

LESSON 64

From Death to Life

COLOSSIANS 2:1-10



BIBLE TRUTH

SALVATION IS ALL BY GOD'S GRACE

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

SUPPLIES: Bible; puppet (optional)

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 142)

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 64—one for each child; markers or crayons

Dead Is Dead

SUPPLIES: a stuffed toy animal

Not of Works

SUPPLIES: puppet; a plate; chocolate sandwich cookies (Have enough for all the class to get a cookie after the illustration.)

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 we are brought from death to life in salvation.

Start the class by asking the children what it means to be dead. (Make a list of everything they say. For instance, you don't move, you can't breath, you don't wake up, etc.)

Explain that there are two types of death: one is death of the body and the other is death of the spirit. Read Ephesians 2:1 to show them that is exactly what the Bible tells us. You might want a volunteer using a puppet to point out when you say the word "dead" and make a big deal out of it for emphasis.

Explain to the children that we are dead in our sins and can do nothing to reach out to God until he causes our spirit to be alive again. Only then can we follow God.

Have all the children sit in a large circle and put a Bible in the center of the circle. Tell the children to pretend to be dead. Then ask them if they can reach the Bible. (They will say no; if someone is dead they can't move.)

Tell them you are going to play the role of Holy Spirit and make their spirits come alive. When you touch the children have them each, individually, place their hands on top of the Bible. Go around the circle and touch them at random until they are all "made alive."

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 142, "From Death to Life," 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 does it mean to be dead?**
(Dead is when there is no life, no breath, and no ability to move.)

- **What does it mean to be dead in your sin?**
(Dead in sin means that there is no Spirit of God in a person, and there is no movement toward God. A person dead in their sin cannot come toward God. They are stuck in sin.)

- **What does it mean to be made alive in Christ?**
(Jesus can touch our hearts and make them alive again. He can do that because he already took the penalty for our sin on the cross. Jesus took our death so he can give us his life!)

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

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

Where Is the Gospel? _____

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

This second chapter of Ephesians is full of gospel truth. Paul summarizes the gospel message as follows: "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ" (Ephesians 2:13). Paul also refers back to the gospel when he tells us in Ephesians 2:5 that God made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Jesus died on the cross for sinners—his enemies.

The work of Christ on the cross to save sinners is the key to Paul's message here in Ephesians 2. We were objects of God's wrath, but Jesus took on himself the wrath of the Father in order that we, who deserved death, might be made alive in Christ! It is the work of Christ that saves us. This removes all boasting. There is nothing we can do to make ourselves perfect. We can only accept the perfect work of Jesus on the cross.

- Read Ephesians 2:10, then ask: Did you ever wonder what good works God has planned for you to do?
(Accept any answer.)
- What good works would you like to do some day?
(Accept any answer.)

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 64—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

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

- Thinking of the Bible story we read, which man has been made alive in Christ? How can you tell?
(The man upright is alive in Christ because he appears to be rejoicing.)
- What do you think the man alive in Christ should do to the man who is dead in his sin?
(The man alive in Christ should share the good news of the gospel with the man who is dead. Romans 1:16 tells us the gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.)
- If God doesn't help the dead man, can anyone else help him?
(No, Jesus is the only way to eternal life with the Father in heaven. There is no other way.)

Dead Is Dead

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a stuffed toy animal

Set up the animal where everyone can see it. Explain to the class that you are going to watch it to see if it can jump, swim, run, etc. You could even prod it with a pencil. Have another teacher or helper indicate sarcastically that it is not going to move because it is not alive! Tell the other teacher that you know quite well that it is not alive but that it shouldn't matter.

Play out this comical scene for a bit. Then turn to the class and ask them who they think is correct and why. After finishing the exercise, connect the illustration to the passage of Scripture and help the children understand that while we were dead in our sin we could not walk toward God. Only after God makes us alive in Christ can we move toward God.

Not of Works

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ puppet
- ✓ a plate
- ✓ chocolate sandwich cookies—one for each child plus a few extras

Before class put the cookies on the plate. The object of this puppet show is to demonstrate how absurd it is to take credit for something we are given. If it is a gift, we cannot take credit for it.

PUPPET: (*pointing to a plate of cookies*) I am going to be a great chef.

TEACHER: A great chef? Why, Puppet, I didn't know you knew how to cook.

PUPPET: Oh, I do a lot of things you don't know.

TEACHER: What do you most like to cook?

PUPPET: Cookies, of course!

TEACHER: What kind of cookies do you like to cook?

PUPPET: (*pointing to the plate of cookies*) This kind.

TEACHER: Why, they look just like the cookies you buy in the store.

PUPPET: Go ahead and try one.

TEACHER: OK. (*The teacher takes a bite, then looks at the cookie, and then closely examines the familiar design of the cookie.*)

- PUPPET:** What do you think? Do you like it? I am thinking about entering them in a cookie baking contest.
- TEACHER:** Yes, it is very good, but you can't enter these cookies in a baking contest.
- PUPPET:** And why not?
- TEACHER:** You didn't bake them.
- PUPPET:** So what, they taste good, don't they?
- TEACHER:** You can't take credit for something you didn't do.
- PUPPET:** I can't?
- TEACHER:** No, you can't. If you didn't do the work you can't say you did.
- PUPPET:** You mean I can't be a cookie chef?
- TEACHER:** Not if you are going to use somebody else's cookies.
- PUPPET:** (*turning to leave*) Oh well, maybe I will be a fashion designer. I'm wearing some pretty cool clothes!
- TEACHER:** (*calling down to the puppet*) You didn't make those clothes, so you will have the same problem!

Read Ephesians 2:8–9. Help the children understand the similarities between this passage and the skit. Just as Puppet could not boast in something he did not do, we cannot boast in something we did not do. It is God who changes our hearts and helps us follow him. Apart from God, none of us would follow Jesus. So we can't take credit for God's grace in our lives. We were dead in our sin. It is God who made us alive!

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.

