



JESUS, SAVIOR OF THE WORLD

Section I. Introduction

- A. Can you think of a time when you or someone you know were rescued (saved) from a situation where you might have been hurt, or even killed? Who saved you? How did you feel towards the person?

- B. Did anyone ever help you or rescue you when you got into trouble and did something wrong? Were you grateful?

Section II. Adam and Eve, the first man and woman, disobeyed God and lost the intimate relationship they had with God. But God promised them a Savior, someone to take away the pain of sin and death, and restore a right relationship between God and man. In Old Testament times, God's people, the Israelites, turned to God in times of trouble and prayed that He would help them and save them.

- A. Read Isaiah 43:11. In this passage, how does God describe Himself?

- B. Read Isaiah 45:22.
 - 1. What does God ask people to do?

2. Why does He say that we should do this?

NOTES

Section III. David, Israel's second king, understood that since the time of Adam and Eve, people have had a spiritual problem.

A. Read Psalm 14:1-3. David wrote this psalm.

1. What does verse 1 say is the problem with people who say there is no God?
2. What does God want Adam's descendants to do?
3. When God looks at Adam's descendants, what does He see that they are doing?
4. Do you think people are still like Adam's descendants, or are some people good? Why or why not?

B. Read Romans 7:18.

1. What does Paul say about himself?
2. What is his particular problem or struggle?
3. In what ways do we still struggle with this today?

Section IV. God promised that He would send a Savior to save His people. Although it sometimes seemed as if God was taking too long, now the time has come.

Paul also expresses this problem well in Romans 7:18-19. Every day we struggle with the same problem. Every one of us needs Jesus as our Savior, because we ourselves cannot do anything about the problem of sin in our lives.

Section IV.

John 3:16 clearly says that by believing in Jesus we will be saved. That is very hard for many people to accept. Many people cling to the idea that we are the ones who are responsible for our own salvation. If we don't have to do anything, then how can it happen? In this world they see that most of the time there are really very few gifts that do not have strings attached. They have trouble with the idea that salvation is entirely free and that God wants everyone to be saved, even a killer or a very evil person. Many people think it is unfair that great sinners are forgiven at the end of their lives. This follows from the idea that people do something to earn their heavenly reward. Christians do things for others and honor God out of gratefulness and as a response to God's love, not in order to earn their way to heaven. Thus we can truly rejoice when the greatest sinner repents at the last moment of his life.

Section V.

The Suffering Servant passages in Isaiah are a very explicit and wonderful foretelling of the passion of Jesus. Isn't it amazing that Isaiah wrote these passages many hundreds of years before Jesus came into the world? If there is time, you may wish to read more of the passages, but it will depend upon the English level of your students, as the vocabulary is difficult.

When Jesus died and rose again, one man's (Adam) failure was overcome. We once again were put into a right relationship with God, our Savior and our Lord. This was the result of the sacrifice of one man, Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

A. Read Matthew 1:21, Joseph's dream.

1. In Joseph's dream, what was he told to name the child?
2. What does this name mean?
3. From what would He save people?

B. Read Luke 2:11. What did the angels tell the shepherds?

C. Read John 3:16.

1. How does God feel about the people in the world?
2. What does this verse say God did? What is the result?
3. What must people do to receive this? How do you feel about this? Does this seem fair?
4. What do you think *believe* means here?

Section V. God *gave* His Son. How did He give Jesus?

A. Read Isaiah 53:4-8.

1. Because we all sin, what happened to Jesus? (verses 5, 7, 8)

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2. In verse 8, what does *removed from the world* mean?

3. Why did Jesus do what He did? (verse 4-6)

B. Read Romans 5:15, 18-19.

1. What is the failure that verse 18 talks about?

2. Whose failure was it? What happened as a result?

3. Do we still fail? How?

4. These verses talk about God's life-giving approval and one person's obedience. Whose obedience was this?

5. What was His act of obedience, and what was the result?

C. Read 1 Peter 2:24.

1. When Christ carried our sins in His body, what happened?

2. Since we are healed and set free, what kind of life can we now live?

Section I.

This section focuses on stories from our past that might lead to some small understanding of what Jesus has done for us. We often think about the miraculous physical escapes which some of us, or someone we know, may experience. These make great stories. But what Jesus has done for us spiritually is much more important.

The second question places us closer to the reality of what Jesus did. Of course, we sin against God, and so what Jesus does in saving us shows how great His love really is.

When someone on earth rescues us we usually do feel very grateful, but many of us do not always respond to Jesus' sacrifice with the gratefulness that is appropriate.

Section II.

Isaiah most likely wrote between the years of 700 BC and 680 BC. He wrote for the purpose of calling the nation of Israel back to God. In his writings, he also foretold many things about the coming of the Messiah.

In Isaiah 43:11 and 45:22, God describes himself as the only God and as the Savior of the people. The godly people of Israel did not believe that they were capable of saving themselves. They believed that they had to depend upon God to do that.

Section III.

In David's day, as today, there were people who either refused to believe that God existed, or else acted and lived as if God did not exist. Those people acted in direct defiance of God. David says that such people are fools. Some people rely upon themselves, so in effect they are saying there really isn't any God who can and wants to help them.

These verses show that ALL people are guilty before God. No one of his own strength and from his own human nature can do good. Jesus says (John 15:5) that no one can bear fruit (do good) unless he remains in Jesus.

approval	the act of thinking (and often saying) that what was done was good, or that a person is thought of favorably
verdict	a decision on a question, often by a court of law
disobedience	the act of not obeying or not doing what another person has asked you to do
sinful	full of wrongdoing or evil
obedience	following (obeying) the rules or laws

I Peter 2:24

wounds	injuries or hurts, both physical and emotional
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**VOCABULARY
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Isaiah 43:11

LORD	represents the Hebrew name for God—It shows that God has honor, dignity and majesty. God is the owner of the earth, and has complete power and control over everything.
savior	someone who saves or rescues another person from some kind of danger or evil

Psalm 14:1-3

godless	people who do not believe in or follow God
fool	person who is not wise; someone who does not have good judgment and understanding
corrupt	immoral, wicked, dishonest
disgusting	something that makes a person feel sick, sometimes physically, sometimes in a moral way. People would like to look away from something disgusting.
heaven	the place where God, all His holy angels and saints (believers in Jesus Christ) live
descendants	generations of people who come after us, such as our children, our grandchildren or our great-great grandchildren
rotten	spoiled, decayed
core	the very center of something

Romans 7:18

desire strong wish for something

Matthew 1:21

Jesus God's son, Savior, second person of the triune God

sins thoughts, words or actions that are against God's will

Luke 2:11

David's city Bethlehem

John 3:16

eternal life never ending life

Isaiah 53:4-8

suffering pain or difficulty

sorrows mental pain caused by injury or loss

wounded hurt or injured, either physically or emotionally

punished to make a person pay for something that they did which was wrong; as we punish a thief by sending him to prison

rebellious acts doing what a person in authority over us does not want us to do; to do the opposite of what we are told to do

crushed being injured or destroyed, often by being pressed between two things

peace freedom

healing the act of bringing someone back to health and wholeness

wounds injuries, sores

strayed to go off the proper path or road, often following a path that leads to evil results

abused to punish wrongly

slaughter to kill; this word is used for the killing of animals for food or used when many people are killed, especially in a cruel way

arrested taken prisoner by the police and taken to jail

judged to have formed an opinion about whether something is right or wrong

removed taken away; here it means killed

Romans 5:15, 18-19

comparison the act of examining two things to see how they are different

failure the fact that the person was not able to do what was wanted or needed

humanity the human race, all the people in the world as a group

showered rained down upon

condemned to say officially what someone's punishment will be