

LESSON PLAN

SAVING FAITH

Romans 3 – 5

Lesson Memory Verse: Ephesians 2:8 - **“For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.”** (Grades 1 & 2 memorize the portion in **bold**.)

Lesson Aim: Teach the children to have faith in the good works of Jesus Christ to save them. .

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): (Bring an unshelled peanut in your purse or pocket.) I have something in my hand that no one has ever seen. Even I have not seen it. How many of you believe me? If you believe me, raise your hand. Do you know what I have in my hand? (No) Do you believe me even though you don't know what I have in my hand? (Yes) Why do you believe me? (Let them give their answers, then open your hand, shell the peanut and show the nut itself to the children.) Now you see the peanut. You know I was telling the truth. If you believed what I said before you saw the peanut, you had **faith** that I was telling you the truth. Faith is to believe something we are told but cannot see. God tells us in the Bible about many things that we cannot see but He asks us to accept it by faith in His Word. Let's see what God says about faith in our memory verse for today.

HE (for Authority): Ephesians 2:8 tells us that we are saved by grace. Why do we need to be **saved**? (We have sinned and are on the road to Hell. God wants to save us from our sins and that awful place and put us on the road to Heaven.) Our memory verse says God saves us by His **grace**. Does anyone know what grace is? (Grace is a gift that we do not deserve.) Salvation is an undeserved gift from God that we receive through **faith**. As I said before, faith is to believe the Word of God. God said it; I believe it; that settles it. We cannot work for salvation, but we can receive salvation through faith as a gift from God.

God sent His Son to die on the cross for our sins and then raised Him from the dead to share with us His victory over death and our sins (that is **grace** because we do not deserve this sacrifice from God). Now God offers His **gift of salvation** to every sinner that will receive it at His word (that is **faith**).

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. Today we are going to learn about the faith that saves us from our sins.

OUTLINE OF THE DOCTRINE

I. What Faith Is

A. Faith is the assurance that God will keep His promise.

1. Abraham had faith in God's promise – Rom 4:3, 19-22.

God promised to give Abraham as many children as the stars in the heavens through a son that he did not have when he was 99 and his wife was 89. He believed God, even though his wife was too old to have a child (Gen 15:1-7; 16:1-3, 15-16; 17:15-22; 18:1-14; 21:1-3).

2. Paul had faith in God's promise – Acts 27:21-25.

God promised Paul that no one on a ship that was going to be destroyed by a stormy sea would lose their life in the storm. Paul believed God and told the people on the ship that they should be encouraged by God's promise.

B. Faith is the conviction that God has kept His promise.

1. David had had faith that God had forgiven Him – Rom 4:6-8

David had done some terrible sins. At first, he tried to cover them up so no one would know about them, but God saw them. Then he tried to forget about them, but God convicted him and made him miserable. Then God sent Nathan, the prophet, to tell him about the punishment that God would bring into his life. Finally, David confessed his sin to God and had great sorrow for his sin. Then God forgave David, He had peace in his heart because he had faith that God had kept His promise.

2. A Christian with faith knows that God has saved him (or her) – Jam 1:6-8; 1 Jn 5:11-13

LESSON PLAN

He believed that Jesus died for his sins and rose again to save him (Rom 4:25). He asked Jesus to save him and has faith that He has done it (Rom 10:13; Heb 11:6). He continues to thank the Lord for saving him, which shows that he believes he is saved (2 Cor 9:15). He confesses before believers and unbelievers that Jesus has saved him (Rom 10:9-10; Mt 10:32-33).

WE: When we have faith in God, we know that He will keep His promises, even though we have not yet been blessed by them. Some promises are given to us as soon as we claim them. The promise of salvation is one of them. We can know now by faith that we are saved and are one of his children.

II. What Faith Does

A. Faith in Jesus' death removes our sins and makes us righteous—Rom 3:21-26; 2 Cor 5:21.

Jesus took the sins of all people and paid the death penalty for them. When a sinner receives Jesus as his Savior by faith in what He did on the cross, his bad works are replaced by Jesus' good works.

WE: We must have faith in Jesus' death on the cross to be right before God. There is no other way to remove our sins and be right with God.

B. Faith in Jesus' resurrection gives us eternal life – Rom 10:9; Jn 11:25-26; 1 Cor 15:3-4.

Jesus conquered sin and death when He arose from the grave. Those who receive Jesus as Savior are given eternal life and they shall never perish (Jn 10:28). Eternal life never ends. It keeps going on and on. Even though your body may die, your spirit will go to be with Jesus, and He will give you a new body that will never die. God does not give eternal life to everyone. He does not give it to those who think they are good enough without Jesus; or to those who pray nice-sounding prayers, or to those who go to church because it is the right thing to do. He gives eternal life only to those who believe and receive Jesus Christ as their Savior (John 1:12; 3:16) and do not trust in their good works (Eph 2:9; Rom 3: 28).

C. Faith in Jesus provides peace with God – Rom 5:1-11

When we have peace with God by faith in Jesus Christ, we have **access to His grace**. This refers to His gifts, which we do not deserve, but are given to us because Jesus is our Savior (Rom 5:2). Peace with God also **blesses us with His love** in our hearts (Rom 5:5) and **saves us from His wrath** (Rom 5:9). Peace with God through faith in Jesus Christ makes it possible to **rejoice with God**.

WE: When we have faith in Jesus, our sins are removed and we are saved from God's wrath. We are given eternal life so that we will never perish. We have peace with God and we are given gifts that we do not deserve. We have God's love in our hearts and can rejoice with God. This is what faith in Jesus does.

APPLICATION OF THE DOCTRINE

(To help your students see how Christ's blood can wash away their sins, we suggest that you use the following visual aid to illustrate this act of God. After you teach the lesson with this aid, you can help the children make one for themselves in their handwork.)

(Take a white paper heart. Write on the heart with a red marking pen the names of sins that boys and girls do. You may ask them to name the sins.) Isaiah 1:18 tells us that our sins are as scarlet. These sins are almost impossible to remove from our hearts.

There is only one way to remove these sins. It is by the blood of Jesus Christ. (Take a blue marking pen and write His name over the sins on the paper heart. It pictures Christ coming into a person's heart when he asks Him to be his Savior. When Christ comes into our hearts, He cleanses us from every sin by His blood. (This is illustrated by taking a piece of red cellophane and using it to cover the whole heart. All of the red marks (sins) will be invisible to the eye and only Jesus Christ's name in blue will be seen.) Jesus' blood does more than the red cellophane paper. The cellophane paper only covers the sins so we cannot see them, but Jesus' blood removes them so that they can never be found again.

BE (for Action): Have you ever put your faith in Jesus Christ by asking Him to save you from your sins? If not, you have a heart and life that are full of sins. Your sins must be removed so God's wrath does not strike you and you are sent to Hell. If you ask Jesus Christ to be your Savior, He will remove all of your sins and you will have peace with God. You can do that right now. Have the children bow their heads and ask those who want to receive Jesus Christ as their Savior to raise their hand. Tell them that you will pray with them after class and help them receive Jesus Christ as their Savior. .