

How Can Sinners Be Saved? The Message of Salvation is Seen in Jesus' Response to the Thief on the Cross.

This outline breaks down how we can be saved, starting with Jesus' response to the thief on the cross and tying in other scriptures. Feel free to use it as a starting point for a lesson for children or adults or a sermon outline for primary children through adults. Main Scriptures from: Luke 23; Hebrews 1-4; Romans 1-5

Key verses: Luke 23:32-45

<http://www.biblica.com/en-us/bible/online-bible/niv/luke/23/>

Intro main point: We all sin.

Give examples using humor, skits, or whatever.

Romans 3:23

<http://www.biblica.com/en-us/bible/online-bible/niv/romans/3/>

First go through the story of Jesus' arrest, questioning, beating, death on the cross, using one of the gospels.

Main Points to bring out:

1. The second thief believed Jesus was the Son of God. When he said to the first: " But this man has done nothing wrong." that would mean he knew he was God. Who else does nothing wrong, but God? He knew Jesus was the 'coming Messiah" and was dying for his sins. Who else would die unjustly but a Savior? He also said "when you come into your kingdom" which means he knew he was God. No earthly king rules when he is on earth. Only Jesus could rule after he died (and went to heaven).

2. He was repentant. He admitted to Jesus (and the other thief on the cross) that he was a sinner, and that he deserved to die for his sin.

3. He asked Jesus to save him. When he said, "Remember me when you come into your kingdom, he was asking Jesus to save him, which means he believed that Jesus had the power to save him, and he was humble enough to ask.

Message of Salvation is Seen in Jesus' Response to the Thief on the Cross
Outline for Sunday School Lesson or Sermon, p.2

4. Jesus promised him he would be with him in paradise that day. So we see that Jesus did save him. We see the beautiful picture of God's grace, even while he is being punished for the sins of all of us, even while it is happening and he has already been beaten and mocked, (having gone through intense emotional abuse about his identity and false accusations) and searing physical pain -- his flesh torn and when he is experiencing intense pain for us and taking upon the spiritual separation from God that would've been even more painful (spiritually).

5. Jesus is our High Priest. Luke 23:45 The curtain in the temple was torn into two, from top to bottom. The place where the priest would go to make sacrifices for the people's sins. God miraculously tore down, literally, the separation between God and man when Jesus died on the cross. Hebrews 4:14-16. Explain how Jesus is now our high priest and he made a way for us to go directly to God, now that Jesus took care of our sin problem at Calvary.

How Can Sinners Be Saved?

The Message of Salvation is Seen in Jesus' Response to the Thief on the Cross. p.2

6. The Take-away: God gives each of us a choice:

Ask, How about you? We are all sinners (verse). Will you be like the criminal who laughs at the possibility of a loving God being the sacrifice for the people he made? Or will you believe and accept God's free gift of salvation?

7. Encouragement. Go through Jesus' resurrection and ascension. Jesus didn't stay in the grave. See scripture tie-ins you could use below.

Scripture Tie-Ins There are many verses that you could use to tie it all together. A few:
Jesus provided purification for sins.

Hebrews 1:3

<http://www.biblica.com/en-us/bible/online-bible/niv/hebrews/1/>

Jesus is our merciful high priest who provided atonement for sins.

Hebrews 2:14-18

<http://www.biblica.com/en-us/bible/online-bible/niv/hebrews/2/>

Hebrews 5:7-10

<http://www.biblica.com/en-us/bible/online-bible/niv/hebrews/5/>

Jesus is the one who can help us.

Hebrews 2:18

We are made right with God by his grace, through faith in Jesus. No amount of 'good deeds' will cancel out your sin.

Romans 3:21-26

<http://www.biblica.com/en-us/bible/online-bible/niv/romans/3/>

Romans 5:6-8

<http://www.biblica.com/en-us/bible/online-bible/niv/romans/5/>

Then God no longer counts our sins against us:

Romans 4:7-8

<http://www.biblica.com/en-us/bible/online-bible/niv/romans/4/>

Romans 5:6-8

<http://www.biblica.com/en-us/bible/online-bible/niv/romans/5/>

Jesus didn't stay in the grave. The promise of eternal life.

Romans 4:25 - see above link.

Romans 6:4-5, 8

Romans 5:9-10 especially

<http://www.biblica.com/en-us/bible/online-bible/niv/romans/5/>

If you have questions about how to be saved, feel free to contact Bible Kids Fun Zone:

<http://biblekidsfunzone.com/contact/00contactusindex.html>

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