

LESSON PLAN

FULL ASSURANCE

Lk 7:44-50; Titus 3:4-8; John 10:27-30; Eph 2:8-10; I Jn 5:13

Lesson Memory Verse: John 10:28 - "And I give unto them eternal life: and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."

Lesson Aim: Teach children the basis for salvation so they can rest upon God's promise of salvation.

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

KEY (for Attention): Ask children to tell you of one thing about which they are absolutely sure (i.e. they are sure of their name, age, address, grade in school, number in family, etc.). These are all things which we would be foolish to doubt. There is another thing which we can be completely sure about: once we truly ask Jesus to save us, we **know** that we will go to heaven someday.

HE (for Authority): In John 10:28 Jesus made an exciting promise to all those who believe in Him. He said that He would give each believer a gift of life that would never end ("eternal life"). Those who accept Jesus as their Savior will never have to fear that they will die and go to hell because Jesus promised that they would "never perish." Jesus explained, too, that He is holding on to us. He has saved us, and no one can grab us away from Him ("pluck" us out of His "hand").

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 see from God's Word why we can be completely sure that, once Jesus has saved us, we are saved forever.

Note: Be careful not to give children false assurance. These truths apply only to those who have sincerely received Jesus Christ as their Savior.

OUTLINE OF THE DOCTRINE

I. THE PERFECTION OF JESUS CHIRST.

A. Believers are not perfect.

Assurance of salvation does not depend on any works of a believer. His works are not perfect, so his assurance will not be perfect if he trusts in his "good" works. If he depends on his good works for the assurance of salvation, he will think that he has lost his salvation when he sins. Since there is no believer that is perfect (Rom 7:14-24; 1 Jn 1:8-10), a believer that depends on his works for salvation will never have the assurance of salvation.

WE: We must not depend on our good works for the assurance of our salvation.

B. Jesus Christ is perfect.

Jesus Christ never sinned. He was born without sin and He lived a life without one sin; there was no sin in Him (1 Jn 3:5). He was tempted in all points like ordinary people, but He did not sin (Heb 4:15). He was mistreated by sinful men, but He always did what was right (1 Pet 2:22-23). He was perfect in His life on earth and is a perfect priest for believers in Heaven (Heb 7:26).

WE: We believe that Jesus Christ is the one and only perfect Savior for us.

C. Jesus Christ's salvation is perfect.

Jesus did not die for His sins; He died on the cross for the sins of everyone else (1 Pet 2:24). As He died He said, "It is finished" (Jn 19:30). His work for the salvation of sinners was done. God had made Jesus, who knew no sin, to be the sin offering for the whole world. Then God put the perfect works of Jesus on the records of those that received Jesus as their Savior (2 Cor 5:21). This completed a perfect salvation for sinners that believed and received God's gift.

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WE: We believe our salvation depends completely on Christ's righteousness (perfect works and perfect life). As a result, we have full assurance that we have been saved since we put our trust in Jesus Christ's work for us. We also believe that we will be saved forever.

II. THE PROMISES OF JESUS CHRIST.

- A. Believers are the children of God – Jn 1:12.
- B. Believers have eternal life, are saved and are not condemned – Jn 3:15-18.
- C. Believers have passed from death to life – Jn 5:24.
- D. Believers will not be cast out – Jn 6:37
- E. Believers shall never perish or be plucked from God's hand – Jn 10:28-29

WE: We thank God for these wonderful promises, which give us our assurance of salvation (see 1 Jn 5:11-13).

III. THE POWER OF JESUS CHRIST.

- A. Jesus is God, the Creator of all things – Jn 1:1-3
- B. Jesus' miracles proved He is God – Mt 8-9.
- C. Jesus death broke the Devil's power over death – Heb 2:14
- D. Jesus' resurrection guarantees eternal life to believers – Jn 11:25-26

WE: We trust in the power of Jesus Christ to save us from our sins and to keep us saved forever (Jn 10:28-30).

APPLICATION OF THE DICTRINE: "Ginny Learns a Lesson"

"Hello, Uncle Fred," Ginny murmured glumly as she slipped into her chair at the dining room table.

"Hi, Uncle Fred," Corky echoed as he plopped himself down across the table from his sister.

"Well, I say! What a pair of sad kids!" Uncle Fred chuckled, looking from Ginny to Corky and back again. "What seems to be the trouble here?" But Ginny and Corky were silent.

"I think I can explain," said Father. "You see, Fred, the children had been counting on going to camp for a week as soon as school lets out for the summer. They have to be registered by Friday and, as much as I would love to see them go, I've found I just won't have the money to send them this year."

"It's okay, Dad. We really do understand. It's just that the bad news hit us kind of hard this morning, didn't it, Gin?" Corky tried to smile. "Maybe we'll get to go next summer. Come on; let's eat before all this great food that Mom fixed gets cold!"

Dinner that Monday evening was a quiet meal. Everyone seemed to be lost in his own thoughts. But after the meal was over when Ginny and Corky had gone upstairs to do their homework, Uncle Fred questioned Father about camp. When he learned that it was a wonderful Christian camp where Corky and Ginny would study the Bible as well as swim and hike and ride horses, he said, "I'd like to see my favorite nephew and niece go. I don't have a family, you know. I have a fair amount of money in savings. Let me send them to camp this summer as a special surprise gift."

"But, Fred, we can't let you do that!" said Father.

"Why not?" asked Uncle Fred. "I'm your older brother and Ginny and Corky are my nephew and niece. What are families for anyway? Let me do it."

Father smiled. "Okay, Fred. You win. I'll call the kids and you can tell them the good news."

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Ginny's and Corky's eyes were as big as saucers as they listened to Uncle Fred's plan. "How can we ever thank you, Uncle Fred?" Corky said beaming. Ginny gave Uncle Fred a big hug and then Mother ordered them off to bed.

Two days later on Wednesday morning, Corky whistled as he dressed for school. On the way to the bus stop he noticed that Ginny was very quiet. "Say, Gin, what's wrong?" Corky questioned. "How can you be sad when Uncle Fred promised he would send us to camp? I can see Camp Crystal already!"

Ginny frowned. "Look, Corky, don't get your hopes up too high. What if Uncle Fred forgets? What if he changes his mind? What if he doesn't really have as much money as he said? We probably won't get to camp at all."

Corky stared at his sister. "Ginny," he said, "has Uncle Fred ever lied to you?"

"No."

"Then how can you possibly think those things?"

"I don't know," Ginny grumbled. "I'm just worried, that's all. It's already Wednesday and he hasn't come over with the money. We need the money by Friday, you know."

"Well, you can worry all you want, Gin. But I'm going to be happy this week, and I'm going to start planning for camp! I believe Uncle Fred. He promised to send us to camp and I know he'll keep his word!"

All week long Corky hummed and sang and made plans about what to take to camp. All week long Ginny moped. She was just plain miserable. Mother and Father couldn't understand what was wrong.

Finally, Friday afternoon came. That night would be the deadline for camp registration. Corky and Ginny were setting the table for dinner. Ginny was as somber as ever. Suddenly the doorbell rang.

"Anybody home?" The front door opened and Uncle Fred stepped into the living room. Corky was overjoyed. Along with Mother and Father, he hurried to greet Uncle Fred who was carrying some large mysterious packages. "I thought perhaps you could use these, Corky. They're a must for campers." Uncle Fred pushed two big boxes at Corky who began tearing at the wrappings like an excited puppy.

"Oh, boy! A knapsack and a sleeping bag! Thanks a lot, Uncle Fred!"

"You are very welcome, Corky. But, by the way, where is Ginny?" Everyone looked around. In the excitement no one had noticed that Ginny was missing. "Ginny!" Uncle Fred called. "We need you in the living room!"

Ginny started down the stairs. As she reached the bottom, Uncle Fred placed two boxes in front of her.

"Which one will you open first, honey? Why, Ginny, you look so troubled."

"Oh, Uncle Fred," Ginny cried. "I can't take these presents. I don't deserve them. All week I was sure you would forget or something. I didn't believe your promise, Uncle Fred. I was wrong to worry. I see that now, and I'm really ashamed. How can you ever forgive me?"

Uncle Fred put a big strong arm around Ginny's shoulders. "Ginny, it's not very hard for me to forgive you. I understand what you have been through this week. You see, I once doubted a promise myself. When I asked the Lord Jesus Christ to save me, He came into my heart and changed my life. He promised that He would never leave me nor forsake me. I read in His Word that He would come back someday and take me to Heaven. God's promises were very clear, but often I would begin to be afraid inside. I would wonder if He really would take me to Heaven. At last it troubled me so much that I went to see my pastor. He read to me some verses from the Bible and asked me if I'd ever known God to lie. Of course, I told him God could not lie. 'Then,' he said, 'you must believe God's Word and stop treating Him like a liar. Your salvation does not depend on you. It depends on God!' That settled the matter for me. Since then, I've simply trusted God."

"Ginny, you doubted the word of a man, but I doubted the Word of God! Since God forgave me, I can certainly forgive you. Now, Ginny, open your presents!"

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Ginny smiled at Uncle Fred. She reached for the bigger of the two gifts and began to untie the ribbon. "Uncle Fred," she said, "worrying is a sin, isn't it? I'm sorry I have been worrying. What you said about doubting salvation has been true for me, too. I've asked Jesus to save me and I really meant it, but sometimes I worry and wonder if I really will go to Heaven when I die. That is foolish, isn't it? This week my doubts made me miserable when I could have been happy, looking forward to camp. I'm not going to doubt anymore and live an unhappy life. And I'm not going to doubt God anymore either. I'm going to believe Him and look forward to Heaven. I know now that I'm going to Camp Crystal, but I'm even more certain that I'm going to Heaven!"

BE (for Action): Are you sure that you are saved today? (Have the children bow their heads.) Raise your hand if you have asked Jesus to save you and you meant it with all your heart. If any of you are not sure that you are saved, I will be happy to talk to you about it after class. God wants each of you to be sure that you are saved. (Close your class with prayer for each of them to be saved and to know it.)