

## LESSON TWO: HOW TO BE SAVED AND KNOW IT

### SESSION ONE

#### TO THE LEADER/FACILITATOR

To help you be more effective in leading your small group discipleship study, we have prepared the **General Leadership Guide** to help steer you through the basics or facilitating a small-group study. If you have not already done so, please read the Guide.

#### ABOUT THIS SESSION

This session is the first in a series of four that, taken together, explain how to be saved, how to have biblical assurance of salvation, and how to understand the biblical birthmarks of true salvation. The enemy has worked hard to inoculate those who call themselves Christians with the Gospel. Many Christians have a great deal of “head knowledge” about the historical Christ and know why He died on the cross for our sins but fail to **trust** in the One in whom they believe. The goal of this session and those that follow is to help people fully grasp the true meaning of salvation. It is vital that this material be taken seriously, and that all those in the small group (including the leader/facilitator) make sure their personal salvation is confirmed by biblical truth.

#### PREPARING TO LEAD/FACILITATE THIS SESSION

Read through the **Lesson Guide**, and watch the video in advance of the session. Review the **Additional Scripture to Study** at the end of the **Guide**, along with the suggested **Personal Application**. Make sure you print out enough copies of the **Student Handout** which mirrors this **Leader’s Guide**.

#### CONDUCTING THE SESSION

At the beginning of the session, read the **Introduction** to your group, then open discussion by asking the **Reflection Questions** before viewing the video segment. After viewing the video together, you may want to ask for comments before next leading your group through the **Amplification and Discussion** section. Feel free to add your own commentary if needed, but be cognizant of time and do not personally dominate the session. As you read through the **Amplification** section, engage your group by using the provided **Discussion Questions** to stimulate additional dialogue.

As you prepare to conclude the session, review the **Personal Application** for the week and encourage participants to engage in the suggested activity, as well as to read and study the **Additional Scriptures to Study** section. The **Additional Scriptures to Study** section contains questions or reflections intended to guide participants in their respective personal studies. This is best presented as a positive activity designed to help everyone in the group to grow spiritually through the week (as opposed to being presented as homework).

Allow participants to share prayer requests, and lead your group in prayer using any of the suggested formats in the **General Leadership Guide**. Remember to provide an atmosphere of confidentiality within the group as participants share.

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### INTRODUCTION

Doubts are a natural consequence of the human thought process. They cause us to examine an issue to determine its truth or accuracy. Many Christians go through their lives doubting their salvation. When it comes to having assurance of their salvation, they live “hope-so” lives, and not “know-so” lives. Further, the subject of “grace” is often misunderstood. In this study, Pastor Adrian Rogers clarifies what the Bible says about the issue of salvation, and demonstrates that God has provided us assurance from His Word, the Bible, that we can know with certainty that when we die, we will go to Heaven.

## OUR KEY PASSAGES

**1 John 5:13** “These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.”

**Ephesians 2:8-10** “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. <sup>1</sup>For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Do you believe it is possible for people to know with certainty that they are saved? Why or why not?
- How would you define the word, “grace,” and in your understanding, how does grace function in the life of a Christian?

**PRESENTATION OF VIDEO CLIP OF:** “How to Be Saved and Know It”

## AMPLIFICATION AND DISCUSSION

“We don’t need to be doubting Christians; we ought to be shouting Christians!” –

**Adrian Rogers**

**Amplification:** One should not live with doubts about salvation. Though doubts can be a reality, doubting your salvation does not necessarily mean you are lost any more than having pain in your body means that you are dead. It does mean however, that something is wrong in your spiritual life that needs attention. Just as experiencing physical pain may indicate the need of a doctor, doubt indicates the need to look to Jesus and the Word of God for guidance in correcting the problem.

**For Discussion:** Have you come to the place in your spiritual life at which you know with absolute certainty that if you were to die today that you would spend eternity in Heaven? What do you think is the source of any doubts you may have, or what is the source of your confidence?

**Amplification:** Professing Christians are often confused by the different kinds of belief we can have. There is the kind of belief which is referred to as “intellectual assent,” meaning to understand or believe in something intellectually (such as historical facts). But then there is also the belief that results in “actionable trust.” The force of the original word used in our text for “believe,” “These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God...,” literally means to “commit, to trust, or to roll your whole weight” onto something.

To explain the difference between these two types of belief, and to illustrate how that difference applies to salvation, consider how we can be in an airport with a ticket in hand while looking out the terminal at an airplane boarding passengers to our desired destination. We can **believe** in the science of aerodynamics that will cause that plane to fly, and we can **believe** the pilot will take the plane to its destination. But until we **trust** what we know to be true by actually boarding the plane, we will not reach our desired destination. We will end up being left in the terminal. This in no way implies a works-oriented salvation (“I must **do** something to earn my salvation”), but it does illustrate that intellectual assent alone in biblical truth does not mean we are saved. Remember how Scripture says, “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.’ And he was called the friend of God” (Genesis 15:6; James 2:23). Abraham didn’t just hear a word from God and believe intellectually in what God told him, he took action on that belief and **trusted** God. We should take some comfort in the fact that Abraham also

experienced doubt in God's promises from time-to-time, but in the end, he "believed [trusted] God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness."

**For Discussion:** In what ways do you think "intellectual assent," as opposed to "actionable trust," can work to weaken our Christian walk?

**Amplification:** There are those who claim the title of "Christian" because they believe intellectually in the historical Jesus, but they never commit or trust their lives to Him. They count on their own righteousness or goodness for acceptance to Heaven. No amount of good works, church attendance, denominational affiliation, or religious disciplines will matter in the Day of Judgment. To receive Jesus Christ and the salvation He offers, one must accept His incredible and undeserved gift of grace (**G**od's **R**iches **A**t **C**hrist's **E**xpense), by faith (**F**orsaking **A**ll **I** Trust **H**im), trusting Him, and Him alone, for what He has done for us. "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). The idea that we can either earn or deserve this amazing gift of grace is just not true. We must **receive** His gift of forgiveness and eternal life through **faith**. Our attempts to earn or deserve God's favor are meaningless. "But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; we all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away" (Isaiah 64:6).

**For Discussion:** If the Lord Himself were to ask you, "Why should I let you into My Heaven?", how do you think you would respond?

**Amplification:** Some people believe they have sinned so much in their lives that there is no way God could ever forgive them or receive them into Heaven. Dwight L Moody told the story of being called to the side of a young man dying from his wounds in the Civil War. As Moody shared the gospel and Christ's sacrifice for him, the young man said, "He can't save me; I have sinned all my life!" Moody read from John 3 where it says in verses 14 and 15, "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." The soldier asked Moody if that was really what the Bible said, then asked him to re-read the passage two more times. The anguished soldier closed his eyes and began to whisper over, and over again to himself, "whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." The troubled expression on his face was replaced with a peaceful smile. He eventually opened his eyes and told Moody, "That's enough; don't read any more." The next morning Moody returned to the soldier's cot, but it was empty. The attendant in charge told him the young man had died peacefully during the night, and said that he had rested quietly after Moody's visit, repeating to himself, "Whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."

**For Discussion:** Has there been any misapplication of faith or belief in your life that needs to be corrected? How do you intend to correct that?

**For Discussion:** Have you ever considered that Satan and his demons are believers? James 2:19 says, "You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!" What is the defining difference between a Christian believer and demonic believers?

## PERSONAL APPLICATION

This week during your time of devotion or Bible study, take time to make a list of instances in which you may have failed to truly trust or believe God. Ask Him for help in recalling those instances, and be ready to confess, repent, and then recommit yourself to Him. You may want to record your thoughts in your journal.

**GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS**

**Suggested group prayer** – “O Lord, let our mouths declare Your righteousness, your wondrous love, and Your salvation all the day!”

**ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES TO STUDY**

As you read John 1:12, ask yourself what it really means to “*receive Him*.” This over-used phrase in Christian circles has become synonymous with “intellectual assent.” Meditate on the same question concerning what it means to “*believe in His name*.” Consider how your life has, or has not, reflected the true meaning of this verse.

**John 1:12** “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.”

In studying the next two verses, try to grasp the depth of God’s love for mankind that He would send His Son in human form to die an agonizing death on the cross on our behalf, and to do so while we were yet estranged from Him because of our sin.

**John 3:16** “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

**Romans 5:8** “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

As you study and meditate on the following verse, analyze carefully each of the key words and phrases; “*grace*,” “*faith*,” “*not of yourselves*,” “*gift of God*,” “*not of works*,” “*boast*.” Ask yourself how your thinking and life has measured up to these truths.

**Ephesians 2:8-9** “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

**ADDITIONAL READING RESOURCES**

- Andrew Murray, “The Master’s Indwelling” (Fleming H. Revell, 1896)
- C. I. Scofield, “The New Life in Christ Jesus, Messages of Joy and Victory” (The Bible Institute Colportage Association of Chicago, 1915)
- S. D. Gordon, “Quiet Talks on Following Jesus” (Fleming H. Revell Co., 1913)



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