

LESSON PLAN

SALVATION AND REWARDS

1 Corinthians 3:11-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10

Lesson Memory Verse: Revelation 22:12 - "Behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with Me, to give every man according as his work shall be."

Lesson Aim: Teach children that salvation is a gift, but rewards are earned by good works.

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

KEY (for Attention): School was over for the day. Susie had gone to the library and checked out a few books, and now she just had to wait until her mother came to get her. She wandered down a hall of the school building. As she got near the music room, she heard some lovely sounds. She peeked in through the half-closed door. The new music teacher, Mr. Neller, was at the piano. Some of the other children had told Susie that he was the son of a very rich man. Mr. Neller surely could play the piano well. Susie stood listening to the pretty melody. Then Mr. Neller began to sing:

"My Father is rich in houses and lands; He holdeth the wealth of the world in His hands!"

"My!" thought Susie, "I had no idea his father was that rich! But even if he were, it's really not polite to sing about it."

As Mr. Neller went on, Susie's eyes became bigger and bigger:

"Of rubies and diamonds, of silver and gold, His coffers are full. He has riches untold."

The music teacher reached the chorus: "I'm a child of the King, a child of the King."

"Now, just a minute," thought Susie, "I know better than that. His father may be rich, but he's not a king!"

Susie's protests were brought to a quick halt as she listened to the closing words:

"With Jesus, My Savior, I'm a child of the King!"

"Oh!" whispered Susie, "Now I understand," and her eyes shone with joy as she realized, "I have the very same Father! It's my wonderful heavenly Father that Mr. Neller is singing about!"

With that she hugged her books to her and went to meet Mother with a heart full of joy. Susie had long before received Jesus as her Savior. She too, was a child of the King!

Have you ever thought about being the child of a king? If you are a Christian, you are a child of God, the wealthiest King in the universe. He has more gold and silver and precious treasures than we could ever imagine while living on earth, but we will see them someday because we are saved and we are going to live in His Kingdom. But God also promises to give rewards to those Christians who obey Him and faithfully serve. Let's find out more about salvation and these rewards in our lesson today.

HE (for Authority): In Revelation 22:12 Jesus spoke of His return. He said, "Behold (listen closely), I come quickly (I come suddenly). And My reward is with Me (Jesus has a reward) to give to every man (to every believer) according as his work shall be" Jesus will give different rewards to believers, depending on the work that they have done in this life. It will be too late to start working for Jesus when He comes, for He said, "My reward is with Me." If you are saved and want to receive His rewards, you must work for them now. No one knows when Jesus will come again. The only way you can be sure that you are ready for Him is to live for Him each day. Then you can look forward to receiving His reward when He comes.

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 salvation and about the reward that Jesus has for Christians to earn.

OUTLINE OF THE DOCTRINE

I. Rewards Explained

A. What are rewards?

LESSON PLAN

Rewards are given to a person for doing a good job. Sometimes fathers offer their children rewards for bringing home good report cards from school. God offers rewards to His children for serving Him while here on earth.

B. Why does God offer us rewards?

A father does not have to give his son or daughter a reward for a good report card. He promises a reward because he wants to help his child work hard at his studies. God offers His children rewards to encourage them. He does not have to give them rewards. It is a believer's duty to do what is right simply because they know it is what God wants them to do. But God knows that his children need inspiration, so He is eager to help them try their very best to do good works. He uses rewards to encourage His children to work hard and do the right things.

C. What will the rewards be?

If Mom or Dad promises a reward for doing well, the son or daughter wants to know what the reward will be. Jesus gave a parable that suggests that one reward is to rule over one or more cities, when He is king of the earth for 1000 years (Lk 19:12-19; Rev 20:6). Other than that God doesn't tell us exactly what the rewards will be. The Bible speaks of "crowns," but that also may refer to a believer's rule over one or more cities. Whatever, the reward is, we know that it will be worth all the effort we put forth to earn it.

D. Why should a believer want God's reward?

The main purpose for a believer's existence is to glorify God. A believer is satisfied and joyful when he glorifies God but he is dissatisfied and unhappy when he lives for himself. So the purpose for earning a reward is to better serve God, not to benefit ourselves in some way. So if a believer is rewarded a city to rule, he can lead that city in the worship and praise of God. The believer must not be selfish when he works for a reward.

E. How can a believer receive a reward?

Some children get discouraged because no matter how hard they work, there is always someone else that is better and gets the reward. They get the best grades in school or win all the contests. It seems that it makes no difference how much some children try to win a race, someone else is always faster. But it should be known that God does not reward a person for his abilities, but for his faithfulness. The ones who work hard and keep on obeying the Lord day by day are the ones who will receive the rewards from the Lord (1 Cor 4:2; Rev 2:10). What are some important commands that a believer should keep?

1. Mk 12:30 – **Love God.**
2. Jn 13:34 – **Love** one another
3. . Acts 1:8 – **Witness** for Christ.
4. Eph 6:10—**Be strong** in the Lord.
5. 1 Th 5:17 – **Pray** without ceasing.
6. 1 Pet 5:6 – **Humble yourselves.**

WE: We should work for rewards, not to make us look important, but to better serve God and glorify Him.

II. Rewards Examined – contrasted with salvation

A. Salvation is a gift; rewards are earned.

1. Salvation cannot be earned by good works. Jesus paid the full price for salvation (Rom 6:23; Eph 2:8-9)...
2. Rewards are earned by the good works of a believer 1 Cor 3:13-14).

B. Salvation cannot be lost; rewards can be lost.

1. Salvation depends on Jesus' promise to give eternal life and His power to keep His promise (Jn 10:28-29).
2. Rewards depend on the believer's trust in the Lord to do good works with the right motives and to rely on Him to remain faithful in his obedience (1 Cor 3:13, 15; Jn 15:5; Phil 4:13).

LESSON PLAN

Illustration from 1 Cor 3:11-15: The Christian's life is compared to building a temple. The foundation of the temple is Christ, which pictures the believer's salvation in Christ. The blocks that are laid on the foundation represent the works of a believer. His good works are like gold, silver and precious stone; his bad works are like wood, hay and straw. Make a long red block to represent the foundation; it was made by the blood of Christ shed on the cross. The building blocks to be laid on the foundation can be blocks covered in gold, silver and blue foil to represent the good works or brown blocks to represent the bad works. Let the children put the building blocks on the foundation. When all of the blocks are used, then tell them that God will test their building with fire. The building blocks made of gold, silver and precious stones will not be hurt by the fire and neither will the good works of a believer. The believer will receive a reward for the good works that survive the fire. But the building blocks of wood, hay and straw will be burned up by the fire and so will the bad works of the believer. As a result, he will lose his reward, but he will not lose his salvation, because Christ's work (the foundation) will survive the fire. (If you do not want to make blocks, you can make a drawing on a whiteboard or cut out the pieces from a cardboard box.) By using a visual aid, it will make the lesson more clear to the children and if they can handle the pieces, it will make a greater impression on their minds.

C. Salvation must come first; rewards must follow salvation.

1. Salvation is the foundation of the believer's life. His faith in Christ's good works is the first decision that he can make (Jn 6:28-29).

2. Rewards are built on the foundation of faith in Christ for salvation. All the works of a person before salvation are like filthy rags (Isa 64:6): It is expected that a Christian will produce good works after he is saved because he is a new creation in Christ (2 Cor 5:17; Eph 2:10).

D. Salvation depends on Jesus' good works; rewards depend on the believer's good works.

1. God looks at Jesus' work on the cross and is pleased to save those that believe in Jesus (Jn 1:12; 2 Cor 5:18-21).

2. God looks at the believer's works and He examines the heart of a believer to see if it was done with the correct motive and with the right spirit (Heb 4:13; Jn 4:23-24). Good motives for doing good deeds are important (i.e., there will be no reward for helping your parents if you complained and grumbled as you did your work).

E. Salvation is received now; rewards are received in the future.

1. Salvation must be received now (Jn 1:12); it cannot be received after a person dies (Lk 16:19-24). (Note: there is a future aspect to salvation, but it is based on receiving salvation now.)

2. Rewards for the Christian will be decided at the judgment seat of Christ (2 Cor 5:10). This will take place when the believers are taken to Heaven in the Rapture. God gives many blessings to believers now as a part of his salvation, but rewards are the result of his works after salvation (Rev 22:12).

WE: We need to be saved before we think of earning a reward. Are you certain that you are saved? God wants you to know whether or not you are saved (1 Jn 5:11-13). When we know we are saved, then we should do good works and earn the rewards that God offers to us (Eph 2:8-10; Tit 2:11-15). If Jesus came today to take all of the believers to Heaven, would you be happy because you are saved or would you be terrified, because you would be left on the earth to suffer and probably be killed in a terrible war? If you were going to have your works judged today, would you receive a reward or would you have no reward? Some Christians will be happy when Jesus comes, but others will be very sad. Jesus wants to give you a reward, but you must earn it.

BE (for Action): Someday soon the Lord is going to come. He tells us in Rev 22:12 that it will be very suddenly. He will not give us any warning. He will suddenly appear to all who have received Him and take them home to His Father's house in Heaven. Our only warning is the message in the Bible. First, we are warned to be saved; and second, we are encouraged to work faithfully for the Lord; and third, we are to look for Him to come every day. If Jesus came back today would you be ready? Have you received Him as your Savior? If you have not, the Lord will not take you to Heaven; He will leave you here on earth. I want you to be ready to go to Heaven. If you need to receive Jesus as your Savior, please stay after class is dismissed and I will help you to make that decision. (Pray for the children.)