

WEEK 3

OUR FELLOWSHIP IS RESTORED

SALVATION IS PERMANENT

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

THE FOUR KEYS . . .

KEY VERSE

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Romans 11:29

KEY IDEAS

1. Salvation cannot be lost because it cannot be earned.
2. Salvation transforms us into a new creation.
3. When we are saved, the Holy Spirit seals us for all eternity.

KEY PASSAGE

Ephesians 2:8-9, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Ephesians 1:13-14

KEY PRINCIPLES



EVERY CHILD SHOULD KNOW . . .

that salvation is eternal, permanent, and cannot be lost.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD FEEL . . .

relieved that salvation is neither earned nor lost on the basis of our works but on the goodness of God and grace He bestows upon us through faith in Jesus.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD BE ABLE TO . . .

understand what it means that the Holy Spirit seals us for eternity. As Christians, we have an eternal inheritance and a heavenly home.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD WANT . . .

to accept the gift of salvation that cannot be lost and tell others the Good News and hope of Jesus.

INTRODUCTION

Salvation is a gift of God that comes only by grace through faith in Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins. By trusting in Jesus, we accept his payment for us, which covers all sins we commit past, present, and future. Christ's atoning sacrifice on the cross for our sin is enough to reconcile us to God, and once we accept that gift, the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all our unrighteousness. This doesn't mean we won't ever sin again, but it does mean that our sin is no longer counted against us. We can repent and be forgiven and know that we still have eternal life in Jesus when we mess up. Since we cannot earn salvation by our works, it cannot be lost when we sin as a Christian. Salvation transforms us from sinners without hope to sons and daughters of God, and that cannot be undone. Once we are saved, we are given the Holy Spirit who works in our lives to produce fruit and bring conviction when we sin. This is a sure sign of our salvation.

OPENING ILLUSTRATION

Begin by dividing the class into two teams. Draw a line down the center of the whiteboard and assign each side of the board to a team. Then give each team a dry erase marker and instruct them to designate one person to be their artist who will draw on the board. Tell the class that you will set a timer for 2 minutes. When the timer begins, each team will quietly plan amongst themselves to come up with things that transform and cannot be transformed back to their original state. One example might be a caterpillar to a butterfly. The team's artist will draw it on their side of the board. The goal of the game is to be the team that has the most drawings when the timer goes off. At the end of the game, talk about how when we are saved, we are like these things that transform and cannot be transformed back to our original state. The Bible says that when we are in Christ, we are a new creation. The old version of us was a sinner without hope, lost in sin. But the new version of us is that we are saved by God's grace, freed from our bondage to sin, and changed by the Holy Spirit living in us so that we desire the things of God more than we desire our sin.

KEY IDEAS

Read Ephesians 2:8-9, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Ephesians 1:13-14. Then use the following points for guided discussion.

- Salvation cannot be lost because it cannot be earned.
 - How do we know salvation cannot be lost? The Bible is clear that salvation comes only by grace through faith in Jesus. (Eph. 2:8) Since we are not responsible for earning our salvation, we also are not responsible for losing it. The power to save is only in Jesus, not ourselves, and God does not lose those He saves (John 10:24-29). Our responsibility is in accepting Jesus's payment for us. He has done all the work for us.
 - If we still sin as Christians, but we don't lose salvation, what is the consequence of sin? Unrepented sin in a believer's life still has consequences. Our sin still separates us from a closer walk with God, even though it has been forgiven and won't separate us permanently. (See John 15 for abiding in Christ.)
- Salvation transforms us into a new creation.
 - What kind of new creation do we become? How is the new creation different from the old creation? As a new creation, our fallen nature that is in bondage to sin and looks inwardly is replaced by a new nature that is free in Christ to choose the things of God over sin, looking outwardly to follow Him. The new creation looks like the fruit of the Spirit the more we walk with the Lord and are transformed day by day. (Col. 3:9, Eph. 4:24)
- When we are saved, the Holy Spirit seals us for all eternity.
 - What does it mean to be sealed with the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit is our assurance of salvation and promise of our eternal inheritance in heaven. The seal is God's claim on us, that we belong to Him. (2 Cor. 1:22)

Activity

Ask the class, "What is a seal?" (not the mammal!) A seal could also be referred to as a stamp or brand. It is something that identifies. Show the class an image of cattle branding. Explain the purpose of branding cattle is to show ownership. As Christians, we also have a seal, the Holy Spirit of God who comes to indwell or take up residence in the believer. The Holy Spirit identifies us as God's people who have an eternal inheritance with Him in Heaven. As proof to us, we experience the Holy Spirit working in our lives, transforming us to be more like Jesus, and producing fruit that glorifies God. This gives us an assurance of our salvation.

Prayer

Thank God that salvation is permanent for every person who places their faith in Jesus. Ask God to help you trust in Him and if you have, ask Him to help you feel confident by the Holy Spirit in you that you belong to Him.

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

ACTIVITY

Memorize the key verse Romans 11:29.

Take time this week to sit down with your child and read John 10:22-30. Use the discussion questions below to facilitate conversation about the meaning of this passage.

DISCUSSION

- What did Jesus mean by “My sheep hear my voice”?
Jesus was referring to those who hear His word and believe.
- How do we hear His voice?
By hearing God’s word through reading and sound teaching.
- What from this passage gives us more evidence that our salvation is permanent?
Verse 28 is very clear that those who believe in the Word of God, repent of sin, and turn to Him will have eternal life and never be snatched out of the Father’s hand. Once we become a son or daughter of God, through adoption in Christ by His blood atonement, we can never lose our inheritance.

PRAYER

Thank God that He has given us permanent salvation in Jesus sealed us by His Holy Spirit. Thank Him that He gives us the assurance of our salvation by the work of the Holy Spirit transforming us to be more like Jesus.