

LESSON 60

Believe & Confess

ROMANS 10:9-17



BIBLE TRUTH

SALVATION IN CHRIST IS FREE FOR ALL WHO BELIEVE

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 138)

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 60—one for each child; markers or crayons

Pantomime the Verses

Getting It Down

SUPPLIES: puppet; Bible

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 that we must confess our faith and believe it in our heart to be saved.

Today's Bible story presents an important truth for even the youngest children. Some people only remember the confession part of salvation. They falsely think that if a person simply prays a salvation prayer they become a Christian. But the Scripture also requires a deep belief in the heart.

Explain to the children that we can sometimes say one thing with our mouths but believe something else in our heart. That is lying. If you tell your mom you will pick up your toys, but inside you say to yourself "I am not going to pick up my toys," you are telling a lie.

To demonstrate the importance of believing in your heart do the following exercise.

Tell the children that nodding your head or shaking your head are going to represent your heart. If you nod your head yes, that means you are saying yes in your heart. If you shake your head no, you are saying no in your heart. Practice this a couple of times to make sure the class can call out the proper response to your actions, either yes or no.

Then tell them that your words may not always line up with what is in your heart.

Have one of the other teachers ask the following questions, then ask the children what your mouth said and what your heart said.

- Do you like ice cream? (Nod your head yes and say "yes.")
- Do you like mushrooms? (Shake your head no and say "No.")
- Do you like pizza? (Shake your head no and say "yes.")

See if the children can pick up the inconsistency.

- Do you like rainy days? (Nod your head yes but say "No")

Do a few more that you make up. Finally, explain to the children that the Bible tells us that in order to become a Christian, our heart and our voice need to agree. Read Romans 10:9 to them.

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

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 138, “Believe & Confess,” 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:

- In today’s story, what does Paul say we should do?
(We should confess with our mouths that Jesus is Lord and believe in our hearts that God raised him from the dead.)

Where Is the Gospel? _____

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

Romans chapter 10 is filled with gospel truth. We learn that we cannot work our way to heaven but need a righteousness that cannot be earned. We learn that if we believe in our hearts and confess with our mouths, we will be saved. There is no more encouraging verse than Romans 10:13: “*Everyone* who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved” (italics added). It doesn’t say that *some* who call will be saved, or *most* who call will be saved. It doesn’t say that God will put a slip of paper in a bowl for each person who calls upon his name and then pick out five to be saved. It says that *everyone* who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

This, of course, must be considered in light of the verses that came before it. The calling on the name of the Lord is a desperate call based on a realization that we cannot save ourselves, and only the Lord’s work on the cross and his resurrection can bring hope. But, then, if we have that faith, if we believe in the gospel and trust in Jesus, we have this promise: “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved”!

- What does it mean to confess with your mouth?
(That's just another way of saying that we should speak it or say it with our mouths to others. Confession can mean telling what we did wrong or what we believe. Here Paul means to tell others what we believe about Jesus.)
- What does it mean to believe in your heart?
(Your heart is that place where you have hope and trust, love and hate. God wants you to believe with all your heart.)

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

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

- What did Paul mean when he quoted the prophet's words, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news?"
(It is a beautiful thing for people to tell others about Jesus.)
- What is the good news that people tell others about?
(The good news is the message of the gospel that Jesus Christ died on the cross for our sins and then rose again on the third day that we might be made righteous.)
- Why is it important to preach the gospel to those who have never heard?
(The Bible tells us that the gospel story is the power of God unto salvation. It is our joy to share the story with others and watch God use it to open blind eyes. We are all called to share the wonderful news of the gospel.)

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 60—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

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

- **Why is there a cross on the person's heart?**
(The cross represents his belief that Jesus died and was raised from the dead.)
- **Why is there a drop of blood in the heart?**
(To remind us that Jesus shed his blood on the cross to cover our sins.)
- **Who helps a person go from having a sinful, unbelieving heart to a trusting, faith-filled, believing heart?**
(God changes our hearts by the power and work of the Holy Spirit.)

Pantomime the Verses

Use this activity to help the children remember Romans 10:9–10 and understand this somewhat difficult concept.

Teach the class hand motions for this passage. Make up your own or use the following suggestions:

- **Confess with your mouth.**
(Place palm on mouth and drop slowly.)
- **Believe in your heart.**
(Use two index fingers to draw a heart in the air.)
- **Raised him from the dead.**
(Bow down and rise slowly, lifting hands.)
- **Heart believes.**
(Draw another heart.)
- **Mouth confesses.**
(Place palm on mouth and drop slowly.)
- **Saved.**
(Jump up and down with excitement.)

Getting It Down

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ puppet
- ✓ Bible

The following puppet skit will help your class memorize Romans 10:9.

PUPPET: (*mumbling to himself*) How am I going to remember this? How am I ever going to memorize this? Oh, what am I going to do?

TEACHER: What's wrong, Puppet? You look upset.

PUPPET: I am part of a Bible quiz team and I have to memorize Romans 10:9, and I get it all mixed up. Could you help me?

TEACHER: Sure. How can I help?

PUPPET: Do you have a Bible? Can you read it to me and help me remember it? You read it, and I will try to repeat it back to you.

TEACHER: OK, just let me look it up. (*Teacher looks up the verse and then recites it to the puppet.*) "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

PUPPET: OK, here goes. If you confess with your mouth God will raise you from the dead? (*Puppet repeats as a question, not sure if he got it right.*)

TEACHER: Well, you got part of it, but not all of it. If you confess what with your mouth?

PUPPET: What you did wrong?

TEACHER: No, Puppet. I mean what does that scripture say you should confess with your mouth?

PUPPET: Your heart!

TEACHER: No, not your heart. You confess that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead. Let's try again.

PUPPET: OK, here goes. If you confess with your heart and believe with your mouth you will be resurrected!

TEACHER: Puppet, you don't confess with your heart, you believe with your heart. You confess with your mouth. Confess means to say or to speak out. So you speak out what you believe in your heart.

PUPPET: Oh, I get it. You confess with your mouth and believe in your heart!

TEACHER: Yes, now all you have to add is what you confess and what you believe and you got it.

PUPPET: OK. If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord.... *(pauses)* Wait, don't tell me. Oh yes! And believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

TEACHER: You got it!

PUPPET: I got it! I got it!

TEACHER: Why don't we all try it?

Work with the class to memorize the verse.

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.

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