



## **SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON**

# **DISCIPLESHIP SERIES**

## **DISCIPLESHIP STARTS WITH SALVATION**

**Sunday, June 25, 2023**

---

### **INTRODUCTION**

We began this series with a definition of discipleship. Specifically, “discipleship is a commitment to transform into a spiritually mature Christian – a process of learning to love and follow Jesus and becoming more like him in our attitudes and actions.”

We also learned that the discipleship process is customized for the individual, but consistent in the basic principles. So how do we get started? Having a desire for real change as we learned in last week’s lesson is important. This desire serves as a catalyst – propelling us towards the first principle and step in the discipleship process which is salvation.

---

### **ACCESSING GOD THROUGH SALVATION**

In the story of Adam and Eve, found in Genesis, is the story of the original sin. In other words, how sin entered the world. Adam and Eve were God’s creations, made for fellowship with Him – yet they chose to walk in disobedience to His instructions. The sin of Adam disrupted the relationship between God and man. So, we see that sin separates man from God.

God’s love is perfect, and His desire has always been to redeem mankind to Himself. It is not the will of God that any should perish. (2 Peter 3:9). Salvation is all about God’s purposes and actions in saving humanity from the

catastrophic effects of sin!

**John 3:16** “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

Accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior also:

**1. Helps us overcome issues from our past.** Forgiveness from the sins of our past happens only through repentance to God. Turning away from the world by turning to Christ and accepting Him ignites a Kingdom rebirth.

**2 Corinthians 5:17** “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

**2. Provides us protection and assurance to live victoriously in the present.** Salvation is not a pass to a trouble-free life. It is the beginning of a personal loving relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ who knew that we would face troubles in this life. Jesus is our provider, sustainer, protector and so much more!

**Philippians 4:19** “But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

**3. Gives us hope for the future.** Just knowing that we have the victory through Christ is enough to shout about every day. Think about it, no matter the beginning of our story, once we accept Jesus as Lord and Savior, the promise of eternity with Him creates a positive outcome for our lives.

**Assignment:**

**1. Fill in the blanks: God’s love is \_\_\_\_\_, and His desire has always been to \_\_\_\_\_mankind to Himself.**

---

## SALVATION – THE GIFT OF GOD

Did you know that you cannot earn your salvation? That's right. There are no good deeds, loans or layaway payment plans that lead to salvation. The Bible is very clear in Ephesians 2:8 – “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:”

Likewise, if we look at Romans 6:23 where the scripture states, “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord,” we see the consequence of a continued life of sin that comes from not accepting the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ.

The enemy's agenda is to convince mankind otherwise, whether through talk show hosts with alternate theories about salvation, or by manipulating scripture to water down the principles and plans of God. Have you ever asked someone whether they are saved and they gave you their version of what we will call “the good person theory”? This is another way in which so many people have been tricked into trusting in themselves or other means for salvation.

The reality is that “**all** have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God;” (Romans 3:23). We are born with a sin nature and it is sin that separates us from God. While being a good person – volunteering, helping others, treating people right, taking care of family, etc., appears to be a great virtue to which man can aspire, there is however, only one way for man to be reconciled to God. That is to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and apply His blood to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1John 1:7-10)

### Assignments:

1. True or False? We can earn our salvation through good deeds.
2. Fill in the blanks: Romans 6:23 says, “For the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin is \_\_\_\_\_; but the \_\_\_\_\_ of God is \_\_\_\_\_ through Jesus Christ our Lord,”

### 3. What is the only way man can be reconciled to God?

---

---

---



#### TAKE ACTION

Salvation – getting saved – is essential to growing in God because the discipleship journey is spiritual. We can neither understand nor experience God’s process in the natural. We must be born again. (1 Corinthians 2:14)

The fact that God woke you up this morning and you are reading this lesson, is an indication that He has a purpose and plan for your life. This is true, whether you’ve heard the Word and felt compelled to get saved, or you’ve fallen away from God and feel like you’ve done so many things that there is no way you can be restored. It’s time to shut down every thought, feeling and fear that has been holding you back. Don’t let anyone or anything stop you from getting to God.

Today IS the day of salvation! It’s time to take action. If you are not saved, have backslidden from God or just need to be restored, God is here to save you. Say the following prayer:

#### Prayer of Salvation

Lord Jesus, I repent and turn from my sins, and I ask for your forgiveness. Thank you for dying on the cross for my salvation. I invite you to come into my heart and life. Wash me clean and fill me with your Holy Spirit and I will trust and follow you as my Lord and Savior. Thank you, Lord Jesus, I am born again! I am forgiven! I am saved, and I am on my way to heaven! Jesus, give me passion for the lost, a hunger for the things of God and a holy boldness to reach someone else for You. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Congratulations, you are saved! Now that you are saved, it is important that you connect with a local church which is the place and life system to help you grow in your relationship with God.

---

### **ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES ON SALVATION**

- **Romans 5:12** “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:”
- **John 1:12** “But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:”
- **John 3:17** “For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.”
- **John 3:36** “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”
- **Romans 5:8** “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”
- **2 Corinthians 5:21** “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”