

LESSON 73

Born Again!

1 PETER 1:3-9



BIBLE TRUTH

GOD PLANNED TO SAVE HIS CHILDREN THROUGH THE SACRIFICE OF HIS SON

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 151)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is the Gospel?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is the Gospel?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: snack food and beverage

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20–30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES: coloring page for NT Lesson 73—one for each child; markers or crayons

Born Again

SUPPLIES: a piece of tarnished metal—brass or silver; metal cleaner, or brass or silver cleaner, as appropriate; soft polishing cloth

Believing What We Cannot See

SUPPLIES: one electric fan; some feathers; polished gold ring

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60–75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today's lesson the children will learn how valuable God's salvation is in Christ Jesus. The children will hear the phrase "born again," which they first heard in John 3:16.

Start by telling the class that in our Bible passage today, God tells us (through Peter) that he has caused all Christians to be "born again" (1 Peter 1:3). Tell the children that even though we are breathing, we are born "dead" in our sin. That means that unless God causes our spirits to be born again, we won't love God.

Have all the children lie down and pretend to be dead. Tell them that when they hear the words "Jesus died on the cross for our sins" they should wake up and stretch their arms just like they were waking up in the morning. Tell them to stay down until they hear about how Jesus rose again.

Continue by saying, "Jesus, God's only Son, was born in Bethlehem. He grew up and never did anything wrong. He healed the sick and told everyone about his Father in heaven. People were angry with Jesus. They arrested him and put him to death. But all of this was a part of God's plan. Jesus died on the cross for our sins and rose again to new life! (The children should rise up at this point.) The story of Jesus death and resurrection is called the gospel."

Ask the following questions:

- Why do we believe the story about Jesus?
(Because the Bible is God's truth and it tells us about him.)
- Can you see the wind?
(No, we cannot see the wind.)
- How do we know that there is wind if we cannot see it?
(We see what the wind does. Hold up a piece of paper and blow on it to demonstrate.)

Explain that even though we cannot see Jesus—he is in heaven with God—we know that he is real because of way he touches our lives. When we believe in Jesus he puts his Spirit in our hearts. That fills our hearts with such joy that we can't even find words to tell everyone how wonderful we feel.

Take time to pray and thank God for new life. Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 151, “Born Again!,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- What is Peter talking about?
(Peter is talking about Jesus and the hope we have because we believe in Jesus.)

- What does the Bible say happens to people when God changes their heart and they believe?
(The Bible tells us they are born again.)

Where Is the Gospel? _____

How does today’s Bible story fit into God’s greater plan of redemption?

Peter gives us a glimpse into the Old Testament prophets and their lives. In 1 Peter 1:10–12 he writes that the prophets had a sense that the things they were writing were not for themselves but for a future generation. As a result they searched intently into the words they proclaimed. They knew salvation was hidden in God’s prophetic words. Imagine Isaiah when God gave him the fifty-third chapter of his book. Isaiah knew those words did not concern the immediate situation in Israel, and he longed to understand just how God would bring salvation.

Even the angels long to look into the mystery of God’s plan revealed. The amazing thing is that we know—and can believe. That plan, that mystery, is the gospel!

- What did Jesus do on the third day after his death?
(He rose again.)

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking the following questions:

- What are trials?
(Trials are the hard things that come to us. God uses them to help us learn to trust him.)
- What are some of the hard things or trials that you have to go through?
(Some examples of the trials children might go through are trusting God when they go to the doctor to get a shot, or when parents go away overnight and someone else is watching them, or when they can't get the special toy they want. In all these difficult situations, God is teaching children that they need to trust him and love him more than other things.)
- To what does God compare our faith?
(God compares our faith to gold, which is extremely beautiful, very costly, and precious.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20-30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 73—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- What is the child in the picture doing?
(The child is praying.)

- Can the child see Jesus while he prays?

(No, the child cannot see Jesus.)

- How do we know that Jesus is really in heaven if we cannot see him?

(The Bible tells us that Jesus is in heaven and we believe by faith in what the Bible says. Faith is a gift that God gives us. God places his Spirit in the hearts of those he saves so that they can believe with confidence that what the Bible says is true.)

Born Again

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a piece of tarnished metal—brass or silver
- ✓ metal cleaner, or brass or silver cleaner, as appropriate
- ✓ soft polishing cloth

Bring in a piece of tarnished metal like an old candlestick or piece of flatware and a good instant metal cleaner or polish. If you only have paste cleaner it will take a little elbow grease, but it will still work. You will also want a soft polishing cloth. If you don't have tarnished metal, hold a piece of brass over a campfire or a candle. It will get sooty and tarnished and can then be cleaned for the illustration.

Read 1 Peter 1:3 to the children, and when you get to the place where it says we were born again, explain to the children that our sin is like the tarnish on the candlestick (or whatever you are using). Sin has taken what was once beautiful and made it ugly. Explain to the children that sin is disobeying God. Tell the children that when God changes our hearts and we believe in Jesus, we are born again. Explain to them that God writes his law on our hearts and changes us so that we want to obey him. In 2 Corinthians 5:17 we read that the old has gone and the new has come.

Take the candlestick, or other object, and clean it. Then show them how shiny it is underneath. Show them the rag, which is dirty, and tell them that is like our sin.

Believing What We Cannot See

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ one electric fan
- ✓ some feathers
- ✓ polished gold ring

Read 1 Peter 1:8 which talks about loving and believing in the Lord although we cannot see him. Ask the children if they know anything else that we believe but cannot see. Then tell them the wind is like that. Ask them if they can see the wind. Then set the fan on or near a table on which you have piled some feathers. Ask the children what they think will happen to the feathers when you turn the fan on. Turn on the fan and watch their reaction. Ask them what happened and help them understand that the wind, which cannot be seen, blew the feathers.

Set the whole experiment up again and ask them what will happen when you turn the fan on. Several of the children should be able to say the feathers will blow away. Make a point to help them see that by believing the fan will blow away the feathers they actually believe in something they cannot see.

We believe in and love God with all our hearts in spite of the fact that we cannot see him. We trust the Word of God, which teaches us that he is real, and we see all the creation around us, which he has made.

Remind the children how God compares our faith to gold. Tell them how precious the ring is that you brought and pass it around the class, allowing the children to touch it. Tell them that gold is very valuable and that is the reason special rings are made out of it. Often wedding rings are made of gold. Tell them that God thinks our faith is so special that he compares it with pure gold, refined gold. He even tells us that our faith is more valuable than gold. Faith is believing that Jesus is real and that he died for our sins on the cross and rose again so that we could be forgiven and be with him in heaven.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Take time at the end of class to thank God for what you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as a way for the children to remember today's lesson.

LESSON 73 - BORN AGAIN!

