

ETERNAL LIFE COMES THROUGH SAVING FAITH

STORY: NEW CREATION / YEAR: ETERNITY

BIG TRUTH: ETERNAL LIFE COMES THROUGH SAVING FAITH

John 3:16; Acts 4:10-12; Romans 1:16-17; 10:9-11; Galatians 3:11

BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 3:14-15

“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life.”

BIG IDEAS

- Our sin against God is an incurable poison in our veins.
- Jesus lived a sinless life and became sin for us so that we could be saved.
- The only way to be saved from sin is by seeing Jesus as the only way of salvation.
- All who look to the Son for salvation receive the gift of eternal life with Him.

BIBLE STORY: NUMBERS 21; JOHN 3

In the wilderness, Moses lifted up the serpent to save the people. This is a picture of the salvation that Jesus brought when He was lifted up on the cross. His death brings salvation to all who believe.

STORY: NEW CREATION

Part of the beauty of the gospel is that God does not just rescue us from the power of sin, but He is also making everything new. God offers new creation to those who place their faith in Jesus. This newness comes in two ways. The first is that by breaking the power of sin, Jesus is making men and women into brand new people with new identities. Second, God is not only making people new, but He is also going to make a new heaven and a new earth for us to live on and worship Him in.

BIG AIMS



Every child should know that:

- Through Jesus, we can have new, true, eternal, abundant life in God



Every child should feel:

- Excitement for the opportunity to live eternally with God



Every child should:

- Talk about how this life will pass away, but eternal life in God is forever



Every child should want:

- To live for eternity rather than what feels right in the moment

FAMILY DEVOTION: HIGH AND LIFTED UP

Salvation comes to those who believe in Jesus. Because Jesus was crucified on the cross, those who turn from their sin and believe in Him receive eternal life with Him.

ETERNAL LIFE COMES
THROUGH SAVING FAITH**BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 3:14-15**

"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life."

God's redemption plan was always the crucifixion of Jesus.

- From the beginning of time, God had a plan to redeem His people.
- God knew that man would sin against Him because God is all-knowing.
- God's plan for man's redemption has always been that Jesus would come and die in man's place.
- Jesus' crucifixion was part of God's plan for man to be saved.
- Without Jesus' crucifixion, man cannot be saved.

God's salvation comes only through faith.

- There are no good works that a person can do to save themselves or to gain God's salvation.
- Salvation can only come through faith in Jesus and what He did on the cross for all who believe.
- Just like the Israelites were only saved by looking at the serpent raised on a staff, people are only saved by believing that it is through Jesus that salvation is possible.
- There is nothing that a person can do to save themselves or earn salvation.
- The only thing that saves a person is belief in the work that Jesus did on the cross.

Those who believe in Jesus receive eternal life.

- Salvation comes to all those who believe in Jesus.
- Salvation means that they are no longer held accountable for their sin debt.
- Salvation means that they are no longer seen as sinful, but are now seen as righteous because the righteousness of Jesus is applied to their lives.
- Salvation also means that people receive the gift of eternal life with Jesus.
- Eternal life with Jesus means always being in His presence and never being separated.

BIBLE STORY: NUMBERS 21; JOHN 3**Opening Illustration:**

Divide the children into small groups. Give each group construction paper and pencils. Have each group trace one another's hands. After they finish, have the children write their names on their hands and then write something that God offers to us, such as He offers hope and friendship. Help the children glue or tape their hands to a paper plate to make a wreath around the edge of the paper plate. Talk with the children about how God offers us many things. He offers us hope and friendship. He offers us new life. All of these things are offered to us through Jesus.

ETERNAL LIFE COMES
THROUGH SAVING FAITH**BIG IDEA: OUR SIN AGAINST GOD IS AN INCURABLE POISON IN OUR VEINS.¹****We cannot do truly good deeds because of our sin.**

- Because we are all born with a sin nature, everything we do is tainted by our sin.
- Every thought we have is tainted by our sin nature.
- Every action we take or emotion we feel is tainted by our sin nature.
- There isn't anything we can do to save ourselves.
- We are incapable of good works that are worthy enough to save us from the sin debt we owe.



Bring in a cup of water and liquid food coloring. Tell the children that the water represents us and the food coloring represents our sin. Place a few drops of the food coloring into the water and show the children. Remind them that our sin is like an incurable poison. It taints every part of us like the food dye colored all of the water.

Our sin taints every part of us.

- There is not one part of our lives that isn't tainted by our sinfulness.
- Even when we think we are doing good works, those good works are tainted by our sinful hearts.
- Our sinful hearts lead us to do good things to either make ourselves look good to others or so that we benefit in some way.
- Our sin is so integrally a part of who we are and what we do, there is no way we could ever save ourselves.

We cannot overcome our sin.

- We do not have the power to overcome our own sin nature.
- There is no way we can stop ourselves from being sinful in our own power.
- We cannot resist the temptation to sin in our own power.
- We are weak and enslaved by our sin.
- We are so blinded by our sin that we often don't even realize we are sinning.
- We may think we are doing something good, when in truth, we are sinning against God.

What poisons us? (Our sin poisons us and everything we do, think, and say.)

1. Titus 3:5: None of our works are good enough to save us from our sin.

ETERNAL LIFE COMES
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BIG IDEA: JESUS LIVED A SINLESS LIFE AND BECAME SIN FOR US SO THAT WE COULD BE SAVED.²

Jesus was born fully man and without sin.

- Jesus was born of a virgin woman in order to take on human flesh to be like mankind.
- Jesus was fully man and fully God.
- He lived as fully man like we live, yet He did so without sin.
- Jesus was not born with a sin nature like we are born with a sin nature.

He lived a sinless life to be a perfect sacrifice.

- Jesus lived as fully man on this earth.
- He faced every temptation known to mankind and He never sinned.
- He always obeyed God and always kept God's commands.
- Jesus lived the perfect life because we could not live the perfect life.
- He lived a perfect life in order to become the perfect sacrifice for us.

He died for our sin.

- Jesus came to the earth to die.
- He was born as a human in order to die on the cross for all humans.
- He went to the cross to become sin for us and He died the death that we deserve to die.
- He took on the sin of the world and endured the full cup of God's wrath on the cross.
- He died and was buried so that we might be saved from our sin.



Give the children two pieces of paper and a black marker. Ask the children a series of questions about their behavior. If they can answer yes to any of the questions you ask, have them make a black mark on one of the pieces of paper. Next, tell the children that the black marks represent their sin and the white paper represents their heart. Ask them to remove the black marks from their paper. When they cannot, tell them to place the clean white paper over their marked paper. Tell them that Jesus came to the earth to die for our sin and to make us clean.

Why did Jesus come to the earth? (He came to the earth to live a sinless life and to die for our sin.)

2. 1 John 3:5: There was no sin in Jesus, yet He took on sin to be our sacrifice.

ETERNAL LIFE COMES THROUGH SAVING FAITH

BIG IDEA: THE ONLY WAY TO BE SAVED FROM SIN IS BY SEEING JESUS AS THE ONLY WAY OF SALVATION.³

Salvation only comes through Jesus.

- There is only one way for a person to be saved from his sin.
- The only way to receive salvation from sin is through belief in Jesus.
- God sent Jesus to be our salvation.
- He is the only way for anyone to be set free from their sin debt.
- Just like the Israelites were saved only if they looked at the serpent Moses lifted on the staff, man is saved only if they look to Jesus as their salvation.



Bring in a pair of binoculars and several different pictures. Place the pictures on the walls and ask the children to take turns standing away from the pictures and looking through the binoculars at the pictures. Ask the children to list the different things that the binoculars help them see in the pictures. Remind the children that they can know the pictures are on the wall, but they don't see all that is in the picture unless they use the binoculars. Tell them that when we recognize that Jesus is the only way to be saved, we receive salvation.

A person is saved only when he sees his need for Jesus.

- Just knowing that Jesus existed isn't enough to save a person.
- In order to be saved, a person must realize that he is the reason that Jesus died on the cross.
- Just like it wasn't enough for the Israelites to know that Moses was lifting a serpent on a staff, it isn't enough for a person to acknowledge that Jesus lived.
- We must see ourselves as sinful and in need of salvation. We must also acknowledge that Jesus is the only way for us to be saved.

Salvation is applied when one believes in Jesus.

- Jesus' death on the cross paid the sin debt for the whole world, but that salvation isn't applied to a person until he or she believes in Jesus.
- When a person recognizes his own sinfulness and turns to Jesus for salvation, the salvation that Jesus purchased on the cross is applied to his life.
- God sees that person as righteous because of the work that Jesus did and the life He lived.
- His perfect life is credited to us when we believe that He died for us.

What is the only way to be saved? (The only way to be saved is by seeing Jesus as the only way of salvation.)

3. Acts 4:12: The only way to be saved is by believing in Jesus and His work on the cross on our behalf.

ETERNAL LIFE COMES THROUGH SAVING FAITH

BIG IDEA: ALL WHO LOOK TO THE SON FOR SALVATION RECEIVE THE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE WITH HIM.⁴

Salvation is available to all who believe.

- Jesus died on the cross for the sin of the whole world.
- Jesus' death on the cross is sufficient for every single person who has ever lived, lives now, and will ever live.
- Salvation is not applied to a person until he or she believes in Jesus.
- The salvation of Jesus is available to anyone who does believe.
- When the Israelites looked at the serpent Moses raised in the sky, they were given life. They did not die.



Bring in several hula-hoops and allow the children to play with them. Ask the children to find the beginning and the end of the hula hoop. When they can't, remind the children that eternity is forever just like the hula-hoop seems to go in a circle forever.

God forgives anyone who believes in Jesus.

- Any person who believes that Jesus died on the cross for their sin and repents of their sin is forgiven for their sin.
- When we recognize that we are sinful and that there is no way for us to save ourselves, we will look to Jesus for our salvation.
- When we look to Jesus for our salvation, we will be forgiven and saved from the sin debt that we owe.
- We will receive eternal life with Jesus when we are forgiven for our sins.
- We will no longer be held accountable for our sin debt. We will be debt free and free from the sin that once enslaved us.

Who is salvation for? (Salvation is for all who believe.)

4. John 3:16: Every person who believes in Jesus receives eternal life with Him in heaven.

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HOOKS



Snake Chain

Give each child a strip of green paper. Ask the children to write down one of their sins on their strip of paper. Next, use a stapler or tape to create a snake chain by connecting the strips of paper together to form a paper chain. Talk with the children about how all who look to Jesus for salvation are saved.



- We have all sinned and are in need of salvation.
- No one can save themselves.
- We are all in need of salvation. God sent Jesus to be our salvation.
- Anyone who looks to Jesus for salvation will be saved.
- Jesus is the salvation of the world.



For All Eternity

Divide the children into small groups. Ask each group to make a list of things that are eternal and things that aren't eternal. Allow each group to share their list. Talk with the children about how all those who believe in Jesus receive eternal life with Him.



- When we believe in Jesus, we receive forgiveness for our sins and eternal life with Him.
- When we die, we will live with Jesus in heaven forever if we have repented and believed in Him.
- Because Jesus paid our sin debt, we are able to live with Him for all eternity.