

# FOUNDATIONS

## Parent Guide



Foundational Christian Doctrines for Kids



# LESSON 1 AT A GLANCE

## In This Unit:

**Saved.** Adopted. Justified. Redeemed. Faith. Rebirth.  
September 22, 2024

### Objective

Teach the kids that Jesus saves us from the just judgment that we all deserve, specifically by saving us from the power and penalty of sin. Use the story of Rahab as a narrative illustration and link it to Matthew 7.

### Big Question

*Ask at the beginning of the lesson; answer at the end.*

Question: What does Jesus save us from?

Answer: Jesus saves us from the power and penalty of sin.

### Scriptures

Teach from: Joshua 2 & 6:1-25, Matthew 7:13-14, Matthew 1:5, Isaiah 43:11 & Acts 4:12  
Lesson Key Verse: Acts 4:12  
Unit Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 2:15

### Key Takeaways (3 Keys)

*Recite at the beginning, middle, and end of the lesson.*

1. We all need to be saved.
2. We are saved by grace alone.
3. Only God can save us.

### Context (HIStory)

Our passage in Joshua takes place after God delivered the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and before they settled in the Promised Land.

### Gospel Connection (Good News)

Just like God saved Rahab by grace (undeserved favor) through her faith in Him, He saves us by grace through faith.

### Attribute (God)

God is the only Savior. Rahab had no hope outside of the salvation of God and neither do we. We can't save ourselves, others can't save us, and false gods can't save us.

### Catechism (Foundation)

*\* For younger kids, spreading the catechism across several weeks may be more effective.*

Q. What does the first commandment require?

A. The first commandment requires us to know and recognize God as the only true God and our God, and to worship and glorify Him accordingly.

### Application

As we learned in the last unit, our response to this message of salvation is simply to turn away from our sin and to Jesus. Jesus' death on the cross is counted as our punishment when we trust in Him. We can be saved from the penalty of our sins because Jesus already paid that penalty. How do we apply this today? We trust in Jesus.

### Memory Verse

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.  
2 Timothy 2:15

# PARENT/TEACHER RESOURCE PAGE - Saved

Season 4. Unit 1. Lesson 1

## Extra Teaching Tip

### FOUNDATIONS

We are beginning a new season that we entitled, “Foundations.” In this season, we will be focusing on core doctrines of the Christian faith. We need to teach kids to know what they believe and believe what they know. Be mindful of the point that the lesson is focusing on (in the title). Use the selected passages to really drive home that point. The lessons will build on one another as we progress through the unit. Here is how the first unit is broken down:

Salvation – God saves us from the power and penalty of sin.

Adoption – When God saves us, He adopts us as His own children.

Justification – When God saves us, He declares us “not guilty.”

Redemption – When God saves us, He buys us out of our slavery to sin with Jesus’ own blood.

Saving Faith – Saving faith is placing all of our trust in Jesus.

Regeneration – God doesn’t just forgive us and then leave us as we are. He makes us new!

## Tough Questions

### **IF ALL WE HAVE TO DO TO BE SAVED IS TURN TO JESUS AND TRUST HIM (IF WE’RE SAVED BY GRACE ALONE), DOES THAT MEAN WE CAN THEN LIVE HOWEVER WE WANT?**

*\*This was addressed last unit as well.*

Yes and no. The Apostle Paul actually addressed this question several times in scripture. Let’s look at a couple of those instances.

*“What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.” (Romans 6:1-4)*

Here, Paul says that it’s not a matter of “Can we go on living in sin?” but “Will we go on living in sin?” And his answer is, “By no means!” Why is that? Because when we come to Christ by faith, He changes us. We are no longer the same people we were before, which leads to the “Yes” part of the answer.

*“For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.” (Philippians 2:13)*

Notice what he said that God does in us: “both to will and to work.” When we come to Jesus in faith, God not only makes us new creations right then and there, but He continues to change our very desires. The true believer wants to do what is pleasing to God because God is changing what we want from sin to godliness. In this sense, yes the believer does live how they want, but now their wants are aligned with God’s commands.

That doesn’t mean that believers never want sin. No, we will live in this tension, this battle between our new desires and our old desires until Jesus returns or we go to be with Him. (See Galatians 5)

# LESSON 2 AT A GLANCE

## In This Unit:

Saved. **Adopted**. Justified. Redeemed. Faith. Rebirth.  
September 29, 2024

### Objective

Teach the kids the doctrine of adoption. Use the story of Mephibosheth to show how when God saves us, He calls us into His family forever.

### Big Question

*Ask at the beginning of the lesson; answer at the end.*

Question: What do we become when we put our faith in Jesus?

Answer: We become adopted children of God.

### Scriptures

Teach from: 2 Samuel 9:1-13, 1 Chronicles 17:11-14, 1 John 3:1 & Romans 8:15.

Lesson Key Verse: Romans 8:15

Unit Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 2:15

### Key Takeaways (3 Keys)

*Recite at the beginning, middle, and end of the lesson.*

1. When God saves us, He adopts us as His own children.
2. God doesn't need us; He adopts us because He wants us.
3. God is our Father.

### Context (HIStory)

Our passage today takes place during the time of the kings in Israel. At this time God gave them the greatest king that they would ever have, David. David was a sinner just like us but he loved God with all his heart. David was a type (a foreshadow) of Christ, the perfect King.

### Gospel Connection (Good News)

Just as Mephibosheth was incapable of helping himself or making himself acceptable to sit at the king's table, so it is with us. We need God, in His own amazing grace to save us and adopt us into His family.

### Attribute (God)

God is our Father. God is referred to as a Father over 100 times in the Bible. Some of His fatherly qualities are: His love and care for us, His providing for us, and His defending and protecting us.

### Catechism (Foundation)

*\* For younger kids, spreading the catechism across several weeks may be more effective.*

Q: What is adoption?

A: Adoption is when God makes us His children with all the rights and privileges of being His.

### Application

Ephesians 5:1 says, "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children." What Paul the Apostle is saying in that verse is this: Since God has adopted us and counts us as His children, we should count Him as our Father. And just like parents are supposed to be role models for their children to imitate, so we are to grow to become more like our Heavenly Father. He chose us. He wants us. And He wants us to become more like Him.

### Memory Verse

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.  
2 Timothy 2:15

# PARENT/TEACHER RESOURCE PAGE - Adopted

Season 4. Unit 1. Lesson 2

## Extra Teaching Tip

### THE FATHERHOOD OF GOD:

When teaching on the fatherhood of God, be mindful that our kids come from all walks of life. Some have great fathers who love them very much, some have fathers who have not been very good fathers to them at all, and everything in between. We need to be intentional to remind the kids that God is the **perfect** Father, better than the best human father who has ever lived. Don't assume that this goes without saying. To a child who is haunted by painful thoughts at the mention of the word, "father" the idea of calling God a Father can be very difficult. Point them to the One who will never wrong them, never leave them and never forsake them.

## Tough Questions

### AREN'T ALL PEOPLE GOD'S CHILDREN?

In one sense you could say that all people are God's children. If what we mean is that God is the source of all people, then yes, He is the Father of all.

However, in the Bible, we learn that there is a different, more specific type of Fatherhood of God for those who have trusted in His Son, Jesus. Before we trust Jesus, God is the source of our existence, but the Bible says we are actually His enemies (Rom. 5:10) and children not of God, but of the devil (1 John 3:8-10).

When we turn to Jesus in faith, we are adopted into God's family. All people are made in the image of God and are worthy of dignity and respect, but not all people are adopted into the family of God. This is one more reason we should be eager to share the Gospel with others, so that they too can be changed from being an enemy of God, into a dearly loved child of God.

# LESSON 3 AT A GLANCE

## In This Unit:

Saved. Adopted. **Justified**. Redeemed. Faith. Rebirth.

October 6, 2024

### Objective

Teach the kids the meaning of justification by faith.

### Big Question

*Ask at the beginning of the lesson; answer at the end.*

Question: How can God justify us (count us not guilty)?

Answer: Because the just punishment we deserve was placed on Jesus.

### Scriptures

Teach from: Exodus 12:1-13, 23, Luke 23:39-43, Matthew 26:17-30, & Romans 3:26  
Lesson Key Verse: Romans 3:26  
Unit Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 2:15

### Key Takeaways (3 Keys)

*Recite at the beginning, middle, and end of the lesson.*

1. Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away our sin.
2. Being justified means being counted “not guilty” for our sins.
3. God is just and the justifier.

### Context (HIStory)

One of our main texts (Exodus 12) was written long before the birth of Jesus, when the Israelites were still slaves in Egypt. The second one (Luke 23) took place during Jesus’ earthly ministry.

### Gospel Connection (Good News)

Use the passages to show that the passover lamb took the place of sinners and died so that they could live. Teach the kids that this was a picture of what Jesus does for us. We are justified because He took our place and gave us His righteousness.

### Attribute (God)

God is just and the justifier. Because God is just, all sin must be punished. Because God loves us, He is also the justifier of all who trust in Jesus.

### Catechism (Foundation)

*\* For younger kids, spreading the catechism across several weeks may be more effective.*

Q: What is justification?

A: The act of God counting us as righteous because we trust in Jesus.

### Application

We obey God and try to live lives that honor Him because we have been freely justified (declared not guilty.) God does not love us because we obey Him but we should obey Him because He loves us.

### Memory Verse

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.  
2 Timothy 2:15

## PARENT/TEACHER RESOURCE PAGE - Justified

Season 4. Unit 1. Lesson 3

### Extra Teaching Tip

#### **SACRIFICES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT:**

There is a common misconception that says that God's people were saved by obeying the Law in the Old Testament and by grace in the New Testament. Paul tells us repeatedly that no one can be saved by the Law, if they could then Christ died for nothing. The book of Hebrews teaches us that God's people have always been saved by grace through faith in the Word of God. In the Old Testament, the sacrifices did not save God's people; their trust in His Word is what mattered. The sacrifices were pictures of the coming Messiah. By performing them, they were demonstrating their trust in God to save them from the guilt of their sin. God is not a God who delights in "sacrifices and burnt offerings" but in the self-sacrificial act of Christ on the cross to take away the guilt of His people once and for all. Those who were saved in the Old Testament were saved by faith in the Messiah that they looked forward to coming. We are saved by faith in the same Messiah who has come.

### Tough Questions

#### **WHY WOULD A LOVING GOD SENTENCE HIS OWN SON TO DEATH?**

It's perfectly natural to ask this question. However, in an attempt to discredit Christianity, some skeptics have crudely called the crucifixion "Cosmic child abuse."

The charge that they are laying against God is that He wrongfully murdered His own Son, which they say is evil even if it is for the sake of others.

One thing that they miss is that God did not wrongfully murder anyone. Yes, Jesus was bearing the wrath of God in our place on the cross. And yes, this was the plan all along. But Jesus voluntarily laid down His life for us. In the Trinity, the Father, Son, and Spirit act in complete agreement.



# LESSON 4 AT A GLANCE

## In This Unit:

Saved. Adopted. Justified. **Redeemed**. Faith. Rebirth.

October 13, 2024

### Objective

Teach the kids that God is our Redeemer. He has purchased us for Himself at a very high price - the blood of His Son.

### Big Question

*Ask at the beginning of the lesson; answer at the end.*

Question: What does it mean that Jesus redeems us?

Answer: It means that He buys us back from our slavery to sin with His own blood.

### Scriptures

Teach from: Exodus 14, Micah 6:4, 1 Peter 1:18-19, Revelation 5:9

Lesson Key Verse: Revelation 5:9

Unit Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 2:15

### Key Takeaways (3 Keys)

*Recite at the beginning, middle, and end of the lesson.*

1. Apart from Christ, we are all slaves to sin.
2. Jesus has purchased us with His own blood.
3. God is our redeemer.

### Context (HIStory)

Our main text (Exodus 14) takes place during the Israelites slavery in Egypt about 1500 years before Jesus was born.

### Gospel Connection (Good News)

Use the account of God redeeming His people from slavery to Egypt to show the kids the good news that God redeems us from slavery to sin.

### Attribute (God)

God is our Redeemer - and not only ours, but He will redeem people from every tribe tongue and nation.

### Catechism (Foundation)

*\* For younger kids, spreading the catechism across several weeks may be more effective.*

Q. How does Jesus redeem you?

A. Jesus redeems me from my slavery to sin with His own precious blood.

### Application

Peter tells us in 1 Peter 1:18-19, that because Christ has bought us we are to live in a way that shows that we are His. We are to honor God and seek to obey Him in all things. Not **so that** He will redeem us, but **because** He has redeemed us.

### Memory Verse

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.  
2 Timothy 2:15

# PARENT/TEACHER RESOURCE PAGE - Redeemed

Season 4. Unit 1. Lesson 4

## Extra Teaching Tip

### **BLOOD IS THE COST OF REDEMPTION.**

When we say that Jesus redeemed us or purchased us with His own blood we might wonder, “but why is blood the cost required?” Do you remember back in Genesis when God told Adam and Eve that if they ate of the fruit they would “surely die”? That death was more than just the physical death that we all experience. It was also a spiritual death, a spiritual separation from God. God later tells us that the “wages of sin is death.” Sin cannot be forgiven apart from the shedding of blood because that is what God’s Law demands. So God instituted the sacrifices of the Old Testament to be a picture of the only blood that could ever truly atone for sin. The blood of His perfect Son. Jesus’ blood is not some magical substance. His blood is synonymous with His death. Remember, the debt we owe is eternal death for our sins. We can either pay that ourselves by being eternally separated from God or Christ can pay that for us by His perfect sacrifice. When Christ died on the cross he was paying the bill for our sins. His payment frees us from all that Adam’s sin enslaved us to – the penalty and power of sin.

## Tough Questions

### **HOW DID GOD HARDEN PHARAOH’S HEART? DOES THAT MEAN HE DIDN’T HAVE A CHOICE BUT TO BE EVIL?**

This question often leads to, or comes out of, a bigger debate that has caused no shortage of conflict down through the years. Between this passage and Romans 9, a full scale theological war can be waged regarding God’s sovereignty over the human heart and salvation. One side accuses the other of reducing people to robots or puppets without any volition while the other accuses the opposite party of making man more sovereign than God.

Both of these caricatures are unfair and inaccurate. For the purpose of this lesson, it is sufficient to stick to the things that both sides should agree on.

1. God is sovereign over the human heart (Proverbs 21:1).
2. People make choices and are responsible for those choices (Ezekiel 18:21-24).
3. People are slaves to sin, and thus choose according to that nature until God frees them (Romans 8:7-8, John 8:34).

Applying this to Pharaoh, I would say that God sovereignly hardened Pharaoh’s heart to not let the Israelites go initially and then to pursue the Israelites. However, that does not mean that God made Pharaoh do anything that he didn’t want to do. Pharaoh still acted according to the desires of his evil heart and was responsible for doing so.

# LESSON 5 AT A GLANCE

## In This Unit:

Saved. Adopted. Justified. Redeemed. **Faith.** Rebirth.

October 20, 2024

### Objective

Teach the kids the nature of saving faith. Help them understand that true faith is placing all of our hope and trust in Jesus to save us from the power and penalty of our sins.

### Big Question

*Ask at the beginning of the lesson; answer at the end.*

Question: What does true faith always lead to?  
Answer: True faith always leads to action.

### Scriptures

Teach from: Genesis 12:1-9, Hebrews 11:1, Galatians 3:16, 29, & Psalm 33:4  
Lesson Key Verse: Romans 4:3  
Unit Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 2:15

### Key Takeaways (3 Keys)

*Recite at the beginning, middle, and end of the lesson.*

1. To have faith in God is to place all of your trust in Him.
2. True faith always leads to action.
3. God is Faithful.

### Context (HIStory)

Our main text (Luke 15) takes place during Jesus' earthly ministry before He died and rose again as the perfect sacrifice for our sins. This is a continuation of last week's passage.

### Gospel Connection (Good News)

Use Jeremiah 31:31-34 to show the kids that even our response to the Good News comes from God. He works in our hearts to call us to Himself and grant us repentance.

### Attribute (God)

God is our Father. God is referred to as a Father over 100 times in the Bible. Some of His fatherly qualities are: His love and care for us, His providing for us, and His defending and protecting us.

### Catechism (Foundation)

*\* For younger kids, spreading the catechism across several weeks may be more effective.*

Q. What is faith in Jesus Christ?  
A. Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, by which we receive and rest on Him alone for salvation, as He is offered to us in the gospel.

### Application

When we talk about believing in Jesus, it is important that we explain what that means. The kids need to understand that believing in Jesus is not simply believing that He exists or even that He did what the Bible says He did. As we see in the lesson today, Biblically to believe in Jesus is to put all our **trust** in Him.

### Memory Verse

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.  
2 Timothy 2:15

# PARENT/TEACHER RESOURCE PAGE - Faith

Season 4. Unit 1. Lesson 5

## Extra Teaching Tip

### OPPORTUNITIES TO RESPOND TO THE GOSPEL

While we definitely want to steer clear of anything like an altar call or an emotional plea to convince kids to repeat a prayer, we still want to make sure that we always give our students the opportunity to respond to the Gospel. It can be as simple as regularly reminding them that you are here if they have any questions or want to discuss salvation or baptism further. We know that conversion is the Holy Spirit's job, not ours. However, we also want to be willing participants in the work He is doing in these kids' hearts. Find ways to give them opportunities to respond to the Word that you are teaching them.

## Tough Questions

### IF ALL WE HAVE TO DO TO BE SAVED IS TURN TO JESUS AND TRUST HIM, DOES THAT MEAN WE CAN THEN LIVE HOWEVER WE WANT?

Yes and no. The Apostle Paul actually addressed this question several times in scripture. Let's look at a couple of those instances.

"What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life." (Romans 6:1-4)

Here, Paul says that it's not a matter of "Can we go on living in sin?" but "Will we go on living in sin?" And his answer is, "By no means!" Why is that? Because when we come to Christ by faith, He changes us. We are no longer the same people we were before, which leads to the "Yes" part of the answer.

"For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure." (Philippians 2:13)

Notice what he said that God does in us: "both to **will** and to **work**." When we come to Jesus in faith, God not only makes us new creations right then and there, but He continues to change our very desires. The true believer **wants** to do what is pleasing to God because God is changing what we want from sin to godliness. In this sense, yes the believer does live how they want, but now their wants are aligned with God's commands.

That doesn't mean that believers never want sin. No, we will live in this tension, this battle between our new desires and our old desires until Jesus returns or we go to be with Him. (See Galatians 5.)

# LESSON 6 AT A GLANCE

## In This Unit:

Saved. Adopted. Justified. Redeemed. Faith. **Rebirth.**

October 27, 2024

### Objective

Teach the kids that when Jesus saves us, He gives us a new heart that desires to trust and obey Him.

### Big Question

*Ask at the beginning of the lesson; answer at the end.*

Question: How does God change us?

Answer: He changes us by making us new through the power of the Holy Spirit.

### Scriptures

Teach from: John 3:1-21, Ezekiel 36:26, & 2 Corinthians 5:17

Lesson Key Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:17

Unit Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 2:15

### Key Takeaways (3 Keys)

*Recite at the beginning, middle, and end of the lesson.*

1. We must be born again to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.
2. Being born again is being changed by God's Spirit.
3. God is our Creator.

### Context (HIStory)

Our main text (John 3) takes place during Jesus' earthly ministry before He was crucified.

### Gospel Connection (Good News)

The Gospel is about more than just being forgiven for our sins. In the Gospel, we are also made into new creations. This is how God frees us from the **power** of sin.

### Attribute (God)

God is our Creator. He created us when we were conceived and He creates new life in us when we turn to Christ. He will also recreate us when He returns to make all things new. If we have been born again, it is because God has made us a new creation.

### Catechism (Foundation)

*\* For younger kids, spreading the catechism across several weeks may be more effective.*

Q. What is regeneration?

A. Regeneration is the act of God, whereby He puts His Spirit in us and makes us new.

### Application

The best thing we can ask God for is Himself. If we are unsure as to whether God has made us new, then we should ask God to send his Spirit to us to do just that. And if we know that God has *already* made us new by sending us His Spirit, we should still pray and ask him to continually fill us with His Spirit. In Luke 11:11-13, Jesus said that this is a prayer that God will say yes to!

### Memory Verse

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.  
2 Timothy 2:15

# PARENT/TEACHER RESOURCE PAGE - Rebirth

Season 4. Unit 1. Lesson 6

## Extra Teaching Tip

### **CHANGED, CHANGING, TO BE CHANGED:**

When God regenerates us and creates a new heart within us, we are changed. We begin to have new desires. Where we once desired to please ourselves, now we desire to please God. Where we once sought to justify our sins, now we long to be rid of them. We can know that we have been born again by our attitude towards God, fellow believers and towards sin. If we have a genuine love for God and fellow believers and a genuine hatred for the sin in our lives, that is a good sign that we have been regenerated by the Spirit of God. However, that doesn't mean that we will never sin after being born again. We will battle sin until we die or Christ comes back. The believer has been changed, is changed, and will be changed finally on that glorious day.

## Tough Questions

### **Does being born of water (John 3:5) mean baptism?**

*Below is a quotation from GotQuestions.org that I think answers this question clearly and accurately.*

The interpretation that I think is correct, “sees the phrase “born of water and the Spirit” as both describing different aspects of the same spiritual birth, or of what it means to be “born again” or “born from above.” So, when Jesus told Nicodemus that he must “be born of water and the Spirit,” He was not referring to literal water (i.e. baptism or the amniotic fluid in the womb), but was referring to the need for spiritual cleansing or renewal. Throughout the Old Testament (Psalm 51:2,7; Ezekiel 36:25) and the New Testament (John 13:10; 15:3; 1 Corinthians 6:11; Hebrews 10:22), water is often used figuratively of spiritual cleansing or regeneration that is brought forth by the Holy Spirit, through the Word of God, at the moment of salvation (Ephesians 5:26; Titus 3:5).”

The article goes on to say:

“Therefore, the “water” mentioned in this verse is not literal physical water but rather the “living water” Jesus promised the woman at the well in John 4:10 and the people in Jerusalem in John 7:37-39. It is the inward purification and renewal produced by the Holy Spirit that brings forth spiritual life to a dead sinner (Ezekiel 36:25-27; Titus 3:5). Jesus reinforces this truth in John 3:7 when He restates that one must be born again and that this newness of life can only be produced by the Holy Spirit (John 3:8).”

Source:

<https://www.gotquestions.org/baptism-John-3-5.html>



