



Helping Kids Receive Salvation God's Way

When God's Rescue Becomes Real

Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Explain that salvation means being rescued from sin through Jesus.
2. Understand that salvation is a free gift of God's grace, received by faith.
3. Describe how trusting Jesus changes a person's heart and actions.

Scripture Focus

- "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." (Luke 19:10, *ESV*)
- "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God." (Ephesians 2:8, *ESV*)

Lesson Flow (25 min)

1. Connect (3 min)

- **Opening Thought:** Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong and thought, 'I hope no one finds out'? What would it feel like to have someone forgive you anyway?"
- **Assessment:** Teacher observes student attentiveness and willingness to share.

2. Teach (7 min)

- **Bible Story:** Read or retell the story of Zacchaeus Meeting Jesus (Luke 19:1–10)

Zacchaeus was a tax collector in Jericho who took more money than he should have. People didn't like him and wouldn't let him near Jesus. But Zacchaeus really wanted to see Him, so he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree. When Jesus passed by, He stopped, looked up, and said, "Zacchaeus, come down. I want to stay at your house today." Everyone was surprised that Jesus wanted to visit someone they thought was too bad to love.



School Lesson Plan | Salvation

Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and welcomed Jesus with joy. Meeting Jesus changed his heart. He promised to give half his money to the poor and pay back anyone he had cheated. Jesus said, "Today salvation has come to this house." Zacchaeus didn't earn God's love; he received it as a gift, and it made him new inside.

- **Discussion Questions:**

1. How did Jesus show Zacchaeus that He cared about him?
2. What happened in Zacchaeus's heart after meeting Jesus?

- **Explain:**

- Salvation is God's rescue from sin, not something we can earn.
- When we trust Jesus, He gives us a new heart that wants to do what is right.

- **Assessment:** Teacher checks understanding through answers and engagement.

3. **Model** (7 min)

- **Teacher shares:** a time you realized that God's love and forgiveness were for you, even when you didn't deserve it.
- **Student activity:** Invite kids to role-play short "found and forgiven" moments, such as saying sorry to a friend, returning something lost, or helping someone who feels left out. Or play "Rescue Pictionary," where students draw ways people can show God's love and forgiveness.
- **Assessment:** Teacher notes engagement and ability to connect the idea of grace to real-life examples.

4. **Pray** (2-3 min)

- "Dear Jesus, thank You for loving us like You loved Zacchaeus. Thank You for coming to find us and forgive us. Help us trust You and live with thankful hearts. Amen."
- **Assessment:** Teacher observes participation and reverence during prayer.

5. **Closing/Reflection** (5 min)

- **Key Takeaway:** God saves us by His love and grace.
- **Student Reflection:** Ask "What do you think Zacchaeus felt when Jesus called his name? How does it feel to know Jesus calls your name too?"
- **Teacher Closes:** Remind students that Jesus is still seeking hearts today. We can respond by trusting Him and choosing to follow His way.
- **Assessment:** Teacher notes thoughtful participation and understanding of God's grace.

Optional Extension: Independent Practice

- Have students write or draw one way they can show God's love to someone who feels "left out" or "unworthy," just like Jesus did for Zacchaeus. Display their work on a "Grace Wall."