

Lesson 1

SEEKING GOD FOR SALVATION

check it out!

Imagine if you were swimming in a lake or the ocean and you began to drown. Right before you went under, someone threw you a life preserver. Would you be thankful? Of course you would! They saved your life! The Bible says sin leads to death, but Jesus, the Son of God, leads to life. We seek many things in this life. We may seek popularity, wealth, fame, or just our own selfish desires. But the most important thing we need is to be saved. We need to seek God for salvation through Jesus Christ. In our Bible lesson today, we see that men from the East came to Jerusalem looking for the savior of the world. They knew how important a savior was and they needed to seek Him.

MAIN FOCUS

Salvation

MAIN POINT

ONLY JESUS CAN
SAVE US FROM SIN

MAIN WORD

“Whoever has the Son
has life; whoever does
not have the Son of
God does not have life.”

1 John 5:12

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ORDER OF SERVICE

COUNTDOWN VIDEO

90 sec., 3 min., or 5 min.

INTRO VIDEO

Lenny

PHRAZE CRAZE

ONLY JESUS CAN
SAVE US FROM SIN

WORD DROP

1 John 5:12

SERMON

“Through the Eyes
of the Wise Guys”

TIME BLASTER SKIT

George

STORY TIME

“The Life Jacket”

TIC TAC TOE

Review Game

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Illustrated Sermon

“Through the Eyes of the Wise Guys”

Supplies Needed: Football, dry erase board, red dry erase marker, black permanent marker, dry erase board cleaner, paper towel or piece of cloth

Preparation: Read Matthew 2:1-12; you will write the word SIN with a permanent marker on a dry erase board. Then take a red dry erase marker and trace the word sin. Both markers will wipe off clean. (Trust me, this works but practice it first to be sure.)

Have you ever been in a situation where you had a problem you just couldn't fix? I want to tell you a story about a young man named John who was the captain of the football team. (Pull out football.) He was the best athlete in his high school. John's grades weren't so good though. He had been warned several times that if grades didn't improve he would be kicked off the team. He was failing English. It all came down to one test in his English class. He was told by his teacher and his coach that if he didn't get at least an 85% on the test, he would not be able to finish the football season. Finally the day of the big test came. John nervously took the test and the next day when he got his score he was horrified to see that got an 80%. He was devastated. He really studied for this test, but it just wasn't good enough. He went to his teacher and begged her to let him take the test again. He knew the only way to get through this was if his teacher showed him grace. His teacher saw how upset he was and his persistence, so she decided let him take the test again. This time he got an 89%. He was so thankful that his teacher gave him a second chance. Sometimes we need someone to show us mercy even when we don't deserve it.

In the Bible story today we are going to look through the eyes of the wise guys. You see, wise men came from the east to Jerusalem to look for the Messiah. The Messiah was prophesied about many years earlier that He would come and save His people. The Jewish people were anxiously waiting for their savior, especially because they were being ruled by the Romans. They were not free people. They had a real problem and needed a savior. They wanted to be free from the Romans. The Wise Men saw the star over Bethlehem and knew it was because of the Messiah. They travelled far to find Him, because they were seeking the much needed savior.

Here are three reasons we need to seek God for salvation:

1. WE HAVE A SIN PROBLEM

Up here I have a permanent marker. (Pull out sharpie and dry erase board.) What would happen if I write on this board with a permanent marker? (Write the word “SIN” on the board.) The Bible says that the wages of sin is death. Wages are what we get paid for doing something. Now there are two kinds of death.

Continued...

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Illustrated Sermon

Continued...

One is a physical death. For example, if you disobey your mom when she says don't play in the road, and then you get hit by a car, you may very well die from that. There is also a spiritual death. That is when you reject God over and over until you can no longer hear His voice. The Bible says that sin leads to death. Look at your neighbor and say, "you got a problem!" We all have this problem because we all have sinned.

2. WE CAN'T FIX OUR SIN PROBLEM

(Pull out cleaner and begin trying to clean board.) No matter how hard I try I cannot get this sin cleaned. I can't give a lot of money in the offering to get clean from sin. I can't just be a good person. My parents can't fix my sin problem. Being popular won't get rid of sin. Many people have tried different things to separate themselves from this sin problem. The fact is it can't be done. I can't do anything on my own to get free from sin. That's why the wise men traveled so far to find the Savior. They knew how important it was to have someone save them from their sins.

3. JESUS IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN FIX OUR SIN PROBLEM

The Bible says that without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sins. You see, in Bible times the people of God had to sacrifice an animal in order to have their sins forgiven. The word "sacrifice" means to "give up something". They had to bring an animal to be killed and when the blood was poured out, their sins were forgiven. God required the animal sacrifice to be a spotless, perfect animal. It could not have a broken leg, or be missing an eye, or have a disease. Did you know Jesus is called the Lamb of God? (Allow for response.) He is called that because He became the perfect sacrifice that we needed to have our sins forgiven. He took the place of animal sacrifice. He was beaten and whipped. He had nails driven into His hands and feet. His blood was poured out for us. He was the perfect lamb that we needed. (Take red marker and begin writing over the word sin.) This red marker represents the blood of Jesus. We must seek Jesus for salvation just like the Wise Men did. The Bible says that if we confess our sins, God will forgive us and clean us from our sin. (When you are done writing over the permanent marker with the red one, wipe the board clean.)

Prayer Time

Let's pray and ask God to forgive us of our sins. Let's ask Jesus to search our hearts. Let's ask Him to forgive us of our sin and let's seek Him for the salvation we need. (This would be a good opportunity to lead kids in a prayer of salvation.)

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TIME BLASTER SKIT

(The Time Blaster Skit can be used with a puppet or a live person. You can set the skit up as if you are bringing the character back from Bible times.)

Hey everybody! What's up? My name is George. I'm one of the wise men who traveled a long way to find the Messiah. We knew all about the prophecies of the coming savior, so when we saw His star in the sky we knew He had come. We traveled a long, long way, following the star to find Him. We knew it would be a difficult journey, but we also knew that seeking God for salvation was more important. When we arrived in Bethlehem we saw the star and went to it. There, we found a couple who had a baby boy. That baby's name was Jesus. We knew right then and there that we had found the savior of the world. It was amazing! Right in front of us was the baby Jesus in a manger, only one who could take away our sin. We spent a lot of time seeking a savior and we had finally found Him! Man! What a feeling! Well, I have to head back to the far East. It looks like the camels are ready. I gotta go! See ya!

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Review Questions

1. Who are the main characters in today's Bible lesson?
Answer: The Wise Men
2. Who were the Wise Men looking for?
Answer: The Messiah (Jesus)
3. Why were the Jewish people wanting a Messiah?
Answer: To be freed from the Romans
4. The first reason we need salvation is: We have a _____ problem.
Answer: Sin
5. The second reason we need salvation is: We can't _____ our sin problem.
Answer: Fix
6. The third reason we need salvation is: _____ is the only one who can fix our sin problem.
Answer: Jesus
7. According to the Main Word: If you have the Son, you have _____.
Answer: Life
8. What are the wages for committing sin?
Answer: Death
9. According to the Main Point, Jesus is the only one who can save us from what?
Answer: Sin
10. Where is the Main Word verse found?
Answer: 1 John 5:12