

OUR SUPER SAVIOR!

We rely on Jesus for
our salvation.

Acts 4:12

Romans 5:8

Hebrews 9:28

MIGHTY MEMORY VERSE

We have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, and especially of those who believe.

1 Timothy 4:10

(For older kids, add in this portion of Joshua 24:15: "Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve. . . . But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.")

SESSION SUPPLIES

- ★ Bibles
- ★ vegetable oil
- ★ newspapers
- ★ cotton balls and crayons
- ★ tape and rubber bands
- ★ red ribbon and scissors
- ★ clear bottles
- ★ red electrical tape
- ★ paper plates
- ★ photocopies of the word *Jesus* (page 126)
- ★ photocopies of 1 Timothy 4:10 (page 127)
- ★ photocopies of the Whiz Quiz (page 88) and the Power Page! (page 87)

SESSION OBJECTIVES

During this session, children will

- ★ learn that we all need forgiveness
- ★ realize that we can't find forgiveness on our own
- ★ discover that Jesus is our salvation
- ★ express thanks for Jesus' love and forgiveness

BIBLE BACKGROUND

When we love and follow God, we realize that he sends many people to meet our needs in various ways. When we need help with a problem, God may send a loving friend with broad shoulders and sound advice. Or if we need encouragement, God may send a kind stranger who lifts our day and heart at the same time. Though God uses many people to meet needs in many ways, our need for forgiveness can only be met by one—Jesus Christ. Through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, we receive forgiveness and the only way to our Father. In a world of many, isn't it wonderful that God sent the help of his only Son to meet our biggest need of all?

Children today are “kids of many.” That is, kids are used to having lots of friends around them, many toys to play with, lots of subjects in school, and handfuls of hobbies. But in the midst of this “many,” kids need to realize that forgiveness and salvation that draw us to God is provided by only one—Jesus! Use this lesson to help kids discover that, as Acts 4:12 teaches us, there is only one “name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”

POWER FOCUS

Have kids form pairs or trios and explain that in this activity, players must rely on their friends to help them. Tell kids that you will read a list of things they're to do and that they can ask the help of their partners if they need help in accomplishing their jobs.

Read the following sentences one at a time and wait for kids to respond to each. Encourage kids by making comments such as “Your friends really are a help” and “It’s good to rely on others if we need to.”

- ★ **Stand on your head.**
- ★ **Hop up and down three times, then whistle.**
- ★ **Tiptoe five steps backward with your eyes closed.**
- ★ **Walk on one leg five steps.**
- ★ **Give your own elbow a smooch.**

When you're done, give everyone a round of applause for trying, then ask:

- ★ **Which things could you do alone? with help? not at all?**
- ★ **When did you ask for someone's help? How did it feel to ask for and receive help?**
- ★ **What was it like knowing you absolutely couldn't give your own elbow a smooch?**
- ★ **Who do we turn to when we can't do something ourselves? Explain.**

Say: **There are many things in life we can accomplish or do with a bit of help. But there are some things we just can't do alone or even with the help of a friend or partner. Being forgiven by God is one of those things. We need help to find forgiveness and salvation, but we can't find that help in anyone on earth.**

Today we'll learn that each of us needs forgiveness from sins, and we'll discover who we can rely on for that forgiveness. We'll also explore what salvation is and how knowing we have this wondrous gift changes us. And we'll also review our Mighty Memory Verse. Now I have another thing for you to do if you can. Turn in your Bibles to Romans 5.

If you need help, ask someone to help you, then be sure to thank that person for the help!

THE MIGHTY MESSAGE

Before class, photocopy and enlarge the name *Jesus* from this activity. Kids will be decorating the letters, so be sure to make the letters large enough and have a copy ready for each child.

Before kids arrive, cover a table with newspapers and set the cotton balls, vegetable oil, crayons, and photocopies on the table.

Gather kids around the table and say: **Today's Bible passages are very powerful and full of important truths. Long ago, when scribes copied the words of the Bible by hand, they wanted the pages to look beautiful. They wanted the Bibles to be beautiful works of art dedicated to God. The scribes would use brushes and pens along with inks and stains made from plants to draw lovely pictures and decorated letters to adorn the Bible. This was called "illuminating" the Bible.**

POWER POINTERS

Help kids remember the significance of the word "salvation" by pointing out how it sounds like the words Savior and saved.

Today you'll be illuminating letters in Jesus' name as we read portions of Scripture that tell us why **Jesus is the only one who can help us.** Distribute the photocopies with Jesus' name, then say: **Quickly decorate the letter J that stands for Jesus. Then we'll read something about the special name of Jesus.**

When kids have colored the letter J, read aloud Acts 4:12, then ask:

- ★ **What is the only name we call upon to save us from sin?**
- ★ **Why do we need forgiveness from the wrong things we say and do?**

Say: **We've all said and done things God says are wrong. In other words, we've all sinned and need special forgiveness to be close to God. This Bible verse tells us that salvation is found in no one but Jesus! Salvation means saving us from our sins and from eternal death. And Jesus is only name to call on for salvation! That's why we've colored the J for Jesus.**

Now let's listen to another verse and color a couple of more letters. Read aloud Romans 5:8, then ask:

★ How did God show his love to us through Jesus?

★ How does Jesus' gift of forgiveness show his love for us?

Say: **Even though we are sinful, God shows his love through Jesus.**

And Jesus loved us enough to die for our sins! That's everlasting love that saves! So color the E for "everlasting love" and the S for "saves."

Pause for kids to quickly color the letters E and S.

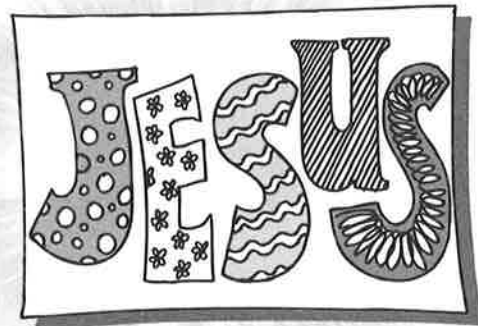
Now let's hear one last passage about the awesome thing Jesus has done for us. Read aloud Hebrews 9:28, then ask:

★ Why did Jesus die for us?

★ What did Jesus' death bring us?

Say: **Jesus' death brought us forgiveness and salvation. In other words, Jesus forgives our sins and saves us from God's punishment. Let's color in the U for "us" and the last S for "salvation."**

When the letters are all decorated, point out how the acronym for JESUS can stand for Jesus' Everlasting (love) Saves Us (through) Salvation. Have kids point to the letters and repeat the acronym aloud. Then have kids put a bit of oil on the cotton balls and rub their papers with the oil to make them transparent.



When the illuminations are finished, invite children to hold or tape their pictures to a window to let the light shine through and illuminate the letters. Say: **We know that we've all sinned and need special forgiveness to be close to God. And now we've learned that there is only one person who can give us forgiveness and salvation—Jesus! When we ask Jesus for his forgiveness and to be in our lives, we know that Jesus gives us the gift of salvation so we can live forever with God! That's a powerful gift, isn't it? Let's make gifts of our own to give others to let them know the great news about Jesus' forgiveness and salvation, great news that is like an answer to an SOS signal!**

Help kids mark Acts 4:12 in their Bibles with the blue bookmark ribbons they've been using in prior weeks. If kids don't have bookmarks, make new ones from blue ribbon and the Mighty Memory Verse icons from page 123. Encourage kids to review and share this verse at home with their families.



THE MESSAGE IN MOTION

Before class, cut red ribbon into 8-inch lengths. Photocopy the Scripture strip for 1 Timothy 4:10 from page 127. Kids will be rolling these strips into

scrolls and tying them with ribbons to put in bottles as SOS messages, so you may want to enlarge the copies a bit. Be sure you have a clear plastic soda or milk bottle for each child. Baby food jars will also work. Kids will be making these SOS bottles to give away. If you'd like kids to make a bottle to keep as well, you'll need two bottles for each child.

Gather kids and say: **When people at sea are in great danger, they send out an SOS. An SOS is a call for help, a call for someone to save the people aboard the ship. Well, we have someone to call upon to save us from sin and eternal death, and we know that Jesus is the name we call upon. So let's make SOS bottles as reminders that we need to Signal Our Savior—or SOS—for Jesus' forgiveness and help!**

Hand each child a clear bottle, copy of 1 Timothy 4:10, a rubber band, and a piece of red ribbon. Show kids how to use the red electrical tape to make the letters SOS on the sides of their bottles. Then invite children to use crayons to decorate the Scripture strips. Roll the verses into scrolls and secure them with rubber bands. Then tie ribbons around the scrolls and tuck the scrolls inside the bottles. If you would like, provide corks for the bottle tops. As kids work, ask:

- ★ **Why do we all need to SOS Jesus to save us?**
- ★ **What are ways to signal Jesus? In other words, how do we let Jesus know that we need his love, forgiveness, and salvation?**
- ★ **How can we express our thanks for what Jesus did by dying on the cross so we could be forgiven?**

When the bottles are done, say: **These neat SOS bottles remind us that we need to Signal Our Savior and let Jesus know that we love and accept him in our lives. Then we need to ask Jesus' forgiveness for our sins. That's a pretty important signal to send!**

Did anyone recognize the verse we put in the bottles? Lead kids to realize that this is the Mighty Memory Verse they've been learning. Then say: **Our Mighty Memory Verse is a good one to place in our SOS bottles. It tells us of the living God and Savior who is Jesus and how we can put our faith in him for salvation, forgiveness, and love! Let's review our Mighty Memory Verse and learn more about relying on Jesus for our salvation.**



SUPER SCRIPTURE

Before class, prepare a paper-plate ring for each child by cutting the inner circle away from the paper plates.

Gather kids near the cross display you made two weeks ago and have been using for your reviews. Have kids read the names for Jesus, then invite pairs of kids to repeat the Mighty Memory Verse. Provide the first word or two if some pairs have trouble getting started. Let each pair choose the next set of partners and have all four repeat the verse. Continue until the entire class repeats the verse together. If you have older kids, use the same technique as they repeat and review Joshua 24:15.

Say: **We have been learning that we also call Jesus the living God and our Savior. And from this verse, we also know that we can put our hope in Jesus when we believe in him.** Ask:

- ★ In what ways does salvation give us hope?
- ★ In what ways does forgiveness give us hope?
- ★ Why is having hope so wonderful? How does it help in hard times?

Say: **Just as people who send out an SOS have the hope of being saved, we have hope when we call upon our Savior, Jesus Christ. Jesus wants us to be forgiven. And he wants us to let others know they can send him an SOS and be saved, too! My challenge to you this week is to see if you can give your SOS bottles away to others so they can send their own SOS signals to Jesus as they read 1 Timothy 4:10.**

Now let's play a quick game using our SOS bottles and Mighty Memory Verse. Have kids place their bottles in a line across the center of the room. Then instruct kids to get in pairs and stand on opposite sides and about six feet away from the bottles. Hand each child a paper plate "lifesaving ring." Explain that when you say, "save your bottles," kids can toss the paper plate rings toward the bottles. If anyone rings a bottle, she can repeat the Mighty Memory Verse and earn a point for herself and her partner. Continue tossing and repeating verses until one set of partners has accrued five points. (Move closer to the bottles if no one is ringing any bottles.) End by giving each other high-fives.

After the game, say: **Our lifesaving tosses were hit or miss. Sometimes we scored a point and other times we came up empty-handed. But when we rely on Jesus to be our lifesaver and our Savior, we always come up winners! Let's close with a prayer and a promise to express our thanks for Jesus' love, forgiveness, and salvation.**

Have kids hold on to their paper-plate rings.

A POWERFUL PROMISE

Before class, tape the words to the Choice Rap from last week (page 78) on the wall or a door.

Have kids sit in a circle holding their paper-plate rings and ask for a moment of silence, then say: **We've learned today that we can rely on Jesus for our salvation and that we all need his forgiveness to be close to God. We've discovered that Jesus is the only one who can give us the special gift of forgiveness and salvation. And we've reviewed the Mighty Memory Verse, which says** (pause and encourage children to repeat the verse with you), **"We have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, and especially of those who believe."** If you have older kids, also repeat Joshua 24:15.

Hold up the Bible and say: **Jesus is Lord and Savior, and he has promised that when we accept him and ask for forgiveness, he will forgive us. Let's make a promise of our own. We can promise to call on the name of Jesus as our Lord and Savior and to put our hope in his power to forgive us. As we pass the Bible around the circle, we can say, "I will trust Jesus, the Savior of the world!"** Pass the Bible until everyone has had a chance to hold it.

Have kids stand in a circle and hold their paper-plate rings on the left and then grasp the rings of the kids standing next to them. Quietly say: **We're all in this boat called life together. And we all need the forgiveness and salvation that only Jesus, our life Savior, offers us. Let's pray and thank Jesus for the wonderful gifts of forgiveness and life he brings.** Pray: **Dear Lord, we thank you for your love that saves us from sin and eternal punishment. Your love gives us life and hope and faith. Thank you, Jesus. We love you. Amen.**

Before kids leave, allow five or ten minutes to complete the Whiz Quiz from page 88. If you run out of time, be sure to do this page first thing next week.

Gather kids in front of the newsprint with the words to the Choice Rap on it. Have kids clap, snap their fingers, or tap their feet in time to the rhythm of the words as they repeat the Choice Rap. On subsequent chants, use the words *love*, *obey*, *serve*, and *praise* in place of *follow*.

End with this responsive good-bye:

Leader: **May Jesus' forgiveness and salvation be with you.**

Children: **And also with you!**

Distribute the Power Page! take-home papers as kids are leaving. Thank kids for coming and encourage them to keep their promises to Jesus this week.

POWER PAGE!

WHAT'S MISSING?

Use the Bible references to fill in the missing words. Then put the letters on the correct spaces to discover what Jesus brings us!

1. (Acts 4:12) " _____ is
 1 3 7
 found in no _____ else."
 2

2. (Romans 5:8) "While we _____ still
 8
 sinners, _____ died _____ us."
 5 1 4 6

3. (Philippians 2:11) "every _____
 9
 confess that Jesus Christ is Lord."
 4 6 5 9 7 3 8 2 8 1 1

♥♥♥ of Forgiveness

Make a special ♥ for each person in the family to give to another family member when forgiveness is needed. Keep exchanging ♥♥ as often as you need (or want to offer) forgiveness!

Cut 8-inch hearts from construction paper or wallpaper. Glue doilies around the edge of each heart. Add a loop of ribbon at the top as a hanger. Write a loving message on each heart.

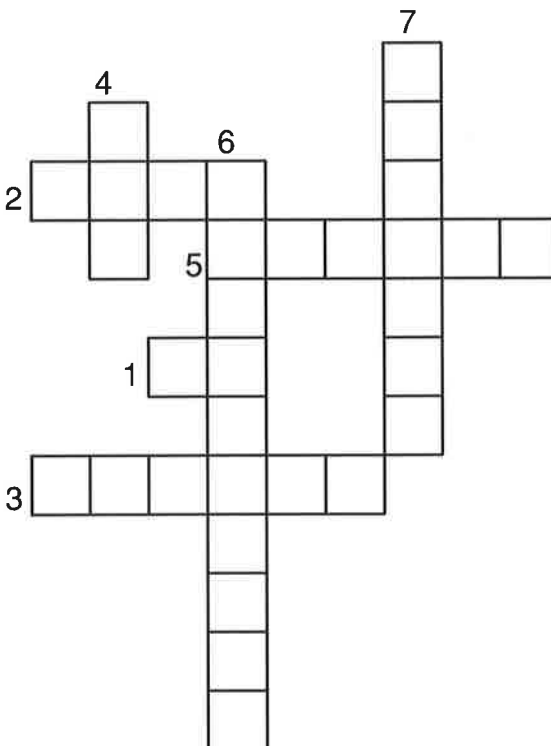


How many times should we forgive someone? Read Matthew 18:21, 22 and Colossians 3:13 to find out!

Crossword Clues

Read the clues and fill in the missing words to 1 Timothy 4:10. Then write the words in their correct order to complete the verse.

1. Not us, but _____
2. When we look forward to something
3. Opposite of dead
4. _____, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit
5. Jesus is our _____.
6. Very, very much
7. Have faith in



_____ have put our _____ in the _____
 1 2 3

_____, who is the _____ of all men, and
 4 5

_____ of those who _____.
 6 7