

LESSON TWO: HOW TO BE SAVED AND KNOW IT

SESSION FOUR

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 of facilitating a small-group study. If you have not already done so, please read the Guide.

ABOUT THIS SESSION

This is the fourth and final session in “How to Be Saved and Know It.” In the last two sessions, Pastor Rogers began discussing the birthmarks of a believer—certain characteristics or indicators described in Scripture that should be evident in the life of every Christian. The first mark or test was the *lordship test*, meaning is Jesus lord over your life, or is He simply an addition to your life? The second mark or test was the *fellowship test*, meaning do you love His church, the body of believers, as Jesus does? In today’s session, Pastor Rogers will look at the third characteristic and discuss the *relationship test*.

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

There are those who view Christianity as a religion, and it is categorized as such when lumped together with Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, or other such religious systems. However, one striking truth that separates Christianity from all other such systems is the fact that Christianity is not a religion (meaning a man-made set of rules or traditions to follow); it is a **relationship** with the living God. No other system can claim this because their foundations do not rest upon a relationship with an interactive and living god.

In our previous sessions we examined the difference between intellectual belief verses trust (faith), the meaning of grace, that our salvation cannot be earned or deserved, and that according to Scripture we can know with certainty that we are saved. We also began a review of the birthmarks of true believers beginning with the *lordship test*, followed by the *fellowship test*. In today’s session, Pastor Rogers will introduce the *relationship test*.

OUR KEY PASSAGE

1 John 5:10-13 “He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son. And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. 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.”

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Do you believe it is possible to experience an intimate relationship with God? How so, or why not?
- Do you think it is possible for people to engage in so much church or ministry work that it hinders their personal intimacy with Christ? How does that happen, and how should one avoid this problem?

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

AMPLIFICATION AND DISCUSSION

The Bible never uses a past experience as proof of salvation. It never points us back to some time when we may have believed on Jesus Christ. It always deals with our present confidence. —**Adrian Rogers**

Amplification: There was once a man who had come to Christ, and as a result enjoyed a remarkable transformation in his life. Another person who had known him for many years, and who had claimed to be a Christian himself, recognized the dramatic change and said to him one day, “Tell me about this religious experience that you have had.” The man correctly replied, “I have not had a ‘religious experience,’ but I have entered into a loving relationship with the living God.”

For Discussion: How would you discern whether or not a person was having a loving relationship with Christ? Are there certain characteristics or behaviors that you would look for?

Amplification: As Pastor Rogers noted, there are those who believe they must nail down a specific date and time when they were saved, when they received Christ, when they prayed the “Sinners’ Prayer,” or when they walked the aisle of a church. Some people who have come out of darkness into Christ’s marvelous light may know exactly when that happened. Others who were brought up in a Christian home and who lived in that light all or most of their lives may not really know when they actually began to trust Him, but they know they do so now.

The real problem comes when people confuse religious activity with salvation. Religion is manmade and can be defined as “A set of beliefs...usually involving devotional and ritual observances, and often containing a moral code governing the conduct of human affairs.” When one trusts in past or present “ritual observances” (walking the aisle of a church, praying the “Sinners’ Prayer,” baptism, or their church membership) instead of believing (meaning throwing their whole weight upon—present tense) *the name* (authority and character) *of the Son of God* (Jesus), they miss the mark! The question is not, “Have you trusted Jesus?”, but, “Are you trusting Jesus?”

For Discussion: Have you ever known someone who participated in so many church activities that their ministry work seemed to overshadow their personal intimacy with Christ? How would you counsel such a person?

Amplification: There is the story of a man walking along a road who was bent over under a heavy load. A wagon pulled up and the driver offered to help him on his journey. The man happily accepted the offer, but after he seated himself in the wagon continued to carry his burden on his shoulders. “Why don’t you put your burden down?” asked the driver. “Oh!” replied the man, “I feel it is too much to ask for you to carry me and my burden. I would not think of letting you do both.” So it is with many who have come to Christ through “ritual observances,” and “intellectual assent,” but have never fully trusted Him with the full burden of their lives.

Jesus said, “Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light” (Matthew 11:29, 30). This verse implies a trusting intimacy with Christ that should be reflected in the life of every believer. When we truly believe on [throw our weight upon] the name [the authority and character] of the Son of God, we join ourselves to the “yoke” that Jesus is already pulling. He takes upon Himself our burdens. We also become disciples, actively seeking to learn from Him through His lordship in our life, and through the fellowship of other believers. The end result is that our burdens are lifted, not necessarily that problems go away, but that the weight we have been carrying over those problems is lifted from our shoulders and we find rest.

For Discussion: In your view, what would you say are some of the burdens we may continue to carry after coming to faith in Christ? Why do you think that is, and how should we deal with that?

Amplification: “Many will say to Me in that day [the day of judgment], ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness’” (Matthew 7:21-23)!

For Discussion: Having a healthy relationship with anyone requires communication, and that includes our relationship with God. What are the ways we can communicate with God, and how does He communicate with us?

For Discussion: Share with your group any things you may have done, or currently do, that have helped you to develop your personal intimacy with Christ.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

This week during your personal devotions, imagine Jesus standing before you in the room as you read your Bible or pray. Pray as you might talk with Him if He were in the room, and read Scripture with the expectancy that He will teach or explain what it means. Remember, “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you” (Matthew 7:7).

GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS

Suggested group prayer – “Lord, we set You always before us. Show us the path of life, because in Your presence is fullness of joy.”

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE TO STUDY

As you read and meditate on the words of Jesus, focus on what it means to love God “with all your **heart**,” “with all your **soul**,” “with all your **strength**,” and with “all your **mind**.” Determine the difference between those specific aspects of life, and ask yourself how that plays out, or needs to play out, in your life. Then apply the same examination to what it means to love “your neighbor as yourself.”

Luke 10:27 “So he answered and said, ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,’ and ‘your neighbor as yourself.’”

The wonderful news of the Gospel is that when we take Jesus’ yoke upon us, the burden of our sin is lifted and He carries it away. To continue to carry the guilt of past indiscretions is to deny the grace He provided through His sacrifice. Meditate on the power and promise of the verse. Concentrate on what it means to be “washed,” “sanctified,” and “justified.”

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”

The following verse is a serious warning against the hypocrisy of claiming to be a Christian while walking “in darkness,” meaning living a life that either ignores or deliberately disobeys the Word of God. As you meditate on this Scripture, ask God the Holy Spirit to reveal any unconfessed sin in your life that needs to be dealt with and turned from.

1 John 1:6 “If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.”

Additional Reading Resources

- Hannah Whitall Smith, “The Christian’s Secret of a Happy Life” (Moody Press, 1968)
- Lewis Sperry Chafer, “He That is Spiritual” (Zondervan, 1983)
- R.A. Torrey, “How to Pray” (Moody Press, 1980)

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VIDEO PRESENTATION NOTES

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