

# Leader's Guide

## Let's Explore Our Faith

### Lesson 7 - Man: Redeemed

#### Aims:

- To identify both God's part and man's part in God's amazing plan of salvation
- To understand how a person can receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord
- To affirm what they personally have done with God's gift of salvation

#### Preparation:

- Read through the *Article of Faith* 3.c. (concerning man's redemption) and 4. (concerning salvation). Note questions that come to mind. Any question(s) you have may be the same one(s) your students ask.
- Read the Scriptural basis for the *Article of Faith* 3.c. and 4: *Matthew 1:21; John 1:12, 3:3, 14-17, 10:17-18, 16:44; Acts 3:19, 4:12; Romans 3:10-12, 19-20, 23, 5:1, 8, 6:19, 22; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22; 2 Corinthians 3:10-12, 7:9-10; Ephesians 2:1-5, 8-9; Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, 5:23; 1 Timothy 1:15, 2:5-6; Titus 2:11-12; Hebrews 2:9; 1 Peter 3:18; 2 Peter 3:9; 1 John 1:7, 3:2, 5:13.*
- Review the *Article* portions summarized in the student workbook again. Highlight the connections between the key points of the lesson and the Scripture passages referenced.
- Prepare the student lesson.
- Replace the batteries in a working flashlight with dirty rags. Keep the batteries close, but out of sight.

#### Needed:

- Student workbook, Bible and pencil for each student
- Copy(ies) of *MC Constitution with Articles of Faith and Practice*
- Marker board, markers and eraser
- A flashlight and batteries required
- Dirty rags

#### Getting Started:

Begin your class with a short prayer. Ask God to help students understand what He wants to say to them about His solution to man's problem of sin.

Distribute *Student Workbooks*, Bibles and pencils. Students answer first question on page 1, telling of a time when they have used a flashlight. Volunteers answer. Say, **We certainly have used flashlights in a lot of different ways. Why is a flashlight so useful?** Again have volunteers answer. Give sample answers if necessary. For example, a flashlight is small, portable, and fun to play with, doesn't use electricity, gives strong light, etc. Bring out the flashlight. Now say, **Let's have a little flashlight fun.** A little dramatic flair at this point will add to the demonstration. Turn off all the room lights. Ask for a volunteer to turn the flashlight on. When it doesn't light say, **Hmm, that's odd. The flashlight was working earlier today. I wonder what's wrong.** Ask for suggestions. When someone says to check the batteries, open up the flashlight and pull out the rags. **No wonder the flashlight would not work.** Now put the batteries in, and ask another student to try the flashlight. When it lights, direct students' attention to the demonstration questions in the workbook. Tell students the flashlight represents a person's life. Make the point that a person who HAS NOT believed in Jesus is filled with sin and has no power to live for God, just like the flashlight filled with dirty rags had no power to give light. The opposite is true for a person who HAS believed in Jesus. The Holy Spirit indwells or lives in a believer, giving him or her new life and helping them to spread the light of Jesus, just like a flashlight with batteries shines brightly.

## Study:

Direct the students' attention to the paragraphs in the workbook summarized from *Articles of Faith* 3.c. and 4. Read the paragraphs one phrase at a time as students follow along. Have students circle any words that are new to them. (Words printed in **bold** are listed in the *Glossary*.) Take time for students to discuss possible meanings for new terms they identify and look those up in the *Glossary*. Then discuss the paragraph, noting any concepts that may require more explanation during the study time.

Work through the study material as a group. As needed, ask students to read the Scripture passages aloud.

### Question 1. What does God help a person do to receive salvation?

Ask for volunteer to read Ephesians 2:8-9. (Answers: *grace, saved, faith, gift, works*) Stress to the students that man's sin problem is hopeless apart from God's gracious gift of salvation by faith. Man cannot even receive salvation without God's help. God gives a person the ability to do his part in salvation, which is to repent and believe.

Have a volunteer read Romans 3:10 and 23. (Answers: *righteous, sinned*) Before we can accept God's salvation, we must realize that we are separated from Him because of sin.

Ask for a volunteer to read 2 Corinthians 7:10a. (Answers: *sorrow, repentance*) Ask, **What is repentance or what does it mean to "repent?"** Allow students to respond. Emphasize that repentance is more than being sorry for our sins. Have the students complete the new words exercise to learn what it means to repent. (Answer: *To repent means to turn around and go God's way*) Repentance is key to salvation. We must turn from our sin and change what we think, say and do to please God.

God not only helps us repent, but He helps us to believe in Jesus. Have a volunteer read Acts 16:31. (Answers: *Believe, Lord, Jesus, saved*) Stress to the students that believing in Jesus is more than just knowing about Him. Faith in the Bible involves accepting what God says about who He is and what He will do, and changing what I think and how I live. A person with true faith in Jesus will trust and obey Him.

Make the point that repentance and faith go hand in hand; you can't have one without the other, and God helps a person do both to receive salvation.

Have students read Ephesians 2:8-9 again, and complete the highlighting exercise. (Answer below)

"For it is **by grace** you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves. **It is the gift of God—not by works**, so that no one can boast."

For more discussion ask, **Since we can't earn salvation by works or what we do, does this mean we don't need to be good anymore? How do our actions fit into salvation?**

### Question 2. What does God do for a person who receives salvation?

God Regenerates Me. To be regenerated means to be made new. Explain to students that when a person repents and believes, God the Holy Spirit changes them from spiritually dead to spiritually alive. Have volunteers read the Scripture passages. (Answers: *born again, makes, alive, new creation*) Regeneration may be a hard concept to totally understand, but because the Holy Spirit makes our spirit alive again, we have power to live lives that please God.

God Justifies Me. Ask for a volunteer to read Romans 5:1. (Answers: *justified, peace*) To be justified means to be declared or accepted as "righteous." But how can a sinful person be accepted as righteous? Explain that when we receive Jesus as our Savior and Lord, God accepts us as righteous because Jesus is righteous.

God Adopts Me. To be adopted means to be made a legal member of a family, and loved and accepted as though born into that family. Perhaps one of your students has been adopted or members of your class know a person who has been adopted. Emphasize to students what a great honor it is to be adopted—to be chosen and loved. Have a volunteer read John 1:12. (Answers: *right, children*) Make the point that when we receive Jesus as our Savior and Lord, we become members of God's family—to be loved and accepted as His children.

God Sanctifies Me. To be sanctified means to be made clean or "set apart" for God's use. (Answer: 7) Explain that sanctification is not a one-time prayer or event. At a specific time or place, we may have prayed, giving the Holy Spirit complete permission to do whatever is needed to make us holy, but that is just the beginning. Make the point that sanctification is the

process or way that each day God cleans up our lives for His use. Everyday He helps us to be more like Jesus. The question might arise: why do we need God to sanctify us? The answer: when you received Jesus as Savior, you received new life—God the Holy Spirit lives in you. But the Bible says our old self—that inner part of us that wants our own way instead of God's way—is still there wanting its own way, and will be until we go to live with Jesus forever. That's why we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit, and give Him total control of our lives. He will help us stay separate from sin, and have a clean life for God to use. Have the students complete the short matching exercise. (Answers: *Romans 6:19—slaves to right; Romans 6:22—set free; 1 Thessalonians 5:23—kept blameless*)

**God Will Resurrect Me.** To be resurrected means to come to life after being dead. Just as Jesus was raised to life, so all believers who die will one day be resurrected as well. Have a volunteer read 1 Corinthians 15:21-22. (Answers: *Adam, Christ*) Make the point that just as Adam passed sin and death to all people, Christ gives to all believers the hope of coming to life again—this time with a new body that will be like His risen body.

**God Will Glorify Me.** To be glorified means to have all sin removed, and made perfect in Jesus; with new bodies ready for heaven and life with God forever. For additional study on when and how we will receive our new bodies, read 1 Corinthians 15:35-52, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, Philipians 3:20-21 and 1 John 3:2. Emphasize that we need to remember that God will glorify us someday, because while we live on this earth, that promise will make us stronger to trust and serve Jesus.

Direct students' attention to the simple A-B-C summary of salvation. Review the need for salvation. Emphasize the importance of repenting and turning from our old life to God. Stress the way of salvation. Then give students an opportunity to pray and receive Christ. Do not pressure them to respond. Make the response as non-threatening as possible by simply asking students to talk with you personally if they followed the A-B-C's or model prayer to receive Christ, or if they have questions about becoming a believer in Jesus.

When a student responds, be ready to clearly and simply explain how to become a Christian. Assure them of their salvation, and briefly share how they can begin to grow in Jesus. Finally encourage them to tell others—especially their family—about their decision. Students who respond by

accepting Jesus need follow-up to help them start living God's way.

## Let's Review:

Have students do the pattern-clues review individually. It should help them better understand the many parts to God's plan of salvation. (Answers: *Justification—forgiven and my guilt taken away; Faith—to believe in Jesus as Savior and Lord; Resurrection—Raised to life in a new body; Sanctification—made clean and more like Jesus each day; Adoption—become a child of God; Regeneration—made spiritually alive in Christ; Glorification—will never sin again, be sick or die; Filled with the Holy Spirit—has total control of my life; Repentance—turn from my sin and ask forgiveness*)

Emphasize the *Scripture to Learn*. To teach 2 Corinthians 5:17 to students, read the verse together a couple of times. Then ask a volunteer to erase two words of the verse. Have group read the verse, filling in the missing words. Each time you read the verse, suggest a different way to say it. For example: whisper, shout, slow, fast, while hopping on one foot, etc. Continue until all the words have been erased and the students have recited the entire verse from memory.

## My Response:

Have students work alone to finish the statement in the *My Response* section of their workbook. Invite students to personally come and share their answer with you. If a student responded by accepting Christ, encourage them to tell the rest of the group. This may be a good place for them to start professing Jesus as Lord. Be prepared to involve them in whatever process your church uses for follow-up of new believers.

# Let's Explore Our Faith

## Lesson 7 · Man: Redeemed

### When have you used a flashlight?

Write or draw your answers.

### Now watch the flashlight demonstration.

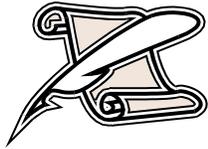
How is a person who HAS NOT believed in Jesus like the flashlight the first time it was tested?

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How is a person who HAS believed in Jesus like the flashlight the second time it was tested?

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God made a perfect world. He created Adam and Eve special—in His image and likeness, with unique abilities to help them love and serve Him—and put them in a beautiful garden home. God taught them everything they needed to know to live with Him and enjoy that perfect home forever. Enter **sin**. Sin “broke” God’s original creation; Adam and Eve were separated from God. And the results of sin affected all people. We cannot fix ourselves. Sound hopeless? It would have been, but God chose to fix what we broke. *God has the*



solution for the problem of sin!

## Article of Faith

At the end of our last lesson, we discovered that God’s plan for solving man’s problem of sin is SALVATION. Because of salvation, we can become members of God’s family and have a right relationship with God.

Now our church’s *Article of Faith* on salvation is very long. (You can find it in the in the Missionary Church Constitution, *Articles 3.c. and 4.* on man’s redemption and salvation.) The two paragraphs below have been shortened for easier learning.

*We believe since all men are **sinners** and guilty before God and are dead in **trespasses** and sin and therefore are unable to save themselves, God has, out of His infinite love, given His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to become man’s **Savior**.*

*We believe that God has provided **redemption** for all men through the **mediatorial** work of Christ, who voluntarily offered Himself on **Calvary** as a perfect **sacrifice** for **sin**, the just suffering for the unjust, bearing sin’s **curse** and tasting death for every man.*

This *Article* explains what the Bible teaches about **salvation**—God’s plan to save us from our sin. To better understand God’s salvation plan, let’s answer two questions. First, what does God help a person to do? And secondly, what does God do for that person?

### Question 1. What does God help a person do to receive salvation?

Read Ephesians 2:8-9. Fill in the missing words.

“For it is by g\_\_\_\_\_ you have been s\_\_\_\_\_,  
through f\_\_\_\_\_ – and this not from yourselves, it is the g\_\_\_\_\_ of God—  
not by w\_\_\_\_\_, so that no one can boast.”

Grace is receiving a gift you do not deserve. We deserve death. But God saves us from sin, gives us eternal life, cares for us, and guides us each day. Salvation is definitely a gift of God’s grace, and to receive it, God helps a person repent and believe.

Before we can receive God’s salvation, we must realize that we need it.

**Read Romans 3:10, 23. Fill in the blanks.** What is true of all people?

No one is r \_\_\_\_\_; all have s \_\_\_\_\_.

Knowing that I am a sinner—separated from God and deserving punishment—should make me sorry for my sin. **Read 2 Corinthians 7:10a. Fill in the blanks.** The Bible says:

“Godly s \_\_\_\_\_ brings r \_\_\_\_\_ that leads to salvation....”

**Discover what it means to “repent.” Follow the directions and write the new words on the blank lines.**

TOSS RECIPE MEETS TO BURN ROUND AND GOOD GOLF’S STAYING.

- First word: Cross off SS
- Second word: Change CIPE to PENT
- Third word: Change ETS to ANS
- Fourth word: Leave the same
- Fifth word: Change B to T
- Sixth word: Add an A to the beginning
- Seventh word: Leave the same
- Eighth word: Cross of OD
- Ninth word: Change LF’S to D’S
- Tenth word: Change ST to W and cross off ING

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

When I repent of my sin, I change my mind or attitude about sin. I confess or agree with God that I am a sinner. I ask for His forgiveness, and I turn away from my sin. The direction of my life changes from doing wrong to doing right. I must also try to make right or repair—with God’s help—any damage my sin has done to others. We call this making **restitution**.

**Read Acts 16:31. Fill in the missing words.**

“They replied, ‘ \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_, and

you will be \_\_\_\_\_.”

The Bible teaches that God gives salvation to those who believe in Jesus Christ. To “believe in” someone means to “have faith in” that person. Having faith in Jesus is more than just knowing He lived and died. It is turning *to* God. When I have faith in Jesus, I believe He is God the Son, and that He died to pay the penalty for my sin. I trust that Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross is why God saves me.

Now it is important to remember that God helps us to repent and believe. I can receive Christ as my Lord and Savior by turning from my sin and turning to God and putting my faith in Jesus **ONLY** as a gift of God’s grace. I can’t *be* good enough or *do* enough good things to earn salvation.

**Read Ephesians 2:8-9 again. Circle the phrase that tells by what we have been saved. Underline the phrase that tells through what we receive grace. Box the phrase that tells how we salvation comes to us. “X” out the words that tell by how salvation can NEVER be received.**

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.”

The Bible is clear—God helps a person repent and believe.

**Question 2. What does God do for a person who receives salvation?**

When we receive Jesus Christ by repenting and believing, God does several good things for us, as benefits of salvation that we cannot do for ourselves. **Put the words from the word bank in the correct bolded phrases.**

WORD BANK: Glorify Adopts Regenerates Resurrect Sanctifies Justifies

**God R\_\_\_\_\_ Me**

One of the jobs of the Holy Spirit is to indwell, or live in, a person who believes in Jesus. (We learned this from our lesson on God the Holy Spirit.) When the Spirit lives in us, He makes us spiritually alive. We call this **regeneration**. The Holy Spirit starts new life with Christ in us. The Bible describes being **regenerated** by the Holy Spirit in several ways.

**Read the verses below to complete the statements.**

John 3:3 Jesus said we must be “b \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_”

Ephesians 2:4-5 God “m \_\_\_\_\_ us a \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ.”

2 Corinthians 5:17 Anyone in Christ is a “n \_\_\_\_\_ c \_\_\_\_\_ .”

**God J \_\_\_\_\_ Me**

**Read Romans 5:1 to complete the phrase.**

“J \_\_\_\_\_ through faith” so we have “p \_\_\_\_\_ with God.”

When we receive the Lord Jesus as our Savior, God removes any record of our sin. He forgives our sins and takes away our guilt. Instead of being guilty and deserving God’s punishment, we are right before God and at peace with Him.

**God A \_\_\_\_\_ Me**

When a father and mother adopt a child into their family, that child is accepted as their very own, with all the rights and privileges that come from being their son or daughter. In the same way, God makes the person who receives Jesus one of His very own spiritual children. **Look up John 1:12 to complete the statement.**

God gives the believer the “r \_\_\_\_\_ to become c \_\_\_\_\_ of God.”

When we believe in Jesus, God adopts us as His child and we become members of His family!

**God S \_\_\_\_\_ Me**

Just as a doctor must use totally clean tools to do surgery, God wants to use believers in Jesus to do His work. But they must be clean tools, “set apart” for God’s special use. **Sanctification** is God’s process to make us clean for His use. When God sanctifies me, He helps me be more and more like Jesus every day, and gives me the strength to keep from sinning over and over again. **Circle “T” if the sentence below is true, and “F” if it is false.**

T F We cannot give God anything wonderful enough to receive forgiveness from sin.

That’s right. Jesus *is* God’s gift to us. But there is one thing we can give God, once we choose to believe in Jesus as our Savior. *Ourselves*. We need to choose to let the Holy Spirit do His work of sanctifying us. He needs our permission to do whatever it takes to make us clean in what we think, say and do. When we give Him that permission, the Bible teaches that we are “filled with the Spirit.” That means, not only does the Holy Spirit live in us when we receive salvation, but He is also in total control of our lives.

**Read the Bible verses below. Draw a line from each reference to the matching description of sanctification or being filled with the Spirit.**

Romans 6:19	Being set free from the power of sin
Romans 6:22	Being kept blameless in your whole spirit, soul, and body
1 Thessalonians 5:23	Being slaves to right living so that you will become holy

To better understand how God sanctifies you, imagine your life as a vase. Before you believe in Jesus, your once beautiful vase is broken into hundreds of pieces. It isn't pretty or useful, and it cannot repair itself. When you believe in Jesus, He puts the pieces of your vase back together and makes you look brand new. Then, when you give yourself to God and let Him control your life, the Holy Spirit takes your fixed vase and fills it full of beautiful flowers, just like He helps you be more like Jesus each day, and fills your life with godly qualities or the *fruit of the Spirit*.

**God Will R\_\_\_\_\_ Me**

With salvation, God gives us good things to overcome every hurtful result of sin—even the physical death of our bodies. In this world, people die when their bodies get old, worn out, sick, or hurt. When Jesus is your Savior, you don't have to be afraid of dying because the minute your body dies, your spirit—the real you inside—goes on living with Him. Plus, God promises to raise you back to life again someday and give you a perfect, new body—just like Christ's body after He was raised to life. We call this "resurrection." **Read 1 Corinthians 15:21-22 to fill in the blanks.**

Death is because of A \_\_\_\_\_ . Resurrection is because of C \_\_\_\_\_ .

**God Will G\_\_\_\_\_ Me**

When God resurrects us and gives us brand new bodies, we will be made perfect in Jesus—ready to live with Him forever. We call this "glorification." We will never sin again, be sick, or die. What an honor!

This honor can only be yours if you have accepted God's gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. If you have never received Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior but would like to, right now follow the A-B-C's below to talk to God in your own words:

- A = Admit** that you are a sinner. Repent—be sorry for and turn from your sin. Acts 3:19a says, "*Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out...*"
- B = Believe** that Jesus died and rose again for you. Turn to God in faith and He will save you as He promised. 1 John 5:13 says, "*...Believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.*"
- C = Confess** that Jesus is your Lord. Accept God's gift of salvation and publicly tell others. Romans 10:9 says, "*If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*"

If you would like to receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior right now, but are unsure of what to say, you may say the following prayer. Be sure you really mean the words you repeat.



*Dear Jesus—I know that I am a sinner. I am sorry for my sins and turn away from them now.*

*I believe that You are God the Son, and that You died to pay the penalty for my sin. Please forgive my sin, and come live in me through Your Holy Spirit.*

*Thank you for the gift of salvation. Amen.*

If you prayed to receive Jesus, tell your leader right now. Your leader wants to welcome you to God's family, and help you get started living God's way.

## Let's Review.

Select a pattern—underlined, shaded, symbol, etc. Go across each row, writing the words in order in the space next to the word of the same pattern. Do this for each pattern.

Forgiven	To	and	**Raised	Made	clean	my	believe
<i>Become</i>	<i>a</i>	MADE	in	(Will)	(never)	# Has	# total

guilt      Jesus    \*\*to      \*\*life      **and**      *child*      SPIRITUALLY (sin)

# control    →Turn    →from    taken      as      \*\*in      \*\*a      **more**

**of**      God      ALIVE    (again)    # of      →my      # my      →sin

away      \*\*new    \*\*body    **like**      IN      (be)      (sick)      # life

→and      →ask      Savior    **Jesus**    **each**    CHRIST    (or)

→forgiveness

**day**      (die)      and      Lord

Justification

Faith

\*\*Resurrection

**Sanctification**

*Adoption*



REGENERATION

(Glorification)

# Filled with the Holy Spirit

→Repentance



## Scripture to Learn.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”  
2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

## My Response .

Mark the sentence that best describes what you have done with God’s gift of salvation. Share your answer with your leader.

{     }     I have already received Jesus through repentance and faith.

{     }     I prayed today to receive Jesus as my Lord and Savior. Today’s date is: \_\_\_\_\_

{     }     I understand how to receive Jesus but have not done it yet. I have more questions.

{     }     I do not understand how to receive Jesus as my Savior. I want to know more.

{     }     I have not received Jesus as my Savior.