

it does serve to remind us that no matter how hard we try, we don't have control over sin and death. The only way to freedom and true salvation is through God alone. Only He can offer us eternal happiness. In addition, this lesson has taught us that God has the best plan laid out, one that can not be ruined or unexpectedly changed. Our salvation is guaranteed so long as we choose to walk on the heavenly path.

Questions to think about:

1. *This story has taught us that we can never make a plan that has no holes in it. However, there are things we can do to ensure that we stay on the pathway to heaven. What are you presently doing to make sure of that?*
2. *Do you ever feel like this woman, that you need to take matters into your own hands? Do you find it difficult to rely on God to solve your problems, no matter how great or small? Why or why not?*

REFLECTION & PRAYER



Because God loved us, He prepared for us a beautiful salvation. He wants to freely give this to us. As Christians, we should treasure God's grace. We should not be ruled by our fleshly desires and sin. Instead, we should try our best to preach the gospel of salvation, so that more people may come to believe in the Lord. Then will we repay God's great love.

Lesson 7

Salvation Through Jesus Christ

Listed Scriptures

Mk 1:1; Acts 4:12; Eph 1:7; Ps 22:12-18; Heb 9:14

Lesson Aim

- 1) To understand that Jesus Christ fulfilled the plan of salvation
- 2) To know that salvation is for all mankind and to know the steps toward salvation

Memory Verse

"But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Rom 5:8)

Bible Reading For This Week (for students and teachers)

Psalms 31-35

BIBLE BACKGROUND



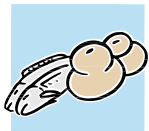
God's wonderful salvation can save us from the bondage of sin, Satan and death. It allows us to receive glory and enjoy eternal life in His heavenly kingdom. But how was God's plan of salvation fulfilled? If God simply forgave the sins of men without atonement of any kind, it would not be of God's righteous character. It would also evoke Satan's accusation against God, for God did not help the fallen angels but saved Abraham's descendants (Heb 2:16). Since men are made of flesh and blood, God too shared in their humanity so that by His death He might destroy him who holds the power of death – the devil – and free those whose lives were held in slavery by their fear of death (Heb 2:14-15). Jesus Christ sacrificed His life on the cross for all sinners and fulfilled the plan of salvation which was designed since the creation.



Share the following anecdotal story with the students.

A wife and the children were dressed and ready to leave for church one cold winter morning. They urged the father to go with them, for they loved him. The man snapped back, "Not me. I don't believe in that religion stuff." For many years, the man's wife had been trying to tell him about Jesus Christ and the salvation He offers, how God's Son had become a human being in order to show us the way to heaven. But each time, the man refused to go. The family left for church and the man was all alone in his cozy country home. As he looked outside at the snowy scene, he turned to warm himself by the fire. But as he turned, he caught a glimpse of two cats walking slowly past his window. "They must be freezing," the man thought. He put on his coat and opened the door. The blast of cold air sent a shiver down his spine. He called for the cats to come inside with him but his voice only seemed to scare them away. By the time the man took a few steps toward them, the cats had run away. It was too late. "Well, I did everything I could," the man muttered to himself. "What else could I have done? Maybe if I could become a cat, then I could tell and show them. They would have to believe me then, unless they were fools." Just as he reached the door to his house, the church bells rang in the distance. The man paused for a second to listen. Then he went inside by the fire and began to weep.

Why did the man weep? What did he finally understand? Today, we know that Jesus Christ is the only Savior, the one who fulfilled God's plan of salvation. Let's remind ourselves of this great grace through today's Bible study.



Part 1

Salvation Fulfilled Through Christ



A. Jesus Christ Is the Beginning of the Gospel

"The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God" (Mk 1:1). This verse tells us that Christ Jesus is the gospel for all humanity. If there is no Lord Jesus, there is no gospel of salvation. Salvation began from the birth of Jesus Christ. When Simeon saw baby Jesus, he praised God, saying, "Sovereign Lord, you now dismiss your servant in peace for my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the sight of all people" (Lk 2:27-33). It is also recorded in 2 Timothy, "It has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel" (2 Tim 1:9-10). For this reason, whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. That is the reason he said, "I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture...I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (Jn 10:9-10).



B. No Salvation Except Through the Lord Jesus

Apostle Peter said to the people, "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). Jesus Christ also said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (Jn 14:6). "Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad" (Jn 8:56). Jesus Christ is mankind's only savior, the Messiah.



C. Atonement for Sin Through Blood

According to God's law, there is no forgiveness without the shedding of blood. In fact, the law required that nearly everything be cleansed with blood (Heb 9:22). However, the blood of the bulls and goats could not take away sins even when the sacrifices were made year after year. They only served as a temporary cleansing of guilt for those who drew near to worship (Heb 10:1-4). Therefore, Christ Jesus, who is without sin, had to shed His blood according to the will of God in order to fulfill the plan of salvation (Heb 10:5-14). Even today, sinners cannot be redeemed with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ (Eph 1:7). Through baptism, our sins are forgiven (Act 2:38). And if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus purifies us from all sin (1 Jn 1:7-10).



D. Salvation Fulfilled on the Cross

The Lord Jesus prophesied to His disciples on numerous occasions regarding His death and resurrection, thus fulfilling God's plan of salvation (Mt 17:22-23, 16:21, 20:18-19; Lk 9:29-31). Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures (1 Cor 15:3) He was crucified on the cross to give His life as a ransom for many (Mt 27:35, 20:28). He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that we might live for righteousness (1 Pet 2:24). Just before the Lord Jesus bowed His head on the cross and gave up His spirit, He said, "It is finished," implying that He has fulfilled God's plan of salvation (Jn 19:30). Since Christ Jesus died for us, we should no longer live for ourselves but for Him (2 Cor 5:14-15).



E. Remember the Cross

In the book of Psalms, it prophesied Jesus Christ's suffering, "Many bulls surround me...Roaring lions tearing their prey...I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax it has melted away within me. My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death. Dogs have surrounded me, a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet. I can count all my bones; people stare and gloat over me. They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing" (Ps 22:12-18). When we think about the agony and the endurance of Jesus Christ on the cross, the way He took up our infirmities, carried our sorrows, was pierced for our transgressions and crushed for our iniquities (Isa 53:4-6), we should be more determined to rely on our Lord Jesus. We should follow His will in all that we do and live a life worthy of His grace and love.

The Lord Jesus was crucified on the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they broke the legs of the men crucified on the cross. But when they came to Jesus Christ and found that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus Christ's side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water (Jn 19:31-34). This phenomenon was explained by Apostle John, "This is the one who came by water and blood – Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. For there are three that testify: the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement" (1 Jn 5:6-8). During baptism, the water is turned into the blood of Christ through the Holy Spirit; thus, baptism has the power to wash away sins. Today, after we are baptized into

the Lord Jesus, we receive the promised kingdom of God by the salvation that was fulfilled on the cross. Therefore, we should be sober, watchful, and we should often remember the meaning of the cross with gratitude.



F. Draw Near to God

Jesus Christ's blood was able to wash away our sins because He was without sin even though He was tempted in every way (Heb 4:15). "How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God (Heb 9:14). Our iniquities once separated us from God (Isa 59:1-2) but now we have been brought near to Him through the blood of Jesus Christ (Eph 2:1, 12, 13). We have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, His body (Heb 10:19-20). This is because when Jesus gave up His spirit on the cross, the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom, opening a way for sinners to come closer to the most holy God (Mt 27:50-51).



Part 2

Salvation Is for Everyone

- a. God's salvation is for all creation regardless of gender, age or race, whether in poverty or in prosperity.
- b. Salvation is a gift from God. We receive this gift in faith. We do not choose God, but God chooses us.
- c. Salvation was freely given to us. It is not by our deeds or wisdom, but by the grace of God. Therefore, we have no reason to boast.
- d. In faith and accompanied with action, we receive this salvation from God.
- e. Steps toward salvation are as follows: believe in the Lord Jesus, repent, baptize into Jesus Christ and seek after the promised Holy Spirit.
- f. True believers should have holy love and pray for all people to receive salvation.
- g. Those of us who have received grace from our Lord should seize every opportunity to spread the good news.

Teaching Tips

Depending on how much your students already know about this topic, you may wish to go first to the Life Application section and ask them to do the quiz. It can be reformatted into the form of a game, too, to make the questions more engaging. Then afterwards, you can spend time discussing the questions they weren't too sure about and tie them into today's Bible study on how Jesus Christ fulfilled salvation for all on the cross.

C H E C K F O R U N D E R S T A N D I N G



1 Give some biblical support that Jesus Christ is the beginning of the gospel.

2 How was salvation fulfilled on the cross?

3 How is Jesus Christ's blood able to wash away our sins?

4 Describe four ways Jesus Christ suffered in agony while being crucified.

5 What does salvation represent to you on a personal level?

6 Have you ever thought about what you might say to someone in order to preach the good news? If not, now is a good time to think about it. What would you include that would be most important? Are there any particular Bible verses that would be helpful? Can you think of someone who could most benefit from listening to your words now?

7 We know that we should pray for everyone in this world to receive salvation. But how can we go about it so that our prayers are really meaningful and effective?

L I F E A P P L I C A T I O N



Know Your Doctrines

We all know the importance of salvation. If we are already a believer, then we should feel blessed. But there are still many peo-

ple in the world who have yet to know who God really is. Although we may not have the opportunity to spread God's message of love every day, we should be prepared when the chance presents itself. Take a moment and look at the questions below. Do you know the answers to these basic doctrines and understandings about God? If not, now is the time to brush up on your knowledge so that you will always be ready to preach the good news!

1. Name the ten basic doctrines or articles of faith (see church publication).
2. What are the four main sections of the Old Testament? (the Pentateuch, the historical books, the poetic books, the prophets)
3. What does the apocalypse refer to? (divine revelation, visions of the past, present and future under God's hand, the Book of Revelation)
4. What does it mean when we say Jesus Christ is the incarnation of God? (He was born of a virgin through the Holy Spirit, God embodied in flesh)
5. What are the necessary steps for salvation? (believe, repent, be baptized, receive the Holy Spirit, obey the commandments)
6. What is sin? (disobedience to law; failure to worship God; constantly sinning in speech, conduct and thoughts)
7. What is the biblical way of water baptism? (believe that Jesus Christ is the Savior, repent, in the name of Jesus Christ, body fully immersed, head bowed, in natural flowing water)
8. How can we explain that water baptism is not just a symbolic act? (with the presence of the Holy Spirit, the precious blood of the Lord Jesus is still in the water during water baptisms; that is the profound unity of water, blood and the Holy Spirit; 1 Jn 5:6-8)
9. What does the word sacrament mean? (an act that is carried out that has direct relationship with our salvation, more than a mere ritual)
10. Name five ways the Holy Spirit plays a role in our lives.
11. What is the significance of using only one bread during Holy Communion? (it

signifies that Jesus Christ has only one body and all members are part of that one body; eating of the bread demonstrates the unity and fellowship with the Lord Jesus and with other believers)

12. Why will Jesus Christ come again? What is His purpose? (to judge the unrepentant, Jude 14-15; to reward the righteous, Mt 25:34; to establish His kingdom, Dan 17:14; to destroy all physical existence and create a new universe, 2 Pet 3:10; Rev 21:1)

REFLECTION & PRAYER



2000 years ago, a Savior was born to us. This good news of great joy shows us that salvation has come for all mankind (Lk 2:10-11). The Lord Jesus preached the good news of the kingdom, and healed every disease and sickness among the people, revealing the fact that we can benefit physically as well as spiritually from God's salvation (Mt 4:23). At age 33, He fulfilled God's plan of salvation by dying on the cross and shedding His precious blood for the remission of sins. On the third day, Christ was resurrected. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive (1 Cor 15:20-22). The Lord Jesus' resurrection brings us God's perfect salvation. Our faith in Him is not in vain, but of a living hope: that the heavenly kingdom is reserved for us and those who are saved will also resurrect on the Last Day and enjoy eternal life.

Lesson 8

Waiting for the Lord's Coming (2 Thessalonians)

Listed Scriptures

2 Thessalonians

Lesson Aim

- 1) To learn the roles we need to play and attitudes we need to have as we await the Lord Jesus' second coming

Memory Verse

"We constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of His calling, and that by His power He may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith." (2 Thess 1:11)

Bible Reading For This Week (for students and teachers)

Psalms 36-40

BIBLE BACKGROUND



Paul wrote the second letter to the Thessalonians about half a year after the first, about 51 AD in Corinth. The Thessalonians were greatly encouraged and comforted after receiving Paul's first letter. However, some of them misunderstood the truth concerning resurrection. These people went about spreading false teachings about the resurrection and even impersonated Paul while doing so (2 Thess 2:1-2). As a result, certain believers were led to believe the Lord's Day was fast approaching, so there was no point in working any longer. They began loafing around as busybodies awaiting for the Lord's second coming. This created quite a nuisance for the church. Therefore, Paul wrote this second letter to address and correct such heresy, and advised the believers to work quietly and walk in the truth. This lesson has much connection to the previous lessons since it follows the same theme of salvation and concerns Jesus Christ's second coming. Therefore, it is important to stress this as the lesson is shared.