

Gospel Salvation

Dear Facilitator: In John 3:16, it says, “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

In this session we will unpack what that means for you, your family, and the world. Why did God have to send His Son? What does it mean that God loves you? What does it mean to perish? What is eternal life?

These are big topics that we will be discussing, but they are more important than anyone could imagine.

It might be helpful for you to know what we hope to accomplish through this lesson.

Participants will:


1. Write a personal faith story.
2. Use a tool to share the gospel with others.

This week’s commitment statement is: As God has blessed us, so we should bless others.


We pray that God will give you direction and clarity as you prepare the lesson and activities. We hope that the families in your group will grow together in God’s love and become a source of friendship and support for one another.

Blessings


Welcome *5 minutes*

 **Say:** Welcome back! I hope it's been a good week for all of you as you have been working diligently on many things that are positively influencing your family.

Last week we spent time learning about the stages of spiritual development and how to grow spiritually—both individually and as a family.

 **Ask:** Did anyone try something this past week that made a positive difference in your family that you would be willing to share?

Introduction *5 minutes*

 **Say:** What is this (hold up a map)? Many of us use a GPS that contains a multitude of maps. What good is a map? A map provides direction from one place to another. It is important that one trusts the map to be accurate.

Perhaps you had an experience where a road has changed, and your map was not updated. Perhaps you were dependent on your GPS, only to have it take you to a field rather than the airport.


It is too bad that we are not given a map how to live our life. Well... that is not exactly true. We have God's Word, the Bible, that can be a map for us to follow. It tells us what is good and right (Ten Commandments) and tells us how we should interact with others (Sermon on the Mount). It also teaches us why there is sin in this world and the result of sin.

Today we are going to explain how Jesus paid the price for our sin and how we can inherit eternal life.

Today's teaching objectives are to:

1. Write a personal faith story.
2. Use a tool to share the gospel with others.

Family & Table Talk 20 minutes

 **Say:** Share memories of a time when you did not know how to get to your destination.

1. What strategies did you use?
2. Were they successful?

After the meal, children are dismissed to their group.

As you begin this portion of the evening, explain that each time you will start with the overview and then the lesson time.



Scripture SUPPORT

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Romans 3:23

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our LORD.

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.

John 14:6

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

40 minutes

Parent Training

Faith Formation

GOSPEL SALVATION

Sharing the story of salvation with one's children, family members, or others can seem daunting. Often, we do not know where to begin.

One cannot share what one does not already have. Therefore, it is important for us to spend time learning how to share our faith. If you have not had the opportunity to accept the gift of salvation, today can be the day! For others, it will be an excellent reminder of what God has done for us.

If facilities have a projector, computer, and Internet capabilities, go to <https://peacewithgod.net/> and use the four video clips from the Billy Graham Foundation.

If that is not a possibility, use its website information found below.

STEP 1

- God loves you and has a plan for you!
- The Bible says, "God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, [Jesus Christ], that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

- Jesus said, "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly" — a complete life full of purpose (John 10:10).

STEP 2

- Here's the problem: man is sinful and separated from God.
- We have all done, thought, or said bad things, which the Bible calls "sin." The Bible says, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).
- The result of sin is death, spiritual separation from God (Romans 6:23).
- The good news?

Put a break here between steps 2 and 3.

It should also be discussed that people look for several ways to get back in relationship with God. They try being good, giving money, going to church, helping others, etc. None of this works, but God has a solution.

STEP 3

- God sent His Son to die for your sins!
- Jesus died in our place so we could have a relationship with God and be with Him forever.
- “God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).
- But it didn’t end with His death on the cross. He rose again and still lives!
- “Christ died for our sins. ... He was buried. ... He was raised on the third day, according to the Scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).
- Jesus is the only way to God. Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me” (John 14:6).

STEP 4

- Would you like to receive God’s forgiveness?
- We can’t earn salvation; we are saved by God’s grace when we have faith in His Son, Jesus Christ. All you have to do is believe you are a sinner, that Christ died for your sins, and ask His forgiveness. Then turn from your sins—that’s called repentance. Jesus Christ knows you and loves you. What matters to Him is the attitude of your heart, your honesty. We suggest praying the prayer below to accept Christ as your Savior.

“Dear God,

I know I’m a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe Jesus Christ is your Son. I believe that He died for my sin and that you raised Him to life. I want to trust Him as my Savior and follow Him as LORD, from this day forward. Guide my life and help me to do your will. I pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.”

If you have accepted Christ as your personal LORD and Savior, at some point someone will ask you your faith story. Next, we are going to spend a bit of time writing it out, using a handout from the Billy Graham Foundation. Some of you can pinpoint a time when you received Christ as your Savior; others

Notes

might not remember the actual time but cannot ever remember not knowing Christ as a personal LORD and Savior.

Facilitator should share his or her faith story.

For part 1, if you remember when you accepted Christ as your LORD and Savior, complete the Faith Story as directed. For others, feel free to describe a time in your life when you felt empty and then discovered God working in your life.

Write your faith story using the handout:
<https://bgcdn.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/YourFaithStory2.pdf>

We spent time talking about writing your own personal faith story and learning a way to share your faith.

Why is it important to share your faith?

Identify one person to whom you can share what you learned.

Let's review the four steps.

SUMMARY

We covered a lot of material in the lesson.

Our objectives were to:

1. Write a personal faith story.
2. Use a tool to share the gospel with others.

To end our lesson, please answer the following:

1. Who has an insight tonight about something you've learned or want to try?
2. What will you change or improve in your role as a parent this week?

Ages 4-16

40 minutes

Student Training

Faith Formation

GOSPEL SALVATION

Objectives

- Help children be aware of why we need a Savior.
- Help children be aware of what we must do to be saved.
- Help children be aware of the importance of their salvation.
- Help children be aware of their parent's role in training them in the instructions of the Bible.
- Help children be aware that their parents are praying for them to accept Christ as their personal Savior.
- Help children be aware that they are becoming disciples for Christ.
- Help children be aware that God expects them to pray for the salvation of others.
- Help children be aware of how to witness to others.

Salvation means being saved from sin and its consequences. In the Bible, the book of Genesis tells us that after God created the earth, He created man, Adam, and woman, Eve. God created man and everything in the earth for His pleasure. God put man in charge of all that He created. Then God gave Adam and Eve a beautiful garden to live in filled with everything they could want or need. He commanded them to be fruitful, have many children, and repopulate the earth. God did this because He wanted to be in an intimate relationship with

Adam, Eve, and all the children that were born. He wanted to be a loving Father to all people as His children and have them love Him in return.

God gave Adam and Eve the rules of the garden and His expectations for them. Everything started out wonderful until Adam and Eve decided to ignore the rules. They allowed an evil serpent to talk them into disobeying God and broke the rules. That is what sin means—disobeying God and breaking the commandments that

He has given us. When Adam and Eve sinned, they destroyed the close relationship that God wanted to have with them and all the children that would be born into the world. Their sin caused them to be separated from God and to be condemned to death (Genesis 2:17).

When sin entered the world, it brought sickness, disease, pain, sorrow, and death. All people on the earth came from the first parents, Adam and Eve, and as their children, we have inherited their sinful nature. And because of our sinful nature, we too are separated from God and condemned to die. The Bible tells us that we all have sinned. Romans 3:23 says, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Some of the sins people commit are anger, gossiping, stealing, meanness, selfishness, lying, and cheating. And there are so many more!

But because of God's great love for us, He planned a way for our sins to be taken away, so we can be close to Him again. He decided to send His precious Son, Jesus, to die on the cross to save us from our sins. However, first we must admit that we have sinned and need a Savior. Then we must ask Jesus to come into our life and be our personal Savior. We must believe in our hearts that Jesus is the Son of God, believe He died on the cross to save us from our sins, and believe that He was buried and rose again with all power! When we do this, we know that we are saved and will spend eternity in heaven with Jesus. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Did you know that the most important decision you will ever make in your life is asking Jesus to be your personal Savior? One of the most important prayers that Christian parents can pray is for their child to accept Christ. Your parents are seeking God's grace and wisdom as they raise you to become disciples of Christ. The Bible tells us that we are saved by God's grace and gift of faith in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:8). God graciously gives

us the gift of faith that makes us believe in the good news about Jesus. So, your parents are praying for you to receive that gift of faith that causes you to believe in Jesus as your Savior. Your parents are also praying that the Holy Spirit would draw you to God from birth and set you on a path of learning about God, following Him, serving Him, and loving Him all the days of your life and throughout eternity.

As your first teachers and role models, God has placed your parents in your life as an example of what a personal relationship with Christ looks like—one of unconditional love. Parents teach you this by reading and modeling lessons from the Bible such as showing mercy, extending grace, granting forgiveness, spending time in prayer, attending church, and demonstrating unconditional love to you and each other. Parents demonstrate how God wants us to give when we observe our parents sharing what they have with others. Your parents sacrifice their wants and needs to make sure you have everything you need and even some of the things you want.

You are blessed that God gave you parents that not only know what the Bible says, but they also do their best to live according to God's Word in their everyday life. Observing your parents helps you see the importance of having the Word of God direct your path. Psalm 119:105 says, "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."

As we learn more and more about Christ, we realize how fortunate we are to have been chosen by Him to be in His family and experience the many promises He has made to us in the Bible. He has made us many promises. He said He would be with you wherever you go (Joshua 1:9). He said He will keep you in perfect peace (Isaiah 26:3). He said He will never leave you or forsake you (Hebrews 13:5). He said all things will work together for your good (Romans 8:28). He said He will supply all your needs (Philippians 4:19). He said He loves you with an everlasting love (Jeremiah 31:3). And there are



Scripture SUPPORT

Genesis 2:17

...but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.

Romans 3:23

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Ephesians 2:8

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.

Romans 10:9

If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is LORD,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Psalms 119:105

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

Joshua 1:9

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.

so many more precious promises! What an honor it is to be called God’s child! But God wants everyone to be His child so that they can be blessed by His promises too. That is why He wants us to tell others about Him and His precious Son, Jesus.

Telling others about Jesus will also help your faith become strong. You may be young, but you are not too young to be a disciple of Jesus. Simply tell others the reasons you believe in Jesus—why you love Him and how having Him in your life makes you a better person. But even more important than telling others about Jesus, be sure you are living a life of peace, love, kindness, and service in front of them. The Bible says when you do that, others will see that there is something special about you and ask you about the God you believe in and serve. And when they do, that will give you an opportunity to tell them about God’s plan of salvation for ALL people. Matthew 5:16 says, “In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” So, make sure your light is shining brightly!

DISCUSS

- What does gospel salvation mean?
- Adam and Eve disobeyed God’s order and caused sin to enter the world.
- Why do people experience sickness, disease, pain, sorrow, and death?
- What did God do to pay for our sin so that we could be close to Him again?
- What is the most important decision you will make in your life?
- Why does God want His children to tell others about Him?
- When people see the Holy Spirit working in your life, what happens?



Activities

Activities are age appropriate. One is focused on ages 4-11, and the second is for older children ages 12-16.

AGES 4-11

Materials

Gospel Salvation Worksheet
Pencils, crayons, and/or markers

After lesson discussion, have children view

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/SeuosiXiUqw>

(Discuss briefly) If not possible to view video, have children do activity without video.

- Have children fill out “Gospel Salvation Story” worksheet.
- At the bottom of sheet, have children write in their words what the picture is about.
- Have children share what they wrote.

AGES 12-16

Materials

Gospel Salvation Worksheet
Pencils, crayons, and/or markers

After lesson discussion, have children view

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/SeuosiXiUqw>

(Discuss briefly) If not possible to view video, have children do activity without video.

- Have children fill out “Gospel Salvation Story” worksheet.
- At the bottom of sheet, have children write in their words what the picture is about.
- Have the older children as a group create a skit to present the Gospel Salvation Story to everyone.



Scripture SUPPORT

Isaiah 26:3

You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.

Hebrews 13:5

God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”

Romans 8:28

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Philippians 4:19

And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

Jeremiah 31:3

The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: “I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.”

Matthew 5:16

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.




CHALLENGE QUESTION

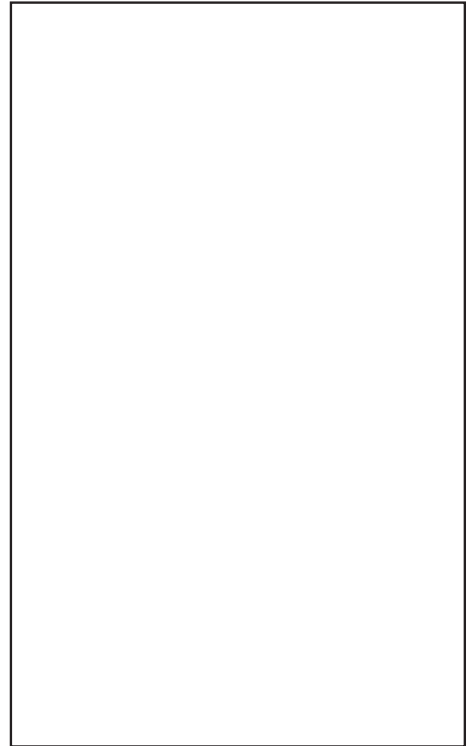
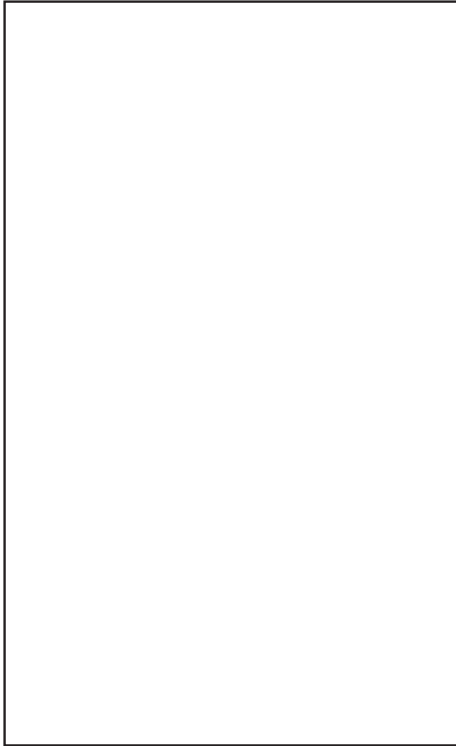
I LET MY LIGHT SHINE EVERYWHERE I GO.

CHALLENGE COMMITMENT

WHAT ARE YOU WILLING TO DO TO WORK ON THE CHALLENGE QUESTION THIS WEEK?

	AFFIRMATION <i>Have children repeat:</i>
	<i>Jesus is my LORD and Savior!</i>

GOSPEL SALVATION STORY WORKSHEET



Resources & Materials

<https://peacewithgod.net/> -- Billy Graham – videos on how to share your faith

“Steps to Peace with God” handout: <https://bgcdn.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Printer-FriendlyStepstoPeacewithGod2.pdf>

“Your Faith Story” handout <https://bgcdn.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/YourFaithStory2.pdf>