

SALVATION COMES THROUGH REPENTANCE AND FAITH

YEAR: KNEEL / FOCUS: I AM AN AMBASSADOR
SERIES: GOD IS THE MESSAGE - I AM THE MESSENGER

BIG TRUTH: SALVATION COMES THROUGH REPENTANCE AND FAITH

Mark 1:15; Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30; Romans 10:9-13

BIBLE VERSE: ACTS 2:38

"And Peter said to them, 'Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'"

BIG IDEAS

- Jesus is the only way anyone can be saved.
- Faith is trusting in Jesus as Savior and King.
- Repentance is turning from false saviors to pursue Jesus.

BIBLE PASSAGE: ACTS 2:14-41

KNEEL - I AM AN AMBASSADOR

The Kneel Year is an exploration of what it means to worship God with our all (Luke 10:26-28). Worship is not something that is limited to a service once a week, but instead occurs every day, in all of life. We are unceasing worshipers. Worship never stops, it only changes directions. In order to worship God with all of our heart, soul, strength, and mind, we must embrace our identity as image bearers. It is out of that identity that we can begin to live for God's glory in all of life (Colossians 3:17).

SERIES AIMS



Every student should know that...

- The gospel is the good news of Jesus Christ that brings salvation to sinners.
- Salvation comes by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.
- Jesus followers have been trusted with the gospel in order to share it with others.



Every student should strive to...

- Share the gospel each month with at least one person who does not know Jesus.
- Practice sharing the gospel using multiple different tools or methods.



Every student should feel...

- Humbled that as believers we have been entrusted with the glorious gospel of our Savior.
- Satisfied in Jesus as the only true Savior



Every student should want...

- To grow in awareness of the false saviors they are tempted to put their hope in.
- To have a softened heart and love for people who are lost
- To take advantage of opportunities to share the gospel with people in their lives who need Christ

GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week's Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



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SALVATION COMES THROUGH REPENTANCE AND FAITH

BIBLE VERSE: ACTS 2:38

"And Peter said to them, 'Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'"

Repentance is the first step toward new life.

"And Peter said to them, 'Repent and be baptized...'"

- As Peter addressed the crowd after the ascension of Jesus on the day of Pentecost, or the day the Holy Spirit was given to believers, he taught them that repentance is a necessary step in salvation. Repentance is more than a feeling of being sorry. It is a turning away from our sin nature and a pursuit of Christ as our Savior and King.
- Repentance is the first step in our faith journey. Without repentance, we cannot be saved. We must renounce our lives of rebellion and rejection of God in order to follow after Jesus. Repentance produces a new heart and new life because our sin is forgiven and we are transformed into new creations.

Repentance and faith must be toward Jesus.

"Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins..."

- When we repent of our sins, we must turn our pursuit to Jesus. Our faith must be in Jesus and the work He did on the cross. Our faith can't be in ourselves. Our repentance can't be toward a futile life or failed attempts at redeeming ourselves. Our repentance must be of the sin against our holy God.
- We must recognize and acknowledge that God is holy and we are not. Our sin is against Him and Him alone. When we truly repent, we acknowledge that we are sinful and hopeless to save ourselves.

Those who repent and believe are saved.

"...for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

- Jesus died on the cross for the sin of the world. He came to earth, taking on human flesh, that He might be the sacrifice in our place. In order to receive salvation and forgiveness from our sin, we must recognize our need for it and turn away from it.
- Faith and repentance are necessary in order for a person to be saved. Without faith and repentance, we cannot know God or receive forgiveness for our sin debt.

SALVATION COMES THROUGH REPENTANCE AND FAITH

BIG IDEA #1: JESUS IS THE ONLY WAY ANYONE CAN BE SAVED.¹

[THIS]

Jesus, one of the three persons of the Godhead, has always been the Savior of the world. God's plan of salvation is eternal and has always been the only way for mankind to be saved. Because we are all sinful, there is no way any one can save themselves or anyone else. No one can be the perfect sacrifice needed to pay our sin debt. Only Jesus could come and be the perfect sacrifice on our behalf. This has always been God's plan. He was not surprised by our sin because He is all-knowing. He is the giver of good gifts and His sacrifice of Jesus is a good gift to those who believe. There was never any other way for mankind to be saved other than Jesus.

[THEREFORE]

Why is it important to know God's plan for salvation has always been Jesus?

1 Peter 1:20 teaches us that God chose Jesus as our substitute before the world was even formed. This means that Jesus has been and is the only way for mankind to be saved. It's important to know this because in order for someone to be saved, they must believe in Jesus. There is no other way for a person to receive forgiveness for sin and God's offer of salvation.

What are other things besides Jesus or alongside Jesus that other people turn to for salvation?

There are many other "saviors" that people turn to for salvation. John 14:6 and Eph 2:8-9 are just two examples found in Scripture that teach us that man is saved through faith in Jesus alone. We often look for salvation in our works or actions. We think our good deeds save us, but they do not. We can look to other people or movements to save us, but only repentance and faith in Jesus alone brings salvation.

[THIS]

Our sin separates us from God. In our natural flesh, we do not even seek God. In Acts 2:22-23, Paul reminds the crowds that God did mighty works through Jesus in their midst, yet they crucified Him and did not acknowledge Him as the Messiah. We all are guilty of rejecting Jesus as Savior. We refuse to humble ourselves and acknowledge our own sinfulness. Instead, we follow the ruler of this world and our sin nature which leads us away from God. To know God, we must know Jesus because Jesus is the only way to the Father. To know Jesus, we must repent and have faith in Him and His atoning work on the cross. To repent, we must humble ourselves and admit we really are sinful and helpless to save ourselves. Then we trust that Jesus' death on the cross is sufficient to pay our sin debt. We commit our lives to following Him and becoming like Him by obeying God's Word.

[THEREFORE]

Would you say you have repented and placed your faith in Jesus's atoning work? How can you use your own story to tell others about Jesus?

Luke 24:46-48 and Isaiah 30:15 show us that God faithfully forgives those who truly repent. When we repent, we turn away from our sinful ways and follow after God. One of the best ways to share the gospel with others is to tell your own story of repentance and faith. Sharing what led you to repent and the way you have placed your faith in Jesus can help others see and understand the work of Jesus.

1. Acts 2:38: Jesus is the way for people to be saved. Without Him, we cannot be forgiven of our sin debt.

SALVATION COMES THROUGH REPENTANCE AND FAITH

BIG IDEA #2: FAITH IS TRUSTING IN JESUS AS SAVIOR AND KING.²

[THIS]

Faith is necessary for salvation to be complete. Faith is not merely an intellectual acceptance of Jesus and His offer of salvation. It is also not just a verbal acknowledgement that Jesus died. Faith is the product of the drawing work of the Holy Spirit in a person's heart. It begins with the acknowledgement of one's need for Christ. The Spirit enables a person to recognize his or her need for Christ. Then, the person trusts that Christ's atoning work on the cross is enough to save them and give them access to the Father. This work is not accomplished by man, but is a gift from God as His Spirit illuminates the need for salvation in a person's heart and makes the work of Christ on their behalf clear to them.

[THEREFORE]

What is the difference between faith and belief?

In Scripture, faith is different from belief. Anyone can believe in God or in Jesus, but faith is an actual work that is initiated by God, not by us. John 5:37 and James 1:17 show us that God gives us faith and this faith is a good gift from Him. He alone draws people to Himself and opens their eyes to see the truth about their sinful condition and Jesus. Belief is different because it is something that we can do by acknowledging that there is a God or that Jesus was a real person, but it doesn't necessarily mean we've been transformed in our hearts.

[THIS]

Our faith is a belief that Jesus is real and that He lived a perfect life on the earth. Saving faith is more than a belief that there is a God. It is a placing of our hope in the work that Jesus did on the cross. We trust that His death was sufficient to cover our sin debt and to set us free. We also trust that it is only through Him that we can know God and live for Him. Peter preached on the day of Pentecost that those who do trust Jesus will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit serves as a guarantee that our faith is genuine. When we have saving faith, we will worship Jesus as the true King. We will acknowledge and bow down to Him as our one and only Savior and King. Our lives will be lived for His glory and to please Him.

[THEREFORE]

Faith means placing our hope in the work of Jesus. How can you know if that has happened and is happening?

Romans 15:13 reminds us that our hope is in the work of Christ and the promise of eternal life with Him. Faith is more than believing Jesus lived and died. It's trusting that He is worthy of following and obeying. It's trusting that He is our only hope and without Him we are nothing and have nothing. When our lives are transformed and we desire to obey God, we can know that we have truly placed our faith in Jesus.

What are some practical ways that you can talk about the hope you have?

John 3:16 shows us that God loved the whole world and sent His Son to die for it. It also shows us the hope that we can have in Him. As you seek to share this truth with others, you can share the hope you feel with those who do not know Him. You can share times when you have hoped in the eternal life you know you're promised instead of focusing on difficult circumstances. You can share times when you've found joy because you have thought of your eternal home and life with Jesus forever.

2. Psalm 46:10: Faith is trusting in the saving work of Jesus and God's plan for His people.

SALVATION COMES THROUGH REPENTANCE AND FAITH

BIG IDEA #3: REPENTANCE IS TURNING FROM FALSE SAVIORS TO PURSUE JESUS.³

[THIS]

Repentance is an essential part of salvation. It is an essential element in a persons' salvation. It is more than just regret. It involves a deep sorrow over one's sinful state. It is a turning away from our sinfulness. True repentance requires a Godly sorrow first that leads us to reject sin and this world as we turn toward God, our true Redeemer. Repentance involves a mourning of our sin because we realize the great wrongs we have committed against God. When we understand ourselves as sinners, we will begin to understand who God is and how He has shown us great mercy and grace. When we understand this, we will practice ongoing repentance as part of the Christian life. Our lives should involve a daily repentance of our sins and not just a one time event.

[THEREFORE]

How would you describe repentance to someone else? How can you help someone else understand their need for repentance?

In Ephesians 1:7 and 1 John 1:9, we see that God forgives those who truly repent of their sins. When we truly repent, we will become new creations in Christ. We will no longer live the same way. We will not follow our sinful hearts, but, instead, we will seek to obey God and His commands. Our lives will look different and we will be free to obey God.

[THIS]

In order to truly repent, we must turn away from the false saviors we've been following. Prior to repentance, we worship earthly, temporal things. We seek our goodness and salvation from other things, including ourselves. When we repent of this, we actually turn away from our sin nature. We reject it and choose instead to follow Christ and to obey God's Word. A true repentance is a pursuing of Jesus as our Lord and King. When we repent, we will stop chasing the things of this world and instead seek after Jesus. We will desire and strive to be like Him and we will grow in our understanding of Him by studying His Word and hiding it in our hearts. We will cast off our sinfulness and choose obedience joyfully. We will seek to be holy because God is holy and believe and trust Him and His purposes.

[THEREFORE]

Repentance requires a pursuit of Jesus. Does your pursuit reveal that you are truly repenting of your sin?

James 4:8 teaches us that those who seek God receive His forgiveness. When we seek God to repent of our sins, He will forgive us. Hebrews 11:6 also shows us that when we draw near to God, we are redeemed. Drawing near to God reveals that our hearts have been made new because in our sinful state, we do not seek God. A true pursuit of God will show that we have turned away from our old ways and are living a new life in Him.

How can you share with others that repentance involves a pursuit of Christ?

Proverbs 8:17 shows us that those who seek God find Him. As you seek to share this truth with others, you can point out the truth that no one seeks God before salvation. After we have repented, we will pursue Christ because our hearts will have changed, and we will love God and desire to know Him.

3. Acts 3:19: The command to every person is to repent of their sin and trust in Jesus.