



# What Do We Believe?

## Lesson 30

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## Lesson 30: Salvation: Human Response

### Scriptures:

Luke 13:34; 18:17; John 1:12, 13; 3:16-21; Romans 10:9, 10; Ephesians 2:8-10; 3:11, 12

### Lesson Goals:

To help the learner understand the effects of sin in our lives  
 To help the learner understand his or her responsibility to ask God for help  
 To help the learner pray the "sinner's prayer," accepting Jesus as Savior

### Scripture Memory:

**Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God. John 1:12**

### The Lesson:

What if you fell in front of a fast-moving train? What if, because of an injury, you were not able to get out of the way fast enough? What if someone held out a strong arm and offered to save you...to pull you off of the train tracks? Would you reach out and grab that savior's hand, or would you question the reason they wanted to save you, or maybe question their ability to save you? Very likely, you would place your faith in the person offering salvation and hold on to them until you were out of the way of the train.

Sin is the fast-moving train. It is coming, no matter what we do. We can either reach out to the strong arm of Jesus to save us from becoming victims of sin, or we can refuse His help, live a sinful life, and die for all eternity.

Every human sins. Every human, because of our sin, is condemned to die. All sin must be punished. That is just and fair. Every sin has a result. We can be hurt by our sins and/or others can be hurt by our sins. For instance, a lie hurts us and it can also hurt someone else.

God has given us a way that all sins can be paid for and forgiven. That plan involves Jesus, God's Son. He came to the world to live, die, and be resurrected from the dead so that our lives don't have to be forever ruined by sin. He paid the price for our sins. He is willing to save us.

All of us die. There are, according to the Bible, two things that can happen when we die. We can spend all of eternity, after death, either with God or without Him. Being without God is awful punishment. Being with God is the best thing that could ever happen to anyone. The two futures are called Hell (without God) and Heaven (with God).

God has made it possible for every human to spend eternity in Heaven. That means that there is no need for anyone to be without God in time or in eternity. So, what do humans need to do to escape the oncoming train...sin and its penalty? The answer is very simple.

Everyone who wants to be free from the results of sin must accept the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. If we believe that Jesus is God's only Son and that He died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins, we can be saved. The person about to be run down by the train must believe, or have faith, that the person offering help is able to help. We must have that kind of faith in Jesus.

God's part of salvation is giving us a Savior who is real, and really able to help us. Our part in salvation is believing that Jesus is the Savior and have faith that He will do just what God promised.

The simplest thing to do is pray, with faith in God, something like this:

“Father, I accept Jesus as my personal Savior. I believe that He is your only Son and that He came to earth to live a perfect life and die on the cross to pay for my sins. I believe that He rose from the dead and is with you now. I am sorry that I have sinned and am asking for your forgiveness. I want to learn everything I can about You, and I want to learn from You. I will live for You the rest of my life. I pray this prayer in the name of Jesus, Amen.”

When you pray that kind of prayer in faith, God will come into your life and He will give His Holy Spirit to you to live in you and guide you. You can be very sure that He will not ever let you down.

### Life Application:

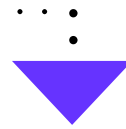
Is that something you are ready to do right now? God is ready, offering the gift of salvation. Your response can be to accept or reject His gift. It is your choice. No one else can choose for you.

Everyone who wants to be free from the results of sin must accept the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. If you believe that Jesus is God’s only Son and that He died on the cross to pay the penalty for your sins, you can be saved. The person about to be run down by the train must believe that the person offering help is able to help. You are being run down by sin. God is offering you help. Believe that He can help you; No one else can. Reach out and accept His help today!

Maybe you have already taken His hand . . . Will you tell others about the help that God offers?



Planning for Lesson 31  
Salvation: Priesthood  
of Believers



- ◆ **Memory Verse Activity** - Review the memory verse many times. Once your students have either memorized the verse or are familiar with it, ask them, “Who does God give the right to become the children of God to?” They should respond, “To those who receive Him; To those who believe on His name.”
- ◆ Bring pictures of speeding trains. Compare these to sin in our lives.
- ◆ Sing “Amazing Love,” “You Are So Kind,” “Amazing Grace,” “I Need The Every Hour,” “Just As I Am,” “Come, And Go With Me,” and “I Have Decided.”
- ◆ Review the “Roman Road to Salvation.” Train your students to share their faith with these verses. (Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, Romans 5:8, Romans 10:9-13)
- ◆ In 1967, Dennis Hensley wrote a short story for the *Michigan Baptist Bulletin* entitled “To Sacrifice a Son: An Allegory.” That story has been circulated for many years and is better known today by the title “The Drawbridge Keeper.” You might want to begin with this story to give an idea of the lesson or end with it and a discussion time. In the story, the drawbridge keeper is faced with a last minute decision to save a train full of people or his small son. In reality, God’s decision to sacrifice His Son in order to offer us salvation was not a spur of the moment decision. It was planned; it was promised; it was prophesied, and it was fulfilled in the death of Jesus Christ.



**Yet to all who received Him,  
to those  
who believed in His name,  
He gave the right  
To become children of God**

**John 1:12**



# Word Search



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Y	D	O	G	F	O	N	E	R	D	L	I	H	C	V
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 to those who \_\_\_\_\_,  
 he \_\_\_\_\_ to become \_\_\_\_\_.  
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**John 1:12**