

(1.4) Salvation is a free gift

Series: Salvation in Christ

Topic: Salvation is a free gift

Lesson Focus:

To help students understand that salvation is a free, unearned gift from God, available to all who believe in Jesus Christ.

Materials Needed:

- Bible
- Whiteboard and markers
- Free Christian illustration “Salvation is a free gift”
- Handouts with key scriptures (Ephesians 2:8-9, John 3:16, John 6:40)
- Wrapped Gift
- Tokens labelled “Gift”

Activity

Resources

Introduction

Introduction: (10 minutes)

- **Opening Prayer:** Open with a prayer to help students understand that salvation is a free, unearned gift from God, available to all who believe in Jesus Christ.
- **Opening Activity: What Makes a Gift?**
 - Ask students to share memorable gifts they’ve received.
 - Discuss: “What made it a gift? Did you earn it or deserve it?”
- **Illustration:** Read Free Christian illustration “*The Ultimate Gamble*” to students

Free Christian illustration “*Salvation is a free gift*”

Body

Scripture Reading and Reflection (15 minutes)

- Ephesians 2:8-9: “*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.*”
 - What does “grace” mean in this verse?
 - Why is it important that salvation is not earned by works?
- John 3:16: “*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*”
 - What does this verse reveal about God’s love?
 - What does it mean to “believe in Him”?
- John 6:40: “*And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.*”
 - What promise does Jesus make to those who believe in Him?
 - How does this give us hope for the future?

Bible verses



Main Teaching (20 minutes)

- **Salvation is Paid for by Christ:**
 - Explain how Jesus' death on the cross paid the penalty for our sins.
 - Use the analogy of someone paying off a debt we could never repay.
- **Salvation is Freely Given:**
 - Highlight that salvation is not a reward for good behavior or something we can earn.
 - Emphasize: "It's not about what we do but about what Christ has already done."
- **Salvation Must Be Freely Received:**
 - Discuss how a gift only becomes ours when we accept it.
 - Share that accepting God's gift is as simple as believing in Jesus Christ.
- **The Security of Salvation:**
 - Reassure students that once they receive salvation, it is theirs forever.
 - Refer to Romans 8:38-39 to emphasize that nothing can separate us from God's love.

How Do We Accept the Gift? (10 minutes)

- **Discussion Points:**
 - We receive salvation through **faith**—believing in Jesus Christ and His sacrifice (John 6:40).
 - It's not based on good works, personal merit, or church rituals.
 - Emphasize: Once accepted, the gift is ours forever. God doesn't take it back, and no one can steal it from us.

Activity: The Gift Exchange (15 minutes)

- Bring a wrapped gift to class and offer it to a student. Discuss:
 - What happens if they don't take it? Is it still theirs?
 - Relate this to accepting God's gift of salvation.
 - Pass out small tokens labeled "gift." Explain: "Just like you're holding this gift, salvation is freely offered to you. But you have to take it to make it yours."
- **Reflection Activity:**
 - Write a journal entry answering:
 - What does it mean to you that salvation is a gift, not a reward?
 - Ask students to write in their journals and reflect on the meaning of salvation. Write a letter to God expressing gratitude for His gift.
 - Revisit the tokens handed out earlier and encourage students to keep them as reminders of God's free gift.

Wrapped
Gift

Tokens

Conclusion

Conclusion: (5 minutes)

Key Takeaway:

- Salvation is the greatest gift, freely given by God. It's not earned or deserved but must be accepted by faith in Jesus Christ.

Closing Prayer:

- Close with a prayer of thanksgiving for God's free gift and an invitation for those who want to accept it.

Challenge:

- Ask students to reflect on whether they've truly accepted God's gift of salvation.
- Encourage them to make a decision, if they haven't already, to believe in Jesus and receive the gift of eternal life.

