

Lesson 8: “**The Salvation I Celebrate**”
A Facilitator’s Guide for Mid-Elementary to Adult Bible Classes

I. Welcome & Prayer (5 mins)

II. Ice-Breaker (2-3 mins)

- How do you and/or your family celebrate big accomplishments?

III. Class Activity (2-3 mins to explain, complete throughout the class period)

- Each student can write down or draw out on a piece of paper an answer to this two-sided question: What have Christians been saved *from* and what are Christians saved *for*? Have everyone in the class share their answers. Write them on the board to see how many unique answers arise. Alternatively, have the class play popcorn and fill the board with as many unique answers to these two questions as possible.

IV. Discussion & Application (30 mins) – write comments on the board to build momentum & reflection.

1. **The Secular View of Salvation (10 mins):** (1) What is the world’s perspective on what we need to be “saved” from? For example, if we turned on the TV or asked a non-religious person for the biggest problem in the world, what would they say? (2) What would the world say the solution to this problem is—that is, how would they say we can be “saved”?
2. **The Biblical View of Salvation (10 mins):** (1) Tell the story of salvation from Genesis to Revelation or at least the Gospel story from Jesus’s birth to the day of Pentecost. (2) Explain the proper response to the story/plan of salvation (i.e. how does one become a Christian?). Use biblical passages to support your answer.
3. **Saved to Save Others (10 mins):** (1) What are some effective strategies, resources, and methods for sharing the Gospel? (2) Let’s brainstorm some new ways to share the Gospel with our family, friends, or strangers that might be effective.

IV. Application (3-5 mins to explain):

Believe: Write out a summary of your beliefs about salvation. What is the Gospel story? How does someone respond to the Gospel? What are we being saved *from*? What are we being saved *for*?

Act: Consider your next step in either responding to the Gospel or sharing the Gospel with someone else.

Teach: Share the Gospel and its proper response with a family member, friend, or stranger. You can do this in person, by text/call, email, or social. Tell us how it went on [College Church Chat](#) or in person in class.

Lesson Outline for Bible Class (Birth to Mid-Elementary)

Believe: Share a story, passage, or example from the Bible about someone who was lost/sinful and then found/saved (e.g. the prodigal son, Saul who became Paul, Ruth who became an Israelite, Nineveh repenting at Jonah). Give some examples of how hard their life was before God (sin and its consequences) and after (salvation and its blessings). Use pictures, songs, videos, or act this out to bring it to life.

Act: Consider doing an experiment involving mud and water to demonstrate the effects of sin (the mud) and the power of salvation (the water). Children can put their hands in the mud and then wash their hands in the

water. Another idea is to talk about what we celebrate—like a birthday, losing a tooth, making a new friend. And how these are all wonderful occasions, but that Jesus is worth celebrating the most!

Teach: See if each child can remember 1 bible character/passage discussed and what their life was like before/after knowing God. Have them talk about the mud/water experiment or party. They can tell their parents what they learned and come back the next week to share how thankful they are to be clean in Christ.

Lesson Outline for Small Groups & Families

Believe: Have everyone (all ages) contribute as you come up with an easy way to remember and share the Gospel Plan of Salvation with someone else in under 1 minute. See if you can include verses from the Bible in your version.

Act: Then, have everyone try to tell the Gospel story and its response to one another for practice.

Teach: Talk about what kind of reactions you might get when you share the Gospel with others, and how to respond to those reactions. Talk about how to start the conversation that leads toward sharing the Gospel and your own story of faith. Then challenge yourselves to share the Gospel with 1 person this week.

Lesson Outline for Individual Study

Believe: Spend some time reflecting on where you are on your journey of salvation. Are you saved? Are you lost? What do you need to do next for your salvation or someone else's? Read additional scriptures, biblical resources, and talk with wise people to consider your next steps.

Act: Take 1 step toward firming up your salvation, trusting in the security of your salvation, or telling someone else about God's plan of salvation.

Teach: Share your Gospel story with someone else and ask them to share their version of the story with you.

Additional Scriptures & Discussion Questions for Weeks 2-5 (March 31-April 28) (Bible Class, Small Groups, Families, or Individual Study)

General Prompts

1. What is the world teaching us to believe or not believe about salvation? How is the world teaching us this? What difference does it make if we believe or don't believe the world?
2. What makes the message of salvation in the Bible different from the message of salvation elsewhere—whether in movies, tv, books, social media, or told by other religious groups?
3. What *resources & people* have helped you come to better know, live, & share your salvation? What *strategies* have you used to help others come to know, live, and share salvation?

Week 2: Salvation Stories — Read 2-3 Biblical Accounts of Saved People (e.g. Saul/Paul [Acts 9], Ruth [Ruth 1], the People of Nineveh [Jonah 3], the Prodigal Son [Luke 15], the Ethiopian Eunuch [Acts 8]).

Discuss how these 2-3 stories are similar. Discuss how they are different. What are some common themes in our salvation stories in this group? What are some differences? What is most important about a salvation story? Take turns sharing your conversion story (those who are not yet Christians can see if they can re-tell the stories of others in the room). How can we help someone else this week in their salvation journey—whether it means coming to faith, strengthening their faith, or returning to faith?

Week 3: We are Saved By _____ - Read Ephesians 2:1-10 and Romans 6:1-14.

Discuss the importance of realizing that we are saved by grace (as emphasized by Eph). Discuss the importance of realizing that we are saved by obedience (as emphasized by Rom). You can also talk about how we are saved by God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (how does each participate in our salvation?). Find additional verses in the Bible that could add a new work in the blank “we are saved by _____” (such as—faith, works, love, the cross) and how each of these words and verses emphasize a valuable aspect of God’s plan of salvation. How do we respond to this salvation plan?

Week 4: We are Saved From _____ —Read Romans 8:1-17 and James 5:13-20.

Discuss what it means to be saved/delivered from sin and death. Discuss what it means to be delivered from being lost or from hell (eternal condemnation). How can we celebrate being delivered from these judgments? How can we help others be saved from these judgments? What other word(s) could we use to fill in the blank—“We are saved from _____” (e.g. guilt, shame, depression, disease, darkness). Consider what verses in the Bible support these concepts? How can we take our next step toward this kind of deliverance/salvation? How can we celebrate it and tell others?

Week 5: We are Saved To _____ —Read Luke 19:1-10 and Ephesians 2:10

Discuss what it means that Jesus came “to seek and save the lost.” How did he go about fulfilling that commission in Luke 10? What did it look like for Zaccheus to be saved? What would it look like if we also lived “to seek and save the lost”? What does Paul mean that we are “God’s workmanship”? In what way have you been created in Christ Jesus “for good works”? Besides being saved to save others and to do good works, what other word(s) could we use to fill in the blank: “We are saved by Christ to/for _____” (e.g. love, generosity, kindness, saving others, etc.). What scriptures support these concepts/words? How can we live this calling out this week?