What is the Christian life all about? For many children who grow up in a Christian home and attend church regularly, the answer may be obvious. But is it? How well do our children understand the Gospel message? Have we simply assumed they are saved because they are well-behaved and do the right things—pray, read the Bible, memorize verses? How have we presented the concept of justification by faith alone? Do the children have the mistaken belief they are earning their salvation through good works and good behavior? How have we presented sanctification? Do the children understand the importance of obedience to Jesus in the Christian life?

There are many important questions we need to examine in regard to our children, but we often make two common errors: The first error is that we assume our children have been presented with a clear explanation of salvation—especially concerning justification—and we then assume they have responded in belief simply because they know how to “talk the talk.” Children often come to think that it is good behavior—or legalism—that makes someone a Christian. The second error is that we present children with a watered-down gospel—one to which it is easy to respond because it makes no demands and carries no life-changing effect.

*To Be Like Jesus* carefully steers children down the true, biblical road of the Gospel message. Being a Christian is not a “to do” or “don’t do” list, but it is about having a real, heart-felt relationship with a living and reigning Savior and Lord. The Christian life is about having Jesus as your heart’s treasure and delight. This happens by grace alone, through faith alone, in Jesus alone.

*For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them (Ephesians 2:8-10).*

In *To Be Like Jesus*, children learn that the Christian life is not to be entered into lightly. It call us to deny ourselves, pick up our cross, and follow Jesus. But, Jesus assures His disciples that His yoke is easy and His burden is light! Jesus says if we love Him, we must obey Him, and He promises that His commands are not burdensome. Jesus says we must be faithful until death, and He pledges that He will keep us and bring us safely home.

*And He said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me (Luke 9:23).*
Our Mission

Children Desiring God exists to spread a passion for the supremacy of God in all things so that the next generation may know and cherish Jesus Christ as the only One who saves and satisfies the desires of the heart.

We want millions in every generation to set their hope in God. To that end, we aim to fuel spiritual desire by producing God-centered, Bible-saturated, Christ-exalting resources, and by equipping parents and churches to work in partnership to instruct the mind, engage the heart, and nurture the faith of the next generation.

Our Distinctions

- **God-Centeredness**
  The most important question we can ask of Scripture is, "What does this say about our great God?"

- **Depth**
  We want to fill students with truth that will make them steadfast, immovable, and always abounding. Thus, the Bible must be taught in depth with accuracy, yet in an age-appropriate and interesting manner.

- **Application**
  Teaching falls short if it simply feeds words through students’ minds. Truth must be understood and applied. Concrete illustrations and interaction with Scripture help students connect the known to the unknown.

- **Theology**
  The truth that our all-powerful, all-loving, Triune God sovereignly orchestrates all things to serve His glory and His good purpose is central to the teaching of each curriculum.

- **Partnership with Parents**
  Because parents, not churches, have the primary responsibility before God for the spiritual nurture of their children, the curricula are structured to help churches "walk alongside" parents, enabling and equipping them in this God-given role.
To Be Like Jesus

Scope & Sequence

The Scope & Sequence provides an overview of the curriculum, including lesson titles, main Scripture passages, key themes, a short description of each lesson, and memory verse, if applicable. Short and expanded versions of the Scope & Sequence are also available as PDF downloads at childrendesiringGod.org.

USAGE TIPS:
- Explain to church leaders what children are learning at each grade level.
- Help teachers and small group leaders understand the scope and sequence of the curriculum in order to teach the material more effectively.
- Share the scope and sequence with parents to give them an overview of the year, and to help them assist their son or daughter with review. It can also help parents know how to specifically pray for their children.

Lesson 1: Created in God's Image for His Glory

We have been created in the image and likeness of God for His glory.

- The curriculum begins by teaching students that because we have been created in the image and likeness of God for His glory, we are to show the greatness and worth of God in all of our thoughts, desires, and actions. God is righteous and holy, therefore we must be righteous and holy to gain eternal life.

Memory Verses: 1 Peter 1:15; 1 Corinthians 10:31

Lesson 2: All Have Sinned

God's commands show us our failure to be perfectly righteous and holy.

- The previous lesson showed students that righteousness and holiness are needed for eternal life. This lesson brings to light that all have sinned and fail to measure up to God's commands. It is impossible to earn eternal life through obedience.

Memory Verses: Romans 7:12, Romans 3:20

Lesson 3: Jesus, God's Holy and Righteous Son

Jesus is without sin—He is holy and righteous and was the perfect law-keeper.

- The last lesson emphasized that no one is righteous and holy—we all have sinned and fall short of God's glory. Therefore sinners can never earn eternal life. Instead they deserve death and hell. In this lesson, students will focus on the Person of Jesus—that He is fully God but also became fully human, and that He is without sin—a holy and righteous perfect law-keeper. Through a clue-discovery activity in this lesson, students will discover that God sent Jesus into the world to save the world through Jesus.

Memory Verse: John 1:14

Lesson 4: The Gospel of Jesus: Salvation in Jesus

The Gospel calls us to respond with repentance and belief in Jesus.

- Now that a foundation has been laid whereby students understand the predicament of unrighteous sinners, and that the answer to their problem is Jesus, this begins a series of lessons that focus on the process of salvation. This first lesson is an overview of the Gospel message, in which children will review the Gospel and what it means for sinners.

Memory Verse: John 3:16-17
To Be Like Jesus

A Study for Children on Following Jesus

Target Grade: 4th  Grade Range: 3rd-5th  Lessons: 40
Translations: ESV / NIV  Author: Jill Nelson

Scope & Sequence
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- Share the scope and sequence with parents to give them an overview of the year, and to help them assist their son or daughter with review. It can also help parents know how to specifically pray for their children.

Lesson 5: Salvation: Chosen by God
God alone chooses and predestines whom He will save.

- In this lesson, students will focus on the first step in the salvation process: Being chosen by God. They will see that God’s choices are based on His good pleasure and not on any merit of our own. The lesson emphasizes that God foreknows all things and that salvation is a gift from God to undeserving sinners.

Memory Verses: Ephesians 1:4a; Ephesians 2:8-9

Lesson 6: Salvation: The Gospel Call
Jesus personally calls His chosen people to respond in belief.

- Building on the last lesson, this lesson reveals the next step in salvation—the gospel call. The Gospel of salvation in Jesus is to be preached to all people (general call), for faith comes through hearing the Gospel proclaimed. Students will also discover that Jesus personally calls His chosen people to respond in belief, and that all those whom Jesus calls will respond in belief (effective calling).

Memory Verses: Romans 10:17; Romans 8:30a

Lesson 7: Salvation: New Spiritual Life (Regeneration)
God gives new spiritual life through the work of the Spirit.

- Continuing through the ordo salutis (order of salvation), this lesson presents the third step in salvation—regeneration. God chooses people and then calls them through the message of the Gospel. Yet in our sinful nature, we are unable to respond to the Gospel in belief. We must be given new spiritual life in order to believe. It is God who gives this new spiritual life through the work of the Spirit, and all who have been given new spiritual life will believe in Jesus.

Memory Verse: Ephesians 2:4-5

Lesson 8: Salvation: Conversion
Belief in Jesus includes a basic understanding of the Gospel, an agreement of the facts, and a personal trust in Jesus.

- The next step in salvation is conversion. Simply believing things about God will not lead to salvation—faith is required. Students will learn that faith is trusting in Jesus alone for salvation, and faith must be accompanied by repentance. They will learn that repentance is a deep-felt sorrow for sin and a turning away from sin to Jesus.

Memory Verse: Acts 20:21

Lesson 9: Salvation: Justification
Justification is a legal act of God in which He forgives sin, gives to us Jesus’ righteousness, and sees us righteous in His sight.

- Justification is the next part of the salvation process. Students will review the truth that all sinners are guilty before God, and that their just punishment is death and hell. Jesus lived a life of perfect righteousness and died as an atoning sacrifice for sin in order to satisfy the wrath of God. Students will learn what justification is and see that it is obtained only through faith in Jesus. Everyone who is justified by Jesus will receive eternal life.

Memory Verses: 2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 5:1
A Study for Children on Following Jesus

Introduction

Lesson 1: Created in God's Image for His Glory Various Passages

Lesson 2: All Have Sinned: The Rich Young Ruler (Matthew 19)

Lesson 3: Why Jesus Came Various Passages


Lesson 5: Repentance and Belief in Jesus Various New Testament Passages

Lesson 6: Believing in Jesus Various Passages

Lesson 7: God's Provision for Our Salvation Various Passages

Lesson 8: The Cost of Following Jesus Various Passages

Lesson 9: How to Pray Various Passages

Lesson 10: Salvation: Adoption Various Passages


Lesson 12: Becoming Like Jesus Through Life in the Spirit The Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5)

Lesson 13: Becoming Like Jesus Through Treasuring His Word Various New Testament Passages

Lesson 14: Becoming Like Jesus Through the Power of Prayer The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6)

Memory Verses:
- John 3:16-17
- John 1:12
- Ephesians 1:4b-5a
- Romans 7:12
- Romans 3:20
- 1 Peter 1:15
- 1 Corinthians 10:31
- John 1:14

Usage Tips:
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- Share the scope and sequence with parents to give them an overview of the year, and to help them assist their son or daughter with review. It can also help parents know how to specifically pray for their children.

Target Grade: 4th
Grade Range: 3rd-5th
Lessons: 40
Translations: ESV / NIV
Author: Jill Nelson
Lesson 15: Becoming Like Jesus by Submitting to Him

Sanctification happens through a Christian’s submission to the commands of Jesus.

- Students will discover that God has designed roles of authority and submission. Jesus is Lord of all and all people should submit to Him. They will see that Christians must acknowledge Jesus as their Lord, and that God has given all Christians the Holy Spirit and the Bible to equip them for obedience to Jesus.

Memory Verse: 1 John 2:3, 6

Lesson 16: The Most Important Command: Loving God Most of All

Jesus commands us to love God most of all.

- The emphasis of this lesson is the greatest commandment from Mark 12:30. Children will study that Jesus is Lord and His children are to imitate His life and walk in obedience to Him. Jesus loves and treasures God most of all, and so should we. Obedience to Jesus is evidence of our love for Him, for God’s commands are to be our duty and our delight, and true, lasting happiness is found in God alone.

Memory Verse: Mark 12:30

Lesson 17: Worshipping God in Spirit and Truth

Worship is gladly expressing to God that He is your greatest treasure and delight.

- This is the first in a series of lessons examining ways in which Christians can follow the greatest commandment—to love God most of all. This particular lesson focuses on worship. In it, students will see that true love for God will be expressed as worship. They will learn that worship must be done in spirit and truth by treasuring Jesus for who He is and what He has done. The lesson concludes by revealing that all of life is to be an act of worship.

Memory Verse: John 4:24

Lesson 18: Hungering for Righteousness

Jesus promises happiness to those who hunger for His righteousness.

- Continuing through lessons that show how we can love God most of all, Lesson 18 emphasizes that God wants His children to become righteous and holy and that Christians are to have a strong desire for Jesus’ righteousness in their daily lives. We must find out what thoughts, words, and actions please God. In this lesson, children will see that the Bible provides us with God’s righteous commands for every situation.

Memory Verse: Matthew 5:6

Lesson 19: Trusting God in All Circumstances

Jesus wants us to trust Him daily, in every circumstance.

- This lesson is another in the series that teaches us to love God most of all, and its focus is on our attitude during hardships. Students will examine how God has done the hardest thing of all for His people—giving Jesus to die on the cross in order to save sinners. Students will see that God is a loving, heavenly Father who desires and is able to care for all of the needs of His children, because He is sovereign over all things.

Memory Verses: Philippians 4:6; 1 Peter 5:7
Lesson 20: Being Content
Jesus commands us to be content with what we have.

- The previous lessons demonstrated that God is sovereign over all things and that they He can be trusted. This lesson focuses on the concept of contentment. Everything that we have is a gift from a good and generous heavenly Father, but we are often not content with what we have and are envious of what others have. This lesson uses the word “content” to make an acronym to help children remember why we are to be content in all things.

Memory Verse: Hebrews 13:5

Lesson 21: Using Your Abilities for God
Christians are to use their gifts and abilities in service to God.

- In this lesson, students will discover that another way to show that you love God most of all is through the use of your abilities and gifts. Students will learn that God has given all Christians special gifts and abilities and that when Jesus returns, all Christians will have to give account for how they have used those abilities. The lesson emphasizes that all service to others that is done in loving obedience to Jesus is service to God.

Memory Verse: Colossians 3:23

Lesson 22: Laying Up Treasures in Heaven
What we treasure will determine how we live.

- If we show what we love by what we treasure, then we must treasure God if we love Him most of all. This lesson reminds children that God provides for all of our needs and that earthly things are only temporary. Christians are not to lay up earthly treasures but rather lay up heavenly treasures or eternal rewards. Students will discover that everything a Christian does in obedience to Christ will reap a heavenly reward.

Memory Verse: Matthew 6:20-21

Lesson 23: Guarding Your Heart
Christians are to guard their hearts above all things.

- Lesson 23 shows students that our hearts are the source of our desires, emotions, attitudes, motives, and thoughts. Christians are not to let sin rule in their bodies. In order to guard their hearts, Christians must train their hearts for godliness. Throughout this lesson students will study the difference between a heart where sin reigns and a heart where the Spirit reigns.

Memory Verse: Proverbs 4:23

Lesson 24: Honoring Your Parents
Parents are called to represent God to their children.

- The importance of honoring your parents is the focus of this lesson. Through good and godly parents, we learn to better understand who God is, what He is like, and how we are to act toward Him. We are to honor our parents by recognizing and respecting their authority, loving them, trusting their decisions, obeying them, and going above and beyond what is expected.

Memory Verse: Ephesians 6:1-3
Lesson 25: Loving Your Neighbor

The second most important command is to love your neighbor as yourself.

- Since Lesson 17 students have been focusing on the greatest commandment—loving God most of all. This lesson shifts focus to the second greatest commandment—loving your neighbor as yourself. Students will see that obeying the command to love others is part of obeying the greatest commandment. Students will learn that God is a compassionate heavenly Father, and in an effort to become more like Jesus, we must be compassionate as well.

Memory Verse: Mark 12:31b

Lesson 26: Loving Your Enemies

Jesus commands us to love others—including our enemies.

- In the previous lesson, students learned that we are commanded to love others as ourselves. This lesson reveals to students that loving others includes loving our enemies. In the Bible students will learn that we can love our enemies by forgiving them, praying for them, and by doing good to them. The story of Corrie Ten Boom is also used as an example in this lesson.

Memory Verse: Matthew 5:44-45a

Lesson 27: Forgiving Others

Christians are to forgive others as Jesus has forgiven them.

- Last week’s lesson emphasized for students the importance of loving others. This lesson hones in on one way to love our enemies—by forgiving them. Students will be taught that we have all wronged God immeasurably because of our sin, but God forgives all those who trust in Jesus alone. They will discover what it means to forgive others as Christ has forgiven them.

Memory Verse: Ephesians 4:32

Lesson 28: Being a Humble Servant

Jesus commands us to consider others better than ourselves and serve them.

- Continuing the series on loving others, this lesson explains the importance of humility. Jesus is fully God, yet He became human to serve us. Jesus commands believers to follow His example of true humility. Students will discover that in Jesus’ eyes, true greatness is found in humility.

Memory Verse: Philippians 2:3

Lesson 29: Showing Mercy

God is merciful and wants His children to be merciful to others.

- Students will learn that mercy sees people in distress, feels compassion for them, and acts to help them. They will see that Jesus demonstrated what mercy is like.

Memory Verse: Luke 6:36

Lesson 30: Giving Generously and Cheerfully

God promises overflowing blessings for those who give generously and cheerfully.

- Building on previous lessons, this lesson demonstrates that one way to love others is through humility and mercy in how they give. Students will learn that God established tithing in the Old Testament in order to meet the needs of vocational ministers. They will also realize that it is not the amount that counts when giving. What counts is the heart—a generous and cheerful heart.

Memory Verse: 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

Lesson Sample 1

Lesson Sample 2

Visuals Sample 1

Visuals Sample 2

Workbook Sample 1

Workbook Sample 2

Resource Sample 1

Resource Sample 2

The Gospel calls us to respond with repentance and belief in Jesus.

We have been created in the image and likeness of God for His glory. Therefore sinners can never earn eternal life. Instead they deserve death and hell. In this lesson, students will focus on the Person of Jesus—that He is fully God but also became fully human, and that He is without sin—a holy and righteous perfect law-keeper.

Memory Verses: 1 Peter 1:15; 1 Corinthians 10:31

The gospel calls us to respond with repentance and belief in Jesus.

We are unrighteous sinners, and it is impossible for us to earn eternal life. Jesus was perfectly holy and righteous—He did everything required to gain eternal life. For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.

Memory Verse: John 3:16-17

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God-centered resources for training the next generation
### Lesson 31: Caring for One Another
**God wants His people to help each other.**
- This lesson takes the focus of loving others and emphasizes the way that Christians are to love each other. The lesson teaches that the church is one body in Christ. The church is the community of Christians—each member being important, and each member needing the others. The lesson explains that Jesus commands Christians—His church—to care for one another in special ways. God wants His people to help each other so that as a church and as individuals, we will grow to become more and more like Jesus.

**Memory Verse:** John 13:34-35

### Lesson 32: Seeking Lost Sinners
**Christians are to follow Jesus' example and seek after lost sinners.**
- Part of loving God most and loving others is to follow Christ's example in seeking lost sinners. Students will study how Jesus seeks to save lost sinners. Lost sinners need to hear the Gospel of Jesus. Students will discover how all of heaven rejoices over the salvation of one lost sinner, and how God uses Christians to seek after those who belong to Him.

**Memory Verse:** 1 Peter 3:15

### Lesson 33: Going into All the World
**Jesus wants His Gospel spread throughout the world to every tongue, tribe, and nation.**
- The previous lesson taught students to follow Christ's example in seeking for lost sinners. This lesson shows students that seeking for lost sinners includes sinners all around the world. Students are encouraged to be involved in worldwide missions by either going or sending.

**Memory Verse:** Mark 16:15b

### Lesson 34: Letting Your Light Shine
**Christians are to be prepared and take every opportunity to show Jesus to the world.**
- If you love God most of all, and if you love others you will want to show the greatness and worth of Jesus to all you meet, for Jesus is the light of the world. The lesson helps children to overcome common fears that Christians have in sharing the Gospel with others.

**Memory Verse:** Matthew 5:16

### Lesson 35: Rejoicing in Suffering
**Suffering is only temporary for a Christian and cannot compare to the great, everlasting joy we will someday experience in heaven.**
- The aim of this lesson is to show students that if you are walking in obedience to Jesus, you will suffer. Jesus commands Christians to rejoice in suffering, for a greater reward awaits them. Students will study Paul's life to learn from his example as he rejoiced in suffering for the glory of Christ.

**Memory Verse:** Matthew 5:11-12a
### Lesson 36: Losing Your Life for Jesus

**The only way to gain eternal life is to give up your life totally to Jesus’ control.**

- This lesson shows students that when they become a Christian they must totally surrender their lives to Christ. Students will discover what it means for a Christian to deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow Jesus wherever He leads. This lesson uses various Scripture passages along with the stories of Jim Elliot and Eric Liddell.

  **Memory Verse:** Luke 9:23b-24

### Lesson 37: Salvation: The Perseverance of Believers

**All true Christians will be kept by God’s power and will persevere in faith to the end of their lives.**

- This lesson takes students back to the order of salvation to discover what happens after sanctification. As students study the meaning of the perseverance of believers, they will see that only those who persevere in faith to the end are truly Christians. Students will be encouraged by learning ways in which God equips believers to persevere.

  **Memory Verses:** 1 Corinthians 1:8

### Lesson 38: Salvation: We Will Be Like Jesus (Death and Glorification)

**Jesus will make all Christians to be like Him so that they may live with and enjoy Him forever in heaven.**

- The final part of the salvation process is highlighted in this lesson on death and glorification. Students will see that for a Christian, death is the means by which we go to be with the Lord forever. Glorification is the final step of our salvation and will happen when Jesus returns, raises believers from the dead, and gives us new bodies like His own. It is through this process that, at last, believers are made like Christ.

  **Memory Verse:** Philippians 3:20-21

### Lesson 39: Making Much of Jesus Forever

**The main purpose of salvation is that people may see Jesus clearly, to enable them to be amazed by and enjoy the greatness and worth of Jesus forever.**

- Now that students have finished studying the order of salvation, this lesson shows them the purpose of salvation: That they might see, enjoy, and share with others the greatness and worth of Jesus forever. Children will see that this is the purpose for which they were created and that salvation allows them to fully accomplish this purpose.

  **Memory Verse:** Psalm 27:4

### Lesson 40: Come to Jesus

**Christians are people who come to Jesus, look to Jesus, and remain in Jesus.**

- The final lesson encourages each student to examine their own spiritual state by teaching that not everyone who says he is a Christian is truly a Christian. Students will see that the evidence of true belief is a life that is growing in obedience to Jesus, and that being a Christian is about loving and trusting Jesus as your Savior, Lord, and true Friend.

  **Memory Verses:** Matthew 11:28; Hebrews 12:2a; John 15:5
What You Need to Start

*To Be Like Jesus* was written to be taught to middle elementary students over 40 weeks in a Sunday school setting. The two main components of class time are the lesson—25-30 minutes, and the application time—15-30 minutes. Directions for adapting the curriculum to different time frames or settings, such as a school or home, are included.

The main teacher or team leader for the class should begin with a Teacher’s Kit and a Student Workbook for each student attending the class.

Teacher’s Kit

**ORDER ONE PER CLASSROOM**

This kit contains the basic tools you need to start teaching this curriculum.

Each kit contains:

**A. Teacher’s Notebook**
1 - Three-ring binder containing the curriculum introduction, lessons, appendix, and Parent Resource Pages.

**B. Student Workbook**
1 - Spiral-bound student workbook

**C. Verse Card Packet**
1 - Pocket size verse card packet for Scripture memory work. Cards are printed on heavy cardstock and bound with a metal ring.

**D. Visuals CD**
1 - CD containing printable PDFs of visual resources and Parent Resources Pages. (Printed copies of the visual resources may also be ordered in color or black and white, if desired.)

Student Workbooks

**ORDER ONE PER STUDENT**

*(AVAILABLE IN PRINT AND ELECTRONIC FORMATS)*

Recommended for every student to use in class and during the application time. The workbooks are used for emphasizing key themes and Scripture, reviewing past lessons, and helping children apply truths learned to their life. The workbook is available printed on heavy cardstock with a spiral binding, or as a downloadable PDF you can print at your convenience.
Additional Resources

Depending on the size and structure of your children's ministry program, as well as the teaching styles of the ministry team, you may need additional resources in order to accommodate co-teachers and small group leaders, or to better equip your students to memorize Scripture. The resources listed below are recommended based on these and other variable factors.

Leader’s Edition

ORDER ONE FOR EACH ADDITIONAL TEACHER OR SMALL GROUP LEADER (AVAILABLE IN PRINT AND ELECTRONIC FORMATS)

A. The Leader’s Edition is designed to equip small group leaders and co-leaders with their own copy of the curriculum to study and pray through as they prepare to minister to the children under their care. It includes the curriculum introduction, lesson content, and appendix. Leader’s Editions are available printed with a spiral binding or as an electronic download.

Resource Packet

ORDER ONE IF YOU WOULD LIKE PRINTED VISUALS (AVAILABLE IN COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE)

B. A full set (161 pages) of visuals are professionally printed on cardstock (in either color or black and white). The visuals are also available as PDF files on the Visual Resources CD in the Teachers Kit, if you prefer to print them yourself.

Verse Card pack

ORDER ONE PER STUDENT OR FAMILY

C. Verse cards provide a handy tool for children to use to memorize the verses that correspond to the truths they are learning each week. Cards are printed on heavy cardstock and bound with a metal ring.

Verse Cards

English Standard Version
Each lesson is focused around several key themes and passages of Scripture, which are highlighted at the beginning of each lesson, along with the memory verse for the week.

**Themes:**
- Jesus was perfectly holy and righteous—He did everything required to gain eternal life.
- We are unrighteous sinners, and it is impossible for us to earn eternal life.
- Jesus came into the world to save sinners and give them eternal life.
- The gospel of Jesus is the good news that there is salvation in Jesus.
- The gospel calls us to respond with repentance and belief in Jesus.

**Scripture:**
- John 3:16-17; Luke 19:10; Matthew 26:28; Matthew 20:28b; John 11:25b; Mark 1:15

**Memory Verses:** John 3:16-17

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.

**Visually:**
- Small prize.
- Adult with a driver's license who will be present during the lesson.
- Poster from Lesson 3.
- JESUS sign (Resource Pack: piece A) and ETERNAL LIFE sign (from Lesson 1 piece M).
- Picture of broken lamp (Resource Pack: piece D).
- Soccer ball (or basketball).
- Picture of cross and empty tomb (Resource Pack: pieces N and O).
- Wall space or large piece of paper for displaying salvation letter pieces.
- THE GOSPEL CALLS US TO REPENT AND BELIEVE IN JESUS sign (Resource Pack: piece R), glue this sign to the back of THE GOSPEL visual.
- Tape.
Lesson 4: The Gospel of Jesus: Salvation in Jesus

**Curriculum Scope & Sequence**

The previous lesson showed students that righteousness and holiness are needed for eternal life. This lesson brings to light that all have sinned and fail to measure up to God's commands. The last lesson emphasized that no one is righteous and holy—we all have sinned and fall short of God's glory.

**Lesson Presentation**

**Illustration:** Have a child come up front and display the prize. Tell the child that if he will show you a driver's license, you will give him the prize.

Ask the child: Do you have a driver's license? Why not? [He is not old enough to drive.] So then there is no way that you can get this prize.

Have an adult stand up and show the class his driver's license. Have him explain to the child that he can come and get his license to use in order to get the prize. Have the child go and get the license from the adult and present it to you. Look at the license and say, “Yes, I will accept this,” and then give the child the prize.

Ask: Why was (child) able to get the prize? Did he have his own license? But who did have a license? What did (adult) offer to give to (child)? Was this good news for (child)?

**Review:** Display the poster from Lesson 3. Ask the children if they have what is required to receive the prize of eternal life. Why not? [We are all sinners and fail to keep God's holy and righteous laws.] What do we deserve because of our sin? [Death and hell.] But is there one special Person who did do everything that was required to receive eternal life? [Yes, Jesus.] Would Jesus then be able and willing to help hopeless sinners get the prize of eternal life?

Have a Sword Drill with the following: **John 3:16:**

> For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

**Display** the ETERNAL LIFE sign. Have a child come up front and attach the SINNER sticker to him. According to this verse, what is God able and willing to give to sinners in order that they can receive the prize of eternal life? [His Son, Jesus.] Display the JESUS sign. Hand the ETERNAL LIFE sign to the child. Why did God want to do this? [Because He loved the world.]

**Read John 3:17:**

> For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.

Ask: So was it just an accident that God sent His perfectly holy and righteous Son into the world? [No.] What was the purpose? [To save sinners.] Is this good news?
**Lesson 1: Created in God’s Image for His Glory**

Various Passages

The Gospel calls us to respond with repentance and belief in Jesus. We have been created in the image and likeness of God for His glory.

**Lesson 4: The Gospel of Jesus: Salvation in Jesus**

Various New Testament Passages

It is impossible to earn eternal life through obedience.

**Illustration:** Have a child come up front and hand him the picture of the broken lamp and the soccer ball.

Suppose (child) was playing with his soccer ball in the house while his mother was gone and broke his mom’s favorite lamp. What is the bad news about this situation? [His mom will be angry.] What would be good news to him in this situation? That his soccer team won a trophy? That he is the best player on his team? That he scored two goals in the last game? Why will none of this be good news for him in this situation? [It will not take away his mother’s anger when she sees the broken lamp.] What would be good news? [His mother’s forgiveness.]

Point out that all of us have bad news—news that is much worse than a mom being angry with us. What is the worst news of all? [We are unrighteous sinners and God is very angered by our sin. We deserve death and hell. We cannot earn eternal life. But God sent Jesus to bring sinners good news—the best news of all!]

Comment: In the Bible there is a special word for the good news that Jesus has for sinners: THE GOSPEL (display visual). What is the good news of the gospel that Jesus came to bring?

**Display** THE GOSPEL visual again. Choose children to read the verses listed below. Have the children listen for the good news that is found in each verse and choose a child to come and remove the appropriate strip on THE GOSPEL visual.

**Read Luke 19:10:**

*For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.*

Ask: Who did Jesus come to seek after? Who is lost? [Sinners.] Uncover: Jesus came to seek lost sinners.

**Read Matthew 26:28:**

*For this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.*

Ask: What good news did Jesus have for guilty sinners? [Forgiveness of sins.] Uncover: Jesus came to forgive sinners.

**Read Matthew 20:28b:**

*The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.*

Ask: What did Jesus give up for sinners? [His life.] What is a ransom? [Paying a price.]

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Teachers are encouraged to lead children to discover concepts through interactive lessons. Multiple illustrations are used to reach children with different learning styles and keep students engaged.

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**Teacher’s Notebook/Leader’s Edition**

This sample shows how the lessons are structured and what a teacher will use to prepare and teach the material.

Teachers should read through all the lessons (or the Scope & Sequence) before teaching the first lesson. This helps the teacher understand how the lessons build on one another week-by-week.

**ORDERING TIPS:**

- Lessons are included in the Teacher’s Kit and in the Leader’s Edition. Each teacher and small group leader should have a copy to prepare for the lesson and application times.
Teacher’s Notebook/Leader’s Edition

This sample shows how the lessons are structured and what a teacher will use to prepare and teach the material. Teachers should read through all the lessons (or the Scope & Sequence) before teaching the first lesson. This helps the teacher understand how the lessons build on one another week-by-week.

Ordering Tips:
Lessons are included in the Teacher’s Kit and in the Leader’s Edition. Each teacher and small group leader should have a copy to prepare for the lesson and application times.

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Children are urged to bring their Bible to class and are given the opportunity to look up Scripture during Sword (Bible) Drills.

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for someone else’s release.] What was the penalty that sinners deserve? [God’s punishment of death.] Uncover: Jesus came to die and pay the penalty for sinners. Display the cross and tape it above the left-hand shoulder of the Jesus picture on the poster.

Read John 11:25b:

I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live.

Ask: What did Jesus do after He died for sinners? [He rose from the dead.] What is Jesus able to give to sinners because of this? [Eternal life.] Uncover: “Jesus rose from the dead to give sinners eternal life.” Display the empty tomb picture and tape it above the right-hand shoulder of the Jesus picture on the poster.

Display the fully uncovered THE GOSPEL visual. Have the children quickly recite the four points presented.

Activity: Point out that there is a very special word in the Bible for the good news that God has for sinners. Display the bag of letters. Choose two or three children to come up front. When you give the signal, they can open the bag, and as quickly as possible, unscramble the letters to this special word and tape them in their proper order on the wall or paper. When the children have finished, ask the class to say the word together: “Salvation.”

Explain that the word “salvation” means “to save.” The good news of the gospel is that God sent Jesus to save sinners so that they could enjoy eternal life. The gospel of Jesus is that there is salvation in Jesus. Display THE GOSPEL OF JESUS = SALVATION IN JESUS. Tape this sign to the top of the poster from Lesson 3.

Ask: Is that all that there is to the gospel—the good news that there is salvation in Jesus? Suppose someone said to you, “(Sports team) is giving away free tickets for next week’s game.” What else would you want to know? [How can I get a free ticket?]

The greatest news of all is that there is salvation in Jesus. And the gospel also tells you how you can receive this good news. How do you think that you can receive the good news of salvation? Do you buy salvation? Are you supposed to work for it?

Have a Sword Drill with the following: Mark 1:15:

The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.
Ask: What should we do? [Repent and believe the good news!] What does this mean? [Allow the children to give some responses or even offer verses. At this point, do not go into a lengthy discussion since the next several lessons will explain this more fully.]

Turn THE GOSPEL visual over to display, THE GOSPEL CALLS US TO REPENT AND BELIEVE IN JESUS.

Comment: The gospel is the greatest news that could ever be given to helpless sinners. The gospel is the good news that there is salvation in Jesus. He is able to save sinners because He is God's Son and lived a perfect life and then He died and rose so that sinners could receive something that we could never earn—eternal life! (Remove the ROAD BLOCK from the poster.)

The poster should now look like this:

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Have the children turn to John 3:16. Point out that many people have memorized this verse. Ask: If someone came up to you today and asked you what this verse means, could you explain it to them? [Allow the children to respond.] Use the following questions if the children need help: What is the "bad news" in this verse that we need saving from? [We are perishing.] Why are we perishing? [Because we are sinners and deserve death and hell.] What is the good news in this verse? [God sent Jesus into the world.] Why did God send Jesus? [Because He loves us and wants to save sinners.] Point out that this verse is telling us of the good news that there is salvation in Jesus. Does this verse say that everyone gets...
Teachers should read through all the lessons (or the Scope & Sequence) before teaching the first lesson. This helps the teacher understand how the lessons build on one another week-by-week.

ORDERING TIPS:
- Lessons are included in the Teacher’s Kit and in the Leader’s Edition. Each teacher and small group leader should have a copy to prepare for the lesson and application times.

The application questions are most effective in small groups of six to 10 children. The questions prompt meaningful conversation and go through the application material students have in their workbooks. Children are able to review the truths presented during the lesson and discuss how to practically apply them to their personal lives.

eternal life? Read verse 18 also. [No.] What do you need to do in order to receive salvation from Jesus? [Believe in Him.] What do you think that means? Is it just saying certain words?

⇒Ask: Do you think that there is another way to get eternal life? Suppose someone says that as long as you do more good things than bad things, you can get to heaven without believing in Jesus. Or, you can get eternal life by believing in the help of other gods, or you can get eternal life by working to do five special things. Can you get eternal life in these ways also? Choose children to read the following verses: John 14:6 and Acts 4:12. What are these verses telling us about Jesus and salvation? Can you depend on any other way to be saved? Are you trying to receive eternal life by depending on other things or ways?

⇒Remind the children of the beginning illustration of the prize and the driver’s license. Do you think that child felt frustrated at first knowing that he could not get the prize? How did his feelings change when the adult offered his own license? Ask: Have you ever felt deep sadness because of your sin and your inability to earn eternal life? Have you ever felt desperate because you have sinned against a holy and righteous God and deserve His judgment? Knowing the bad news—what is the good news? Have you responded to the good news of the gospel? How must a person respond in order to receive the good news? Read and discuss Acts 3:19.

⇒WORKBOOK Have the children turn in their workbooks to Lesson 4. Have the children read through the verses and write down the key points of the gospel message. Next, have them write in the response that the gospel calls us to. What is repentance? What does it mean to believe in Jesus? Recall the story of the rich young man from Matthew 19:16-22. Read what Jesus called him to do in verse 21. Did the man do this? Why not? Use the following examples to help children understand repentance and true belief: Luke 18:13, Luke 19:8-9 and Luke 9:23. Have you experienced true repentance for your sin? Do you have the kind of belief in Jesus that causes you to deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Jesus as your Savior and Lord?
Color
Resource
Packets

Visuals help explain illustrations and make lessons more interesting, impacting, and understandable. These visuals can be re-used for years, so it is important to store them carefully.

**ORDERING TIPS:**
- Order one (color or black and white) resource packet per classroom if you prefer to use professionally printed visuals.
- You can also print your own visuals from the Visuals CD, which is included with each Teacher’s Kit.

Visuals include signs, diagrams, and pictures that are used to teach part of the lesson.

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**The Gospel**

Jesus came to seek sinners.
Jesus came to forgive sinners.
Jesus came to die for sinners.
Jesus rose from the dead to give sinners eternal life.
Color Resource Packets

Visuals help explain illustrations and make lessons more interesting, impacting, and understandable. These visuals can be re-used for years, so it is important to store them carefully.

**ORDERING TIPS:**
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- You can also print your own visuals from the Visuals CD, which is included with each Teacher’s Kit.

Instructions for any assembly needed are included with the visuals.
Color Resource Packets

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- You can also print your own visuals from the Visuals CD, which is included with each Teacher's Kit.

Since visuals are re-used from year to year, it is important to organize them neatly and label them clearly. Laminating flat visuals can increase durability. Misplaced or worn visuals can be replaced by printing them from the Visuals CD, which is included in the Teacher’s Kit. Some visuals are used during the application time for a workbook activity. Instructions are provided when copies are needed for an activity.
Color Resource Packets

Visuals help explain illustrations and make lessons more interesting, impacting, and understandable. These visuals can be re-used for years, so it is important to store them carefully.

ORDERING TIPS:
- Order one (color or black and white) resource packet per classroom if you prefer to use professionally printed visuals.
- You can also print your own visuals from the Visuals CD, which is included with each Teacher's Kit.
TO BE LIKE JESUS
Lesson 4
THE GOSPEL OF JESUS: SALVATION IN JESUS

Themes:
- Jesus was perfectly holy and righteous—He did everything required to gain eternal life
- We are unrighteous sinners, and it is impossible for us to earn eternal life
- Jesus came into the world to save sinners and give them eternal life
- The gospel of Jesus is the good news that there is salvation in Jesus
- The gospel calls us to respond with repentance and belief in Jesus

Scripture:
John 3:16-17; Luke 19:10; Matthew 26:28; Matthew 20:28b; John 11:25b; Mark 1:15

Memory Verse: John 3:16-17
For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.

Workbook Page: Do you find any bad news written on the workbook page? What is it? But what is the good news? What is the gospel of Jesus? Use your Bible to look up the verses listed on the page. Write in the missing words on the blank lines.

What is repentance? What does it mean to believe in Jesus? Think about the story of the rich young man from Matthew 19:16-22. Read what Jesus called him to do in verse 21. Did the man do this? Why not?


Have you experienced true repentance for your sin? Do you have the kind of belief in Jesus that causes you to deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Jesus as your Savior and Lord? Can you pray to Jesus and ask Him to help you?
Student Workbook

Student Workbooks reinforce lesson truths and encourage discussion and review. It is recommended that you store workbooks in the classroom during the year. Then, at the end of the year, students can take the workbook home and continue to review the lessons. Workbooks are printed on heavy, marker-friendly cardstock and are spiral bound.

ORDERING TIPS:
- Order one workbook per student. Copies of a lesson can be made for visitors.
- Electronically downloadable workbooks are available if you prefer to print your own copies.

The right-hand page contains activities designed to help students process what was presented in the lesson and apply the concepts to their own lives. Activities include filling-in-the-blank, answering short questions, drawing, and completing puzzles.

The Gospel calls us to respond with repentance and belief in Jesus. The gospel of Jesus is the good news that there is salvation in Jesus. Jesus came into the world to save sinners and give them eternal life. We are unrighteous sinners, and it is impossible for us to earn eternal life. Instead, we deserve death and separation from God and His glory. Therefore sinners can never earn eternal life. Instead they deserve death and separation from God and His glory.

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Parent Resource Pages

Parent Resource Pages provide an overview of the lesson so parents can discuss the material with their son or daughter. Parents are also able to reinforce the lesson themes throughout the week with their child. These pages can be photocopied and emailed to parents each week.

**ORDERING TIPS:**
- Parent Resource Pages are included in the Teacher's Kit both printed in the binder and as PDF files on the Visuals CD.

An introduction page provides an overview of the curriculum so parents know what their children will be learning throughout the year. It is essential for teachers to connect with parents in order to effectively partner with them throughout the year.

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**TO BE LIKE JESUS**

**Parent Resource Pages**

**Introduction**

What is the Christian life all about? For many children who are growing up in Christian homes and attending church regularly, this question may seem to have an obvious answer. But does it? How well do our children understand the gospel message? Has it been carefully explained to them in words that they can understand? Have we given them the whole gospel or just bits and pieces? Have we simply assumed that they are saved because they are well-behaved and they do all the right things—they pray, read the Bible, memorize verses, attend Sunday school?

As the above paragraph points out, there are many important questions that we need to examine in regards to our children. We often make two common errors: First, we assume that our children have been presented with a clear explanation of salvation—especially concerning justification—and we then assume that they have responded in belief simply because they know how to “talk the talk.” Because of this, we often treat our children as believers and press on to teach them about following Jesus’ commands. Children often come to think that it is good behavior that makes someone a Christian. In other words, we inadvertently steer our children down the deadly road of legalism. The second error is that we present children with a watered-down gospel—one that is easily responded to because it makes no demands and carries no life-changing effect. As long as the children acknowledge a few basic gospel facts, they are deemed saved by grace, and it becomes a secondary concern as to whether or not their profession is followed by true Christian obedience. In this scenario, we inadvertently lead our children down the dangerous road of licentiousness.

To Be Like Jesus was written to carefully steer children down the true, biblical road of the gospel message as summarized in Ephesians 2:8-10 and Luke 9:23:

> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

And He said to all, “If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me.”

Please do not see the lessons as a “to do” list for the Christian life. Being a Christian is not a “to do” list (or a “don’t do” list). It is about having a real, heart-felt relationship with a living and reigning Savior and Lord. The Christian life is about having Jesus as your heart’s treasure and delight. It is about the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit and the Word in the life of every true believer. How does this happen? By grace alone, through faith alone, in Jesus alone!

**Parental Responsibility:**
Clearly the responsibility (as well as the privilege) of nurturing the faith of children rests

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**Sunday School Curricula**

A Study for Children on Following Jesus

**Target Grade:** 4th  **Grade Range:** 3rd-5th  **Lessons:** 40

**Translations:** ESV / NIV  **Author:** Jill Nelson

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**Lesson 1: Created in God's Image for His Glory**

**Various Passages**

Jesus is without sin—He is holy and righteous and was the perfect law-keeper. We have been created in the image and likeness of God for His glory. And holy to gain eternal life.

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**Lesson 2: All Have Sinned**

**The Rich Young Ruler (Matthew 19)**

Thoughts, desires, and actions. God is righteous and holy, therefore we must be righteous:

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**Lesson 4: The Gospel of Jesus: Salvation in Jesus**

**Various New Testament Passages**

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him. John 3:16-17; Luke 19:10; Matthew 26:28; Matthew 20:28b; John 11:25b; Mark 1:15

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PADS provides an overview of the curriculum so parents can discuss the material with their son or daughter.

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BOOKS provide an overview of the curriculum so parents can discuss the material with their son or daughter.
Parent Resource Pages

Parent Resource Pages provide an overview of the lesson so parents can discuss the material with their son or daughter. Parents are also able to reinforce the lesson themes throughout the week with their child. These pages can be photocopied and distributed after class or emailed to parents each week.

ORDERING TIPS:
- Parent Resources Pages are included in the Teacher’s Kit both printed in the binder and as PDF files on the Visuals CD.

Parents are given tips on how to utilize the Parent Resource Pages in order to better lead conversation with their son and daughter, and know how to pray for them as they learn how to be like Jesus.

primarily on parents. Parents have the most opportunity for teachable moments: everyday situations in which the truth of God’s Word can be applied. Faith nurturing should not be seen primarily as a classroom experience, but rather should be seen as a consistent weaver of spiritual truth into everyday life. In order for the church and the home to partner together in nurturing the faith of children, Parent Resource Pages are provided.

Using the Parent Resource Pages:
Every lesson in this curriculum has a corresponding Parent Resource Page. You will find the following information listed: Lesson title, key themes, Scripture presented in lesson, and one or more memory verses. Use this information to ask your child questions about the lesson. Encourage your child to memorize the memory verse. All memory verses are printed in the ESV version. The ESV is a version that is both readable and accurate. So a child using the ESV because it is readable can someday become an adult using the ESV because it is accurate. Since there is no need to switch versions as a teen or adult, verses memorized as a child will still be reviewed in adulthood. These verses have been carefully chosen to give children a strong Bible-based theological foundation. We cannot overemphasize the significance of memorized Scripture in the walk of faith.

After the memory verse, you will notice a section titled, Take it to heart. This title is very intentional. This particular study must be presented very carefully. The majority of lessons focus on specific commands of Jesus. The fear of legalism should be a very real one. As a parent you must be discerning. Listen carefully to how your child is responding to the lesson content. You must keep directing the focus to the response of the heart! The Christian life is about having a living, ongoing, heart-felt relationship with Jesus. Christian obedience is not about external acts that are done apart from faith in Jesus. Sanctification is growing in grace, evidenced by loving obedience to our Savior and Lord. The questions listed in this section are to assist you in getting to the heart of the matter—not merely seeing if your child has come to an intellectual understanding. Hopefully these questions will encourage further spiritual discussion between you and your child along with practical suggestions for putting faith into action.

Finally, you will find a section titled, Pray about it. As 1 Corinthians 3:7 states, “So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.” We are totally dependent on the Holy Spirit for giving us new spiritual eyes that see, trust, and treasure Christ. And it is only by His ongoing power, transforming the heart and mind, that we and our children can grow in grace. Prayer is the means by which we can come before our heavenly Father and cry out to Him for daily help. Praying with and for your child will encourage him to continually fix his eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

Deuteronomy 6:5-9 says, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”
TO BE LIKE JESUS

Parent Resource Page
Lesson 4:
THE GOSPEL OF JESUS: SALVATION IN JESUS

Themes:
- Jesus was perfectly holy and righteous—He did everything required to gain eternal life.
- We are unrighteous sinners, and it is impossible for us to earn eternal life.
- Jesus came into the world to save sinners and give them eternal life.
- The gospel of Jesus is the good news that there is salvation in Jesus.
- The gospel calls us to respond with repentance and belief in Jesus.

Scripture:
John 3:16-17; Luke 19:10; Matthew 26:28; Matthew 20:28b; John 11:25b; Mark 1:15

Memory Verse: John 3:16-17
For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.

Take it to heart: Read John 3:16. If someone came up to you today and asked you what this verse means, could you explain it to them? Why, or why not? Look at the verse carefully. Do you see any “bad news” in the verse that you need saving from? Why are sinners perishing? What is the good news in this verse? Why did God send Jesus into the world? Do you believe that this verse applies to you? Did Jesus come to save you?

Suppose someone says that as long as you do more good things than bad things, you can get to heaven without believing in Jesus. Or, you can get eternal life by believing in the help of other gods, or you can get eternal life by working to do five special things. Can you get eternal life in these ways also? Read John 14:6 and Acts 4:12. Can you depend on any other way to be saved? Are you trying to receive eternal life by depending on anything or anyone else other than Jesus?

Have you ever felt a deep sadness for your sin and your inability to earn eternal life? Have you ever felt desperate because you have sinned against a holy and righteous God and deserve His judgment? Have you responded to the good news of the gospel? If so, how? If not, why not? What do you need to do in order to receive salvation from Jesus? Read Mark 1:15. Have you repented? Do you believe in Jesus? Read Luke 15:11-22, Luke 18:13, and Luke 9:23 to see what a repentant and believing heart looks and acts like. What does your own heart show?

Pray about it: Seek after God with all your heart. Ask Him to give you a repentant and believing heart. Have you prayed to believe in Jesus for your salvation? Have you thought about what it means to repent and believe? Call out to Jesus with a sincere and broken heart.

Children Desiring God
May Reproduce for Parents
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TO BE LIKE JESUS
Lesson 27
FORGIVING OTHERS

Themes:
- We have all wronged God immeasurably because of our sin.
- God is forgiving to all those who are trusting in Jesus alone.
- Christians are to forgive others as Jesus has forgiven them.

Scripture:
Matthew 18:21-35; Ephesians 4:32

Memory Verse: Ephesians 4:32
Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Visuals:
- SALVATION chart (from previous lessons).
- LOVING GOD MOST visual (from previous lessons).
- Optional: Baseball bat and ball.
- Broken window visuals (Resource pack: pieces C-H). Cut and assemble as instructed. When attached and folded, pieces will form a visual that will unfold accordion style.
- Child’s plastic building block set or other toy model.
- MILLIONS OF DOLLARS, FEW DOLLARS, SINS AGAINST GOD, and WRONGS AGAINST ME signs (Resource Pack: pieces I-L). Glue the SINS AGAINST GOD to the back of the MILLIONS OF DOLLARS sign. Glue the WRONGS AGAINST ME to the back of the FEW DOLLARS sign.
- FORGIVING OTHERS heart (Resource Pack: hearts, Lesson 27).

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Review: Display the salvation chart as completed so far. Quickly have the children recite the elements presented thus far: Chosen by God; The Gospel Call; New Spiritual Life; Conversion; Justification; Adoption; Sanctification. Ask the children if they remember what “sanctification” is. [A Christian becoming more and more like Jesus.] Why have we been learning lessons about Jesus’ commands? [Following Jesus and obeying His commands show us how to become more and more like Him.] Is sanctification something that happens in a year or two and then you are done? [No. It’s a process that takes your whole life.] Is sanctification an easy thing or is it hard work? [It is hard work.] What kind of help does God give to His children? [The Holy Spirit and the Bible.]

Display the LOVING GOD MOST visual. What heart did we attach to the visual in the last two lessons? [Loving Others and Loving Your Enemies.] Explain that in today’s lesson and in the ones that follow, we will be learning about specific commands from Jesus that show us ways in which we can love others, including our family, friends, neighbors, and even our enemies.

Illustration: Have a volunteer come up and hold the baseball bat. Give him part one of the story to read. Display the visuals for him as he reads the story.

Yesterday I decided to practice my hitting out in the backyard. My neighbor, Mr. Smith, was happily sitting in his living room watching television. I hit the ball so hard that it crashed through Mr. Smith’s living room window. (Begin displaying the visuals.) Next, it broke a lamp, and then it went right into the television. This blew an electric fuse causing all the electricity to go out in Mr. Smith’s home. Because the ball hit the T.V. so hard, it also caused the fish bowl on top of the T.V. to fall and break on the floor, getting the carpeting all wet and killing Mr. Smith’s pet goldfish. What do you think I was thinking and feeling after this all happened? [Allow the children in the class to respond.]

Next, I went over to Mr. Smith’s house and begged for forgiveness for what I had done. Can you guess what he said? [Allow the children to respond.] Mr. Smith forgave me and said that he accepted my apology and even gave me my ball back! Wow! What a great feeling! (Have the boy remain up front.)

Choose another child to come up and hold the toy building set. Give her part two of the story to read.

When my brother came in from the backyard, I had some bad news for him. I had been playing with his new set, and I lost one of the little pieces. So I went to tell him that I was very sorry and to ask if he would. Can you guess what he said? [Allow children to respond.] “How could you be so stupid! You had better..."
go to the store today and buy me a new piece and never play with my things again!”

Have the two children return to their seats. Ask the children if the brother had acted in the right way towards his sister. Why not? Have any of the children ever done something like this? Point out that the first story may seem preposterous—hard to believe—but Jesus used a story much like it to answer an important question from Peter.

Have a Sword Drill with the following: Matthew 18:21:

Then Peter came up and said to Him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?”

Ask: How do you think Jesus would respond to Peter’s question?

Read Jesus’ response from verse 22 and the subsequent story from verses 23-34. After reading through the entire text, explain to the children that ten thousand talents was equal to millions of dollars (display sign). On the other hand, a hundred denarii was only a few dollars (display sign).

Ask: How had the king acted toward the servant who owed him an enormous debt when the servant asked for mercy? [He forgave him.] What does this tell us about the king? [He was kind and forgiving.] How had the servant acted toward a fellow-servant who owed him just a small amount? [He was unforgiving and wanted to be paid back in full.] Even after the servant begged for forgiveness and promised to pay him back? How did the king respond to the servant’s unwillingness to forgive the other servant? [The king decided to treat the servant in the same unforgiving way that he had treated his fellow servant.] How does this story that Jesus told answer Peter’s question?

Read verse 35:

“So also My heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

Explain that Jesus was trying to show Peter that he was asking the wrong question. Peter should not be keeping track of how many times he forgives others—that is not true forgiveness. Is true forgiveness supposed to keep count? True forgiveness does not keep a count of what others have done against us. Why?

Ask: In this story, whom do you think the king represents, us or God? [God.] Is there any debt that you and I owe God? Is there anything that we have done to wrong Him? [We have all sinned against Him, an enormous debt.] We have all sinned against Him, over and over again—every single day! (Turn over the MILLIONS OF DOLLARS sign and display the SINS AGAINST GOD.) We
have all turned away and treasured other things and people more than Him. How does that compare to the wrong things that people have done to us? [Very small.] Our sin against God is millions and millions of times worse than anything anyone has ever done against us! [Turn over the FEW DOLLARS sign and display the WRONGS AGAINST ME.] Can we ever repay God for what we have done against Him? [No.] Yet, how does God act toward those who come to Him and beg for forgiveness and trust in Jesus alone for that forgiveness? [He is kind to them and forgives them.] However, what does He expect of those that He has forgiven? Should they go out and be unforgiving of others? [No. We must be forgiving of others.] Should we keep track of how many times someone does something wrong to us? [No.]

Ask: Do we always respond to people in a forgiving manner? Why not? What might we be forgetting? [How much we have sinned against God and how we must depend on Him for forgiveness.]

Point out that Jesus wants us to understand that if we are truly trusting in Him for the forgiveness of our enormous sin toward God, we will treasure that forgiveness so much that when other people wrong us, we will forgive them. Forgive others shows that we understand what it is like to be forgiven by God. Ask the children if they can think of a verse that will help remind us of this story. Use the following verse if they do not think of it.

Have a Sword Drill with Ephesians 4:32:

**Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.**

Display the LOVING GOD MOST visual. Have a child come up and display the FORGIVING OTHERS heart. Have the child attach the heart to the visual.

Remind the children of the previous lesson when they heard of how Corrie Ten Boom learned about how to love her enemy. Ask the children if they remember what Corrie included in her prayer to God when she remembered the man that had caused so much harm to her family. [She forgave him.] Was that easy for her to do? No, but she wanted to be like Jesus, so she learned to forgive even her enemy.

**APPLICATION**

⇒Recall the story of the child hitting a ball through his neighbor’s window. Have the children recall if they have ever wronged someone and could not undo the damage they had done. What does that feel like? What is the only thing that you can ask for in a situation like that? Ask the children if they have ever acted like the unforgiving sibling in the other story. Why
did they act that way? Ask: Do you like being forgiven by others? Why? What do you feel is the greatest thing that you have done wrong? Do you consider your sin against a holy God to be a greater offense than anything you have ever done against anyone else? Have you felt terrible for your sin and gone to Jesus and asked Him to forgive you? What does God’s forgiveness feel like? How do you feel when someone wrongs you? Are you quick to forgive or is it sometimes hard to do? Why? What would be good to think about when you are having a hard time forgiving someone? Read, discuss, and pray about Ephesians 4:32.

**WORKBOOK** Have the children turn to Lesson 27 in their workbooks. What is depicted in the picture at the top of the page? Read and discuss Ephesians 4:32. Ask: Is our forgiveness of others dependent on whether they say that they are sorry to us? On whether they deserve forgiveness? On how badly they wronged us? What is this command to forgive based on? [God’s forgiveness of our sin toward Him if we are trusting in Jesus.] How does the wrong of our sin toward God compare to the wrongs that people have done toward us? Is there anyone that you are having a hard time forgiving? What do you think is keeping you from forgiving them? Can we pray about it? Have the children carefully write out the verse on the bottom portion of the page.

Suppose you say that you forgive someone for hitting you. What kinds of thoughts, feelings, words, and actions would show that you really had forgiven him? What does true forgiveness look like? How do you know if you have really forgiven someone from your heart? Read and discuss the following verses: 1 Corinthians 13:5 [Forgiveness does not keep track of wrongs done]; Romans 12:17-19 [Forgiveness does not repay evil for evil, seeks to be at peace, and does not take revenge]; Luke 6:28 [Forgiveness blesses those who wrong us and prays for their welfare]. Do you practice true forgiveness? Are you holding any “little” grudges against anyone? What will happen if you keep a grudge? Will it get bigger and bigger? What do you need to do with it?

Read Romans 12:19-21. Ask: Does it seem unfair when someone “gets away” with doing wrong? Suppose a bully is not punished by his parents and does not say that he is sorry for what he has done to you. Is it okay for you to be unforgiving then and try to get him back? Read Romans 12:19-21. Whose justice must you trust in? Ask: Is there someone that you would like to “get back”? Why do you feel this way? Who can deal with that person better, you or God? Are you trusting God to deal with that person’s heart? Have you asked God to deal with your heart?
Color Resource Packets

Visuals help explain illustrations and make lessons more interesting, impacting, and understandable. These visuals can be re-used for years, so it is important to store them carefully.

ORDERING TIPS:
- Order one (color or black and white) resource packet per classroom if you prefer to use professionally printed visuals.
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Script for Part 1 of Lesson 27

Yesterday I decided to practice my hitting out in the backyard. My neighbor, Mr. Smith, was happily sitting in his living room watching television. I hit the ball so hard that it crashed through Mr. Smith’s living room window.

Next, it broke a lamp, and then it went right into the television. This blew a electric fuse causing all the electricity to go out in Mr. Smith’s home.

Because the ball hit the T.V. so hard, it also caused the fish bowl on top of the T.V. to fall and break on the floor, getting the carpeting all wet and killing Mr. Smith’s pet goldfish. What do you think I was thinking and feeling after this all happened?

[Allow the children in the class to respond.]

Next, I went over to Mr. Smith’s house and begged for forgiveness for what I had done. Can you guess what he said?

[Allow the children to respond.]

Mr. Smith forgave me and said that he accepted my apology and even gave me my ball back! Wow! What a great feeling!

Script for Part 2 of Lesson 27

When my brother came in from the backyard I had some bad news for him. I had been playing with his new set and I lost one of the little pieces.

So I went to tell him that I was very sorry and would he please forgive me. Can you guess what he said?

[Allow children to respond.]

He said, “How could you be so stupid! You had better go to the store today and buy me a new piece and never play with my things again!”

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Color Resource Packets

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Since visuals are re-used from year to year, it is important to organize them neatly and label them clearly. Laminating flat visuals can increase durability. Misplaced or worn visuals can be replaced by printing them from the Visuals CD, which is included in the Teacher’s Kit. Some visuals are used during the application time for a workbook activity. Instructions are provided when copies are needed for an activity.

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The Gospel calls us to respond with repentance and belief in Jesus. The gospel of Jesus is the good news that there is salvation in Jesus. Jesus came into the world to save the world through Jesus.

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**What You Need to Start**

- Visuals Sample 1
- Visuals Sample 2
- Lesson Sample 1
- Lesson Sample 2

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**Teacher’s Notebook and Leader’s Edition**

- Visuals Sample 1
- Visuals Sample 2

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**Color Resource Packet**

- Visuals Sample 1
- Visuals Sample 2

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**Student Workbook**

- Workbook Sample 1
- Workbook Sample 2

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**Parent Resource Pages**

- Resource Sample 1
- Resource Sample 2
Color Resource Packets

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The Gospel calls us to respond with repentance and belief in Jesus. Jesus was perfectly holy and righteous—He did everything required to gain eternal life.

Memory Verse: John 3:16-17; Luke 19:10; Matthew 26:28; Matthew 20:28b; John 11:25b; Mark 1:15

Now that a foundation has been laid whereby students understand the predicament of unrighteous sinners, and that the answer to their problem is Jesus, this begins a series of short lessons that relate to salvation through faith alone. Salvation found in Romans 8:29-30, with particular emphasis on sanctification, of the Gospel message, its purpose, and promise. The study uses the order of translations: ESV / NIV. The Bible is the Word of God and a source of truth. The study uses the context of the text in each lesson.


THE GOSPEL OF JESUS = SALVATION IN JESUS (Resource Pack: pieces A and Q): The gospel of Jesus is the good news that there is salvation in Jesus. Salvation letter pieces (Resource Pack: pieces E-M). Cut out the individual letters and place them in a paper bag.

A Study for Children on Following Jesus
Translations: ESV / NIV
Target Grade: 4th
Grade Range: 3rd-5th
Lessons: 40
Author: Jill Nelson

Children desiring God
God-centered resources for training the next generation
877.400.1414
childrendesiringGod.org

The curriculum begins by teaching students that because we have been created in the image and likeness of God for His glory, we are unrighteous sinners, and that the answer to their problem is Jesus, this begins a series of lessons that relate to salvation through faith alone. Salvation found in Romans 8:29-30, with particular emphasis on sanctification, of the Gospel message, its purpose, and promise. The study uses the order of translations: ESV / NIV. The Bible is the Word of God and a source of truth. The study uses the context of the text in each lesson.

Lesson 4: The Gospel of Jesus: Salvation in Jesus

Various New Testament Passages

MEMORY VERSE: JOHN 3:16-17

The Gospel calls us to respond with repentance and belief in Jesus.

THE GOSPEL OF JESUS = SALVATION IN JESUS

Lesson 4:

THE GOSPEL OF JESUS: SALVATION IN JESUS

TO BE LIKE JESUS

A Study for Children on Following Jesus

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**Student Workbook**

Student Workbooks reinforce lesson truths and encourage discussion and review. It is recommended that you store workbooks in the classroom during the year. Then, at the end of the year, students can take the workbook home and continue to review the lessons. Workbooks are printed on heavy, marker-friendly cardstock and are spiral bound.

**ORDERING TIPS:**
- Order one workbook per student. Copies of a lesson can be made for visitors.
- Electronically downloadable workbooks are available if you prefer to print your own copies.

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**Lesson 27**

**Forgiving Others**

**Themes:**
- We have all wronged God immeasurably because of our sin.
- God is forgiving to all those who are trusting in Jesus alone.
- Christians are to forgive others as Jesus has forgiven them.

**Scripture:**
Matthew 18:21-35; Ephesians 4:32

**Memory Verse:** Ephesians 4:32

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

**Workbook Page:** Look at the top of the workbook page. What is piled up in the background? Recall the story of the unforgiving servant from Matthew 18:21-35. How much did he owe the king? Ten thousand talents was equal to millions of dollars and was a debt that was beyond repayment. Do you have a debt toward God that is beyond your ability to repay? Yes, the debt of your sin against God. Have you asked Jesus to forgive your debt? Are you trusting in Him alone for the forgiveness of your sins? If you are, then you are to treasure His forgiveness and forgive those who have wronged you.

In your best handwriting, write out Ephesians 4:32 on your workbook page.

What will true forgiveness toward others look like?
- You will not keep track of the wrongs done to you (1 Corinthians 13:5).
- You will not repay evil for evil (Romans 12:17).
- As much as possible, you will seek to be at peace with those who wrong you (Romans 12:18).
- You will not take revenge (Romans 12:19).

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To Be Like Jesus

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- Electronically downloadable workbooks are available if you prefer to print your own copies.

Introduction

Need to Start

Scope & Sequence

Lesson 1: Created in God's Image for His Glory Various Passages

The Gospel calls us to respond with repentance and belief in Jesus.

Jesus is without sin—He is holy and righteous and was the perfect law-keeper.

God's commands show us our failure to be perfectly righteous and holy.

The Gospel calls us to respond with repentance and belief in Jesus.

Now that a foundation has been laid whereby students understand the predicament of unrighteous sinners, and that the answer to their problem is Jesus, this begins a series of lessons that focus on the process of salvation. This first lesson is an overview of the Gospel of Jesus.

The previous lesson showed students that righteousness and holiness are needed for eternal life.

To Be Like Jesus: 

Transliterations: ESV / NIV  Author: Jill Nelson

Lesson 4: THE GOSPEL OF JESUS: SALVATION IN JESUS TO BE LIKE JESUS

To Be Like Jesus © 2008

Ephesians 4:32

To De Like Jesus © 2008

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Children Desiring God
Introduction

Curriculum

Scope & Sequence

Lesson 1: Created in God’s Image for His Glory Various Passages

The Gospel calls us to respond with repentance and belief in Jesus. Jesus is without sin—He is holy and righteous and was the perfect law-keeper. God’s commands show us our failure to be perfectly righteous and holy.

Memory Verses: 1 Peter 1:15; 1 Corinthians 10:31

The curriculum begins by teaching students that because we have been created in the image of God, we have free will and the capacity to reflect His image. Part of being created in His image is to see ourselves as His treasure and to realize our need of His love. He loves us so much that He died on the cross to save us from our sin. Children are taught that in order to be like Jesus, they need to trust in Jesus and live for Him. This first lesson is an overview of the Gospel message, its purpose, and promise. The study uses the order of salvation found in Romans 8:29-30, with particular emphasis on sanctification, the process of drawing closer to Christ daily.

Theme: To Be Like Jesus

Structure: This first lesson is an overview of the Gospel to provide a foundation for salvation. Lessons in the following weeks will focus on the process of salvation. This first lesson is an overview of the Gospel to provide a foundation for salvation. Lessons in the following weeks will focus on the process of salvation.

Scripture:

Matthew 18:21-35; Ephesians 4:32

Memory Verse: Ephesians 4:32

Take it to heart: Can you think of an example in which you wronged someone? What did you do? Were you able to undo the damage you had done? Did you say you were sorry and ask for forgiveness? Do you like being forgiven by others? Why?

Practice true forgiveness. Suppose you say that you forgive someone. What kinds of thoughts, feelings, words, and actions would show that you really had forgiven him? What does true forgiveness look like? What would be good to think about when you are having a hard time forgiving someone? Read Ephesians 4:32.

Suppose you say that you forgive someone. What kinds of thoughts, feelings, words, and actions would show that you really had forgiven him? What does true forgiveness look like? How do you know if you have really forgiven someone from your heart? Read the following verses: 1 Corinthians 13:5; Romans 12:17-19; and Luke 6:28. Do you practice true forgiveness? Are you holding any “little” grudges against anyone? What will happen if you keep a grudge? Will it get bigger and bigger? What do you need to do with it?

Pray about it: Take some time to examine your thoughts, feelings, and actions. Have you confessed your sins to God? Are you trusting in Jesus alone for the forgiveness of your sins against a holy and righteous God? Do you treasure the gift of God’s forgiveness? Are there any grudges you need to confess? Turn Ephesians 4:32 into a prayer. Ask for the help of the Holy Spirit to help you become a forgiving person. Pray that God would give you a humble and sensitive heart. Ask God to show you if you need to take any action concerning forgiving a specific person.

Themes:

• We have all wronged God immeasurably because of our sin.
• God is forgiving to all those who are trusting in Jesus alone.
• Christians are to forgive others as Jesus has forgiven them.

To Be Like Jesus 

A Study for Children on Following Jesus

Target Grade: 4th Grade Range: 3rd-5th Lessons: 40

Translations: ESV / NIV Author: Jill Nelson

Parent Resource Pages

Parent Resource Pages provide an overview of the lesson so parents can discuss the material with their son or daughter. Parents are also able to reinforce the lesson themes throughout the week with their child. These pages can be photocopied and distributed after class or emailed to parents each week.

ORDERING TIPS: 
• Parent Resources Pages are included in the Teacher’s Kit both printed in the binder and as PDF files on the Visuals CD.

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