

Help Spread the Gospel: *Salvation is yours and mine*

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...

- Why should I want salvation?
- How can I attain salvation?

I believe...

- Salvation liberates us from sin and prepares us for an eternal future with God. (Catechism Q&A question 247)
- Human beings attain salvation by believing in Jesus Christ and using the sacraments and the word of God in their lives. (Catechism Q&A question 250)

Materials:

- IGNITE Bible
- Catechism Q&A
- Chart paper or whiteboard and markers (optional)
- For Your Journey
 - [Episode 75 – Salvation part 1](#)
 - [Episode 76 – Salvation part 2](#)

References:

- Catechism Q&A questions 244, 247, 250, 253-259, 473
- Bible: John 3:16-17, Acts 4:12

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

This week we'll be discussing salvation and election. Why do we need to be saved? See you there!

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
- Consider including a link to one of the For Your Journey episodes listed in the "References" section above for families to watch together and use as a conversation starter.

Dear Parents,
 This week the "I Wonder...." questions relate to the sacraments and salvation. Why do we need the sacraments? Why do we want salvation? If your kids were baptized and/or sealed as babies, how has your understanding of the Holy Baptism and Holy Sealing vow(s) you've made for them as their parent evolved as they have grown up? As always, if you have questions about the topic, please 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.
- If needed, personalize this by finding different Opening Questions that relate to your group.
- Guide the student questions as the students realize that planning or doing something now can help them receive a benefit in the future.

- 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?

Choose one of the Opening Questions below and ask the students for answers. Once you have answers to the Opening Question from more than one student, ask the "Dig Deeper" questions. If it works best with your group, have them discuss the question in small groups first and then come back together to share with the whole group.

Opening Questions:

- Why should I open a savings account?
- Why should I get an education?
- Why should I eat healthy foods?

Dig Deeper:

- What are the benefits of opening a savings account / getting an education / eating healthy foods?
- What is needed to open a savings account / get an education / eat healthy?
- How else would you prepare to open a savings account / get an education / eat healthy foods?
- What could occur if we chose to NOT open a savings / get an education / eat healthy foods?
- How would you convince your friends that these things are good ideas?

Wrap up the discussion by relating how talking to friends about an important topic shares what you know about that topic. This is one of the ways that we help spread the gospel, which is the component of the THRIVE member expectations we are highlighting this semester.

SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

Facilitator Notes:

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

I wonder...

- Why should I want salvation?
- How can I attain salvation?

LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- Consider writing the definitions below on chart paper or a whiteboard so the students can refer back to them.
 - Deliverance: The action of being rescued or set free.
 - Salvation: Deliverance from the power and effects of sin; to be saved.
- Third article of faith: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the one, holy, universal, and apostolic church, the community of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the dead, and life everlasting.
- For further reading, see page 1421 in the IGNITE Bible for additional references on salvation.

Student Question #1 What does "salvation" mean? How does it relate to my life?

Ask the students what they know about salvation and use the questions below to delve further into the topic. If useful, relate these questions to the answers discussed in the hook activity. Students should have their Bibles ready for this section.

- Dictionary definition of "salvation": *Deliverance from the power and effects of sin; to be saved.*
- Who brings us salvation?
 - Salvation for us started with God sending His Son, Jesus Christ.
- How did God give us salvation?
 - Have a student read John 3:16-17 and discuss how this relates to salvation.
 - Jesus made salvation possible through His sacrificial death on the cross.

Student Question #2 What do sacraments have to do with salvation?

- We attain salvation by believing in Jesus and depending on the sacraments (Holy Baptism, Holy Sealing, and Holy Communion) to create and maintain a growing relationship with Him. (Catechism Q&A question 250)
- The sacraments allow human beings to attain salvation. Through them, human beings are adopted into the fellowship of life with God. (Catechism Q&A question 473)
- Receiving the three sacraments gives a human being the opportunity to be united with the Lord at the return of Christ. (Catechism Q&A question 473)
- What does salvation have to do with our future?
 - Our future with God can only happen by being delivered from our sin through Christ's sacrifice on the cross.
- Who can have salvation?
 - Salvation is available for ALL people who believe in Jesus!
 - Go back to John 3:16-17. God sent His Son, Jesus, so that the world through Him might be saved.

Election by God

- If the topic of "Election" comes up, please reference Catechism Q&A questions 253-259.
- The topic of "Election" will be covered in greater detail in the "E" semester - Embrace the promise of Christ's return.

Student Question #3: How can we help point others to Christ and receive salvation?

- As stated in Catechism Q&A question 259, God elects human beings for their own salvation as well as the salvation of others.
- In addition to seeking salvation for ourselves, and finding out what God has elected us to do, we have to help others around us do the same!
- The first step in helping others to salvation is to tell them about Christ.
 - Ask the students to brainstorm and share ideas of possible situations where they could share Christ in their:
 - Families
 - Congregations
 - Communities
- We cannot force others to believe or understand, but by taking the opportunity to talk about our faith in Jesus Christ, we are helping lead others to Him.

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

For Your Journey episodes

- If there is time, consider watching one of the For Your Journey episodes regarding salvation.
 - [Episode 75 – Salvation part 1](#)
 - [Episode 76 – Salvation part 2](#)
- If time does not allow to watch an episode and discuss as a group, consider following up with the students in a few days by sending them a link to one of the episodes, or perhaps include an episode in the follow up message to the parents so the family can discuss at home.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME? (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

Wrap up the lesson with why we want to be part of God's plan of salvation and also help others to be part of it too. When we help others to understand salvation, we help spread the gospel.

Close with the "I Wonder...." questions

- Ask a student to read an "I Wonder...." question, and invite another student to answer with an "I Believe...." statement in their own words.
- As you review each question and answer, stop and check in with the group to be sure there are no misunderstandings or misconceptions.
- Remind the students that on their Confirmation day, they will or have already promised and committed to belief in God.

I wonder...

- Why should I want salvation?
- How can I attain salvation?

I believe...

- Salvation liberates us from sin and prepares us for an eternal future with God.(Catechism Q&A question 247)
- Human beings attain salvation by believing in Jesus Christ and using the sacraments and the word of God in their lives. (Catechism Q&A question 250)

Point to Ponder....

- Read Acts 4:12. Write your impressions in the space provided on the student sheet.

A Call to Action....

- This week, tell one of your friends that Jesus makes salvation possible.

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...

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References: John 3:16-17, Acts 4:12 Catechism Q&A questions 247, 250, 253-259, 473

1. What does "salvation" mean? How does it relate to my life?

2. What do sacraments have to do with salvation?

3. How can we help point others to Christ and receive salvation?

Point to Ponder: Read Acts 4:12. Write your impressions in the space provided on the student sheet.

Call to Action: This week, tell one of your friends that Jesus makes salvation possible.