

Lesson 1:

Christian Children Need To Start

Theme - How To Be Saved And Sure

Information For Teacher

Every teacher of children should have two main goals:

- *Your first main goal is that each child in your class should trust the Lord Jesus Christ as his/her Saviour. The Lord Jesus has called us, as He called Simon Peter, to be “fishers of men” (Mark 1 v17b) – or, in our case, “fishers of boys and girls”. Your first responsibility therefore is to evangelize your children. This means that you should teach them the following truths:*
 - ✓ *That they are sinners and need to be saved (Romans 3 v23).*
 - ✓ *That Jesus Christ took the punishment for their sin on the cross – so that they don’t need to be punished for it (Romans 5 v8).*
 - ✓ *That they need to trust Him personally as their Saviour (Acts 16 v31).*
 - ✓ *And, if they do, God will forgive ALL their sins (Acts 13 v38, 39) and they will become “new creatures in Christ Jesus” (2 Corinthians 5 v17).*

You should also, while avoiding all kinds of pressure, invite and encourage them to trust Jesus Christ.

- *Your second main goal is that each child who has trusted Jesus Christ should be sure of his/her salvation. Assurance of salvation means firstly, that they know they are saved, and, secondly, that they know they will never lose their salvation.*

This assurance is given by the Holy Spirit (Romans 8 v16) but He uses two means to give it:

- ✓ *The Word of God (1 John 5 v13):*

“God has promised in His Word to save you if you trust Him and He always keeps His promises.”

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✓ *The change in the child's life (be it ever so little) (2 Corinthians 5 v17):*

"You can also know you are saved by seeing the change in your life. You are not perfect – far from it – but you are different."

BUT it is absolutely essential that before you can teach this lesson to the children you should ask yourself two questions:

"Am I saved? Have I personally trusted Jesus Christ as my Saviour?"

"Do I know I am saved? Am I sure of my salvation?"

And I trust that both answers are YES.

You should use a Wordless Book from time to time in this lesson - as indicated in the text

Memory Verse

"So they said, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.'" (Acts 16 v31).

Powerpoint Slide 1-1 - You Need To Be Saved

What could that possibly mean? Saved? Saved from what? Does it mean to be saved from falling over a cliff? Todd was very curious. He was always going to places he shouldn't go to just to see what they were like – even if it was dangerous to do so. One day when he was on his holidays he was walking near the top of a cliff which dropped down sharply to the sea.

"I wonder what it's like over there?" he thought to himself. Then he decided to have a look and approached the edge of the cliff. Carefully he got down on his hands and knees and peered over but couldn't see very much. So he bent over still further. And then do you know what happened? He fell over the cliff.

As he fell he clutched at a branch of a tree which was growing just below the top of the cliff and he hung on grimly. He looked down and saw the awful drop it would be – to his death. And he yelled "Help" as loudly as he could.

What did he need? He needed to be saved from falling and dying. He needed someone to reach down and pull him up. He needed to be saved. Is that what our word means?

No, our word doesn't exactly mean that – but it is something like that.

Does it mean to be saved from a body crushing gorilla? (*Advance Slide*) Would you like to be grabbed and crushed by a gorilla like this one in our picture? Can

you see what it is doing to this boy? Can you hear him as he cries “Help”? If you were in the clutches of such a powerful creature what would you need? You would need someone to break the power of that gorilla in some way and set you free. You would need to be saved. Is that what our word means?

No, our word doesn’t exactly mean that – but it is something like that.

There **IS** something you need to be saved from. Not from falling over a cliff to your death, not from a gorilla, but from something much more serious and much more dangerous.

Powerpoint Slide 1-2 – Saved From Sin And Darkness

Do you see the dark (black) page in this *Wordless Book*? God tells us in the book which He has given, called the Bible, that you and I were born in darkness like this page (Romans 2 v19), that we live in darkness (1 Peter 2 v9), that we love darkness (John 3 v19) and that we are even controlled by darkness (Colossians 1 v13). What does this word “darkness” in the Bible mean? It doesn’t mean the darkness in your bedroom during the night. It’s not that kind of darkness. The Bible uses the word “darkness” as another word for sin. Sin means the wrong things that we do. God tells us in the Bible that we should not tell lies, or steal, or disobey our parents. If we do that we have sinned. That is darkness. And God wants to save us from sin and darkness.

- When the Bible says we were all born in darkness it means that we are sinful inside right from our birth (*Advance Slide*). That’s why we do wrong things. What we do comes from in here (*Point to your heart*).
- When the Bible says that we live in darkness, it means that we are sinners and that we actually do wrong things. Do you see this hand which is stealing something. (*Advance Slide*). That is sin. Boys and girls might not steal like this but there are other sins which are the result of the darkness we live in.
- When the Bible says we love darkness it means that we actually at times like to sin and do wrong things like watching an X rated video (*Advance Slide*).
- When the Bible says we are controlled by darkness that means we are controlled by sin and by the wrong things that we do (*Advance Slide*). We don’t have the strength to beat them or stop them.

The result is that we need to be saved from our darkness and from our sin (*Advance Slide*):

- Our sin will be punished by God. So we need to be saved from God’s punishment for our sin and from being separated from Him forever – just as

the boy in our first picture needs to be saved from falling over a cliff to his death.

- Our sin has a grip on us and we cannot control it or get rid of it. So we need to be saved from the power of sin in our lives – just as the boy in our first picture needs to be saved from that big gorilla which is crushing him.

Powerpoint Slide 1-3 – Jesus Christ Is The Only Way

Tim, the boy in our picture, had heard about the Bible meetings which were being held for children in his village and one morning he decided to go to them. Everything was so new to him because he had never heard these things before.

When a man stood up at the front and told all the children that they needed to be saved from their sin and that, if they were not saved, God would punish them. Tim was surprised to hear this and at the same time he was worried and unhappy.

“I don’t want to be punished for my sin”, he thought, “and I would also like to know how I can defeat these sins in my life.”

But then the man spoke again.

“You can be saved today before you leave this meeting. God has provided a way for every boy and girl here to be saved. Let me explain.”

Tim listened carefully.

“Years ago there was a deep river valley with many people living on each side of it. They were separated from each other by a deep river but there was no bridge and no way to cross over. The people on one side and their leader really wanted the people on the other side to come and visit them. So one day the leader of the people on that side decided to collect together all the money they had and build a great bridge. It cost a lot of money but when it was finished the people on the other side could come over. What a great change it made. And many of these people crossed over to meet and get to know the leader who had built the bridge.

Boys and girls, men and women are all here on the left hand side of this picture (*Advance Slide*). We were born there. God is on the right hand side (*Advance Slide*). We are separated from God by sin (*Advance Slide*) just as that deep valley separated one group of people from the other. But God loves us and He wanted to make a way of salvation; He wanted to make a bridge which would span or cross the gap and make it possible for us to go to Him and be with Him for ever. So He sent His Son Jesus Christ to this earth to die on the Cross for our sin and when He died He made a bridge between us and God. If we go over that bridge we will be saved and when we die we will be with God in Heaven for ever. On that Cross Jesus Christ took the punishment for our sin so that we would

not need to be punished. He died so that we don't need to die for ever. He poured out His blood for us. That is why the colour on this page is red. (Show red page of *Wordless Book*) He is the only way of salvation (*Advance Slide*) – and He is ready to save you today.”

Powerpoint Slide 1-4 – No Other Way

Tim (*That's him in our picture*) listened carefully to what the man was saying.

“Jesus Christ is the only way, the only bridge to God. There is no other way (*Advance Slide*) and no other bridge.

Some boys and girls try to build their own bridge to God: (*Advance Slide*)

- Gail thought that going to church would build the bridge for her. But it fell far short (*Advance Slide*).
- Trevor had Christian parents and he was baptized – and he thought these two together would bridge the gap. But sadly – no (*Advance Slide*).
- Justin thought that if he said his prayers every day they would build the bridge to God. But they couldn't (*Advance Slide*).
- Jeff tried hard to be a good boy and was sure that all the good things or good works he did would bring him over to God – but it was impossible (*Advance Slide*).

The only way to God and the only bridge to Him is through Jesus Christ – and what He did for us on the Cross.

Jesus Christ made this very clear when He was here on this earth. He said, “*I am the way ... no man (boy or girl) comes to the Father, but by Me*” (John 14 v6). Do you understand? Not just A way; not just ONE way. He is THE way – the only way to God. He and He alone is the way, and the bridge to God. There is no other way (*Advance Slide*).”

Powerpoint Slide 1-5 - You Need To Do Something.....

Tim was still listening very carefully. Here he is in our picture. “I understand”, he thought to himself, “I do need to be saved and I want to be saved and I know that Jesus Christ is the bridge to God and that He can save me. But what do I need to do?”

It was just as if the speaker had heard Tim's question.

“Would you like to know what you need to do to be saved? Jesus Christ is the way to God and salvation. He is the bridge. Do you remember the bridge that we spoke about which was built to enable people to cross over? The bridge was

now there but the people who wanted to cross needed to do something. And so do you if you want to cross this bridge and be saved.

Let me tell you a story from the Bible which will show you what you need to do.

Paul and Silas were two of the very first missionaries. You can see them here (*Advance Slide*). They went to Greece to preach the Gospel but they were thrown into prison because they were missionaries. The jailer gave them a whipping and then put them into a cold dark dungeon and chained them to the wall. But God had not forgotten them and at midnight He sent an earthquake. This earthquake did two things. Firstly it freed them, as you can see in our picture, and opened the doors of the prison; and, secondly, it awakened the jailer.

The jailer may have heard them when they were telling people they needed to be saved, before they came into the prison; he certainly heard them singing and praying. He knew that he needed to be saved, and he must have heard that because of Jesus Christ he could be saved. He rushed into the prison cell as you can see here and asked Paul and Silas the question, “*What must I do to be saved?*” (Acts 16 v30). Do you have the same question? Listen to the answer from Paul.

Paul answered him immediately in the words of our memory verse.

“*Believe in (or trust) the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.*” (Acts 16 v31).

Powerpoint Slide 1-6 –Trust Jesus Christ Today

That is the answer, boys and girls. Jesus Christ is the bridge and He has made the way to God. Jesus Christ will save you because of what He did on the Cross. But you need to ask Him; you need to cross the bridge; you need to tell Him that you want to be saved and you need to trust Him to do so (*Advance Slide*). As soon as you do that, all your sin will be forgiven, you will be saved and God will see you as pure, and as clean as His Son Jesus Christ – just like this white page of the *Wordless Book*. (*Show it*) If you do that, you will have crossed the bridge to God and you can be sure you will go to be with God when you die. Jesus Christ will save you from death forever and from all the results of sin, just as Todd was saved from falling over the cliff to his death, because someone heard his cry and pulled him up to the top of the cliff. You will also be a new person and make a new start in your life. Jesus Christ will start to save you from the power of sin just as the boy was saved from the gorilla’s crushing power because someone heard his cry for help, saw what was happening and shot the gorilla. Why not ask Him to save you today?”.

Tim had heard all he needed to hear. Sitting there in the Bible meeting he closed his eyes, lowered his head as you can see here and whispered, “Dear Lord

Jesus, I ask You to save me from sin and its results and give me a new start – and I trust You to do that.”

And that is what the Lord Jesus did. Tim was saved because he trusted the Lord Jesus. Have you trusted the Lord Jesus? You can do so today and cross the bridge. All your sin will be forgiven, God will see you as perfectly clean and pure and you will make a new start in your life. If you would like to trust the Lord Jesus and you are not sure how to do so please remain seated after the meeting is over, and I will come and sit with you and show you what you need to do.

Powerpoint Slide 1-7 - You Can Be Sure You Are Saved

Tim was so happy! And he rushed home to tell his mother and father what had happened and what he had done. He thought they would be pleased. But they didn't seem to be pleased, because they themselves were not saved and they did not understand! His father snorted and said, “What do you mean you are saved? How do you know you are?”

Tim didn't know what to say. He walked up to his room – thinking hard. “How do I know I am saved? How do I know?” He muttered over and over to himself. And then he saw it! He remembered this verse “*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.*” (Acts 16 v31). And he said to himself, “I believe God; I know what He says in His Word is true (*Advance Slide*). God says in the Bible that if I trust Jesus Christ I am saved. Therefore I must be.”

Excitedly he ran back to his father, “I have the answer,” he said, “I am sure I am saved because God says so in His Word, and I believe Him.”

Strangely enough when he went back to the Bible meeting the next morning the speaker talked about this very subject.

“If you have trusted the Lord Jesus you can be sure you are saved”, the speaker said, “Because God says so in the Bible. He says in our memory verse, “*Trust the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved*”. That is His promise. Therefore, if you have trusted the Lord Jesus, God says you are saved – and He cannot tell any lies.

One of the writers in the Bible wrote, ‘*I have written these things to you that believe on the Son of God that you might KNOW that you have eternal life*’ (1 John 5 v13). God has given us His Word, the Bible, to help us be sure we are saved. The devil will, first of all, try to stop you from trusting Jesus Christ, and then, when you do, he will put doubts into your mind and try to tell you that you are not saved. At times you might not feel you are saved. Don't worry. If you have trusted Christ you can be sure all your sins are forgiven by Him and that you have eternal life – whether you feel it or not – because God has said so. Always remember what God has said in His Word and what God's Son has done for you and your doubts will flee away.

Here is a good verse for you to remember. The Lord Jesus says in the Bible, ‘*I will never leave you.*’ Now say that with me – pointing each time to a finger on your hand – ‘*I – will – never – leave – you*’ (Hebrews 13 v5). That is God’s promise and He always keeps His promises.

Martin Luther, the famous preacher who lived in Germany many years ago, dreamed that the devil showed him a long list of his sins. After looking at this list he asked the devil in his dream, ‘Are these all my sins?’

‘No’ said the devil.

‘Then show me them all’, Martin replied. Another long list was showed him in his dream and he asked, ‘Are these all?’

‘Yes.’

‘Then’, replied Martin Luther, ‘Take your pen and write across all these sins what God says in the Bible, *The Blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth us from ALL sin*’ (1 John 1 v7).

And that is exactly what happened when you trusted Jesus Christ. All your sin was forgiven and you are now clean in God’s sight. And the Bible tells you that you will never lose your salvation. If you have trusted Jesus Christ you are saved forever (John 10 v28).”

And so as Tim went home after the meeting he was so happy – not just because he was saved, but because he believed God’s promises and he knew he was saved – and saved forever.

Powerpoint Slide 1-8 - The Start Of A New Life

When you trust Jesus Christ as your Saviour all your sins are forgiven and God sees you as clean and perfect as Jesus Christ is! But He does more than that. He changes you! He makes you a new person! He gives you a new life. He starts to break the power of sin in your life. Do you remember that big gorilla in our first picture? Sin has even more power than a gorilla. But Jesus Christ is more powerful than your sin and He can break the hold it has on you.

You begin to live a new life, a different life. The Bible says “*If anyone is in Christ* (that is if any one has trusted Christ), *he is a new creation* (he is a new person)” (2 Corinthians 5 v17). The Lord Jesus says that the boy or girl who trusts Him is “*born again*” (John 3 v5). Tim started his present life when he became a baby. He had now started a new life when he trusted Jesus Christ. And when he sees the changes in his life they will help him to know that he has trusted Christ, because these are the proofs that he has done so. If there are no changes at all then he is not saved.

Of course the boy or girl who trusts the Lord Jesus is not perfect. We will see later that the old nature is still there and Christian boys and girls often slip

and fall. But a new start has been made and this green page of our *Wordless Book* (*Show it*) reminds us that, like grass and trees, saved children need to grow:

Tim began to see little changes in his life:

- He wanted to come to the Bible meetings and listen to God's Word (*Advance Slide*).
- He wanted to talk to God (*Advance Slide*).
- He wanted to follow the Lord Jesus and please Him (*Advance Slide*).
- He wanted to see his mother and father saved (*Advance Slide*).

He knew he was not perfect. He made mistakes; he still sinned; he sometimes forgot to pray or didn't want to pray; he sometimes didn't listen to the man who was speaking about God. But he knew that his life was different and that he was moving in a new direction.

He still had many questions about how to do things. And I will answer some of his questions in the lessons I will be teaching you. But a start had been made. He had trusted Jesus Christ, his sins were forgiven and he had started a new life.

Have you trusted Jesus Christ as your Saviour? Have you made a new start in your life? Why not do so today? – like Tim.

Remember our verse "*Believe on (or trust) the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.*" (Acts 16 v31). Do what Tim did, trust Jesus Christ, and you will be saved forever. Do it to day; do it now!