

Embrace the promise of Christ's return: *The Plan of Salvation*

LESSON AT A GLANCE

Facilitator Notes:

- For Your Journey episodes can be found on the [NAC USA YouTube](#) channel and in the [NAC USA mobile app](#)

I wonder...

- What is meant by the term "plan of salvation"?
- What is the foundation for salvation?
- How can salvation be attained today?

I believe...

- The events between the fall into sin and the new creation are described as God's "plan of salvation" (Catechism Q&A question 244)
- Jesus Christ is the Savior, the Redeemer, and in Him human beings find salvation from the harm caused by sin. (Catechism Q&A question 247)
- Human beings attain salvation by believing in Jesus Christ, by partaking of the sacraments and the word of God (Catechism Q&A question 250)

Materials:

- IGNITE Bible
- Catechism Q&A
- Something to play a video clip with (computer, TV, tablet, phone, etc.)

References:

- Bible: John 8:24, Acts 4:12, Romans 5:12-16, 1 Timothy 2:3-6
- Catechism Q&A questions: 240, 243-259
- 9th Article of Faith
- Community Magazine article "The return of Christ" – Quarter 4, 2019
 - [Click HERE to access the Q4 2019 community magazine](#)
- For Your Journey –
 - [Episode 75 – Salvation – Part 1](#)
 - [Episode 76 – Salvation – Part 2](#)

PRE DISCUSSION MESSAGE TO PARENTS AND STUDENT (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)

This week we will be discussing the big picture. Join us tomorrow for small group at _____.

POST DISCUSSION MESSAGE TO PARENTS (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)

Facilitator Notes:

- Please feel free to add local information and customize as necessary

Dear Parents,

This week the "I wonder..." questions focused on the plan of salvation. Consider taking some time this week to talk with your student about when you came to understand and appreciate the salvation that Jesus Christ offers. If you need a way to start the conversation, consider asking your child to watch episodes 75 and/or 76 of **For Your Journey** together.

For Your Journey episodes can be found on the [NAC USA YouTube](#) channel and in the [NAC USA mobile app](#)

As always, if you have any question about the topic, feel free to contact us.

Your Youth Leaders

SUNDAY SERMON REFLECTIONS (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.

- What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon?
- What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn?
- So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?
- Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

HOOK (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.

- How are you and how are you feeling today?
- Who would like to share their point to ponder or call to action from last week?
- Ask the students if they have seen any of the Marvel superhero movies over the past few years.
 - If no, introduce the topic with the summary points below
 - If yes, go on to ask them which movies they liked the most.
 - Continue the conversation by asking them what all of the Marvel superhero movies have in common. OR why the MCU (Marvel Cinematic Universe) was such a big deal with the *Avengers: Endgame* movie, which was released in 2019.
 - If the below summary points don't come out in the student's answers, supplement as needed
 - Summary points
 - *Avengers: Endgame* is the culmination of 22 Marvel movies released over the course of 10 years.
 - All of the previous movies (Iron Man, Captain America, etc.) are parts of the larger story that we see come to an end in *Avengers: Endgame*.
 - Similarly, the Bible isn't a bunch of random stories, but the compilation of many stories that are all a part of God's plan of salvation.

SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

Facilitator Notes:

- Preview the "I wonder" questions with the students.

I wonder...

- What is meant by the term "plan of salvation"?
- What is the foundation for salvation?
- How can salvation be attained today?

LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- Throughout discussions about the Plan of Salvation, and future events, the term “first resurrection” may appear in various explanations or timelines. This term is found in Revelation 20:5-6, 11-15.
- For the sake of preparing for the discussion, the full Bible passage is included in the facilitator guide. However, in the actual discussion with the students, it is encouraged that the facilitator look up the passages in a physical Bible along with the students to reinforce the importance of using one’s Bible and Bible literacy.
- For additional clarity, consider also reading Romans 5:12-16 in the NLT version.

Student Question #1 What does the term ‘plan of salvation’ mean?

- The events between the fall into sin and the new creation are described as God’s “plan of salvation” (Catechism Q&A question 244)
- Human beings may not know the entire plan of God in all its fullness, but from the course of salvation history revealed in Scripture, we can recognize that it is God’s intention to help mankind.

Student Question #2 How do we know God wants to help mankind? How do we know God wants people to be saved?

- To help answer this, we will turn to Scripture.
- Ask a student to read 1 Timothy 2:3-6
 - *For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.*
- Apostle Paul, an Apostle of Jesus Christ, wrote this letter to Timothy and from it we see eternally valid truths, that God wants all people to be saved.

Student Question #3 What is the foundation for salvation?

- Jesus Christ is the Savior, the Redeemer, and in Him human beings find salvation from the harm caused by sin. (Catechism Q&A question 247)
- To help answer this, we will turn to Scripture.
- Ask a student to read Acts 4:12
 - *Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*
 - This name, of course, is Jesus Christ
- To get more context on the passage that was just read, ask a student to read the “**White Hot Topic – Salvation**” on page 1134 of the IGNITE Bible
 - After the “White Hot Topic – Salvation” is read, highlight the “Live It” questions and discuss:
 - “Do you ever look for salvation in places other than Jesus?”
 - “How might that change your thoughts about Jesus today?”

Student Question #4 We know that salvation is rooted in Jesus, but why did Jesus even come to earth and die? What are we being saved from?

- Perfect and ultimate salvation is about being saved from the domination of evil.
- The effects of original sin separate us from God.
- Ask a student, or multiple students, to read Romans 5:12-16
 - *Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—(For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who*

- For additional context or information about the return of Christ, the facilitator can read the [Community Magazine article "The return of Christ" – Quarter 4, 2019](#)
- The Articles of Faith can be found on page 251 of the Catechism Questions and Answers book.
- [For Your Journey – Episode 75](#) is 6:26 long. If you don't have time to watch it in class, consider sending it to the students in the day or two after the discussion to serve as a follow up. Both Episode 75 and Episode 76 are suggested in the follow up parent email.

had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come. But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many.

- Sin was introduced into the world with Adam and Eve, and Christ came to reconcile the broken relationship with God as a result of sin.
- Jesus spoke directly about the danger of sin. Ask a student to read John 8:24
 - "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."

Student Question #5 How can salvation be attained?

- Human beings attain salvation by believing in Jesus Christ, by partaking of the sacraments and the word of God (Catechism Q&A question 250)
- To be saved, one must believe in Jesus Christ. Believing in Jesus Christ is essential for someone to consider themselves a CHRISTian. A Christian's actions and motivations are guided by the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ (His birth, life, death, resurrection, and promise to return) is an essential foundation for the plan of salvation.

As Christians, we eagerly await for His return to claim His bride, which is the next step in the plan of salvation. While we wait, we strive to continually align our lives to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and transform our nature using Jesus as our example.

The 9th Article of Faith articulates and summarizes what the New Apostolic Church believes about the return of Christ. Ask a student, or multiple students, to read the 9th Article of Faith from the Catechism Questions and Answers book. Tell the students that we will have a discussion in a few weeks (E9 – Our Future), about the future events.

For Your Journey – Episode 75 – Salvation (part 1)

- If time allows, consider watching Episode 75 of For Your Journey as a group. In it, District Apostle Kolb starts the two part series speaking about salvation and the salvation opportunities that make up the plan of salvation.
- The points from the episode are summarized as:
 - As New Apostolic Christians, we understand that salvation is the deliverance from the domination of evil, and living in perfect fellowship with God and man. This salvation will come to completion in the new heaven and the new earth.
 - When Jesus Christ died on the cross, He opened the way for us to be saved. Therefore, salvation is not necessarily a singular event, but a state of being – we are being saved from evil, from other influences, and even ourselves.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Lord continuously: forgives our sinfulness if we repent, helps us overcome evil, and invites us to have fellowship with Him and others. We most closely have this fellowship with Him and others in Holy Communion and the divine service. With this, we can already experience a foretaste of the kingdom today; however, it is not the end state of salvation. The Chief Apostle described three opportunities in which human beings men will have the possibility to obtain salvation. • The first opportunity is Christ's return. The goal of our faith is to be accepted by Him at during this time, this is why we prepare for His return by resisting evil, conforming to the example of Christ, partaking worthily of Holy Communion, repenting for our sins, and letting ourselves be guided by His divine word to walk in the newness of life. • God wants us to be successful, and so He helps us in this preparation. That is why He made us part of the community of believers, so we can strive together to be part of the bride and have early access to fellowship with Him. If we are invited to embrace this first opportunity of salvation, why would we want to wait to experience perfect fellowship with God when Christ returns?
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WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME? (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:	<p>Close with the "I Wonder..." questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Review the "I wonder..." questions and "I believe..." statements. ➤ As you review each question and answer, stop and check in with the group to be sure there are no misunderstandings or misconceptions. <p>I wonder...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What is meant by the term "plan of salvation"? ➤ What is the foundation for salvation? ➤ How can salvation be attained today? <p>I believe...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The events between the fall into sin and the new creation are described as God's "plan of salvation" (Catechism Q&A question 244) ➤ Jesus Christ is the Savior, the Redeemer, and in Him human beings find salvation from the harm caused by sin. (Catechism Q&A question 247) ➤ Human beings attain salvation by believing in Jesus Christ, by partaking of the sacraments and the word of God (Catechism Q&A question 250) <p>Point to Ponder...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ God loves us so much that He established the plan of salvation in order to reconcile the broken relationship caused by sin. In salvation, we will have full and eternal fellowship with God. <p>A Call to Action...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Memorize the 9th Article of Faith (found on page 252 of the Catechism Q&A).
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Weekly Reflections

What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon?

What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn?

So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

Point to Ponder...

Call to Action...

Embrace the promise of Christ's return: *The Plan of Salvation*

I wonder... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What is meant by the term "plan of salvation"? ➤ What is the foundation for salvation? ➤ How can salvation be attained today? 	I believe... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The events between the fall into sin and the new creation are described as God's "plan of salvation" (Catechism Q&A question 244) ➤ Jesus Christ is the Savior, the Redeemer, and in Him human beings find salvation from the harm caused by sin. (Catechism Q&A question 247) ➤ Human beings attain salvation by believing in Jesus Christ, by partaking of the sacraments and the word of God (Catechism Q&A question 250)
Bible: John 8:24, Acts 4:12, Romans 5:12-16, 1 Timothy 2:3-6 Catechism Q&A questions: 240, 243-259 Article of Faith 9	

1. What does the term 'plan of salvation' mean?

2. How do we know God wants to help mankind? How do we know God wants people to be saved?

3. What is the foundation for salvation?

4. We know that salvation is rooted in Jesus, but why did Jesus even come to earth and die? What are we being saved from?

5. How can salvation be attained?

Point to Ponder: God loves us so much that He established the plan of salvation in order to reconcile the broken relationship caused by sin. In salvation, we will have full and eternal fellowship with God.

Call to Action: Memorize the 9th Article of Faith (found on page 252 of the Catechism Q&A).