Heaven. Jesus got what He did not deserve, **to keep us from getting what we do deserve**, that is eternal death and separation from God.

Read: Romans 5:6-11:

- *Christ died for us while we were still weak. We were living against God, but at the right time, Christ died for us. ⁷ Very few people will die to save the life of someone else. Although perhaps for a good man someone might possibly die. ⁸ But Christ died for us while we were still sinners. In this way God shows his great love for us.*
- *⁹ We have been made right with God by the blood of Christ's death. So through Christ we will surely be saved from God's anger. ¹⁰ I mean that while we were God's enemies, God made us his friends through the death of his Son. Surely, now that we are God's friends, God will save us through his Son's life. ¹¹ And not only that, but now we are also very happy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Jesus we are now God's friends again.*

Discuss

- Why would it be hard to die for a real "bad" person, someone who sins against you? *(You might consider them as your enemy, not worthy)*
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- How did God demonstrate His love for us? *(He sent His only begotten son to die in our place, even though we were sinning against Him)*

So, we know God sent His Son down to earth as a human to take on our sin so that we could be forgiven and have eternal life. But, what does that actually mean? How can someone else take our sin? And what do we have to do in return? Well, let's read about Nicodemus and how Jesus explained all of this to him.

Read: John 3:1-21 - Jesus and Nicodemus

- *There was a man named Nicodemus who was one of the Pharisees. He was an important Jewish leader. ² One night Nicodemus came to Jesus. He said, "Teacher, we know that you are a teacher sent from God. No one can do the miracles you do, unless God is with him."*
- ³ **Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth. Unless you are born again, you cannot be in God's kingdom."**
- ⁴ *Nicodemus said, "But if a man is already old, how can he be born again? He cannot enter his mother's body again. So how can he be born a second time?"*
- ⁵ *But Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth. Unless you are born from water and the Spirit, you cannot enter God's kingdom. ⁶ A person's body is born from his human parents. **But a person's spiritual life is born from the Spirit.** ⁷ Don't be surprised when I tell you, 'You must all be born again.' ⁸ The wind blows where it wants to go. You hear the wind blow. But you don't know where the wind comes from or where it is going. It is the same with every person who is born from the Spirit."*
- ⁹ *Nicodemus asked, "How can all this be possible?"*
- ¹⁰ *Jesus said, "You are an important teacher in Israel. But you still don't understand these things? ¹¹ I tell you the truth. We talk about what we know. We tell about what we have seen. But you don't accept what we tell you. ¹² I have told you about things here on earth, but you do not believe me. So surely you will not believe me if I tell you about the things of heaven! ¹³ **The only one who has ever gone up to heaven is the One who came down from heaven—the Son of Man.**^[a]*
- ¹⁴ *"Moses lifted up the snake in the desert.^[b] It is the same with the Son of Man. The Son of Man must be lifted up too. ¹⁵ **Then everyone who believes in him can have eternal life.***
- ¹⁶ **"For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son. God gave his Son so that whoever believes in him may not be lost, but have eternal life. ¹⁷ God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world guilty, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ He who believes in God's Son is not judged guilty. He who does not believe has already been judged guilty, because he has not believed in God's only Son. ¹⁹ People are judged by this fact: I am the Light from God that has come into the world. But men did not want light. They wanted darkness because they were doing evil things. ²⁰ Everyone who does evil hates the light. He will not come to the light because it will show all the evil things he has done. ²¹ **But he who follows the true way comes to the light. Then the light will show that the things he has done were done through God."****

Discuss:

- Nicodemus called Jesus a teacher from God. Who is He really according to these scriptures? (*The son of man, verse 13; God's one and only son, verse 16; savior, verse 17; light, verse 19.*)
- 2. What does it mean to be born again? (*To enter into Heaven requires a rebirth, something impossible for man, but possible for God. To be born again means we become a new person spiritually, a person forgiven of sin and involved in an intimate relationship with God.*)
- 3. What is being born of the water and of the Spirit? How are they different? (*Being born of the water probably refers to the physical birth, while being born of the Spirit refers to when we awaken to God's Spirit working in us.*)
- 4. What does Jesus mean when he says, "The Son of Man must be lifted up?" (*He must be lifted upon the cross to die for us, and when we turn our faith to him, we will be saved from our sins.*)
- 5. Read verses 16-18 again. What does it really mean to believe? (*It means to trust in Christ alone, and letting Him become the Lord of your whole life. That means living a life in obedience to His Word.*)

Jesus' Promise:

Read: Matthew 10:32 -

"Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven."

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.*)

So, what's our next step?

Read: Acts 2:36-42 - Peter shares with the people:

- *36 So, all the people of Israel should know this truly: God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ. He is the man you nailed to the cross!"*
- *37 When the people heard this, they were sick at heart. They asked Peter and the other apostles, "What shall we do?"*
- *38 Peter said to them, "**Change your hearts and lives and be baptized, each one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.** 39 **This promise is for you.** It is also for your children and for all who are far away. It is for everyone the Lord our God calls to himself."*
- *40 Peter warned them with many other words. He begged them, "Save yourselves from the evil of today's people!" 41 Then those people who accepted what Peter said were baptized. About 3,000 people were added to the number of believers that day. 42 They spent their time learning the apostles' teaching. And they continued to share, to break bread,^[a] and to pray together.*

Discuss:

- 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?**

But, before we are baptized we must repent of our sins and ask Jesus into our hearts.

How do we accept Jesus into our hearts?

Read: Romans 10:9-10

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and if you believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from death, then you will be saved. ¹⁰ We believe with our hearts, and so we are made right with God. And we declare with our mouths to say that we believe, and so we are saved.

It's that simple!

So, once you've accepted Jesus into your heart, what do you think happens to your heart?

Salvation Object Lesson (Acts 3:19) Hard Boiled Egg

Hard Boiled Egg to illustrate How God Forgives Sins

As with any object lesson, this is not a perfect representation of salvation. The idea here is to further a child's understanding of what Christ does with our hearts when we believe in Him and accept Him as our Savior.

- Who can tell me what sin is?
 - (Sin is anything that we do, or say, or think that goes against what God has told us in the Bible to be truth. It is anything that makes God unhappy)
- What are some of the things that we do that go against God and make God unhappy?
Let the children answer. As they answer write the sins on the egg with a permanent marker. Write them on top of each other so that the egg starts to look really black.
- What is this thing we are writing on?
It is just a hard-boiled egg.
- Have you ever touched an egg?
- How does it feel?
- What does it look like?
Have different children feel the egg as they answer. (possible answers- hard, smooth, maybe a little rough, colored, dark, messy)
- This egg reminds me of our hearts **before** we know Jesus. Before we know Jesus our hearts are hard and messy and far from perfect.
- But this egg also reminds me of what Jesus has done for each of us.

- Jesus spent His life telling people about God, how much He loved them and how God wanted them to live.
- But Jesus didn't just live for us, He also died for us. He died for us because ALL of us have done the things that we wrote on this egg. *Name some of the things on the egg. (e.g.- We have all lied, or been unkind, or not obeyed our parents.)*
- What did we call those things? *Sin.*
- Our sin keeps us from knowing God and following Jesus.

• Listen to this promise from the Bible about how God wants to forgive our sins.
Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord. Acts 3:19

Start peeling the egg.

Jesus died on the cross for our sins. But He didn't stay dead. After 3 days, He rose again and is now living in heaven.

Jesus died on the cross for you and if you believe in Jesus and tell Him you are sorry for your sin, then He can take away your sin.

Just like I am taking off the dark, hard peel of this egg.

When you are done peeling the egg, what does it look like and feel like now?

Have the children feel the egg as they answer. *(possible answers- soft, malleable, no blemishes, clean)*

That is what happens to our heart when we ask Jesus to forgive us for our sins.

The things that make him unhappy.

Our heart changes from messy and dark and hard to being clean and soft.

Memory Verse:

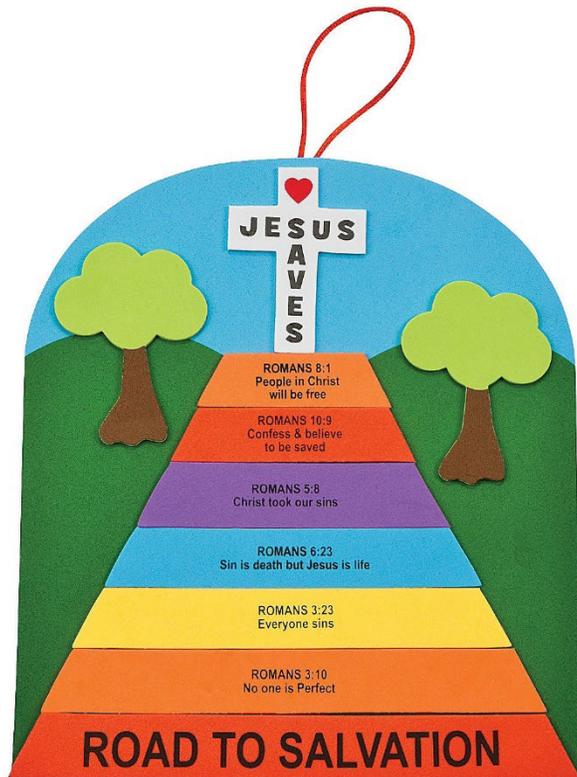
If you believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from death, then you will be saved.

Romans 9:9

Crafts:

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VIDEO -God's Story – The Good News

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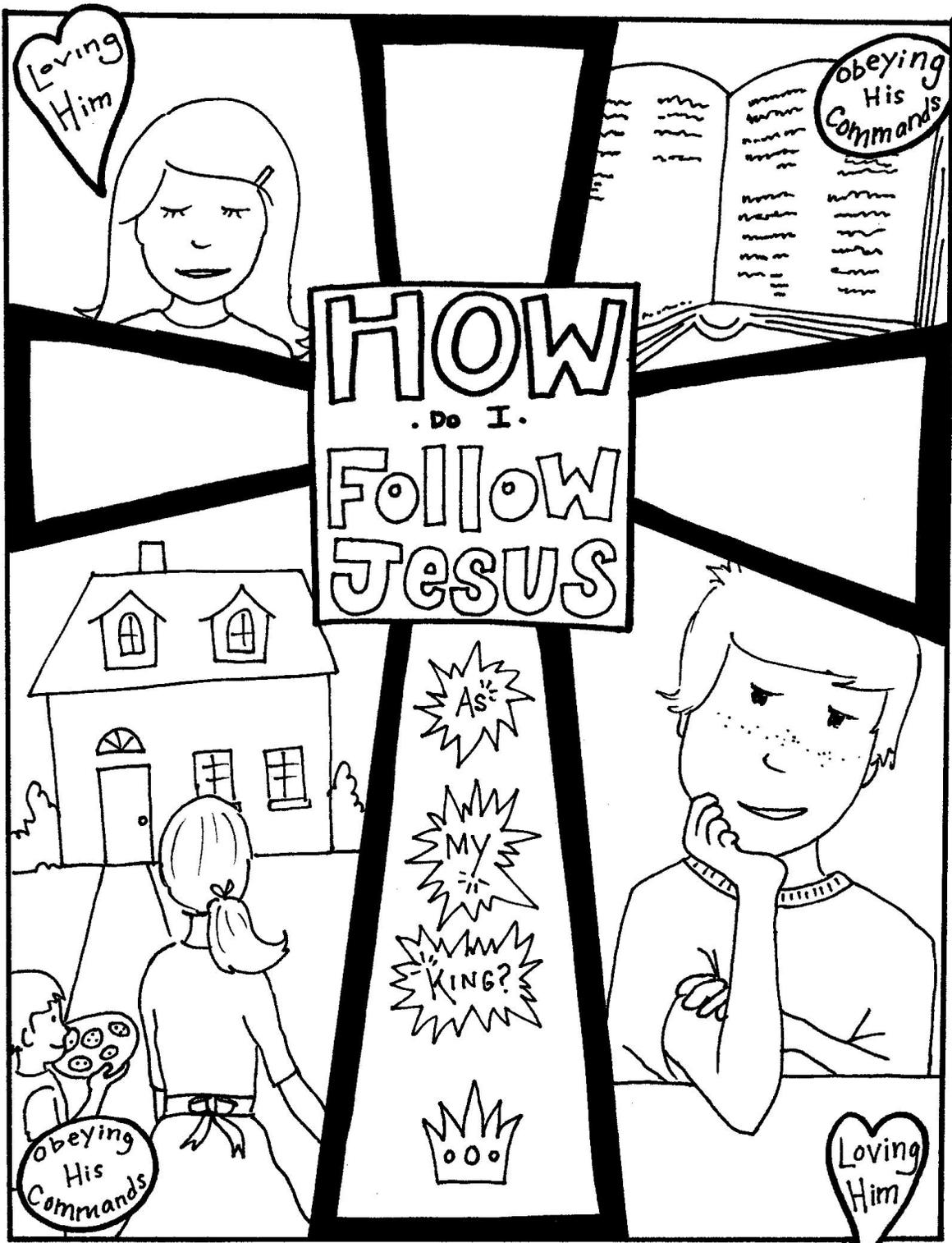
Feel free to take a picture of their art work or share how your activity went! Post it on our Facebook page or share it on GroupMe. Have a Blessed Day & Week! Until we can meet again

~ *Teacher Chrissy*

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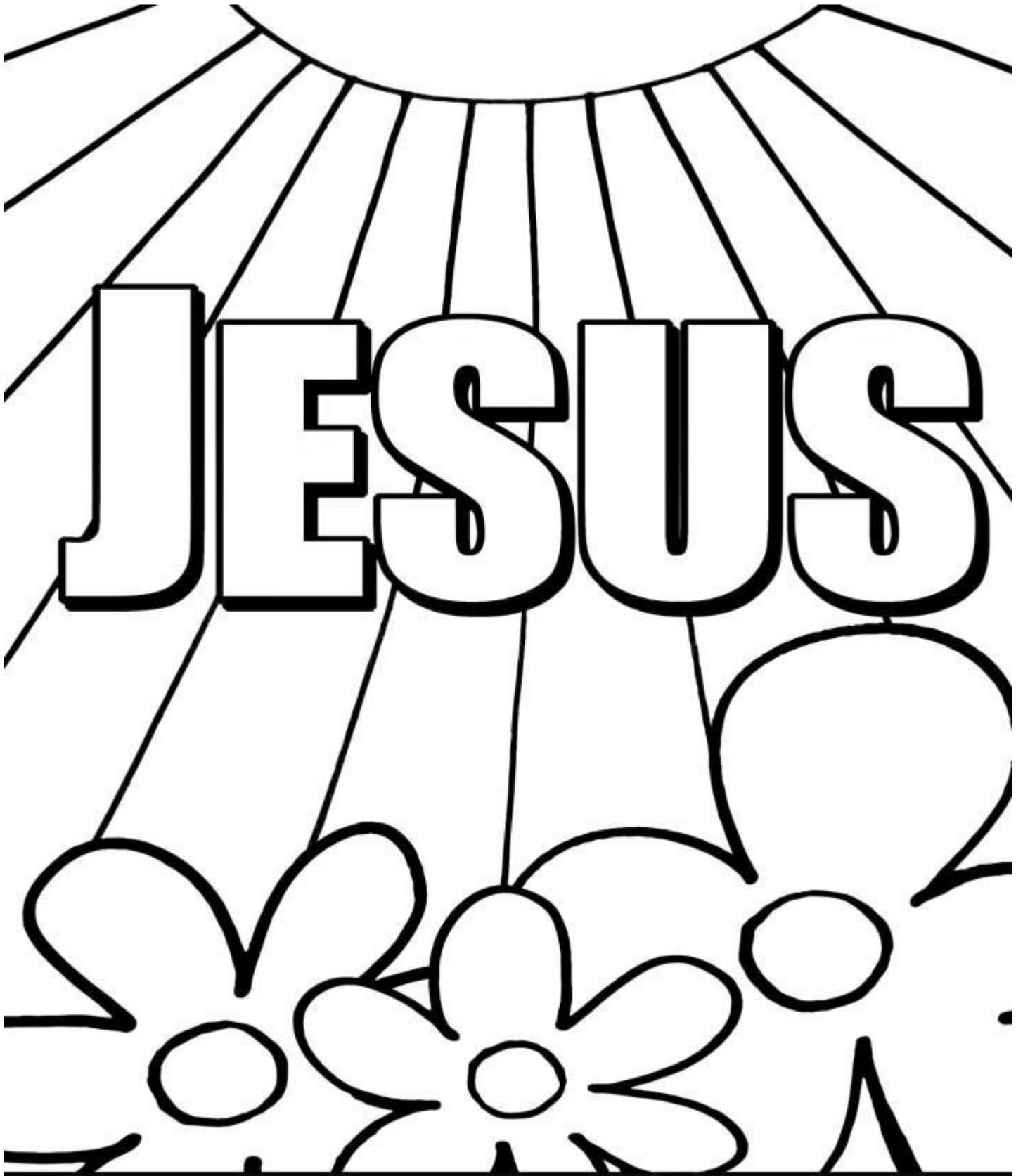
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Jesus is the Light of the World!