

Lesson #68: Jesus Explains Why God Sent Him

[John 3:12-21](#)

Youtube Link: <https://youtu.be/QTjdEpWzddE>

Children's Bible Story Video: https://youtu.be/LYR_qC--Hr8

Worship Theme: Jesus came to save us.

Memory Verse: "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." (John 3:17)

Songs (Youtube links):

1. God Sent His Son <https://youtu.be/eDsWfEtrnS0>
2. He Came to Give Us Life <https://youtu.be/PXQCMUWh9RY>
3. Lord I Lift Your Name on High <https://youtu.be/rPE5QOHbo70>

Pray

Song: Select songs from the list above.

Icebreaker: "Sinking Boat"

Materials needed: 3 big papers according to the number of children



1. Put 3 sheets of poster paper in the middle of the classroom.
2. When the teacher shouts, "The boat is sinking!" then all the children need to jump on to the paper in order to be saved.
3. Fold the paper to make it smaller and play the game again. Play the game until the paper remains very small.
4. The paper represents a rescue boat, and if we don't jump up to the paper, we will not be saved.
5. God sent his son to save us from our sin like a rescue boat.

Introduction:

Do you have anyone for whom you are willing to die for? If your friend is drowning in the river, would you jump in to help your friend? What if you know that you will die as you save your friend? What if it was a friend who never listened to you or loved you? Would you still jump in to save the friend? Today, we will learn about Jesus who died for everyone - even the ones who did not listen to him or loved him!

Bible Story:

Ever since Jesus came 2,000 years ago, people have misunderstood why he came. Some people have thought Jesus was just a good man who taught people how to live good lives. Other people have thought Jesus came to punish people for their sins. But we rely on what the Bible teaches us. The Bible tells us that God loves us so much that he sent his Son to save us from our sins. Sin keeps us from God. If we cannot get rid of sin, then we can't live with God.

The Bible tells us that before we're saved, we're dead in our sins. We have no hope because when we sin, the punishment is death. The world was dark before Jesus came into the world. The Bible says Jesus is the light. But even when Jesus, the light, came into the world, many people still liked the darkness better. People liked darkness because it was easier to hide their sins in the dark. So how can we get rid of all of our sins? How can we stop sinning? What can we do to be saved?

The Bible has good news for us. It is important to understand that there's absolutely nothing we can do to earn salvation. We can't earn salvation by following every rule. We can't earn salvation by getting perfect grades. We can't earn salvation by being a perfect friend. We all need God's salvation, but there's not a thing any of us can do to earn it.

Salvation is a gift from God. The Bible says when we hear Jesus’ words and believe in him, he gives us eternal life. When we have eternal life, we cross over from death—the darkness—to life in the light. Because of God’s salvation, we can live forever with him. All God asks is that we trust and believe in Jesus who died on the cross for our sins. God sent Jesus to earth to help us learn about God’s love. Sin keeps us away from God. The price for our sins is death, and Jesus died on the cross for our sins. God saves us because he loves us so much!

Questions to discuss:

- 1. What keeps us from God? (sins)
- 2. Why did God send Jesus to us? (to save us from our sins)
- 3. What must we do to be saved? (believe in God who sent Jesus to die for our sins so that we may be saved)
- 4. Why does God save us? (because he loves us so much!)

Game: “Can You Save Yourself?”

Materials Needed: 2 bowls, empty water bottle (make small holes at the bottom), spoons



- 1. Put the empty water bottle inside of one of the bowls. This will prevent the water from leaking on the floor. Place this on the other side of the classroom.
- 2. Divide the children into two groups and give a spoon to each group.
- 3. Each team will get water from a bowl on their spoon, run to the bottle, and try to fill it up with water. The team that filled up the water bottle more will win the game.
- 4. Let the children play the game for 3 minutes.
- 5. After 3 minutes, lift up the bottles and let the children see that both bottles have no water (because water leaked through the holes).
- 6. Explain to the children that trying to earn our salvation from God is like filling up a bottle with a hole. It is an impossible task! We cannot save ourselves. Only God can save us through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Believe in Jesus, and you will be saved!

Memory Verse:

“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.” (John 3:17)

Craft: “Jesus Came to Save Me”

Material Needed: Popsicle sticks, glue, paper, pen



- 1. Make a cross with popsicle sticks using a glue.
- 2. Children can decorate the cross if they want to.
- 3. Write “Jesus came to save me” on a paper and glue it to the cross.



- 4. Remind the children that Jesus came to save them because we cannot save ourselves. Thank God for saving us!

Song: Select songs from the list above

Pray

Teacher's Devotion (Please read before you get ready to teach the students.)

There are many awesome "benefits" of a relationship with Jesus, but this is the best benefit: We can be saved and be born again! A new life, a fresh start, a clean slate! The memory verse today states that Jesus did not come to condemn the world but to save the world. As a saved person, we now need to live a life that is different from the rest of the world. Pray and ask God to help you be different from the world as you continue to love God and love people.