

These Things We Believe Study

Mt. Zion Church Bible Study

Taken from

A Remedy for Itching Ears written by

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Lesson 3: The Fall of Man and The Freeness of Salvation (Chapters 2 & 3)



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We Have a Vision to Be Intentionally Learning!

Introduction: The following lesson presents the central theme of the Bible. The two topics, The Fall of Man and The Freeness of Salvation, exemplify God's purpose in His redeeming work. Students will understand what sin means by definition and the simplicity of salvation. The purpose of the lesson is to give students the language by which to share how man willfully chooses to follow their own desires and how God perpetually seeks to renew the broken relationship caused by sin.



Genesis 2-3

Romans 3: 23 and 6: 23

Article 3: The Fall of Man

We believe that God initially created man to be in perfect, intimate relationship with God, and therefore were without sin. Unfortunately, man sinned against God and broke that relationship and connection to God. The consequences of that initial sin were severe and caused death to come upon humanity while also revealing a dangerous flaw in human beings; free choice could be used to sin against God, rebel against God's will for us and to falsely think of ourselves as equal to God.

I. The Nature of Sin

To understand mankind's need, we need to understand where God intended for man to exist relative to God. In Genesis 2-3 we can see that God created everything for the purpose of having man live with authority over what was created. Genesis 2: 5-9 indicates that man was designed to work in a garden that had beautiful trees including two named the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Chapter 2: 17 presents God's boundary set for man. "Do not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."

God's command was simple and clear. However, the consequence was much greater than Adam or Eve could understand.

Activity 1: Students are to create a chart to identify who did the sin, what the sin was, and the consequence that was bigger than expected. After students fill in their chart answer the questions that follow.

Who Did the Sin?	What was the Sin?	What was the Outcome?
Ex. I did the sin	Lying	Created an atmosphere of distrust between myself and my parents

1. What do you notice about column 1?
2. Why do you think we underestimate the potential outcomes which can happen when we sin?

When God tells Adam that death is coming as a result of Disobedience, he does not see the bigger picture, thus he underestimates the severity of death.

becomes shameful). There is a loss of unity between the two (they blame one another and are at odds with each other). Sin enters human reality forever (sin becomes part of who we are). God curses serpent, Adam, and Eve (punishment for sin occurs).

In our book, on page 62 we see a listing of the consequences of the Fall. For example, there is a loss of innocence (the nakedness

But, what about the death promised? In fact, any reader can clearly see that Adam and Eve not only did not immediately die but went on to have children and to live. Remember, sin always creates a bigger consequence than what is expected!

The death God meant was a separation from the source of life. God is the source of life. Thus, when Adam and Eve sinned, they put themselves (and all of man) into a position where we are separated from God. Simply put, sin separates us. Notice, during activity 1 all of the sins written create a relationship problem between the sinner and the one sinned against. Sin always creates separation between man and man, man and himself, and man and God.

Pause here and write down what you understand about sin and why it creates such a significant problem for us.

II. The Way of Salvation and the Freeness of Salvation

Article 4: The Way of Salvation

We believe that God's remedy and provision for human sin is the gift of salvation which comes by the grace of God and through faint in Jesus Christ, the savior, and Son of God. Jesus Christ, who is God in human flesh took upon Himself the sins of the entire world and died on the cross. Jesus' death paid the price for all of our sins, and his resurrection from the dead makes it possible for us to have new and abundant life free from the penalty of sin.

Simply put, we believe God remedied our death from sin problem by coming to us as Jesus Christ and dying to pay the penalty for sin (Romans 6: 23). The result is that we can live the abundant life we were intended to live when God created us.

Article 6: The Freeness of Salvation

We believe that God's invitation to salvation through Jesus Christ is available to ALL people without exception. Anyone who accepts and embraces Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior in their heart freely receives salvation as a gift from God.

The only thing that prevents a person from freely receiving salvation is their own refusal to accept God's invitation.

Simply put, everyone can have it if they want it for free! Salvation requires a choice to accept Jesus and nothing more!

SALVATION THROUGH JESUS ALONE: The temptation is to think that mankind can get to God by any means necessary. However, we can read in scripture that salvation is accessed only through Jesus. Verses such as John 14: 6, Acts 4: 1-12, Titus 3: 3-7, Romans 5: 12-17 clearly identify that we are utterly without hope unless we have Jesus!

REMINDER: What does sin do to us and God? _____ (See activity 1)



If you understand what sin does to us, can you conclude what Jesus does for us?

Jesus _____ mankind and God. Therefore, when Jesus



The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full. John 10: 10

says, "I have come to give you LIFE..." (John 10: 10), He is saying I am reconnecting you and all of mankind back to the source of life by my sacrifice!

Remember, each of us prior to accepting Jesus was dead in our sins. We were living as dead people!

But, why only through Jesus? We must remember that God saved us by coming as a sinless sacrifice for us. All other sacrifices (animal) covered sins of the past. However, Jesus is the one sacrifice that breaks the cycle of the Romans 3:23 and Romans 6: 23 rules.

The Rule is The Rule!

Activity 2: Read Romans 3:23 and Romans 6:23 and fill in the blanks. Then discuss with your group why Jesus is the only one who could die for mankind's sins.

What is the rule?

- Romans 3: 23 reveals to us?

- Romans 6: 23 reveals to us?

- Anyone who does not meet these issues deserves what?

Since Jesus did not sin, He alone is able to be a substitute for our punishment. Again, read Romans 5: 12-17 to understand that Jesus' sacrifice corrects Adam's sin. No other person has fulfilled this role and since Jesus sacrificed Himself, there is no need for anyone else to come along and sacrifice themselves. Thus, there is no other savior, but Jesus. Jesus alone!

AND IT'S FREE! WHAAAAAT?



Few things in life are free. We are enticed by the idea of free shipping so we will buy items or we are seduced by what seems to be free at the outset but is very costly in the end. SALVATION is 100% free to you and me. Take a moment and discuss why we should be thankful that salvation is free or jot a few notes in the space

below.

Article 6 is the most exciting belief statement because it tells us that EVERYONE no matter who they are, what they have done, where they come from, what they look like, their age, etc. can receive salvation if they choose to receive it! God was the first Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion example. He intends for everyone to be saved. In John 3: 16-18, John 6: 46, and 1 Corinthians 12: 13, students will find the inclusiveness of God’s plan to save the world.

John 3: 16 makes it plain by saying that “whosoever will....can be saved”. And, since scripture does not refute itself, one can go all the way back to God’s promise to Abraham to see the fulfillment of scripture in Jesus’ sacrifice. In Genesis 12: 3, God clearly says to Abram (before his name was changed) that his lineage would be a blessing to EVERYONE. Matthew 1: 1-16 indicates the lineage of Jesus and how He is in the Abrahamic family. Therefore, the promise is bigger than even Abraham could have imagined. As the consequence of sin was great (everyone a sinner), the sacrifice of Jesus was even greater (everyone saved)!

What have you learned as a result of this lesson?

Closing prayer: Dear God, thank you for your plan of salvation. I understand that I have sinned but you loved all of mankind enough to fix our problem when you sent Jesus. I appreciate what you have done. In Jesus name, Amen.