

Letting Go and Grabbing Hold



Welcome and Play Time 10 Min

Last week we looked at confessing our need for a Savior because of our sins. This week we'll be laying out God's great plan of salvation. This lesson lays out the three tenses of salvation. Lay out the lesson clearly, but do not pressure a decision. This is an exciting message!

Use this time as people are arriving for the kids to get comfortable with each other and settled in so that Mom and Dad can enjoy small group.

Bible Lesson Activities 20 Min

Activity 1: Dirty Rags We can sometimes believe that the good things we do to be good little boys and girls are enough to get us into heaven. We can not do anything good enough to cover the sin that separates us from God.

Wrap a shoe box in fancy paper. Wrap the lid separate from the box portion, so you can remove the lid without unwrapping the whole box. Put in the box dust rags or old paper towel. Pretend that you are giving each child the present. **What would they think of getting a present like that for their birthday?** Not too fun is it?! Trying to be good without God is like trying to give God a dirty rag. Even the best we can do is not good enough.

Activity 2: Jesus Cleanses Our Sins Here's the supply list: 1 large pickle jar empty, clean and filled with clear water; food coloring in varying colors; large wooden spoon; 1 small jar of bleach with lid on it.



Place the large jar filled with water on your demonstration table. Tell kids that this jar full of water is what your soul looks like. But as life occurs we begin to sin. Using the food color, add squirts or drops from the food coloring while naming sins kids may commit. Every time you tell a lie, add a drop. Every time you steal, add a drop. Cheat on tests, treat brothers or sisters mean etc. Then using your spoon mix the food coloring in the jar to make it really nasty looking. Then talk about how Jesus removed the sins. Carefully add the bleach while mixing the dirty water the spoon. Explain how Jesus' sacrifice makes us "just as if we had never sinned." This is called "**Justification.**" As you mix you'll notice the water returning to it's clear condition.

Activity 3: He's Still Working on Me The next "tense" of salvation is **Sanctification**. This is the process of making us more Christ-like day by day as we seek Him. Sing this song with your kids to remind them that being saved is a process that ends when we reach Heaven - called **Glorification**.

"He's still working on me to make me what I ought to be. It took Him just a week to make the moon and the stars, the sun and the Earth and Jupiter and Mars. How loving and patient He must be, cause He's still working on me."

Bible Reading Time & Scripture Memory 10 Min

Have children sit to listen to the reading of God's Word. Read the Word straight through and then give yourself time to discuss after you've read the whole passage.

Read Philippians 3:7-11 (NASB) Read from a Bible if you have one available

" 7But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, 9and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, 10that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; 11in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Discuss with the children what the verses mean. Paul wrote this to the believers in Philippi. He had done many things before he believed in Christ that he once considered righteous. **What does he think of these good deeds now?** (*counts them all a loss and like rubbish - dirty rags, trash, worthless*). **What is Paul casting aside his treasured things for?** (*the person of Christ*). **What does it mean to have fellowship in His suffering?** (*as we are made like Him, we sin less and our sin stinks more*). **What is resurrection from the dead?** (*this is how we spend eternity with God in Heaven.*)

We are hopeless and helpless without God. Christ gave up everything so that we might be saved. What a wonderful gift.

Let's memorize this week's verse:

"But whatever things were gain to me,
those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ."

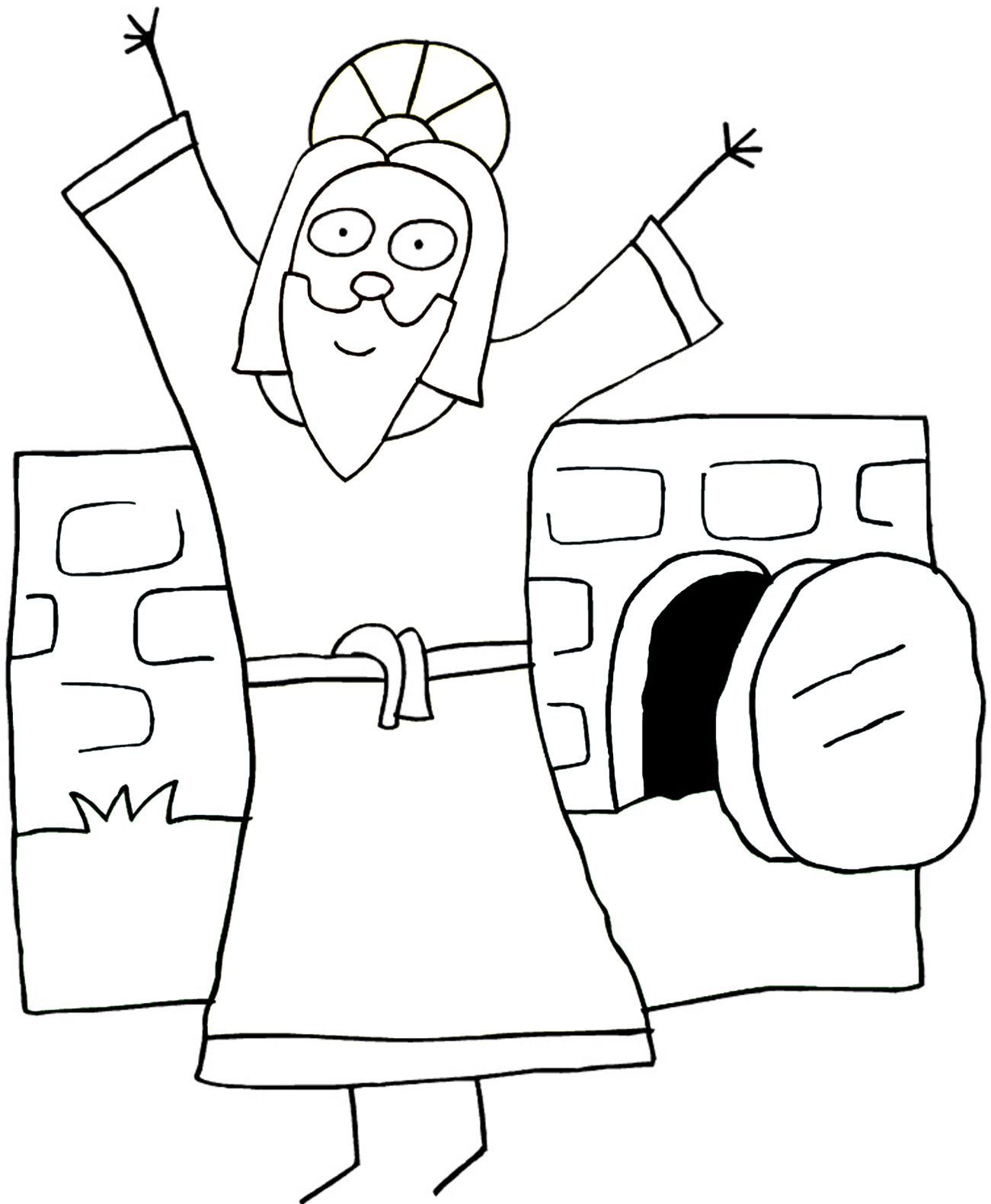
Philippians 3:7

Coloring Sheet 10 Min

Pass out the memory verse coloring sheets and have children color them. As you color repeat the verse several times to help the words sink in!

Closing/Clean Up 5 Min

Clean up and make sure everyone has shoes on, coloring sheets in hand and everything is put back in the room. Praise God for a wonderful group of young people!



**BUT WHATEVER THINGS WERE GAIN TO ME,
THOSE THINGS I HAVE COUNTED AS LOSS
FOR THE SAKE OF CHRIST.
PHILIPPIANS 3:7**