

Lesson

6

Believe in Jesus

BIBLE BASIS

Jesus gives His life for everyone (John 18—20; 2 Cor. 5:21).

BIBLE TRUTH

Jesus came to take the punishment for all sin, so that anyone can become a member of God's family.

MEMORY VERSE:

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life.
John 3:36

LESSON AIM

That your students will want to become part of God's family by believing in Jesus.

1

LIFE NEED (5–10 MINUTES)

Talk about what it means to sacrifice.

2

BIBLE LEARNING (15–20 MINUTES)

Bible Words: Discuss the terms *believe*, *God's family*, and *sin*.

■ Materials: *My Bible Book* p. 23, Bible Overview Chart Teaching Aid, Bibles

Bible Story: Hear how Jesus died in order to take the punishment others deserved.

■ Materials: Bibles

Bible Review: Finish incomplete sentences about Jesus' death.

■ Materials: *My Bible Book* p. 24, pencils

Memory Work: Use a poster to learn a Bible verse about salvation.

■ Materials: "Son of God" Teaching Aid, Bibles

3

BIBLE APPLICATION (5–10 MINUTES)

Identify correct beliefs about Jesus.

■ Materials: *My Bible Book* p. 25, crayons or markers

4

LIFE RESPONSE (5–10 MINUTES)

Express personal beliefs by completing a rebus puzzle.



■ Materials: *My Bible Book* p. 26, pencils; *Optional:* digital camera and printer; *Friends for Lesson 6*



This symbol means extra preparation or supplies are needed.

6



Understanding the Bible

Overview of This Quarter: We have just finished a unit dealing with God’s rules. This week we begin a unit focusing on God’s redemption of His people. We start with a lesson about Jesus’ death and then move to the parable of the prodigal son. The third story tells how God helps us obey Him. The last lesson is about God’s plan for His family. The quarter closes with a unit on building relationships.

This Week’s Bible Story: Those who were supposed to be God’s leaders had turned against the Messiah God had sent to save the world. Throughout Jesus’ public ministry, there were problems between Jesus and the religious leaders. Jesus knew that many of the religious leaders had lost their love for God. They were leading God’s people away from Him.

Jesus knew that confronting this powerful group meant death, but He never changed His message. So, these religious leaders could take no more. Finding a dishonest disciple, Judas, they arrested Jesus.

Only an official of the Roman government could give

a death sentence. So, the Jewish leaders talked to Pilate, the Roman governor of Judea. Pilate didn’t want to get involved in a religious matter. He tried to set Jesus free, but the religious leaders appealed to Pilate’s fear of being reported as disloyal to Caesar. Besides, they said, Jesus was also charged with claiming to be a king. So, Pilate gave the religious leaders what they wanted and handed Jesus over to them to be crucified.

Most people would do anything to save their lives, but Jesus laid His life down. Jesus went to His death willingly. Jesus didn’t resist arrest. He didn’t beg Pilate for mercy. In fact, John 19:30 says that Jesus even willingly “gave up his spirit.” Jesus allowed His own death because He realized what it meant for us—that we could be a part of God’s family and have eternal life!

Because of Jesus’ obedient death, we can be freed from the judgment of sin and welcomed into God’s family. What an expensive but beautiful gift!

Understanding Your Students

This is a lesson on salvation. As you discuss salvation with your class, remember that each student is developmentally different. Some students may not be spiritually mature enough to go through all the steps to become a Christian or all the steps to have a relationship with God. They may not fully understand that they are accountable to God for their sins and need forgiveness that Christ makes possible. Learning that God loves them and wants to forgive their sins will prepare them for the time when they are ready to receive Christ as Savior. You have the responsibility and the privilege to provide this information and the environment for this learning.

Classroom Tips

Try some of these tips:

- As you prepare to talk with your class about salvation, read and reacquaint yourself with the Scriptures listed on the inside back cover of this teacher’s commentary.
- Help your students know how they are to pray when they receive salvation. This should include teaching how to tell Jesus they believe He is God’s Son, they are sorry for their sins, and they want Him to forgive them and be with them always.
- Be sure to follow the Holy Spirit’s leading as you talk with your students and as they ask questions.
- If a child shows an interest in salvation during class, you may talk with him or her after class. Be sure to include the child’s parents. If a child’s parents attend church, ask them to join you in talking with their child. A parent may want to be the one to lead their child to Christ. On the other hand, a parent may desire your help.

Pre-session Activities

Choose from the following activities for early arrivers.

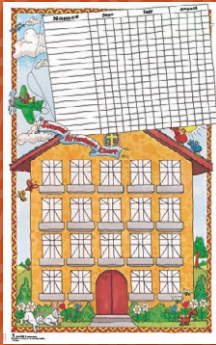
- Have students mark their attendance on the Summer Attendance Chart.

Material: Summer Attendance Chart

- Have a volunteer take digital pictures of students and print them for use in the Life Response part of the lesson.

Material: digital camera and printer

- Let your students make a mural of God's family using different-colored pieces of construction paper, pictures cut from old magazines, and



"Attendance Chart"
Teaching Aid

markers. Draw a cross in the center of the mural.

Materials: colored construction paper, markers, magazines, glue

- Place strips of colored construction paper in a Bible as follows: green at Genesis 1:1 with "I believe God made . . ."; yellow at 1 John 4:9 or John 3:16 with "I believe Jesus is . . ."; red at 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 with "Jesus died . . . and came alive . . ."; and blue at John 15:12 with "I believe that Jesus loves me." Students find the verses by the color of the marker, and write how each sentence is finished.

Materials: construction paper and markers

- For Worship Time: Sing "Arms Wide Open" from the DiskIt CD.

Materials: DiskIt CD, CD player.



1

Life Need 5–10 minutes

Objective: That your students will understand what sacrifice means.

This activity will prepare students for the Bible story about how Jesus gave His life for us.

- **Let's talk about the word *sacrifice*. What does it mean?** (*Students may not know the definition of this word. Allow them time to respond. Write their ideas on the board.*)

Sacrifice means giving up something, a loss, or taking someone's place.

- **Sometimes people talk about making sacrifices. When has someone said that to you?** (*Allow responses.*)

When they say that, they mean they have worked hard to give you things like a home, food, and clothes. It means they have given up their time and often things for themselves for you.

Another way of sacrificing is giving up your time. Let's say you have a project you planned for Saturday, like helping to clean your Grandma's

house or mowing her lawn and pulling weeds. A friend calls you on that day and invites you to play and go out for lunch. If you say no because you are helping your Grandma, that means you are sacrificing your time for someone else.

Let's say your big brother overhears your conversation and volunteers to work at Grandma's house because he knows Saturday is the only time you would have to play with your friend that weekend. He would be sacrificing for you because he took your place.

- **What are times you have sacrificed or someone has sacrificed for you?** (*Allow your students time to tell about times.*)

In the Bible lesson for today, you will learn how Jesus took our place! He sacrificed His life for us!

2

Bible Learning 15–25 minutes

Objective: That your students will understand that Jesus took the punishment for everyone’s sins.



My Bible Book, page 23

Distribute *My Bible Book* and have students turn to page 23.

Here are some words from the Bible story. Read the definition of *believe*. Let them tell about some things they believe.

Point to the phrase *God’s family*. **Did you know that God has a family?** Read the definition and the first set of speech balloons

and have students point out the Bible-time families.

Let students tell about the size of their families.

God’s family includes people from many different homes all around the world.

■ **What do all the people in God’s family believe?** (*That Jesus is God’s Son, Jesus died for us, we have eternal life, and God loves us.*)

Read the definition of *sin*. Point to the Bible-time girl who is about to steal fruit in the market. Let a volunteer read the older sister’s speech balloon. Talk about other actions that are sins. (Telling a lie, cheating on schoolwork, etc.)



Bible Overview Chart Teaching Aid

After a volunteer finds the books of John and 2 Corinthians on the Bible Overview Chart, have students talk about what the two books might have in common. (They are

both in the New Testament.)

Ask students to open their Bibles to the Book of 2 Corinthians. Remind them to look in the table of contents in the front of their Bibles if they are not sure where to find the Book of 2 Corinthians. Have them put a bookmark in 2 Corinthians 5:21 for later use.

All of us have sinned, but we can still become a part of God’s family. Let’s find out what Jesus did for us so we can be in God’s family. Use a

variety of volume levels as you tell today’s story. Have each volume mimic the mood of that part of the story.

BIBLE STORY

It was night. Everything was quiet as Jesus knelt and prayed in a garden. Soon Jesus would have to die, and He was sorry to leave His disciples. Jesus prayed, “Father, if You are willing, take this from Me, but if You want Me to die, I will.”

Suddenly the garden was full of noise. Some soldiers were coming!

Jesus went to meet the soldiers. He asked, “Who are you looking for?”

The soldiers said, “Jesus.”

Jesus said, “Here I am.”

Peter, one of Jesus’ disciples, tried to keep the soldiers from taking Jesus. Peter had heard Jesus say, “I must die for you because I love you.” Peter still didn’t understand that it was in God’s plan for Jesus to die.

Jesus told Peter, “I must go with the soldiers. This is what God wants Me to do.”

The soldiers took Jesus to a ruler named Pilate.

Pilate asked Jesus, “Are You a king, as they say? What have You done wrong?”

Jesus had done nothing wrong. He was God’s perfect Son. Jesus told Pilate, “I am a king. But I do not rule in this world.”

Jesus came to be king over all the people who want to please God. Everyone has done bad things that God hates. That’s why Jesus came—to take the punishment for these bad things. Jesus promised His friends, “Believe in Me, and you will live forever with God.”

But some people wanted Jesus to die. They told Pilate, “Send Jesus to die on the cross.”

Pilate knew that Jesus hadn’t done anything wrong, but Pilate handed Jesus over. He let the soldiers take Jesus and put Him on a cross.

So Jesus died. He died on the cross to take the punishment for the bad things everyone has done.

Jesus’ friends were sad when He died. They didn’t completely understand that Jesus was God’s Son. But

soon a wonderful thing happened. Jesus came alive again! Jesus had come back to His friends.

The punishment that God’s perfect Son had taken for all people was over.

Let’s read what the apostle Paul wrote to people living long ago about what Jesus did. *Have the students read 2 Corinthians 5:21 aloud together.* Be sure that children understand that “him” in the verse refers to Jesus.

Jesus died for people all around the world. Jesus promised that everyone who believes in Him will live forever with God.

BIBLE REVIEW

■ **Why did Jesus die?** *(To take the punishment for our sins so we could belong to God’s family, He could live in us, and we could live with Him forever.)*

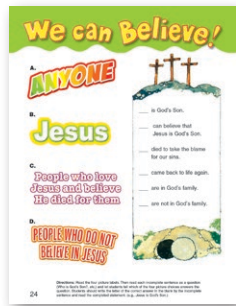
■ **Who did Jesus die for?** *(For everyone.)*

Have students turn to page 24 in *My Bible Book*. **This page tells about things we can believe, but some of the words in these sentences are missing. Let’s see if we can figure out what these missing words are.**

Read the title with the children. Then follow the directions at the bottom of the page. (Answers: B, A, B, B, C, D.)

■ **In which group would you like to be?** *(Group C.)*

■ **If you love Jesus and believe in Him, whose family will you belong to?** *(God’s family.)*



My Bible Book, page 24

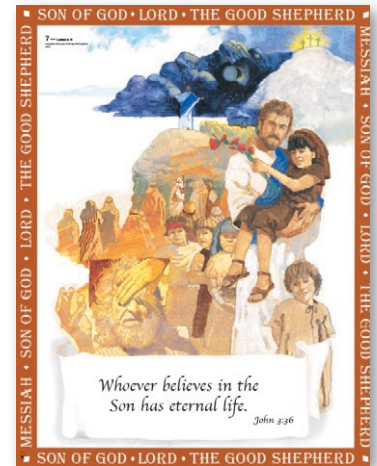
MEMORY WORK

Have students look up the memory verse, John 3:36, in their Bibles.

■ **Having eternal life means being part of God’s family and living with Him forever. What do we have to do to have eternal life?** *(Believe in Jesus.)*

Show the “Son of God” Teaching Aid. Read the titles around the border. Divide the class into four groups. Label each group for one of the titles on the frame. Ask each group:

■ **What do you know about the: Son of God; Lord; Good Shepherd; Messiah?** *(Each group should respond with saying the memory verse.)*



“Son of God” Teaching Aid



3

Bible Application 5–10 minutes

Objective: That your students will identify correct beliefs about Jesus.



My Bible Book, page 25

Divide students into groups of two. Have your students look at page 25 in *My Bible Book*. Read the directions with them. It's reprinted here: **Help the climbers get to the top of the mountain by following the path of true beliefs about Jesus. Read each sign. Decide which signs are true. Then color the path with the right signs.**

Have your students work together to color in the path up the mountain. Then gather the class back together for a discussion.

■ **How can you know which signs are true and which ones aren't true?** (*If they agree with the Bible, they are true.*)

Discuss each statement, talking about why some are true and others are not.

■ **Many people believe the statement "If we are good, we can be in God's family." Is that what the Bible tells us?** (*No.*)

Explain that the Bible says all have sinned, and no one is good enough to join God's family just by being good. **We must believe that Jesus died in our place, that He was our sacrifice, and that He lives in us and will help us want to be good.**

■ **Which statement tells the truth about how we can join God's family?** (*"If we believe in Jesus, we can be in God's family."*)

As time allows, continue discussing the rest of the statements. Ask questions such as the following:

■ **How do we know that the statement "Jesus is alive and will never die again" is true?** (*The Bible tells us this.*)

■ **How do we know that Jesus will always be with us?** (*He promised us this.*)

■ **Does God promise that people in His family will have everything they want?** (*No, but He does promise to give us everything we really need.*)



4

Life Response 5-10 minutes

Objective: That your students will affirm their belief in Jesus.



My Bible Book, page 26

Sometimes it helps to write down exactly what we believe. It helps us remember and be sure about our beliefs. Let's do that now on page 26 of *My Bible Book*.

Read the title and instructions together. Have students fill in the blanks with words or pictures.

Point out that many different

words or pictures could be used in the second sentence. If any children have difficulty thinking of something God made, ask the class to name some things God created: flowers, animals, people, trees, etc. Ask them not to sign their names until they have finished the creed and read it aloud.

Students may write or draw pictures in the boxes to personalize their pages. As an option, use printed digital photos taken during pre-session and cut out the individual students.

Since answers may vary, you may prefer to have each student read his creed individually. Then ask, **Do you believe these things? If so, sign your name on the bottom line.** Some students may be ready to accept Jesus as their Savior. If they ask how to become members of God's family, see the inside back cover of this commentary or page 44 for tips on explaining God's plan of salvation to elementary-age children.

CLOSING ACTIVITY

Sing "Oh, How I Love Jesus," or another favorite praise song that talks about believing in Jesus, as a way of showing thanksgiving for the love Jesus has for us.

As your students leave, make sure they have *My Bible Book*, pages 23-26. Encourage them to review the memory verse at home.

