

LESSON TWO: HOW TO BE SAVED AND KNOW IT

SESSION THREE

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 is the third session in a series of four that, taken together, explain how to be saved, to have biblical assurance of salvation, and to understand the biblical birthmarks of true salvation. In the previous sessions, Pastor Rogers shared what the Bible tells us about salvation, grace, faith, and how we can have assurance of our salvation. He also introduced the first birthmark of a believer, the “lordship test.” In this session, Pastor Rogers continues a biblical examination of the birthmarks of believers. Every person who is born again will exhibit certain biblical traits and characteristics that mark him or her as a genuine child of God.

PREPARING TO LEAD/FACILITATE THIS SESSION

Read through the **Session 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

Many individuals believe that just because they have walked the aisle of a church, received a Certificate of Baptism, or even attended worship services regularly, they are Christians. In fact, many people even believe that because they live in America, possess a belief in God, and celebrate Christmas and Easter, those things make them a Christian. In our previous studies in “How to Be Saved and Know It,” Pastor Rogers examined what the Bible has to say about the new birth, grace, faith, and lordship. In this and the next session, Pastor Rogers will elaborate on two additional biblical indicators, or “birthmarks,” that reflect the presence of Christ in the lives of genuine believers.

OUR KEY PASSAGE

1 John 3:14 “We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.”

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- How would you describe the purpose of the local church? When problems or disputes crop up, how should its members conduct themselves?
- What are some of the ways that we, as Christians, can demonstrate love for one another?

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

“A church is comprised of people who have finally realized that they are sinners and have banded themselves together to do something about it. It is the only organization I know besides Hell’s Angels that you have to profess to be bad before you can join.” —**Adrian Rogers**

Amplification: One of the first biblical tests of a genuine believer is the *Lordship Test*: “By this we know that we know Him, **if we keep His commandments**” (1 John 2:3). The second test of a true believer is the *Fellowship Test*: “We know that we have passed from death unto life, **because we love the brethren**” (1 John 3:14). All true believers are part of the body of Christ. We are each unique with specific gifts and functions within the body, yet we are one within the body. The hand can no more separate itself from the arm than can a true believer from the presence of other believers.

For Discussion: Why do you think fellowship is such an important mark of a true believer?

Amplification: There are professing Christians who refuse to participate in the local church because they claim, “There are hypocrites, counterfeit believers, in the church.” Do tell! The church is not a club for perfected saints, but a hospital for professing sinners. Do you know that there has to be a genuine product before a counterfeit can be made of something? The fact that there are disingenuous people who call themselves Christians does not negate Christianity or the local church, it only proves the reality and value of fellowshiping believers. Those who refuse to participate in the local church because of hypocrites or counterfeit believers, using the same logic, should stop using all of their money and give it away because there are counterfeit bills in circulation!

For Discussion: What struggles do we face in fulfilling the mandate to “love one another” in the local church? Why do you think that such struggles persist, and what do we need to do about it?

Amplification: The Bible provides several analogies in describing the church to help us understand what our fellowship and relationship with one another should look like.

- The church is described as a building (not the white building on the corner with a steeple), but a spiritual building with Christ as its cornerstone, and His true followers joined together by the Spirit to become a dwelling place for God (Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Peter 2:5).
- The church is described as Jesus’ bride (Romans 7:4; Revelation 21:2, 9).
- The church is described as Jesus’ body (Romans 12:4, 5; 1 Corinthians 12: 12-22).

For Discussion: Who would say, “Yes,” to a foundation but, “No,” to the building? Who would say, “Yes,” to a groom but, “No,” to the bride? Who would say, “Yes,” to Christ as the head but, “No,” to the body?

Amplification: Local churches are never perfect because they are comprised of imperfect people. Nevertheless, they are a gathering of people for worship, study, and ministry. It should be the desire of every believer to want to fellowship with other believers, and to be a part of others' spiritual growth, as well as to spiritually grow themselves. Pastor Rogers would often tell his congregation, "Never look to join the 'perfect church,' because if you do, you will ruin it."

An interesting thing about the human body as an analogy of the church; when you hit your thumb with a hammer, the whole body will hurt. The thumb immediately goes into the mouth, and generally you find yourself hopping around on one foot until the pain subsides. So it is within the body of believers in the church. When one member hurts, the whole church body hurts and reacts. When we are united together as a body with Christ as our head, we cannot help but react to the joys or sufferings of other believers.

For Discussion: What are some things you or your small group could do to help strengthen fellowship among your church body?

Amplification: To cause harm to the church is to cause harm directly to the Lord Jesus. This is made clear in the Bible when Saul (who later became the Apostle Paul) persecuted the church. The Lord met Saul on the road to Damascus where he was headed to imprison and possibly execute the believers who had fled from Jerusalem, and said, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? ...I am Jesus...whom you are persecuting" (Acts 22:6-8). When we speak ill of the local church, or of any of its members or staff, we are speaking ill of Jesus.

For Discussion: How do you think we should respond to someone who professes to be a Christian but refuses to fellowship with other believers? What hurts do you think might need to be healed in that person's life, and how could we help that to happen?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

This week during your personal devotions, make it a point to pray for your church. Take time to write a note of encouragement to someone in the body who you know is struggling, and maybe volunteer to visit a church member who is homebound.

GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS

Suggested group prayer – "Lord, place within our hearts a desire to love others as You have loved us."

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE TO STUDY

As you read the following verses, ask the Holy Spirit to confirm in your heart your function in the body of the local church. Remember, we are all created with different gifts and abilities, each of which is necessary for the healthy function of the body.

Romans 12:4, 5 "For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, ⁵so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another."

1 Corinthians 12:12-22 "For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact the body is not one member but many. If the foot should say, 'Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,' is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear should say, 'Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body,' is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? But now God has set the members, each one of them,

in the body just as He pleased. And if they were all one member, where would the body be? But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary.”

The following verses explain that you have been created to be a dwelling place for the Holy Spirit of God. Are there any dirty or cluttered “closets” in your life that need to be cleaned up in order to make your life acceptable as a dwelling place for the Holy Spirit?

Ephesians 2:19-22 “Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone, in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.”

1 Peter 2:5 “You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

Additional Reading Resources

- Arthur Pink, “Practical Christianity” (Baker Books, 1995)
- Brother Lawrence, “The Practice of the Presence of God” (Baker Books, 1989)
- Robertson McQuilkin, “The Five Smooth Stones” (B&H Publishing, 2007)

AMPLIFICATION AND DISCUSSION

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