

GOD WANTS ME TO BE FREE

Children's Ministry Lesson Plan from Who's Teaching the Babies?®



What is Salvation?

Ask the children if they have received Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

➡ The word “Salvation” in the New Testament of the Bible comes from the Greek Word “σωτηρια” (so-tay-ree'-ah) which means, “**deliverance, preservation, safety, salvation.**”¹

What does it mean for Jesus to “save” us?

➡ The verb “save” in the New Testament of the Bible comes from the Greek Word “σοζο” (sode'-zo) which means, “**deliver out of danger into safety.**”²

Why is it important for us to understand these words? Why do we need to know what the original writers of the Scriptures meant by what they were communicating in the writings? Why can't we just look at what we think the words mean to us today?

Here's why:

God was speaking to these writers in a language and situation that they understood. Our culture, language, and understanding is much different today. We don't want to misunderstand what God is wanting to communicate to everyone, everywhere—then and now.



FUN FACT:

Did you know that the Old Testament writings were originally written in Hebrew, and the New Testament writings were written in Greek?

☆ **TEACHER NOTE:** It is a fun addition to show some samples of Hebrew and Greek writing so that the children can see how different it is from English. You can also give some examples of how different words can mean different things to different cultures. Example: In the United States, when we say “khaki pants” we are referring to a tan-colored pair of trousers; in England, however, the same phrase refers to a pair of dirty underwear! Even though the language is the same, the words have different meanings in different times and places. This is why it is important for us to know the meanings of the words in the Bible the way that the writers meant them, and not just what we think it might mean in our culture/language.

So, when God “saves” us, and we receive His eternal (forever) salvation, what does this mean?

It means that we are delivered or rescued out of danger and into safety. Our souls are preserved, or *saved* from the punishment and power of sin. Where our sin (wrong doing, breaking God's laws) kept us far from God, through Jesus we are saved, made clean, and set free from the power of sin.

1. “4991. Soteria,” Bible Hub, accessed on April 12, 2017, <http://biblehub.com/greek/4991.htm>.

2. “4982. Sozo,” Bible Hub, accessed on April 12, 2017, <http://biblehub.com/greek/4982.htm>.

3. “1342. Dikaios,” Bible Hub, accessed on April 12, 2017, <http://biblehub.com/greek/1342.htm>.



TEACHER NOTE: This lesson is intended for children who have already received salvation. If your class includes children who have not received salvation, you may want to pause and review the foundations of salvation here. *Check out the Who's Teaching the Babies?® Salvation Ministry Tools for a great resource on teaching the salvation message to little ones.*

You Now Belong to God!

So, we have received God's free gift of salvation—He has come into our lives and set us free. But how do we stay free from the power and punishment of sin when it is all around us in the world?

Here's how:

We make choices to agree with God.

Did you know that when you said “YES” to Jesus being the Lord of your life, you not only became born again of God's Spirit, but you also became His son/daughter, like Jesus, and He has called you “Righteous”?

What does Righteous mean and how do we become righteous?

In the New Testament, when the word “Righteous” is used, it means “approved by God, acceptable to God.” ³

“Since by the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive the overflow of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:17, HCSB).


Righteousness is God's free gift to all who receive, through Jesus' saving work on the cross. If you have received Jesus, if you are saved, you are also a son/daughter of Father God and you are made *righteous* through Jesus.

He took the stamp of sin off of your life and He says, “I approve you” and “I accept you.” You are righteous!

Since Jesus is now your King, you get to be a part of His family, and His Kingdom! The Kingdom of God is INSIDE of You wherever you go, because God Himself is inside of You!

“People will not say, ‘Look, God's kingdom is here!’ or, ‘There it is!’ No, God's kingdom is within you” (Luke 17:21, ICB).

Since You are now kingdom territory or land, or a house of God, we want to keep the enemy's kingdom and army off of our territory.

 **TEACHER NOTE:** For the following portion of the lesson, we liken our lives to a “house”. Every person is responsible for what we will and will not allow inside of our house (our body, soul, and spirit). Because God is inside of us, we have the power to say “NO” to bad things that would try to enter our “house,” or if they did come in, we can tell them to “GET OUT!” because of the authority of Jesus within us.



OBJECT LESSON

What you'll need: A doll house, mini people figurines, toy insects, real or toy keys, and some army figurines.



TEACHER NOTE: The use of a doll house and figurines to illustrate this concept is very helpful. You can use as fancy or as simple a doll house as you'd like. We've even had people make their own out of cardboard boxes, cutting out squares for windows and a door that opens and closes.

(Note: This can be done in a one-on-one setting at home in addition to group use in a classroom.)

You can give the children turns being “in charge” of the house. Give examples of “good” things (love, joy, peace, etc.) and “bad” things (unforgiveness, bad attitudes, anger, etc.) trying to enter the house. Lead them to use their power (authority) to either invite in or send away the “visitors”. You can use doll house furnishings to show the affects of when good and Godly things are in the house (things in order, happy people at rest in bed, people loving one another) and when “bad” things are in the house (messy house, people fighting, slamming doors, etc.) Be creative as you demonstrate the simple, but profound truth that we have authority over our dwelling and because Jesus lives in us, the enemy must LEAVE on our command.



Do you allow burglar's or pests in your house? What happens if they get in and are not stopped?

The Bible says that ***“A thief [the enemy] comes to steal and kill and destroy. But I [Jesus] came to give life life in all its fullness” (Matthew 10:10, ICB).***

➡ You can use the toy insects inside the house to show how they can “mess up” a house and disturb peaceful life. It feels “yucky” when they are there. You could even explain the affects of insect damage if they are not controlled and how they can begin to “eat away” at the house a little bit at a time.

So, anytime we allow the enemy on our territory, or in our *house* (inside of us), we are allowing his kingdom to try to take over the territory that belongs to God—which is us! God has given you the keys to your house, and you have the power and authority to decide what's allowed in your house. **You have a choice!**

➡ Give the children a “key” to their house and explain that they are the owner and they get to choose what can come and stay in their house.

Since we belong to God and we have the power over our house, does that mean that we won't ever have thoughts or emotions that are not influenced by God? No. However, it does mean that when they come, we recognize that they don't belong on our territory, because we belong to God. We also know that things that are not Godly won't bring God's full, joy-filled life. He gives us the power and authority to kick them out and replace them with His thoughts and emotions. If we don't, we've given the thief permission to move in and steal, kill, and destroy what belongs to God! We have to use our God-given authority as His children to say “No” to the enemy's attempts to get into our house!

➡ You can act out a “robbery” using the people figurines and show the difference between a home owner who is active in “kicking out” the robber and one who is passive and takes a nap while his/her possessions are stolen or destroyed.



Should we be afraid or worry that the enemy is trying to attack us or get into our homes? No!

“My dear children, you belong to God. So you have defeated them because God’s Spirit, who is in you, is greater than the devil, who is in the world” (1 John 4:4, ICB).

We don’t have to be afraid of what the enemy would like to do, or is trying to do. God in you will empower you, teach you, and show you when the enemy’s attempts are starting to get into your house. Just follow His lead by choosing who you would like in charge of your house. You can decide that at any time!

➡ You can use the army figures to illustrate “kicking out” the enemy. You have every weapon and the power of Jesus inside of you to tell the enemy to leave your house in Jesus’ Name!

Be Prepared!

Why would the enemy like to get into your house (you)? Why do enemy armies invade other countries?

They want territory and they want valuables. Did you know that YOU are God’s treasure? He finds you so valuable that He died for you to live—to save you. That’s pretty amazing!

How will you know if the one knocking on the door to your house (your heart and mind) is from God, you, or the enemy? If the thought is not God’s thought, it’s not your thought. If it’s not in heaven, it’s not yours! If the belief is not in God’s Word or goes against it, it’s not your belief! We will learn to know the fruit (traits) of God’s Spirit and the fruit of the enemy.

The Fruit of God’s Spirit

“But the Spirit gives love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. There is no law that says these things are wrong” (Galatians 5:22-23, ICB).

So, what would the fruit of the enemy’s spirit look like? The absence of any of these. (The opposite of love=fear. The opposite of self-control=disobedience. The opposite of joy=anger, sorrow, etc.).

When these things come knocking on the door to your house (heart and mind), remember, they’re not yours, because they’re not God’s. You’ve been made new and you have God’s Spirit inside of you that is greater than the influence of the enemy. Recognize they are not you, and reject them—kick them out if they’ve gotten in, and close the door to your house.

➡ You can continue to use the house and toy figures to illustrate this if you’d like.





OBJECT LESSON

What you'll need: A backpack, heavy objects such as bricks or dumbbells, light objects such as plastic fruit, small stuffed animals, etc. On the heavy objects, attach negative “fruit” labels (bitterness, rejection, fear, etc. to them using paper and tape. For the light objects, affix Godly “fruit” (love, joy, peace, etc.). Follow along with the lesson as you use the objects as visual aids. You can either use an adult helper to wear the backpack or a child helper.

Think of a backpack that you carry with you wherever you go. You can only put so many things in the bag before it can't close any longer, or before the straps break. No matter how much you try, only so much is going to fit! Your mind and heart is like that backpack. When you put things in it that shouldn't go in it, or that you need to give to God, it makes you feel heavy, tired, and weighed down.

What kinds of things should you constantly refuse to carry, and give to God? Hurts, frustrations, lies, fear, worry, other people's opinions, negative thoughts and feelings, failures—anything that does not produce the fruit of God's Spirit.

If you feel that backpack starting to get heavy, that's a good clue that you need to spend time with God. Give those things in the bag to Him, forgive yourself and others, and reject the lies that you've accepted into your bag/life. Spend time with God listening, drawing, or journaling what He says about you and what you were carrying. It's ok if it takes time to do this, as long as you make a choice to give it to God and allow Him to help you clean out your bag/life!

God doesn't want you to be empty either! After you have given the heavy, bad fruit to God, ask Him what He wants to give you in exchange. He wants to fill you with His good fruit that doesn't weigh you down, but gives you life, health, and strength!

“Come to me, all of you who are tired and have heavy loads. I will give you rest. Accept my work and learn from me. I am gentle and humble in spirit. And you will find rest for your souls. The work that I ask you to accept is easy. The load I give you to carry is not heavy.” (Matthew 11:28-30, ICB)



Lead the children through a short time of prayer. First, have them ask the Holy Spirit to show them things in their lives that have been “weighing them down” or things that are in them that are not God's best. After a moment, ask the children if they would like to give those things to God? Simply have them ask God for forgiveness for allowing those things in their lives as they give them over to Him. Then have the children ask the Holy Spirit to show them what He would like to give them in exchange. This simple, but healing process can be done at any place, any time and can bring so much life for any age.



We are the Lord's Army!

We are the Lord's army! You are in a battle every day to take back what belongs to God—that includes all of your house or land, and helping others to do the same by sharing Jesus and the Good News in Word and power. God gives you the power and authority to do this!

What do you need every day when you are in a battle?





The Armor of God!

“Finally, be strengthened by the Lord and by His vast strength. Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the tactics of the Devil. For our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world powers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens. This is why you must take up the full armor of God, so that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having prepared everything, to take your stand. Stand, therefore, with truth like a belt around your waist, righteousness like armor on your chest, and your feet sandaled with readiness for the gospel of peace. In every situation take the shield of faith, and with it you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is God’s word” (Ephesians 6:10-18, HCSB).



ACTIVITY

What you’ll need: Items to represent the “Armor of God” (A belt, life vest or apron, shoes, tennis racket, hat or helmet, toy sword or stick, etc.)

- ➡ Ask for a volunteer from the class, and ask them to take their shoes off.
- ➡ Using more volunteers from the class, give each of them one of the armor objects that you prepared.
- ➡ Ask the class, “Is [name] prepared for today with his/her armor of God? Let’s find out what they might need and why.” Begin to give the volunteer scenarios that might come their way. (A friend wanting them to lie, feeling afraid when they go downstairs at night, feeling like they are never good enough, believing that God does not love him/her, etc.)
- ➡ After each scenario, ask the first volunteer if that is something they should allow in their house. If his/her answer is “no,” ask the class what piece of the armor of God he/she would need that could help them. Have that class member give the volunteer the object to put on. Most scenarios will have many parts of the armor that would fit, which helps to show we need the full armor, not just a piece!
- ➡ Repeat this process giving different scenarios until the volunteer is wearing the full armor.
- ➡ You can also give scenarios of things they *would* want in their house like, “You have the opportunity to share Jesus with you friends, and you decide to do it.” Similarly, ask the class which piece of the armor the volunteer needed or used for this, and have them put it on if they haven’t already (in this case the sandals/shoes). Explain to the class that our armor is not only defensive, but also offensive to spread the Good News and God’s Kingdom, and also that how we choose can strengthen our armor. Another good scenario of what they would want in their house would be like this, “Your parents pray for you and bless you at bedtime. Do you want that in your house? Which piece of the armor could that strengthen?” The class could come up with many pieces such as the breastplate of righteousness, the belt of truth, and even the helmet of salvation.
- ➡ Continue to give them many scenarios until they understand each piece of the armor, why they need to put on or choose to use the full armor, and until they begin to understand how they can choose what they allow in their house.



You are not in this battle alone, left to defend your territory!

“But the Helper will teach you everything. He will cause you to remember all the things I told you. This Helper is the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name” (John 14:26, ICB).

We as God’s children with His Spirit inside of us are not on the defense, but we are on the offense! We destroy the works of the enemy in this battle by listening to the Holy Spirit’s leading, and sharing Jesus and the Good News of His Kingdom, wherever we set our feet!

The enemy’s main goal is to change your mind about what you believe about your God and Father. Remember what God’s Word says about Himself, and remember all that He has done, especially the cross. Then remember what that means about who you are!

» SPEAK THE TRUTH! «



I am completely forgiven and made righteous as I walk in faith.



I know my God. His strength will arise out of me and I will do mighty things in Jesus’ Name.



Though the enemy has made war with me, I will crush him under my feet by the power of the Holy Spirit.



God is for me and on my side. I have nothing to fear. I choose to walk in the perfect love of God, which makes fear run away.



I have been given the authority of King Jesus and submit to Him and those over me. That makes the devil tremble and flee.




Jesus is my Lord and Savior. He is First in my life. My heart belongs to Him.



Praying for Deliverance






Remember the authority and commission Jesus has given to You, His beloved follower!

 **TEACHER NOTE:** This section can be used as part of or separate from this lesson plan in accordance to the discretion of the teacher and organization's leadership. The key is to teach the children that as sons and daughters of God, they have been given the authority over the enemy. They not only have the power to choose what influences they will allow in their own lives, but can also help others to understand and walk in this truth as they too choose to allow Jesus to be the Lord of their lives and to make a home in them.

"And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give" Matthew 10:7-8, AMP.

"When the 72 men came back from their trip, they were very happy. They said, 'Lord, even the demons obeyed us when we used your name!' Jesus said to the men, 'I saw Satan falling like lightning from the sky. Listen! I gave you power to walk on snakes and scorpions. I gave you more power than the Enemy has. Nothing will hurt you. You should be happy, but not because the spirits obey you. You should be happy because your names are written in heaven.'" Luke 10:17-20

Here are some simple steps you can take to deliver a person who is wanting deliverance out of the control of an evil spirit:

-  If the person is out of their own control, bring the enemy under submission to Jesus' name. You might say, "I bind you evil spirit in Jesus' name!" or "You must be quiet (or stop) evil spirit in Jesus' name!" (Remember it is not the person we are commanding, but the spirit that is trying to take them over).
-  If the person is not saved, ask them if they want to receive Jesus as their savior, and have His Spirit inside of them. If so, have them ask Jesus' forgiveness for their sins, speak that Jesus is Lord and that He is the Son of God who has died to save them from their sins, and ask Him to be their Lord and Savior and to come into their heart.
-  Once the evil spirit has obeyed you, and you know the person is saved, have them forgive and bless whoever they need to forgive, and to repent to Jesus for any harmful or sinful actions. Have the person break agreement with those feelings, thoughts, and actions and any enemy spirits attached to them, and refuse them (in other words, take away the evil spirits' right to be in their house).
-  You can break the power of any evil spirits over them that have tried to control them, or cause them to sin or have unforgiveness. You can say, "I break the power of any evil spirits over you in Jesus' name!" Then cast out the evil spirits from the person. You can say, "In the name of Jesus, I command all evil spirits to let [name] go, and to get off of them in Jesus' name!"
-  Ask the Holy Spirit to fill them with His Spirit, and pray a blessing over them.



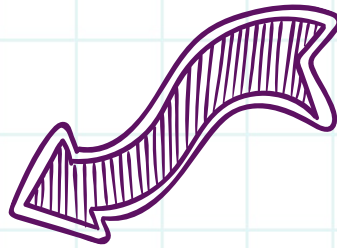
MEMORY VERSE

1 JOHN 4:4:

“My dear children, you belong to God. So you have defeated them because God’s Spirit, who is in you, is greater than the devil, who is in the world”



IDENTITY PRAYERS



I am strong in the Lord and in His mighty power! In the face of the enemy, I am bold and courageous like Jesus, the mighty Lion of Judah. Because I put my faith in Jesus, I overcome every evil of the world. God has chosen me to show others how to overcome also. Evil will not overtake me. I overcome evil with good. I do not fear because the Lord my God is with me. He will help me in all He has called me to do. I trust in God alone, the Maker of heaven and earth. He is the strength of my life.



As God's child, His love is the standard I live by. God's love in me causes me to never give up, but to be patient and kind. God's love empowers me to love others as I love myself. I am content with what I have. I am not boastful or proud, but a humble servant. I am not rude or controlling, but polite and secure. In God's love, I am truthful to others and God. I look for the best in people and situations and endure to the end. Love never fails! Because I love God and He loves me, His love that flows through me will draw others to my Lord Jesus, the love of my life!

