



Group Session



Small Group Study

Volume Overview

Who is Jesus?

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

We know that the Bible gives us insight into who Jesus is and what that means for us. But why is it important for us to know who Jesus is? Imagine following someone that you don't know. Knowing Jesus as the Perfect Sacrifice invites us to know Him as our Lord and Savior and ultimately as our God.

You Will Need

- *Bag of multicolored fruit candies, one piece per student*

Getting Ready

- *First time leading Learn for Youth? Look here for the Facilitator Guide.*

To access the Bible Engagement Project library from a computer, visit App.BibleEngagementProject.com.

Engage

Welcome

Take this time to welcome everyone, introduce new students, learn names, and thank everyone for coming.

Opening Prayer

Prayer thoughts: Thank God for the opportunity to be together and for all that you have learned together. Acknowledge what you have learned about Jesus so far—He is our Lord, our Perfect Sacrifice, and our God. Ask God to allow the Holy Spirit to help everyone meet Jesus as their personal Savior.

Introduction

Today, we're looking at Jesus as our Savior. Every single one of us, no matter how good we are or how many good things we do, needs a Savior. Let's dive in together and see what we can learn from God's Word.

Group Activity

True Colors

You Will Need

- *Bag of multicolored fruit candy, one piece per student*

Getting Ready

No prep needed.

Let's kick things off today by getting to know each other better in a unique way.

- *Give each student one piece of candy from the bag.*

Look at the color of candy you have in your hand. The candy color will determine which question you answer for the group. Introduce yourself and then answer your question.

- *Assign one question to each color of your purchased candy (e.g., everyone with red candy will answer, "What is your favorite food?").*

Here are the questions:

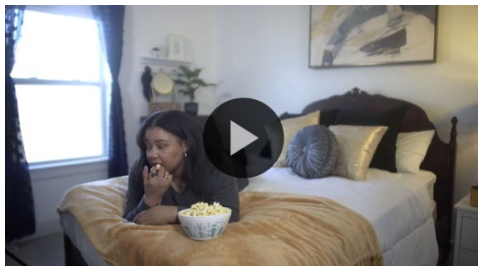
- **Color 1:** What is your favorite food?
- **Color 2:** What is your dream job?
- **Color 3:** What is your favorite hobby?
- **Color 4:** What is your dream vacation destination?
- **Color 5:** What is your favorite game or sport?

QUESTION

Which response by someone surprised you the most?

Activities like this may seem silly, but they're actually really important! They help us get to know each other better. And the better we know one another, the more we can trust each other. That's why we've spent the last few sessions learning more about Jesus. The more we know Him, the more we can trust Him. Today, we're looking at Jesus as our Savior. We can trust Him with our entire life.

Watch



Consider What the Bible Says

Ensure each student has access to a Bible, preferably the same version.

QUESTION

What comes to mind when you hear the word savior?

Today's Bible passage focuses on Jesus as our Savior. Jesus literally created a way to be "saved" from being separated from God forever. We usually call this *salvation*. Jesus also made it possible for us to have eternal life. As we read, focus on how God's Word applies to your own life. Keep in mind that Jesus has already been crucified and resurrected when He appeared to His disciples in John 21.

Jesus Meets Us Where We Are

Read John 21:1–11.

QUESTION

What are the disciples doing when Jesus appeared to them?

In these verses, some of the disciples were out fishing, probably to get money or food. This included Peter, the disciple we'll talk about most in this session. The fishing trip immediately paused when Jesus arrived. This is a lot like the first time Peter met Jesus. Peter was a fisherman and was called to follow Jesus. But years later, right before Jesus was crucified, Peter denied knowing Jesus three times. Jesus had even told Peter in advance he would do it (Luke 22:33–34). Peter wasn't exactly the picture of a perfect follower of Jesus.

QUESTION

Is anyone willing to share a time when you may have denied or hid being a Christian?

What happened?

- *You may want to share a time in your own life to help encourage group discussion. Discussing it may help individuals in dealing with their guilt in this area.*

Notice in John 21:9 how Jesus had prepared breakfast over a charcoal fire. It's very interesting that the only other time a charcoal fire is mentioned in the whole New Testament is in John 18.

Read John 18:18.

Here we see Peter warming himself by a charcoal fire around the time he denied being a follower of Jesus.

QUESTION

Do you think it's a coincidence that Scripture mentions a charcoal fire when Peter sinned and later when Jesus forgave Peter? Why or why not?

QUESTION

What could this detail suggest about how God sees our sin and His willingness to forgive us?

It could be that Jesus was using a similar charcoal fire on the beach due to Peter's earlier denial. The charcoal fire could have been a way for Jesus to both show and tell Peter that his Savior knew and was still ready to forgive. Though Peter denied knowing Jesus at one charcoal fire, at this one, Jesus was ready to accept Peter.

Following Jesus Means Obeying Jesus

Read John 21:12–19.

Note that the first thing Jesus did with His disciples on the shore was to serve them breakfast. This is the resurrected Lord serving as chef and waiter. This says a lot about what our Savior is willing to do to connect with His followers.

QUESTION

Why do you think the writer, John, wants us to know that Jesus made, served, and ate breakfast with His disciples?

QUESTION

The disciples refer to Jesus as Lord in verse 12. What does it mean that Jesus is Lord?

QUESTION

What does Jesus tell Peter to do to prove his love for Him?

In our own relationships, we understand that real love will have proof. We don't want people just to say that they love us. We want them to prove it with their actions. Jesus wants something similar from us. He wants us to show our love for Him with our obedience, not just our words.

QUESTION

What are some ways that you can demonstrate your love for Jesus through obedience in your own life?

QUESTION

What are ways you presently show love to others?

At the end of Jesus and Peter's conversation, we learn the kind of love Peter would eventually show Jesus. In response to the salvation Jesus shared with Peter, Peter was ready to follow and obey Jesus even when it meant he had to give his life to do it. That's a serious commitment!

Jesus Offers Forgiveness, No Matter What We Have Done

QUESTION

Why is it significant that Jesus asked Peter if he loved Him three separate times?

Recall that Peter had denied Jesus three times. Although we don't know for sure, perhaps Jesus' three statements were to help Peter deal with his three denials of Jesus.

Denying Jesus, especially at the time Peter did, is a pretty serious thing. As Jesus was going through the most horrific moments of His life, Peter was telling people that he didn't even know who Jesus was. But even such a serious denial wasn't enough to keep Jesus from reaching out to Peter to bring him back in.

QUESTION

Why do you think some people reject the forgiveness that Jesus offers?

Some people feel like they've done too much wrong to ever receive forgiveness. It's true that sin can separate us far from God. But no matter how far that sin has taken us, Jesus' forgiveness as Savior can reach farther! He's saved liars, murderers, sexual sinners, thieves, and even those who denied they knew Him.

QUESTION

Is anyone willing to share a time when they encountered Jesus' forgiveness in a dramatic way?

Did You Know?

Peter's state of undress while fishing may have been purposeful. John's Gospel notes that Peter needed to put on his outer clothing (tunic) before rushing to Jesus on the shore. This could be due to the way they fished at that time. Fishing in antiquity required the fisherman to be in and out of the water. So, a significant amount of clothing would make getting back in the boat pretty difficult. Performing this duty in less than the normal amount of clothing would have made movement much more efficient.

Reflect

Jesus Is My Savior

Just like Jesus interrupted a normal fishing trip to meet with His disciples, He wants to step into our life and meet us where we are, too. Peter's life is an example of what happens when we choose Jesus as our Savior. You may be thinking, *Why would I need a Savior?* It's pretty simple. All of us have done things that are wrong (Romans 3:23), and those sins deserve punishment (Romans 6:23). We can choose to receive that punishment by missing out on God's goodness in this life and being separated from Him forever after we die. Or we can make Jesus our Savior and

let His death on the Cross pay for our sins. Many of us in here have already decided to make Jesus our Savior. I hope all of us will!

Salvation Opportunity

Include this if you think there may be some in the group who do not have a personal relationship with Jesus.

Today, Jesus wants to meet you where you are and be your personal Savior. He offers full forgiveness of sins and freedom from shame and guilt when you make Him the Leader of your life. Because of His death and resurrection, you can trust that He loves you. He is who He says He is. Jesus, our Savior, is ready to forgive us of every wrong and every sin we have ever committed. Our Lord is waiting to lead us on the journey of a lifetime when we submit every part of our life in obedience to Him. So, what are you waiting for?

Is there anyone here that we can pray for who doesn't have a relationship with Jesus or wants to renew their relationship with Him?

Take a moment to acknowledge those who respond, and thank them for their desire to make things right between themselves and God. Pray with them as you close in prayer or after the group time is over. Following group time, talk more about where they are in their walk with God and how you might be able to help.

Listen to God

Let's take time to consider how our life demonstrates a real trust in Jesus as our Savior. These questions are meant to serve as a conversation between you and God. Sharing your responses with the group is completely voluntary.

- *Pause for a few moments of silent reflection before asking students if they want to share.*

Peter was ashamed of how he had denied Christ three times. We know he was aware of his wrongdoing because of how he responded after his last denial (Matthew 26:75). But Jesus was committed to forgiving Peter and freeing him from his shame and guilt after Peter denied that he even knew Jesus.

QUESTION

In what areas of your life does shame creep in?

QUESTION

Do you need to ask Jesus for His forgiveness?

- *Be sensitive at this moment for those sharing areas of their life where ministry may need to take place. Don't be afraid to take time here for those students needing prayer, hope, and encouragement.*

Prayer

Forgiving God, thank You for Your grace and Your forgiveness, and for sending my Savior. We could never earn salvation or do anything to deserve it, but You give it freely to everyone who asks. Help us to live for You, not just in what we say, but in the way we live. We want to obey You and follow You for the rest of our life. We ask that those who don't know You would come to know You as their Lord and Savior. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Activate

Just like Peter, Jesus wants us to express our love for Him by giving Him our entire life. For Peter, that meant displaying His love for Jesus in the way that he cared for God's people.

This week step out in one practical way to display your love for Jesus to someone. Maybe even cook breakfast for your family!

Conclusion

This entire volume has taught us that Jesus is so much more than just a good Teacher. He is the Perfect Sacrifice, our Savior, our Lord, and our God. Because He's the Perfect Sacrifice, there is no other way to salvation except through Him. Because He is our Savior, there is no sin that is too big for Him to forgive. Because He is our Lord, we should obey Him in every area of our life. And because Jesus is God, we should honor and glorify Him with our entire life. It's time to follow Him wholeheartedly!

Next time, we'll kick off a brand-new volume of studying God's Word together. Remember to do the devotions this week too. These allow you to have time with Jesus to learn more about what we have discussed. I look forward to seeing each of you next time as we continue to learn from God's Word.