

=BIBLE DOCTRINES=

Lesson 4

The Freeness of Salvation

Scripture: John 19:13-37; Hebrews 9:11-14; Romans 6:23

Objects to have:

A gift-wrapped package

Your Bible.

Introducing the lesson:

Two boys were racing each other. They were racing to the swimming pool to see who could jump in first. They raced through the gate of the fence around the pool without looking to see which end of the pool it was. The first boy jumped in. The boy should not have jumped into that end of the pool, for the water was too deep for him. He did not know how to swim. He sank all the way down to the bottom of the pool. He struggled to come up again, but he sank again—he could not stay on top of the water. The lifeguard was sitting in his chair. He saw the boy jump into the water. He watched him to see whether he could swim. He saw the boy sink. The lifeguard jumped out of his chair. He dived into the pool and swam to where the boy was struggling in the water. He put his arm under the boy's chin and swam to the edge of the pool with him. He took the boy out by the side of the pool. Just as he did that, the second boy came running to the pool. He, too, jumped into the water that was much too deep for him. The lifeguard jumped into the water and saved him, too. By his strong arm, the lifeguard saved those two boys from drowning. Before the lifeguard saved either of the boys, do you think he said, "If you will be a good boy, I will save you from drowning?" No, he didn't do that, did he? He had mercy and love toward both boys. He wanted to save them from drowning.

There was a lady standing on the corner. She was wearing a bright orange belt around her waist and across her shoulder. This lady was a crossing guard. Many children came to her corner. They stopped when they got to the corner. They talked with her a few minutes. She then went out into the street and held her arms out so that no cars would come there. She protected the children while they crossed. One day a child came running to the corner. The child did not stop when he got to the corner—he dashed into the street. The lady crossing guard saw him just in time. She dashed into the street and grabbed the sleeve of his jacket and pulled him back to the sidewalk. Just then a big truck went rolling by. The crossing guard had saved that child from being hit by the truck! With her hand, she saved the child from being hit. The crossing guard did not say to the child, "If you will promise that you'll never disobey me again, I will save you from getting hit by the truck!" No, she did not say that. She had love toward that child. She did not want to see him hit by the truck. She had mercy on him and pulled him to safety, even though the child had disobeyed the rules and dashed into the street.

There was shooting all around. It was wartime. Bullets were flying. Some of the bullets found their marks. Some young American soldiers were wounded. One soldier fell right in the line of fire. His buddy saw him fall. Not even thinking of his own safety, the buddy ran out to pull the wounded soldier to safety. Just as the buddy got the soldier to safety, a bullet hit the buddy. The buddy was killed. The wounded soldier was saved through the protection of the body of his friend. Before the friend saved the wounded soldier, he did not say to him, "If you will give me money every time you get some, I will save you from being killed." He did not do that! He loved his friend. Regardless of the danger to himself, he saved his friend from being killed. He was killed himself.

(Pick up your Bible.) The Bible is a letter to us from God. This letter from God contains some very important information which we need to know. We need to know, for instance, that there is a bad, bad place to which sinners go. This bad, bad place is called Hell. Fire burns forever and ever in Hell. This fire can never be put out. People who go to Hell when they die will suffer forever in the burning fire. God wants us to know about that. God tells us that a way was made to save people from going to Hell. God saves people from Hell by the blood of

Jesus. Two boys were saved by a strong arm from drowning. A child was saved by a strong hand from being hit by a truck. A wounded soldier was saved through the protection of another soldier. Sinners are saved from going to Hell by blood.

Telling the story:

God knows everything. God sees everything. God knows that everybody—every lady and every man and every boy and every girl—is a sinner. God knew that everybody who would live on earth would deserve to go to Hell. No sin can be allowed where God is. Sinners, therefore, deserve to be in Hell. God had to do something to keep people from going to Hell. He decided upon a plan to save people. The plan would include God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Jesus, God the Son, left Heaven. He made Himself into a baby boy. He was born on earth. As all other baby boys, Jesus got bigger and bigger. He was no longer a little baby. He was a little boy. Then He was no longer a little boy; He became a big boy. As the years passed after Jesus came to earth, He grew to be a man. It was almost time for Jesus to do what He had to do so that people could be saved. People could not be saved from going to Hell by just a strong arm as the boys were saved from drowning. People could not be saved from going to Hell by a hand as the child was saved from being hit by a truck. People could not be saved from going to Hell as the soldier was saved by his friend's body. Blood was needed to save people from going to Hell. It would have to be perfect blood. The blood of animals was not good enough. The blood of people was not good enough. The blood would have to be absolutely sinless, perfect blood. Jesus' blood would have to be shed.

The day that Jesus knew was coming did come. Some big, angry crowds of people shouted that Jesus should be crucified. The governor said, "All right, crucify Him." Jesus was led through the streets of the city. He was already in great pain. He was very weak. He had been beaten with a whip. Blood was running down His face from thorns that had scratched Him so badly. He was having to drag a big, heavy cross made of wood. The cross got too heavy; He was too weak to stand up under it. He fell. Even though what He was doing then was very, very hard and very painful, this was not enough to save us from our sin. Blood was needed—Jesus' blood was needed.

Jesus was led outside the city wall. He was made to climb a rocky, dry hill. When He got to the top of the hill, He was laid on the cross which had been laid on the ground. His arms were stretched out on the crossbeam of the cross. Roman soldiers nailed His hands to the cross. They nailed His feet to the bottom part of the cross. Then the cross was raised and dropped into the hole on the top of the hill. There Jesus hung on the cross. People could not be saved yet. Jesus had not done enough. It was morning time. When it got to be late after lunchtime, Jesus decided to let His body die. The living part of Jesus left His body. The soldiers saw that He was dead. One of the soldiers took his spear and stuck it into the side of Jesus. When he pulled it out, blood and water came flowing from the side of Jesus.

Jesus had not done enough yet to save people from going to Hell. A kind friend took the dead body of Jesus from the cross. He put the dead body into a grave. It stayed there for three days and three nights. After being there that long, the living part of Jesus went into the body again. His body did not stay dead. Jesus came from the grave. He was alive! He had not done enough yet to save sinners. He had to go back to Heaven with His blood and put it on the altar there. Now, all that needed to be done had been done. Now the plan of salvation was finished.

We can be saved if we believe that Jesus shed His blood for us. Would the lifeguard have saved the boys if they promised to be good? No, he saved them because he was merciful and loving toward them. Does Jesus save us and someday take us to Heaven if we promise to be good? No, Jesus saves us from going to Hell if we will just trust Him. I have trusted Jesus. I know that I am not going to Hell. I know that I am going to Heaven. I know it because one day I said to Jesus, "Dear Lord, I know that I am a sinner. I know that You shed Your blood so that I might be saved. Wash away my sins with Your blood. Be my Saviour; save me from going to Hell." You can know that you are going to Heaven, too, in just this same way. There were people who had died before

Jesus finished the plan of salvation. Those people were saved because they believed that Jesus would shed His blood for them.

See this pretend gift? Salvation is a gift. We cannot do anything to earn salvation. We just have to say to Jesus, "I want that gift of going to Heaven. Please, may I have it?" Jesus will give it to you. You can be saved. You can go to Heaven and not to Hell when you die. Our Bible verse tells us that. (Open your Bible to John 3:16. Read the verse to the children. Have them memorize it with you.)

LEARN OUR BIBLE VERSE: John 3:16, *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*