



**CONNECT**

**FIRST STEPS - LESSON 1:  
ASSURANCE IN SALVATION**

## Objectives

- New believers to understand that they are saved by God's grace, through faith, and not by their own good deeds.
- New believers to have assurance in their salvation and begin to develop a healthy relationship with our Lord.

## How To Start The Lesson?

Emphasise that joy when you first accepted Christ as your personal Lord and Saviour, and how you have developed your relationship with Him.

## Introduction

God has provided the true way of salvation for man so that he will have true peace and eternal life. Salvation comes from God, not from man's effort (**Ephesians 2:8**). Man is a sinner; our ways and philosophy are imperfect and unacceptable to God. Trust in Jesus is the only way to salvation. He took the form of man and died on the cross in order for the world to be set free from their sins.

*Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.*

**Acts 4:12**

## How Can We Be Saved From Sin?

We are saved by God's grace through faith, not by how good we are.

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.*

**Ephesians 2:8-9**

### 1. By depending on God's grace

We define God's grace as His merciful provision of the gift of salvation to an undeserving world. Paul Enns (an evangelical Christian pastor, biblical scholar and writer), defines grace as the unmerited or undeserving favour of God to those who are under condemnation. It is by the grace of God that He sent His only Son to die on the cross so that we (sinners) might be reconciled to God and received into heaven.

*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

**Romans 5:8**

### 2. Through faith

There is no other way of salvation. By grace, God offers us salvation but we need to respond with faith. Faith at its most fundamental is simply trusting. Just as you entrust your life totally to the pilot when you board a plane, so you entrust

your eternal destiny totally to Jesus and His death as your substitute on the cross.

**Ephesians 2:8-9** says that we are saved through faith. We respond to God's love by putting our faith in Him and accepting the Lord Jesus as our Saviour. We must believe in the good news. True faith must be accompanied by good actions.

*What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.*

**James 2:14-17**

## How Can I Be Assured Of My Salvation?

### 1. Trust in Jesus, the only Way

Jesus claimed that He is the only way, when Thomas said to Jesus, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

*Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

**John 14:6**

The disciples also confirmed that Jesus is the only way to salvation.

*Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.*

**Acts 4:12**

### 2. God never fails to keep His promises

God promises that He will shield our faith by His power until the coming of the salvation. On the last day, He will return to receive us to be with Him forever.

*Who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.*

**1 Peter 1:5**

We can have confidence that our salvation through Jesus Christ is certain and eternal. No one can rob us of our relationship with God, except when we choose to abandon Him. God promises His children that He is always there for us in spite of circumstances or how we feel.

*Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you.*

**Hebrews 13:5b**

*For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ*

*Jesus our Lord.*

**Romans 8:38-39**

## Reflection Station

### 1. How does the assurance of my salvation affect the way I live my life?

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:*

*The old has gone, the new is here!*

**2 Corinthians 5:17**

After we have accepted God's promise of salvation and eternal life, we are gradually being transformed into a new person. We ought to realign our values to that of the Bible.

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God-this is your true and proper worship.*

**Romans 12:1**

Sometimes we do not notice the gradual changes in our lives, but when we look back we will be surprised by the many changes. These are some examples of changes in our lives: peace in our hearts, a desire to pray, the love for God, victory over sin, new habits and attitudes, a desire to read the Bible, hating sin, etc.

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**Notes to Mentors:**  
 Encourage the new believer to live a life that is filled with the excitement, joy and hope of knowing God. Help him/her to see the temporal nature of problems, things of this world.

**2. What are the positive changes in me since I became a Christian?**

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**Notes to Mentors:**  
 Affirm the new believer in the positive changes. However, if he/she unable to see any changes in his/her life, bring out areas where you think he/she has made improvement. Then suggests additional ways he/she can improve in.

## Mentor Chat

**1. How can we maintain our salvation?**

*And into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.*

**1 Peter 1:4-5**

*If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.*

**John 15:6**

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**Notes to Mentors:**

By valuing what Jesus has done for us and maintaining a close relationship with God. This means keeping a life of repentance; and growing in our love and knowledge of Him. If we love God, we will love to understand His ways by studying the Bible and putting His Word into practice.

## Blessings Of Commitment To Jesus

### 1. Eternal life

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

**John 3:16**

### 2. Right to be God's child

*Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.*

**John 1:12**

### 3. Living an abundant life

*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*

**John 10:10**

### 4. God's peace that the world cannot give

*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*

**John 14:27**

## 5. A new life

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:  
The old has gone, the new is here!*  
**2 Corinthians 5:17**

## 6. God's everlasting presence

*If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God,  
God lives in them and they in God.*  
**1 John 4:15**

## 7. Successful living (as God defines it, not as the world understands it)

Our Lord's simple requests often serve as stepping-stones to life's most wonderful blessings. Simon Peter illustrates what can happen when we say yes to God (**Luke 5:1-11**).

*When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."*  
**Luke 5:4-5**

Peter is a seasoned fisherman, and he had worked the entire night for a catch but had returned empty-handed. Peter may have felt tempted to decline. Now this young teacher—a carpenter, by the way, not a fisherman—was asking him to go fishing again?

The soon-to-be disciple chose to obey the Lord and to leave the consequences of his decision to Him. As a result of Peter's obedience, Jesus demonstrated His power and sovereignty. Peter and his friends were in complete amazement because they pulled in two overflowing boatloads of fish.

*When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they signalled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.*  
**Luke 5:6-7**

Obeying God in small matters is an essential step in receiving God's greatest blessings. We will experience successful living, on the account that we walk in obedience before Him.



*Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.*

**Joshua 1:8**

We need to be careful in defining success. We should view “success” as God defines it, not as the world understands it. For example, Jeremiah was obedient to God’s call and commands, yet his ministry was anything but a success in the world’s eyes. Consider the many martyrs of the faith; the many poverty-stricken and persecuted Christians around the globe, do they have a successful living, as how the world understands it? Perhaps no. Yet, in **Matthew 5:10** it says:

*Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

**Matthew 5:10**

## Conclusion

As children of God, our assurance in salvation is based on the finished work of our Lord Jesus on the cross. Having repented of our sins and by faith received Jesus as our Lord and saviour, we shall not perish but have everlasting life!

Let us hold fast to the blessings of salvation by maintaining a close relationship with God on a daily basis.

**We know we are saved when we have jumped into God’s arms, trusting in what Jesus has already done for us at the cross.**

## Memory Verse

FOR IT IS BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED, THROUGH FAITH—AND THIS IS NOT FROM YOURSELVES, IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD—NOT BY WORKS, SO THAT NO ONE CAN BOAST.

**EPHESIANS 2:8-9**



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