

CONTENTS

Lesson 1	God's General and Special Revelation (Bibliology)	Pg 5
Lesson 2	Bible Is Divine (Bibliology)	Pg 17
Lesson 3	Doctrine of Sin	Pg 26
Lesson 4	Doctrine of Salvation—Regeneration	Pg 38
Lesson 5	Doctrine of Salvation—Eternal Security	Pg 50
Lesson 6	Life After Death (Doctrine of Eschatology)	Pg 59
Lesson 7	The Second Coming (Doctrine of Eschatology)	Pg 68



God's General and Special Revelation (Bibliology)



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To explain the three ways God provides general information about Himself.
- To show that specific information about God is available only in the Bible.
- To stress the importance of studying and meditating on the Bible.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

Ps. 19:1-4; Acts 17:26-27; Rom. 1:20, 2:15 (General Revelation of God)



MEMORY VERSE

Rom. 1:20: For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

Materials Needed:

- Chalk-piece
- Ball
- 2 marbles (of different colors)
- Glass

**RECAP**

- What did we learn about last week?
- Recite the Memory Verse for last week.

**INTRODUCTION**

In the following weeks, we'll study some important Bible Doctrines:

- Doctrine of the Bible
- Doctrine of Sin
- Doctrine of Salvation
- Doctrine of Last Things

'Doctrine' is a set of **beliefs**. Over the next two weeks, we'll be looking at what we Christians **believe** about the Bible

Note to the Facilitator

Doctrine of the Bible is a vast topic covering many different issues. However, we'll deal with only the following aspects in brief:

Primary Level

- Divine Revelation of the Bible—General and Special Revelation
- Divine Origin of the Bible—Bible came from God

Junior Level

- Inspiration of the Bible
- Inerrancy of the Bible
- Canonicity of the Bible

Senior Level

- Composition of the Bible
- Revelation of the Bible
- Interpretation of the Bible

**ATTENTION GETTER****Activity: Roll It**

Mark two spots on the floor with a chalk-piece, and name them 'earth' and 'moon' (Place the spots more or less close to each other). Place a ball (labeled as 'sun') some distance from the two spots.

Next, take out two marbles (of different colors) and explain that these are the earth and the moon.

First Attempt:

Place the two marbles in a glass. Ask a child to overturn the glass so that the marbles roll out onto the floor. Observe

whether or not the two marbles travel to the exact spots fixed for them, and then come to a dead-stop. (The chances of this happening are very remote!)

Second Attempt:

Ask a volunteer to shoot the two marbles, one at a time, while remaining seated in his/her chair. The marbles must roll onto their respective spots, and then come to a standstill (There are greater chances of success in this second attempt, if the volunteer is very skilful with marbles).

Third Attempt:

Ask a volunteer to pick up the two marbles and place them, by hand, exactly in their respective spots. (This should be easy to accomplish).

Explain:

You must have noticed in the first two attempts that the marbles were unable to reach their exact positions. They tended to roll away to the right or left. Sometimes the marbles went too close to the 'Sun.' And sometimes they moved very far from the 'Sun.'

However, when the third volunteer deliberately picked up the marbles and placed them in the right place, they finally got into position. Now finally they were at the exact distance from the sun that they should be.

The Planets in the Solar System

Some scientists teach that the planets came into existence by themselves, and simply rolled around in space at first. Then

later, they began to arrange themselves into a particular order. (From our personal experience with the two marbles, we can see how unrealistic this is).

The Bible, on the other hand, teaches that God personally placed each planet in its exact position. The planets didn't roll into position on their own.

Position of the Earth and Moon

We specifically believe that God himself placed the earth and the other planets in position, because **the position of the earth and moon is so perfect!** The earth and moon could not have accidentally rolled into such perfect positions on their own.

The Earth is located at exactly the right distance from the sun.

- If the earth were any further away from the sun, we would all freeze.
- Any closer and we would burn up.

Even a fractional variance in the earth's position to the sun would make life on earth impossible.

The earth remains this perfect distance from the sun while it rotates around the sun at a speed of nearly 67,000 mph. It is also rotating on its axis, allowing the entire surface of the earth to be properly warmed and cooled every day.

In the same way, our moon is the perfect size and distance from the earth for its gravitational pull. The moon creates important ocean tides and movement so that ocean waters

do not stagnate, and yet our massive oceans are restrained from spilling over across the continents.

Make a Point:

A marble doesn't place itself in perfect position on its own. The two marbles were able to reach their exact positions only when somebody deliberately placed them there.

In the same way, the earth and moon couldn't have placed themselves in the correct position on their own. Their exact positioning proves that 'Someone' placed them there. And we know this 'Someone' to be God.

In this way, many things in Nature (including the planets) prove that God exists.



TEACHING CONTENT

GENERAL REVELATION

1. NATURE tells us that GOD EXISTS

Read Aloud:

Ps. 19:1-4: The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

Ask:

V.1 says, “The skies proclaim the work of His hands.” How do the skies do this?

The exact position of the planets proves that someone deliberately placed each one in a particular position. In this way, the skies proclaim that God’s hands created everything in the skies.

Explain:

Some people ask, “How can I know if God exists?” When they look at how much detail and perfection has gone into the making of each little object in creation, they’ll automatically realize that ‘Someone’ specifically made each of them. These things didn’t simply come into existence on their own.

In this way, even though the planets in the sky, and the flowers in the garden don’t have mouths to speak, they silently inform us that the Creator carefully made each tiny part of them and placed them in their specific positions, so that they would function perfectly.

2. NATURE tells us that GOD CARES

Read Aloud:

Acts 14:17: Yet He has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; He provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy.

- When we study creation, and see its detail and perfection, we realize that ‘Someone’ specifically made each part of it.
- Second, we also notice that this Creation has been given to ‘everybody.’

God doesn’t give the warmth of the sunlight to only a few good people. He allows the sun and rain to provide good crops to both the honest and the dishonest.

This shows us that God loves and cares for each of us, irrespective of whether we’re good or bad. So nobody needs to worry and think, “Does God love me or not.” If the sunlight and rain are benefiting you in the same way they benefit others, if you’re enjoying vegetables and fruits just like everybody else, then it proves that God loves you just as much as He loves everybody else.

3. OUR CONSCIENCE teaches us GOD’S VALUES

Read Aloud:

Rom. 2:15: They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them.

According to these verses, deep in our hearts, all of us can sense what is right and what is wrong.

- For instance, people all over the world sense in their hearts that it’s wrong to murder someone.
- In the same way, when people tell a lie, they make sure that nobody finds out they’ve lied. That’s because

they sense in their hearts that they've done a wrong thing, and prefer to hide their wrongdoing.

So God reveals Himself to us in three ways:

- Through Nature, God shows us that He exists.
- Through Nature, God shows us that He loves all of us.
- Through our Conscience, God shows us what is right and wrong.

This is called 'General Revelation.' Through these three methods, God generally shows people who He is and what He expects from people.

Then, if people have a desire to know more about God, they can turn to the Bible. In the Bible, God gives 'Specific Revelation' about Himself. He explains in detail, who He is, and what He has done to help and benefit us.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Note: *All discussion questions must be answered by the children, and NOT by the teacher. The guidelines given here are only meant to assist the teacher during the discussion.*

What are the three ways in which God provides general information about himself?

- Through Nature, God shows us that He exists.
- Through Nature, God shows that He loves and provides for all of us.
- Through our Conscience, God shows us what is right and wrong.

If Creation and our own Conscience tells us about God, and about what is right and wrong, then why do we need the Bible at all? Why don't we simply stop reading the Bible?

When travelling down the road, I may see a road sign that says, "Waterfalls Ahead." This road sign makes me aware that the waterfall exists. But if I want to enjoy the waterfall, I'll actually have to drive down to the waterfall. Standing next to the road sign will not help me enjoy the waterfall.

In the same way, Creation and our Conscience are like road signs. They make us aware that God exists. But if we really want to enjoy God, we have to go to Him personally. When we read the Bible, it gives us exact instructions on how to know the Lord personally, and how to enjoy all the blessings that He has for us.

So, Creation and Conscience are "General Road Signs" giving us general information about God. But the Bible gives us specific information on HOW we can personally enjoy God.

We studied that through our Conscience, God shows us what is right and wrong. But some people say, "My conscience is telling me that speaking lies is okay." So does our conscience really tell us what is right and wrong?

As discussed above, Creation and Conscience give us general information about God. But due to sinfulness, pressures of life, and changing feelings, people may read this information wrongly.

- For instance, in the morning, a person may look at the beautiful sunrise and say, "God exists." But that evening, if a storm and lightning strikes his house, he may say, "God doesn't exist."

- In the same way, if a person is feeling very inspired and religious after attending a church service, his conscience may prompt him to speak the truth when the pastor asks, “Why did you come late to the church?” But the next day, if he’s late to the office and his boss asks, “Why did you come late to the office?” he’ll probably lie without feeling even remotely guilty ... because today he’s not feeling very “religious and inspired.”

So Creation and Conscience are general road signs that say, “God exists. Right and Wrong Exists.” However, for greater details about who this God is, what He is like, and what He believes is right and wrong, we’ll need to turn to the Bible.

Our feelings change every day. So we may misread the information provided by Creation and our Conscience. But the Bible never changes! So we need to study our Bible every day, and practice all that it teaches.

In some parts of the world, people have not even heard about Jesus or the Bible. How can these people know for sure that God exists?

According to Rom. 1:20, Creation clearly shows that a Creator-God exists. Moreover, the conscience of each person whispers to him what is right and what is wrong.

So, even a person on a remote island, who has never heard of Jesus or the Bible, will know in his heart that God exists. And he will sense in his heart that this God expects him to live a certain way.

Then, if this person has a genuine desire to know this God personally and begins to search for Him, the Bible promises that the Lord will reveal himself to this person.

Acts 17:26-27 says, “From one man He made all the nations ... God did this so that they would seek Him and perhaps **reach out for Him and find Him**, though He is not far from any one of us.”

The Lord may reveal Himself to this person through dreams, visions, angels, etc. Or the Lord may simply send a missionary to that island, to teach this person the truth about Jesus. Then once the person starts studying the Bible, God will speak to him daily through the Bible

So nobody needs to die without knowing the Lord.



APPLICATION

Creation and Conscience provide general information about God. But for specific information on what God has done for us and how to worship Him, we need to know the Bible.

So make a commitment to spend time everyday reading your Bible.



CLOSE WITH PRAYER





Bible Is Divine (Bibliology)



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To teach that every verse in the Bible is directly from God, inspired by Him.
- To stress the importance of reading the Bible for ourselves and hearing from God.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:21; Acts 17:11-12 (The Bible is God's Own Words).



MEMORY VERSE

2 Tim. 3:16: All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that people are without excuse.



RECAP

- What did we learn about last week?
- What are the three ways in which God provides general information about Himself?
- How many of you spent enough time studying your Bible this week? Mention any one specific revelation that God gave you from the Bible.
- Recite the Memory Verse for last week (Rom. 1:20).



INTRODUCTION

There are many evidences that the Bible is an entirely unique book, quite unlike any other work. The unique claims within the Bible itself bear witness to its unusual character. Some thirty-eight hundred times the Bible declares, “God said,” or “Thus says the Lord” (e.g. Ex. 14:1; 20:1; Lev. 4:1; Num. 4:1; Deut. 4:2; 32:48; Isa. 1:10, 24; Jer. 1:11; Ezek. 1:3; etc).

So today, we’ll focus on the importance of understanding that the Bible is directly from God and not merely written by humans.



ATTENTION GETTER

Activity: Martin Luther and the Bible

Narrate the story using the Pictures provided in the Student Workbook:

Today we have so many Bibles at home! But did you know that once upon a time, ordinary people were not allowed to have a Bible or read it?

In the 13th and 14th centuries, the Roman Catholic Church did not allow people to read the Bible, because they didn't want people to discover the great truths written in it. The Church taught people that they must pay lots of money to buy sheets of paper called 'indulgences' [**Picture 1 in the Student Workbook**]. Anybody who bought an Indulgence was told that their sins were forgiven, and that they could now go to heaven.

Because the people couldn't read the Bible and find out the truth, they believed whatever the Church was telling them. In this way, the Church made a lot of money.

Martin Luther, a monk who lived at that time, was very angry to see the Church treating people this way. Being a monk, he had access to the Bible, and he knew that the Bible taught very different things about the forgiveness of sins.

So Luther pinned up a sheet on the main church door, telling people about all the wrong things that the Church was teaching [**Picture 2 in the Student Workbook**]. Soon, many people stopped buying Indulgences, and the revenues of the church reduced.

This greatly upset Pope Leo X who declared that Martin Luther should be given a death sentence [**Picture 3 in the Student Workbook**]. When Elector Frederick heard about this, he sent a group of horsemen to 'kidnap' Luther. Elector Frederick was a very powerful man and he faked this 'kidnapping' so that he could hide Martin Luther in his big palace.

While staying at the palace, disguised as Knight George [Picture 4 in the Student Workbook], Luther translated the Latin Bible into German, the common language of the people. He then printed many copies of the German Bible and gave it out to the common people [Picture 5 in the Student Workbook].

As a result of Martin Luther's efforts, many people came to know that salvation is possible only through Jesus Christ.

Ask:

Why do you think Martin Luther wanted everybody to read the Bible? Isn't it enough to listen to a nice sermon in church? Why must we read it for ourselves everyday?

(Encourage the children to write down their answers in the Student Workbook. Explain the importance of finding out God's truths by reading the Bible daily).



TEACHING CONTENT

The words contained in the Bible are directly from God. It doesn't simply contain the ideas and thoughts of human writers.

- 2 Tim. 3:16: All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.

Ask:

What do you think, "God-breathed" means?

(Ask the children for their opinions).

Explain:

This word is used in the Scriptures only in this particular verse. It is a compound word, combining the words 'God' and 'breath.'

In other words, each word in the Bible has been provided by God. People didn't write these words simply because they felt like writing them. For example, Matthew didn't just sit down and write an account of the life and teachings of Jesus on his own. God, through the Holy Spirit, guided the process.

That's not to say that God just put all the Bible writers in a trance and made their hands move. It just means that God showed each writer what words to use and how to organize the written content in a particular order.

- 2 Pet. 1:21: For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Bible Facts**Writers:**

God inspired forty different persons to write the different books of the Bible. Among the writers were Moses, a political leader; Joshua, a military leader; David, a shepherd; Solomon, a king; Amos, a herdsman and fruit picker; Daniel, a prime minister; Matthew, a tax collector; Luke, a medical doctor; Paul, a rabbi; and Peter, a fisherman. So God used a variety of people to write the Bible.

Places:

The Bible was written in different locations and under a variety of circumstances. In fact, it was written in three continents: Europe, Asia, and Africa.

Paul wrote from a Roman prison as well as from the city of Corinth—both in Europe; Jeremiah (and perhaps Moses) wrote from Egypt in Africa; most of the other books were written in Asia. Moses probably wrote in the desert, David composed his Psalms in the countryside, Solomon contemplated the Proverbs in the royal courts, John wrote as a banished person on the island of Patmos, and Paul wrote five books from prison.

Time Period:

The Bible is unique because it was written over a span of 1500-2000 years. Moses very likely recorded Genesis around 1400 BC, whereas John may have written the book of Revelation as late as 80-90 AD.

As we can see, the Bible was written by different people and most of them didn't know each other. David never met Peter, and Daniel never knew Paul. In spite of this, it's incredible that the words written by these different people talk of the same God, in the same ways, without contradicting one another!

This was possible only because the Holy Spirit guided all of them in writing the Bible.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Note: *All discussion questions must be answered by the children, and NOT by the teacher. The guidelines given here are only meant to assist the teacher during the discussion.*

Key Verses:

Acts 17:11-12:

Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. As a result, many of them believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.

According to these verses, why did the Bereans keep checking up their Bibles?

They wanted to find out whether or not Paul's teachings were correct. So whenever he taught them anything new, they checked their Bibles to make sure that God had taught the same thing in the Bible.

Because the Bible contains words given directly by God, they preferred to believe the Bible rather than believe a human teacher. After checking, they found out that Paul was teaching in agreement with the Bible.

On the other hand, when the people in Martin Luther's times did the same thing, they discovered that the teachings of their church leaders was completely wrong.

So it's very important for us to read the Bible and discover Bible truths on our own.

According to these verses, what was the result of the Bereans reading their Bibles daily?

When they read the Bible on their own, God spoke to them in their hearts. This helped them to believe in Jesus and accept Him as Lord and Saviour. In this way, their lives were changed.

It's good to listen to Pastors and Sunday School teachers teaching the Word of God. But when we read the Bible by ourselves, God begins to speak directly into our hearts. This increases our faith in God and helps change our lives.

Jam. 4:11 says that we shouldn't gossip about others or criticize them. Do we have to follow this teaching today? Is this James' commandment or God's commandment?

We have to obey every commandment written in the Bible, because these commands were not just written by human writers.

These are commandments directly from God. So if we ignored them, we'd be disobeying God Himself!



APPLICATION

If the Bible is directly from God, then we must boldly claim the promises God has made to us, and enjoy them in our lives. Pick out some specific Bible promises that you'd like to claim for your own life this week.

Similarly if the Bible is accurate, then we must take each commandment of God literally. For example, Eph. 4:26 commands, "Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry." So this means that I can't hold a grudge against

another person, and keep on brooding over what they have done for a few weeks. God expects me to forgive and forget that day itself!

Pick out some specific Bible Commandments which you sense God wants you to obey in the coming days.



CLOSE WITH PRAYER





Biblical Doctrines

Doctrine of Sin



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To explain that sin is “missing the mark.”
- To teach that we’re born with a sinful nature that makes us sin.
- To show how we can overcome sin and temptation through the Word of God.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

1 Jn. 3:4; Rom. 6:23, 7:12-14; Jam. 2:10; 1 Jn. 2:16, Eph. 6:17
(Defeating Sin and Temptation).



MEMORY VERSE

Eph. 6:17: Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Materials Needed

- 3 Photocopies of the “Donkey Sheet”
- Some sketch pens
- Scarf



RECAP

- What did we learn about last week?
- Why did the Berean Jews, in Paul’s time, keep checking up the Scriptures?
- Why must we read the Bible for ourselves every day? Isn’t it enough to listen to a nice sermon in church?
- Recite the Memory Verse for last week (2 Tim. 3:16).



INTRODUCTION

The Doctrine of Sin is called Hamartiology. It is the study of sin, and deals with how sin originated, how it affects humanity, and what it will result in after death. To sin essentially means to "miss the mark." We all miss God's mark of righteousness (Romans 3:23). Hamartiology explains why we miss the mark, how we miss the mark and the consequences of missing the mark. We'll discuss some of these things briefly today.

Note to the Facilitator

The Doctrine of Sin generally focuses on the foundational concepts of Original Sin, the Christian’s conflict with sin, and the provision that God has made to keep us from the path

of sin. We'll deal specifically with the following concepts at each age level:

Primary Level

- Definition of Sin—Missing the Mark
- Three Types of Sin—Lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life
- Overcoming Sin through the Word of God

Junior Level

- Concept of Original Sin
- Crucifixion of Sinful Nature on the Cross
- Overcoming Sin by Renewing our Minds

Senior Level

- Concept of Original Sin
- Strategy to overcome Sin—Submit and Resist
- Spiritual Armour and the Weapons of Warfare



ATTENTION GETTER

Activity: The Donkey's Tail

Take a photocopy of the “Donkey Sheet” to the class (The clipart of the Donkey has been attached to the end of today's lesson).

A blindfolded volunteer must sketch the donkey's tail exactly at the point where the 'x' is marked. The other children can guide the volunteer verbally, in locating the exact spot.

Take a few extra photocopies so that more children can try the activity.



TEACHING CONTENT

The Danger of ‘Sin’

- 1 Jn. 3:4 says, “Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness.”
- Romans 7:12-14 says, “... the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good ... Nevertheless, in order that sin might be recognized as sin, [the law] used what is good to bring about my death, so that through the commandment, sin might become utterly sinful. We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin.”

According to these verses, the laws and commandments of God are utterly holy, righteous and good. God gave us these commandments to show us that none of us are obeying all of His laws correctly. We may be obeying some of them, but not all of them.

According to the Bible, if we break even one of His holy commandments, its equal to breaking all of them.

- Jam. 2:10: For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

Missing the Mark

Someone who keeps all the laws and commandments of God is like a person who is right on the mark. It’s like a

person who is able to draw the donkey's tail at exactly the right spot.

Even if you draw the tail a little bit to the left or right, the animal's tail would be in the wrong place! When you draw away from the exact spot, you "miss the mark."

In the same way, if you commit one little sin, you're no longer "on the mark." One little sin can move you away from the mark.

- Rom. 3:23: ... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

All of us sitting here have committed at least one sin I'm sure. That one sin makes us sinful, and according to the Bible, sinful people must be punished with eternal death in hell. (The Bible refers to separation from God in hell as 'death.' It goes far beyond mere physical death).

- Rom. 6:23: For the wages of sin is death ...

Most of the people in our schools and neighborhood don't realize the great danger they're in. They don't realize that the punishment for a single sin is eternal death in hell! They believe they're good people because they haven't murdered anyone or joined a gang. But even speaking a small lie makes you sinful, just the way murdering somebody makes a gangster a sinner!

This is why Jesus came to 'save' us. He wanted to 'save' us from the consequences of our sinful actions. To achieve this, Jesus took our punishment on the cross, dying on our behalf.

Because Jesus has done this for us, all those who accept Him as Lord and Saviour, and make a commitment to live for Him alone, will be 'saved.' They'll not be sent away to hell after physical death.

Sin and the Salvation Package

Satan doesn't want us to enjoy the benefits of our salvation. So he uses sin to tempt us and keep us under his control.

Satan primarily brings three kinds of temptations into our lives, to keep us under the bondage of sin.

- 1 Jn. 2:16: For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.

Lusts of the Flesh:

Satan brings us temptations that seem to sound very good, feel very good, or taste very good. For instance, we may feel tempted to watch or listen to movie songs that are not clean and good. When we feel irritated and angry, we feel strongly tempted to scream and shout at people, and say rude things. Some people may feel tempted to try out harmful substances like cigarettes and alcohol.

Satan uses these lusts of the flesh to tempt us into sinning against God. If we listen to Satan and do these things, we stay under the bondage of sin, and under Satan's control. We fail to enjoy the blessings and benefits God wants to give us.

Lusts of the Eyes:

Satan also tempts us to spend all of our time and energy over things that seem to promise happiness and complete satisfaction. For instance, a Christian may feel tempted to neglect his studies and Bible-reading to spend most of his time in front of the TV. Another may look at the fancy gadgets his classmate possesses and feel tempted to steal them. Satan promises that if we commit sins of this type, we'll gain happiness.

Pride of Life:

Third, Satan tempts us to do our own thing, rather than listen to God. For instance, a person may think, "I know what's best for my life. I'll do what I want. I don't want to take orders from God." This is a thought from Satan. Similarly, when the Lord convicts us of a sin, we may make a hundred excuses why it was alright to commit that sin; we may refuse to admit our mistake and correct our ways. All this is due to pride, which motivates us to rebel against God and not submit to Him.

The Word of God

If we give in to the temptations that Satan brings, we remain under the control of sin and satan. Sin and satan block us from getting the blessings that God wants us to have.

So it's important for us to overcome temptation. And we can mainly do this through the Word of God.

- Eph. 6:17: Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Every time, satan tempted Jesus by offering Him something that was against God's will, Jesus responded by saying, "It is written ...". In other words, Jesus chose to believe what the Bible says and obey it, rather than believe what satan was saying.

When we choose to believe God's Word and stand on it, it keeps us far from sin.

So by believing in and practicing the Word of God, we can overcome all the consequences of sin, and joyfully walk in God's abundant life.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Note: *All discussion questions must be answered by the children, and NOT by the teacher. The guidelines given here are only meant to assist the teacher during the discussion.*

We studied that if a person breaks even one small commandment, he is destined for eternal punishment in hell. But what if a person never sins (just like Jesus)? Will that person automatically go to heaven?

Ecc. 7:20 says, "Indeed, there is no one on earth who is righteous, no one who does what is right and never sins."

In fact David explains that when a baby is born, it's born with a sinful nature. Adam and Eve passed on their sinful nature to all their descendants.

- Ps. 51:5: Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

No person is able to live a sinless life, because the sinful nature inside them makes them begin sinning at a very early age.

If we all have a sinful nature that makes us sin from an early age, then what hope do we have? Won't all of us end up in hell?

We deserve eternal punishment in hell if we break even one small commandment of God. However, Jesus wanted to save us. So He took our punishment upon Himself, on the Cross.

So those of us who accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour, and make a commitment to follow and obey Him, are now 'saved.' We'll not be sent to hell after death.

How do you think the Word of God can help me when I'm tempted to neglect my studies or neglect my Bible reading?

The Word of God renews our minds. The more we read God's Word, the more we get to know what God thinks about different things.

For instance, God says that if we put Him first in our lives, He'll take care of all our needs.

- Mt. 6:33: But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Moreover God says that those who are lazy will not enjoy the rewards which hardworking people enjoy.

- Pro. 12:27: The lazy do not roast any game, but the diligent feed on the riches of the hunt.

When we read the Bible regularly, we'll learn many new truths like these. When we firmly hold on to these truths, refusing to believe satan's tempting lies, we're able to overcome sin.

- For instance, when I'm about to sit down for my Bible-reading, I may be tempted by an interesting program on TV. But if I choose to believe Mt. 6:33, I can firmly say to satan. "It is written in Mt. 6:33 that if I place God first in my life, He'll meet all my needs. So I choose to turn off the TV rather than believe your lies that the TV program will benefit me more."
- In the same way, when I'm tempted to neglect my studies, I can say to Satan confidently, "According to Pro. 12:27, I will not gain any benefits if I choose to be lazy. I want to listen to God's warning and not lose out on my benefits."

When we believe God's Word and choose to act upon it, satan is unable to tempt us into sinning. This sets us free from the control of sin, and we're able to freely enjoy God's blessings.

How can the Word of God help me when I'm about to lose my temper?

God's Word says, "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger" (Pro. 15:1).

So when I feel the urge to respond angrily to someone, I can instead choose to believe what the Bible says and practice it.

When people treat us badly and we feel angry, satan immediately jumps in and tempts us to say all kinds of angry things. At that moment, speaking angry words 'feels' like the right thing to do.

But if we choose to ignore these sinful feelings and instead respond gently, just as the Bible suggests, satan will not be able to gain control over us.

When we choose to believe God’s Word and practice it, the Lord will turn things around for us in His perfect time, in His perfect way. We don’t have to scream or shout at people to get what we need.



APPLICATION

Reflect for a little while and think of the sins that trouble you the most. What are your main areas of weakness, where you always fail to obey God? Is it in the area of anger management? Is it laziness? Is it back-answering or being rude to your parents?

After you’ve identified your weaknesses, take the help of elders to identify key Bible verses which discuss these issues.

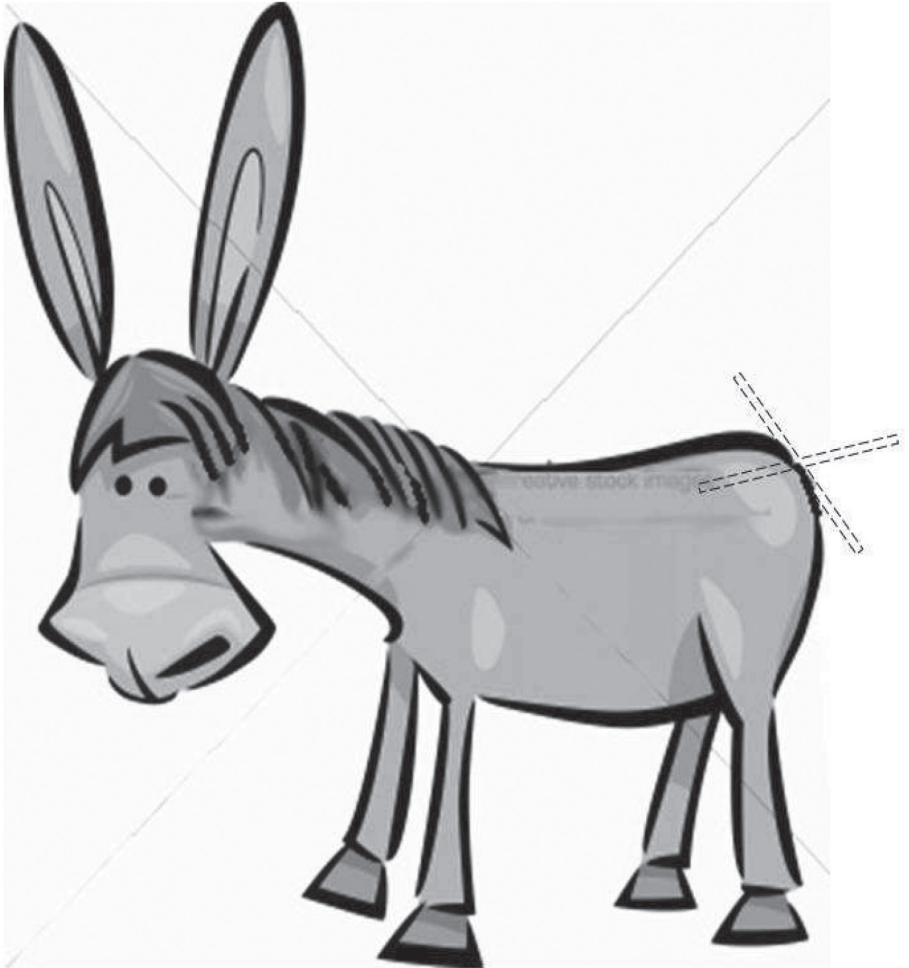
(A Google search is the simplest way of locating relevant Bible verses. Eg.: You can type the words “Bible verses on Anger” to get a detailed list).

Memorize these verses and begin practicing them, so that satan will not be able to control you in future.



CLOSE WITH PRAYER

Activity: The Donkey's Tail





Biblical Doctrines

Doctrine of Salvation—Regeneration



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To explain the difference between salvation and a mere resolution to change oneself.
- To teach that regeneration leads to a “new creation.”
- To instruct on how to put off the ‘old self’ and put on the ‘new self.’



SCRIPTURE PORTION

Jn. 3:3, 6; 2 Cor. 5:17; Phil. 2:13; Eph. 4:22-24 (Being Born Again).



MEMORY VERSE

2 Cor. 5:17: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here.



RECAP

- What did we learn about last week?
- What are the three main types of temptation satan uses to keep us under sin's bondage?
- This week, did you use any Bible verses to overcome sin? Give examples.
- Recite the Memory Verse for last week (Eph. 6:17).



INTRODUCTION

According to the broadest meaning as used in Scripture, the term *salvation* encompasses the total work of God by which He seeks to rescue man from the ruin, doom and power of sin and bestows upon him the wealth of His grace encompassing eternal life, provision for abundant life now, and eternal glory (Eph. 1:3-8; 2:4-10; 1 Pet. 1:3-5; Jn. 3:16, 36; 10:10).

Over the next two classes, we'll deal with some basic concepts that form a part of the Doctrine of Salvation, such as Regeneration, Eternal Security, Atonement, etc.

Note to the Facilitator

Doctrine of Salvation is a vast topic covering many different issues. However, we'll deal with only the following aspects in brief:

Primary Level

- Regeneration
- Eternal security

Junior Level

- God’s Redemption Plan
- Concept of Forgiveness

Senior Level

- Process of Salvation (Justification, Sanctification and Glorification)
- Concept of Grace of God



ATTENTION GETTER

Activity: Lion or Sheep?

Some of you might have heard the story of Leo the Lion. Leo was brought up by a family of sheep from the time he was a little cub. So he thought he was a sheep, just like his sheep-brother, Lambert.

- He bleated like a lamb (though his voice tended to be more loud and rough).
- He ate grass like a lamb.
- And like a lamb, he shivered and trembled when he heard the wolf in the mountains.

Even though the other sheep explained to Leo that he was a lion, he simply couldn’t believe them!

The Student Workbook contains a jumbled list of Sheep facts and Lion facts. Can you guess which facts pertain to Leo the Lion, and which ones pertain to Lambert the Lamb? (Give the children a minute to complete the activity).



TEACHING CONTENT

Some people think that salvation is like a New Year Resolution. They think salvation is all about making a resolution to start living a good and godly life.

However in reality, salvation is something far greater. It doesn't just involve a decision to change our habits and live better. It involves being "born again." It's almost like a sheep being "born again" into a lion.

Read Aloud:

Jn. 3:3: Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the Kingdom of God unless they are born again."

Jn. 3:6: Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

Explain:

Jesus explained to Nicodemus that only those who are "born again" can enter into heaven. He then went on to explain that a person can be "born again" only through the Spirit.

We learnt last week that all of us are born with a sinful nature that makes us sin against God.

We try again and again to stop sinning and start living a holy life. But again and again, we fail.

We can compare this to a sheep that tries again and again to stop bleating and start roaring. However, the sheep fails again and again in its attempts to roar powerfully, because it's a sheep.

This sheep would be able to roar powerfully and drive away all the wolves only if it changed into a real lion. In the same way, we can stop sinning and live holy lives only if we're changed into holy people.

So this is what God does for us. When a person accepts Jesus as Lord and Savior, the Holy Spirit changes us into a "new creation."

- 2 Cor. 5:17: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

The Holy Spirit 'regenerates' us into a new person.

NEW CREATION

When the Holy Spirit 'regenerates' us into a "new creation," we acquire not only a deeper desire to love and obey God, but we also acquire the power we need to love and obey Him.

- Phil. 2:13: For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill His good purpose.

It's almost as if a helpless sheep has been transformed into a powerful lion, and it can now efficiently deal with any wolves that come its way!

Ask:

Leo was convinced that he was a lamb. What do you think was his usual reaction when he heard a pack of wolves coming down the mountain?

(He'd hide in the bushes and hope the wolves didn't spot him).

Explain:

A lot of Christians behave like poor Leo. Even though the Lord has transformed them into a “new creation” they still believe that they are weak and helpless. When satan tempts them, they think they’re too weak to resist him and they fall into sin.

So it’s very important for us to realize who we are.

THINK like a NEW CREATION

Read Aloud:

Eph. 4:22-24: You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Explain:

In these verses, the Christian is told to stop behaving like his “old self”. The “old self” would include the wrong attitudes, feelings and practices that the person had before he became a believer.

God reminds the person that he has now been changed into a “new creation.” A new creation has godly attitudes, feelings and practices.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Note: *All discussion questions must be answered by the children, and NOT by the teacher. The guidelines given here are only meant to assist the teacher during the discussion.*

Salvation includes making a commitment to give up sins and follow Jesus. A New Year Resolution too, can include making a commitment to give up sins and follow Jesus.

So, in what way is Salvation different from a New Year Resolution?

People make all kinds of good New Year Resolutions:

- To exercise daily
- To study better
- To be more holy, etc.

However, there's no guarantee that they'll be able to successfully keep these resolutions without breaking them.

In the same way, even if I make a resolution to sincerely follow Jesus and obey Him, there's no guarantee that I'll keep it.

Salvation, on the other hand, comes from

- believing that Jesus is the only God who can wash away my sins;
- believing that Jesus is the only One who can change me into a new and holy person; and
- believing that Jesus is the only One who can give me the power to live a holy life.

When we place our trust in Jesus, in this way, the Holy Spirit comes into us and ‘regenerates’ us into a new person. We become persons with the desire and power to love and obey God.

That moment onwards, God begins to work inside us, changing us and making us more and more Christ-like.

So, in the case of a Resolution, it’s left to us to try and keep the resolution. But in the case of salvation, we put our trust in Jesus, and He begins to change us after He has regenerated us.

Therefore a Resolution to “live better” cannot take me to heaven. But believing in Jesus and being regenerated by Him, will definitely result in eternal life.

Why did Jesus tell Nicodemus that he could enter heaven only if he was “born again”?

Why is it so important to be “born again”?

Nicodemus probably asked Jesus what he must do to enter heaven. Jesus said to him, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the Kingdom of God unless they are born again” (Jn. 3:3). In other words, Jesus was saying that however hard Nicodemus tried to enter heaven, he wouldn’t be able to. A sinful human is a sinful human; he can never make himself holy enough to enter heaven.

It’s like the example of a sheep.

- A sheep is a sheep and a lion is a lion.
- After much training and exercise, a sheep may gather up all its strength and try to defeat a wolf; but it’ll eventually be torn to pieces.

That's because a sheep is a sheep; however hard it tries, it cannot become a lion.

If a sheep wants to successfully defeat a wolf, it has to be first "born again" into a lion. Only then will it have the power and skill of a lion, and be able to kill the wolf.

So Jesus was trying to tell Nicodemus that unless he got "born again" into a "new creation," he would not be able to truly live a holy life or enter heaven.

When we accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour, He regenerates us into a new creation. He makes us pure and holy inside our spirit. This makes it possible for us to enter heaven. After regeneration, the Lord also begins to work in us, changing us and making us more and more like Him.

We discussed the importance of putting off the 'old self' and putting on the 'new self.' How do we do this on a daily basis?

Putting off the 'old self' involves putting off old attitudes, old feelings and old practices.

For instance, I may have an attitude of pessimism.

- The next time I catch myself being pessimistic and thinking, "I know nothing good will ever happen to me," I choose to make a conscious effort to "put off" this wrong attitude.

Instead I ask God to help me maintain a positive attitude, and I teach my mind saying, "The Bible declares that God loves me and will do good things for me. So I choose to believe this truth."

- When I change my thinking in this way, it leads to a change in my feelings and behavior as well. I stop being negative and putting myself down, and I also start displaying greater confidence, because now I believe that God is on my side.

So there are three steps involved in putting off the ‘old self’ and putting on the ‘new self’:

- I consciously choose to stop practicing the wrong attitude or wrong behaviour.
- I ask God to help me start practicing the right attitude or right behaviour.
- Then, I teach my mind what the Bible says, and choose to believe what the Bible says.

How can I put off anger, and put on the love and gentleness of God, on a daily basis?

When I feel anger rising within me, I immediately choose to “put off” the anger.

- I choose to stop myself from responding with angry words or physical violence.
- Next, I shoot an urgent prayer to the Lord, asking for strength to control myself.
- Then I begin to remind myself of the Bible verses on anger. For instance, Pro. 15:1 says, “A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger” I choose to believe the wisdom of this verse, and I choose to speak gently to the other person—even though I’m feeling very angry.

When I choose to believe the Word of God and practice it in this way, the power of God will help me to respond correctly. He'll divinely help me deal with the anger, giving me the right words and the right attitude that I need at that moment.

How can I put off rebellion and disobedience, and put on the 'new self'?

Attitudes of rebellion and disobedience are developed early in childhood, when we're three to four years old. After becoming a "new creation" we may continue practicing these wrong attitudes; but God wants us to put them off.

When my parent or teacher asks me to do something, the immediate thought in my mind may be a big 'NO.'

- However, God wants me to choose obedience. So I must ask God to give me the willpower to obey cheerfully.
- After praying to Him, I must believe that He'll indeed provide me the strength to obey, and I must go ahead and start doing whatever I was asked to do.
- Every time rebellious thoughts come to my mind, I must remind myself of what the Bible teaches. For instance, Eph. 6:2-3 says, "Honour your father and mother... so that it may go well with you..."

Your mind probably says that it's better to rebel because parents and teachers are so unreasonable and cruel. However teach your mind that things will go well with you if you choose to honour and obey them.

If you teach your mind this Bible truth and practice it, your attitude and feelings will begin to change. Over time, the rebelliousness will fade away, and you will begin to experience all the wonderful benefits of obedience.



APPLICATION

When we accepted Jesus as Lord and Saviour, the Holy Spirit regenerated us into a new creation. However, we can begin to enjoy all the advantages of being a new creation only when we start putting off the 'old self' and putting on the 'new self.' Otherwise, everything continues to remain the same in our lives; and we don't get to enjoy all the blessings that God has reserved for us. What a great loss that would be!



CLOSE WITH PRAYER

Lead the children in prayer as they recommit their lives to a loving and just God. Also pray with those who're making a commitment to follow Jesus for the first time.





Biblical Doctrines

Doctrine of Salvation— Eternal Security



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To assure that salvation cannot be lost.
- To explain the meaning of “sealed by the Holy Spirit.”
- To teach about the intercessory work of Christ.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

2 Cor. 1:21-22; Jn. 10:29; Rom. 2:4, 8:34; 1 Jn. 2:1, 3:9
(Sealed by the Spirit).



MEMORY VERSE

2 Cor. 1:21-22: ... He anointed us, set His seal of ownership on us, and put His Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

Materials Needed:

- Buttons with different embossed patterns

- Candle and match box
- Envelopes
- Paper Slips
- Play clay of different colors
- Red Sealing Wax
- Sealing Stamp
- Sketch pens



RECAP

- What did we learn about last week?
- How is Salvation different from making a New Year Resolution?
- This week did you “put on the new self” in any area of your life? Give examples.
- Recite the Memory Verse for last week (2 Cor. 5:17).



INTRODUCTION

According to the broadest meaning as used in Scripture, the term salvation encompasses the total work of God by which He seeks to rescue man from the ruin, doom, and power of sin and bestows upon him the wealth of His grace encompassing eternal life, provision for abundant life now, and eternal glory (Eph. 1:3-8; 2:4-10; 1 Pet. 1:3-5; Jn. 3:16, 36; 10:10).

Within a brief duration of two classes, we’re dealing with some basic concepts that form a part of the Doctrine

of Salvation, such as Regeneration, Eternal Security, Atonement, etc.



ATTENTION GETTER

Activity: Sealed!

If you have access to red sealing wax and a seal-stamp, you can show the children how envelopes are officially sealed and stamped.

Also, take some envelopes and paper-slips for the children. Ask the children to write a thank you note to their parents on a slip of paper. (You can help them with the wording. Eg.: Thank you for teaching me about Jesus, thank you for dropping me to school every day, etc.)

Ask them to place their thank you note in an envelope and seal it with fake sealing wax (play clay). Buttons with embossed designs can be used to press patterns in the 'wax'.



TEACHING CONTENT

SEALED BY GOD

Last week we discovered that when we accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour, He regenerates us into a new creation. Today we'll learn of one more thing that God does for us at the time of salvation.

Read Aloud

2 Cor. 1:21-22: ... He anointed us, set His seal of ownership on us, and put His Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

Explain:

Sealed

An official seal will usually have the emblem (the design) of the owner. When the owner puts this seal on an envelope, everybody who looks at the emblem understands that this envelope belongs to that particular owner.

If the owner is a powerful man, nobody will dare to break the seal and steal the documents in the envelope.

It's the same with us, in a spiritual sense. At the time of salvation, God seals us with His Holy Spirit. He does this so that all principalities and powers will know that we belong to the Lord, and nobody can steal us away from Him.

- Jn. 10:29: My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.

Guaranteed

According to these verses, the Holy Spirit seals us not only for our protection, but also to guarantee that we'll receive everything that was promised. We'll use a simple example to understand this better.

Example:

Let's assume that a rich man comes to meet me and promises to gift me one crore rupees. But how can I be sure that he isn't simply bluffing or making false promises? To make sure that I don't have any such doubts, he immediately takes out five thousand rupees from his pocket and hands it over to

me. This five thousand is not the entire amount. It's just a 'guarantee' that he is going to give me the rest of the money in the weeks to come.

In the same way, the Lord has promised us many things in His Word. We may have doubts whether these promises are true. We may wonder if God will remember His promises when we cry out for help. We may wonder if He'll really take us to heaven. We may wonder if we'll truly be honoured with a crown one day in heaven.

To prevent doubts like this, the Lord has given us the Holy Spirit, to live inside us. Because He is living inside us right now, we have the assurance that He'll do all the other things He has promised as well.

Read Aloud

Rom. 8:34: Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

1 Jn. 2:1: My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

Explain:

Every time we sin against God, satan accuses us before God and demands that we be returned into his hands—so that he can control us and destroy us. However, Jesus who is seated at God's right hand, intercedes for us and declares that we're

innocent. Because He has already taken the punishment for all our sins upon the Cross, He asks the Father to declare us innocent. In this way, satan is unable to steal us away from the Lord and drag us to hell.

Therefore we can have full assurance that we will never lose our salvation.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Note: *All discussion questions must be answered by the children, and NOT by the teacher. The guidelines given here are only meant to assist the teacher during the discussion.*

If I'm never going to lose my salvation, does this mean I'm now free to commit any number of sins? Will I still go to heaven?

Once a person is saved by Jesus, nobody can snatch him out of the Father's hands. Because their future in heaven is now guaranteed, some people begin to commit all kinds of sins. They feel comfortable doing this because God will anyway take them to heaven.

However, these people are ignorant of 1 Jn. 3:9, which explains that true believers will not continue to sin habitually. Because they have become a new creation, they will gradually begin to change ...They'll not live in continuous and deliberate sin.

- 1 Jn. 3:9: No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God.

If a person has not changed in any way after saying the salvation prayer, this proves that the person never became a new creation in the first place. Maybe he simply said the salvation prayer without really meaning it. Maybe he didn't make a true commitment to give up his sins and follow Jesus.

Because our future in heaven is secure, we must be filled with gratitude and do our best to get rid of everything sinful in our lives. This is the usual response of true Christians who have been regenerated into a new creation.

- Rom. 2:4: Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?

What if I commit a sin after getting saved? Will I lose my salvation and end up in hell?

Every time I sin against God, satan accuses me before God and demands that I be returned into his hands—so that he can control me and destroy me. However, Jesus who is seated at God's right hand, intercedes for me and declares that I'm innocent. Because He has already taken the punishment for all my sins upon the cross, He asks the Father to declare me innocent. In this way, satan is unable to steal me away from the Lord and drag me to hell. Therefore I can have full assurance that I'll never lose my salvation.

- 1 Jn. 2:1: My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

So whenever I sin, I just need to go the Lord and admit that I have sinned. I can then ask for forgiveness and request His

help in not repeating my sin. The Lord will cleanse me of my sin and help me to do better next time I'm tempted.

- 1 Jn. 1:9: If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Do you think Christians have an invisible seal marked on their foreheads—showing that they're sealed by the Holy Spirit?

There's no Bible verse saying that Christians have an invisible mark of any kind (some specific people will be given a mark in the end times for a specific purpose, but that's NOT NOW).

Jesus described the Holy Spirit as being invisible—like the wind. Nobody can see the wind, but they can sense its presence when it's blowing.

- Jn. 3:8: The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.

In the same way, there may not be any visible mark on Christians, showing they're sealed with the Holy Spirit. But the demons can clearly sense the Holy Spirit inside a person.

- Acts 16:16-17: ... we were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future ... She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved."



APPLICATION

Because we're sealed with the Holy Spirit, we will not lose our salvation. How can we express out gratitude to God for this? What are some specific things you can do (or not do), to show your gratitude to God? Reflect on these things, and demonstrate your gratitude to God.



CLOSE WITH PRAYER

Lead the children in prayer as they recommit their lives to a loving and just God. Also pray with those who're making a commitment to follow Jesus for the first time.





Life After Death (Doctrine of Eschatology)



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To explain about the intermediate and ultimate destination of all humans.
- To teach what the Bible says about heaven and hell.
- To urge children to make a commitment to Christ.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

Lk. 16:19-31; Mt. 10:28; Rom. 6:23; Mt. 18:8; Rev. 21 (Heaven and Hell).



MEMORY VERSE

Mt. 10:28: Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

Materials Needed: Sheets of paper; a few pairs of scissors



RECAP

- What did we learn about last week?
- **What does it mean to be “sealed by the Holy Spirit?”**
[- It means that nobody can snatch us away from God
- The Holy Spirit in us, is proof that God will give us everything that was promised].
- If I commit a sin after getting saved, will I lose my salvation and end up in hell?
- Recite the Memory Verse for last week (2 Cor. 1:21-22).



INTRODUCTION

The word Eschatology literally means “Study of Last Things”:

- It studies the intermediate and ultimate state of both the righteous and the wicked, and
- It studies the various events that lead up to the final establishment of the Kingdom of God (including Christ's Second Coming, the resurrection of the body, the final judgments, etc).

In this session, we’ll specifically study what happens to man after death (the intermediate and ultimate state of humans).

Note to the Facilitator

Doctrine of Eschatology is a vast and complex topic, filled with many controversies. Therefore, we’ll deal with only the following aspects in brief:

Primary Level

- Heaven, Hell and the New Jerusalem
- Two stages of the Second Coming—Rapture and Rule on earth
 - Resurrection of Believers and Unbelievers
 - Judgment of Believers and Unbelievers
 - How to prepare ourselves for Jesus' Return

Junior Level

- Detailed description of Heaven / Hell (including Third Heaven, Temporary and Permanent Hell)
- Brief Outline of End Time events (From the Creation of Israel State— the latter part of the Tribulation)
 - Preparing ourselves for Jesus' Return

Senior Level

- Preparing for the Second Coming (Parable of Unprepared Servant)
 - Judgment Seat of Christ and Great White Throne Judgment
 - Levels of Rewards for Believers
 - Levels of Punishment for Unbelievers
- Brief Outline of End Time events (From the latter part of the Tribulation—the Creation of a New Heaven and Earth)

Preparing ourselves to rule in the Millennial Kingdom
(Parable of Talents)

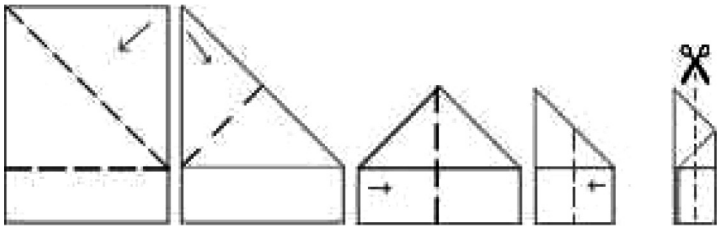


ATTENTION GETTER

Activity: The Cross or Hell

Teach the children to make a Cross, and the word 'Hell', using a single piece of paper:

Fold the top right corner to the left side of the paper, forming a triangle, then the point at the top left over to the right side of the paper. Now it looks like a house with a pitched roof. Then fold it along the horizontal so that it looks like an arrow. Fold it again along the horizontal to make a thinner arrow.



After unfolding the paper, you'll find a cross.

Next, you can put all the other pieces together to make the word HELL.





TEACHING CONTENT

The Rich Man and Poor Lazarus (Lk. 16:19-31)

Jesus told that there was once a very rich man. He had fancy clothes and everything he wanted. He never took time for God. He lived for himself and the things he wanted.

Outside the rich man's fence was a man named Lazarus. He didn't have much. Lazarus had a lot of sores and was very sick and hungry. He was so hungry that he wanted the crumbs that fell off of the rich man's table.

One day Lazarus died and the angels took him up to heaven. The rich man also died, but he went down to hell. The rich man could see Lazarus and others in heaven. The rich man called to Father Abraham in heaven and said to him, "Have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip his finger in the water and touch my tongue. I am hurting in this fire."

Abraham called back to the rich man and said, "Remember that in your life you had good things, while Lazarus received bad things. Now Lazarus is in comfort and you are hurting. There is too much space between where you are and where we are; we cannot come to you and you cannot come to us."

Then the rich man asked Abraham to send Lazarus to his family's house so he could tell them how to get to heaven. The rich man did not want anyone to be with him because it was a terrible place to be.

Then Abraham told the rich man that his family could read the Bible and listen to the prophets. He said that the rich

man's family would not listen even if Lazarus was raised from the dead to go talk to them.

Why did Jesus tell this story? Jesus wanted to tell us that there really is a heaven and hell. When we die we will go to one of them. It is our choice. If we trust Jesus and believe in Him, we will go to Heaven and be with God. If we choose to do what we want and live for ourselves, instead of trusting in Jesus, we will not be in heaven.

We will now discuss some of the important lessons which emerge from this true story.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Note: All discussion questions must be answered by the children, and NOT by the teacher. The guidelines given here are only meant to assist the teacher during the discussion.

Jesus said, “The rich man also died and was buried” (Lk. 16:22). Why do you think the rich man died? Didn't he have money to pay the doctors and get well?

God has fixed the number of days for each person to live. So when it's time to die, no amount of money or doctors can stop us from dying.

- Heb. 9:27: ... people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment.

Jesus said that after death, the rich man was “in torment” (Lk. 16:23). How can a dead person feel any pain?

The Bible explains that only the physical body of a person dies; the person's soul continues to live. So if a person's soul

goes to hell, he suffers greatly. But if his soul goes to heaven, he enjoys great joy and rest.

This is why Jesus said, “Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell” (Mt. 10:28).

Why do you think people die? Did God invent death? Does God enjoy making people die?

God warned Adam and Eve that if they sinned, death would come into the world. By sinning against God, they passed on their sinful nature to all people, causing all people to sin.

So it is our sinfulness that makes us die.

- Rom. 6:23: For the wages of sin is death ...

However, God has arranged for us to escape the consequences of death. If we accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour, even though we die, we get to live with God forever and enjoy Him.

What kind of suffering was the rich man facing in hell?

- He said, “I am in agony in this fire.”
- He seemed to be extremely thirsty.
- He realized that he was a sinner who didn’t deserve any kindness. So he was willing to settle for even a single drop of water.

For how many years do you think the rich man had to suffer in hell?

The Bible clearly describes hell as being ‘eternal.’ A person who chooses to go to hell will have to stay there ‘eternally.’

- Mt.18:8: If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into eternal fire.

This means the rich man is in hell even today. And he's going to stay there forever.

Why do you think a 'good' God created a 'bad' place like Hell?

God created hell as a place of punishment for the devil and his angels. He did NOT create hell for people. People end up in hell only if they refuse to accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

- Mt. 25:41: Then He will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'

If we choose to follow Jesus, where do you think we will we spend our eternity?

Those who accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour, go to heaven after death. But one day, after the Second Coming of Jesus, the Lord will present us with a city called 'New Jerusalem.' All of us will live in that city, in the presence of God, forever and ever.

- Rev. 21:27: Nothing impure will ever enter [the city], nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

What does the Bible say about the New Jerusalem?

About Lighting for the City (Rev. 21:23)?

The City will not need sun or moon for light. God's Glory itself will light up the entire city!

About its Construction Materials (Rev. 21:18-21)?

The City was constructed with pure gold, pearls, precious stones, etc.

About life in the City (Rev. 21:4)?

God will wipe away all tears, and there will be no more death, suffering, crying, or pain.



APPLICATION

Depending on whether or not we accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour, we'll either spend all of eternity in heaven (in the New Jerusalem) or in hell.

Make sure where you're personally headed. And make a commitment to tell other people about Jesus, so that they won't have to spend eternity in hell either.



CLOSE WITH PRAYER

Lead the children in prayer as they recommit their lives to a loving and just God. Also pray with those who're making a commitment to follow Jesus for the first time.





Biblical Doctrines

The Second Coming (Doctrine of Eschatology)



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To describe the sequence of events that will follow the Second Coming of Jesus.
- To help children prepare for the Lord's Coming.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

1Thes. 4:16; Lk. 12:47-48,21:27; Rev. 1:7,20:5-6,13,22:12;
Jn. 5:28-29; 1Cor. 3:12-15,15:51-52; Phil. 3:21; Mt. 24:39-42;
Jn. 5:28-29 (Second Coming, Resurrection and Judgment).



MEMORY VERSE

Rev. 22:12: Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me,
and I will give to each person according to what they have
done.

Materials Needed: Blue color pencils/crayons



RECAP

- What did we learn about last week?
- Why do you think people die? Did God invent death?
- Why do you think a ‘good’ God created a ‘bad’ place like Hell?
- Recite the Memory Verse for last week (Mt. 10:28).



INTRODUCTION

There is much debate on the End Times in Christian circles. Some believe that Christ’s return will be immediately followed by the resurrection of all people, and the judgment. Others believe that Christ’s return will be followed by a 1000 year rule on earth, which is then followed by judgment. And then there are further variations of these two basic outlooks.

We at All Peoples Church (APC) believe that the Second Coming of Jesus takes place in two stages—including the Rapture and the Establishment of the Millennial Rule on earth (Kindly refer to the APC Statement of Faith—Points 12 and 13).



ATTENTION GETTER

Activity: Blue Clouds

The Student Workbook contains a picture of Jesus. Ask the children to draw clouds around Jesus and colour them blue.

Ask:

Why do you think we drew blue clouds around Jesus? Does any Bible Passage talk about Jesus in the clouds?

(Let the children make guesses).



TEACHING CONTENT

SECOND COMING OF JESUS

The Second Coming of Jesus will take place in two stages.

STAGE 1—RAPTURE

The Bible teaches that suddenly, one day, believers all over the world will hear a loud trumpet sound. In that moment, the graves of believers who have died will open up, and the bodies of these believers will emerge from the graves. Even the bodies of people lost in the sea will come out. It'll be a shocking sight to see!

- Isa. 26:19: But your dead will live, Lord; **their bodies will rise**—let those who dwell in the dust wake up and shout for joy.
- Jn. 5:28-29: Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when **all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out ...**

This is called the 'Resurrection.' As this wonderful resurrection will happen to each one of us, let's try to understand it in greater detail.

Example:

Let's assume that a lame believer with one leg dies after living many years on this earth. When he dies, his spirit immediately goes to heaven to be with the Lord. His body with the one leg is then buried inside a grave. The spirit of the man lives in heaven without a physical body, enjoying himself in the presence of the Lord.

On the day of the Rapture, even as Jesus is coming down through the clouds, all those living in heaven will come down along with Him—including the believer who used to have one leg.

- 1 Thes. 4:14: For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that **God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him.**

In that moment, graves will open up, and the dead bodies of all believers will come out from their graves—including the “one-legged body” of this believer. Then, in the twinkling of an eye, in a micro-second, all the bodies will be transformed into new glorified bodies which are perfect in every way. So the formerly lame believer, along with all the other believers, will get a brand new glorified body in that moment. What a beautiful and glorious thing this will be!

- 1 Cor. 15:52: ... in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, **the dead will be raised imperishable**, and we will be changed.
- Phil. 3:21: ... who, by the power that enables Him to bring everything under his control, will **transform our lowly bodies** so that they will be like His glorious body.

Resurrection of Living Believers

When the Rapture happens, there will still be many believers living on the earth (who haven't yet died and gone to heaven). These people will float up into the air, to meet Jesus as He is coming down. And in the twinkling of an eye, their bodies too will be transformed into glorified bodies.

- Mt. 24:39-42: That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man ... Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; **one will be taken and the other left.** Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.
- 1 Cor. 15:51: Listen, I tell you a mystery: **We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed**—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.

Judgment of Believers

Immediately after the Second Coming of Jesus, all believers will be judged. They'll stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ, and the thoughts, words and actions of each believer will be closely examined. Each person will receive a reward for only those things that glorified God.

Believers who did everything to please only themselves, rather than please God, will receive absolutely no reward. They will be hugely disappointed!

- 1 Cor. 3:12-15: If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with

fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. **If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward.** If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.

STAGE 2—JESUS' RETURN TO THE EARTH

Seven years after the Rapture, Jesus will return to the earth in a grand and spectacular manner.

Suddenly, unexpectedly, without any prior warning, there will be the sound of a great shout from the skies. Can you imagine it! People on the roads will probably stop their vehicles and climb out to see what's going on. All those indoors will come outside when they hear this great sound.

And then a thundering trumpet sound will blare through the skies as Jesus makes His appearance in the clouds. Everybody staring into the skies will see Him with their own eyes—even those people who insist that God doesn't exist.

- 1 Thes. 4:16: For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, **with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God,** and the dead in Christ will rise first.
- Lk. 21:27: At that time **they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud** with power and great glory.
- Rev. 1:7: Look, He is coming with the clouds," and **"every eye will see Him,** even those who pierced Him;"

After returning to the earth in full public view, the Lord will rule on the earth for 1000 years. This time-period is generally called the ‘Millenium.’ At the end of the thousand years, all unbelievers (both dead and alive), will be resurrected and judged.

Resurrection of Unbelievers

Just as in the case of the first resurrection of the believers, again the graves will open up and the dead bodies of unbelievers will come out. All the unbelievers in hell will be rejoined with their bodies. However, these bodies of unbelievers don’t get transformed into glorified bodies. They change into something else—into bodies that will burn forever and ever in the Lake of Fire without turning into ashes. It’ll be a horribly painful way to live for all eternity!

- Jn. 5:28-29: ... a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear His voice and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and **those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned.**
- Rev. 20:5-6: **(The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.)** This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

Judgment of Unbelievers

All the unbelievers will stand before the Great White Throne of Jesus. Here they will be assigned different levels of

punishment in the Lake of Fire, based on the level of their sinfulness.

- Rev. 20:13: The **sea gave up the dead that were in it**, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, **and each person was judged according to what they had done.**
- Lk. 12:47-48: The servant who knows the master's will and does not get ready or does not do what the master wants **will be beaten with many blows.** But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment **will be beaten with few blows.**

PREPARING FOR THE SECOND COMING

Hide and Seek

(Taken from Calvary Chapel Ministries.)

Imagine you are playing a game of Hide and Seek. Someone counts to twenty with their eyes closed and you must find a place to hide while they are counting.

- What if you took your time and waited until they had counted to the number fifteen to begin to find a place to hide?

Chances are you would be caught trying to find your place to hide. You were given time to prepare a place to hide, but for some reason you took your time and were unprepared when the seeker called out, "Ready or not, here I come."

Now think of Jesus and His return. Unlike the game of hide and seek, Jesus' return is real and is not a game. As Christians we should be looking forward to His return.

- Like Hide and Seek we have all been given plenty of time to get ready. Those who don't prepare by asking Jesus into their hearts will be caught unprepared. Sadly, that means spending eternity separated from God.

No one knows when Jesus is going to come again but we can trust that He will. And those who prepare themselves for His return will be rewarded.

How to prepare ourselves for Jesus' Return

There are four simple steps we can take to prepare for Jesus' return:

1. Accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour

Only those who repent of their sins and ask Jesus to forgive them, will enter heaven. Make Jesus your Lord and Saviour, so that you won't have to spend eternity in hell.

2. Always place God first

Always do whatever will please God—not whatever will please only you. For instance, you may feel like telling a lie to escape punishment. But please God by speaking the truth—even if it means getting punished. If you do this, you'll receive a great reward in heaven.

3. Get rid of known sins

Most of us usually have one or two sins that keep defeating us. For instance, I may have a very bad temper. Or I may be a very selfish person who refuses to share with others. God wants me to work on getting rid of all such known sins.

4. Work sincerely

Give your hundred percent to everything you do:

- If your parents give you a household chore, give it your very best.
- Study sincerely and don't be lazy.
- If you get a chance to help someone, be as kind and loving as you can.

ANY QUESTIONS ?

The children may have various doubts about death, heaven and the after-life. Reserve about 10 minutes to tackle their questions on these important topics.

(If necessary, you can skip the Discussion Questions, and devote more time to the questions personally raised by the children.)



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Note: *All discussion questions must be answered by the children, and NOT by the teacher. The guidelines given here are only meant to assist the teacher during the discussion.*

If a person rejects Christ before the Rapture, can he be saved after the Rapture?

When a person witnesses the disappearance of all believers from the earth, he may become willing to believe in the teachings of the Bible. If such a person expresses a desire to accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour, the Lord will definitely accept him.

When Jesus returns in the clouds seven years after the Rapture, everybody will see Him with their own eyes, and realize that He is real. At this time, can people quickly make a choice to accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour?

Many verses indicate that once the Second Coming happens, it'll be too late to get saved.

Jesus described His second coming as a 'trap.' All those who fail to accept Him as Lord and Saviour before the Second Coming itself, will be caught in the trap of His return. Once they're caught in this trap, it's too late to be rescued.

- Lk. 21:34-36: Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and **that day will close on you suddenly like a trap**. For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man."

Some people believe that it's foolish and dumb to believe in the existence of a God that we cannot even see. They feel 'ashamed' to believe in someone whose existence can't be proved scientifically. When Jesus returns in the clouds, they'll finally have all the proof they need to believe in His existence. But at that time, it'll be too late. Because they were ashamed to believe in Him, He too will be ashamed to accept them as His children.

- Lk. 9:26: **Whoever is ashamed of me** and my Words, **the Son of Man will be ashamed of them** when He comes in His glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

Faith alone pleases God. These people refuse to place their faith in Christ without seeing Him; so He disowns them.

- Heb. 11:6: And **without faith it is impossible to please God**, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.
- Rom. 8:24-25: For in this hope we were saved. **But hope that is seen is no hope at all.** Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

The Bible teaches that even believers will be judged by Jesus. Does this mean that God may send some believers to hell?

1 Cor. 3:12-15 explains that God will judge the thoughts, words and deeds of each believer. Whatever the person has done to glorify God will be rewarded. However, everything that was done to please his own selfish interests will be rejected.

So if a person never bothered to glorify God through any of his thoughts, words and deeds, everything he has thought, said and done will be burnt up in God's refining fire. However, he himself will be saved—because he trusted in Jesus Christ to save his soul.

1 Cor. 3:12-15: ... the fire will test the quality of each person's work. If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.

Optional Question

Jn. 5:28 says, “... a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out...” So after death, do people continue to live inside their graves in the form of ghosts?

Dead people don't have permission to stay in their graves, or haunt the earth in the form of ghosts. They must face the consequence of heaven or hell immediately after death. This is exactly what happened in the Story of Lazarus and the Rich Man, which Jesus described. While Lazarus went to heaven, the rich man went to hell. Neither of them was allowed to stay back in their grave.

Only the physical body of the dead person continues to lie in the grave. When Jesus orders the bodies to come out, they have to obey His command and come forth. The bodies of dead believers will be transformed into glorified bodies, and believers will live in them, in heaven. The bodies of the unbelievers too will return to them, but they'll continually burn in the Lake of Fire forever and ever.

So the ghosts that some people claim to encounter are simply evil spirits pretending to be a dead person. Dead people do not live in graves.



APPLICATION

Ask:

We studied four simple steps that we can take, to prepare ourselves for the Second Coming of the Lord. What are they?
(Ask the children to recollect the four steps.)

Reflect on how you can practice these four steps in your own life ... so that you will be ready to meet the Lord. When He returns, if He finds you ready, He will give you a great reward and personally honour you in front of everybody!

- Rev. 22:12: Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done.
- Jn. 12:26: My Father will honour the one who serves me.



CLOSE WITH PRAYER

Lead the children in prayer as they recommit their lives to a loving and just God. Also pray with those who're making a commitment to follow Jesus for the first time.

