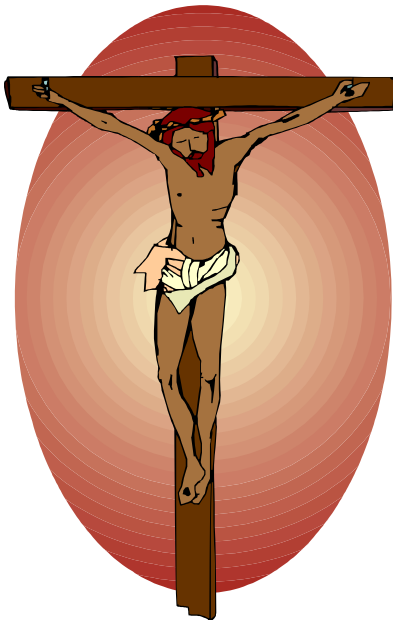


# Green County Church of Christ

## Vacation Bible School – 2014

### Lesson Two: The Truth About...

“How God Saves Us”



*“You will know the truth and the truth will set you free.”*

**Jesus Christ - John 8:32**

**Primary Series Aim:** Students will know what the Bible teaches about subjects necessary for a correct understanding of the Truth about them.

**Secondary Series Aim:** Students will demonstrate skill in their understanding of the Truth with a view toward defending it.

**Lesson Two Aim:** Students will understand what the Bible teaches about how God saves us through Jesus Christ.

## **Lesson Plan:**

First Session (30 minutes):

Discussion  
Questions  
Activities

Second Session (25 minutes):

Review  
Testing  
Crafts

**Memory Verse for Today:** “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” – John 14:6 NIV

### SATAN WANTS YOU TO BELIEVE:

- There is no God so you don't need Jesus, religion, or “church.”
- If there is a God, you can please Him in whatever religion you choose.
- All you need to do is pray to Jesus and He will save you right then.

### GOD WANTS YOU TO BELIEVE:

- He is a real, loving, but holy God who wants to save you from sin to spare you from eternal punishment that you might live with Him forever.
- Jesus Christ, His only Son, is the only one by whom and in whom you can make peace with God; all other religions or ways to God are dead ends.
- Salvation comes by grace through faith, faith that obeys God's terms of salvation which do not include the “Sinner's Prayer.”

Satan has many weapons to confuse and confound anyone who wants to know the truth about God's plan of salvation. Two of the most used are ignorance, willful or otherwise and believing teaching that is false.

Using ignorance, Satan leads people into believing they can, by their own good deeds, live to satisfy whatever god exists. The God of the Bible does not accept that. Nor does He accept any means other than His own (John 3:16).

Do not be fooled by Satan's lies. Learn the Truth about salvation. Believe and obey it. Be an agent of that Truth!

**TODAY'S TEXTS FOR STUDY:** Romans 6:16-18; Romans 10:9-10, 17; Matthew 10:32, 33; Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15, 16; Acts 2:36-41; Acts 4:12; Acts 22:6-16; 1 Peter 3:21.

- **Romans 6:16-18** – A “form” (specific kind) of teaching when coupled with whole-heartedness, is what saves people from sin. (Emphasize this)
- **Romans 10:9-10, 17** – One must confess (declare) Jesus to be divine (God) for salvation to occur. Without that confession, no salvation is possible.
- **Matthew 10:32, 33** – If we confess Jesus as divine to others, Jesus will confess us (as His own) to the Father. If we do not confess, Jesus will likewise disown us.
- **Matthew 28:18-20** – Jesus commissions Christians to make disciples by baptizing them into the name of the Father, the Son (Jesus) and the Holy Spirit.
- **Mark 16:15, 16** – Belief (faith) plus baptism (water, by immersion) are necessary parts of the gospel (good news) to save us (keep us from guilt of sin before God).
- **Acts 2:36-41** – Repentance (determination to reject sinful ways) and baptism are commanded to be done by all believers in Christ.
- **Acts 4:12** – Only Jesus can save us from our sins.
- **Acts 22:6-16** – Paul the apostle was told to be baptized. In so doing he was “calling on the name of the Lord” to have his sins washed away.
- **1 Peter 3:21** – Baptism is like the flood of Noah’s day in that it cleanses our hearts and lives of the stain of sin.\*

*\*Note: None of these things alone saves without the other! Emphasize this to students. It is only by God’s grace (undeserving favor) that anyone is saved at all – Ephesians 2:8. Only through the sacrifice of Jesus at Calvary, in the shedding of His blood, are any of our sins cleansed – Hebrews 9:33; Romans 3:25; Romans 5:9; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14; 1 Peter 1:18, 19; 1 John 1:7.*

### SPECIAL WORDS IN THE TEXTS\*

- GRACE – ‘charis’ – “graciousness of manner or act” “favor”
- BELIEVE/FAITH – ‘pistis’ – “persuasion, moral conviction”
- CONFESS/CONFESSION – ‘homologeō’ – “same consent”
- REPENT/REPENTANCE – ‘metanoeō’ – “think differently, reconsider”
- BAPTIZE/BAPTISM – ‘baptizo’ – “make whelmed, fully wet”

\*Definitions and images taken from Strong’s Talking Greek & Hebrew Dictionary.

## TRUE AND FALSE QUESTIONS:

1. TRUE – FALSE ? SALVATION IS A MATTER OF WHAT IS RIGHT, NOT WHO (WHICH OF US) IS RIGHT.  
- True. What is right is the important thing. Pride keeps many people from admitting they are wrong, so they cling to false teachings that doom them.
2. TRUE – FALSE ? THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT FAITH IS THE ONLY THING WE NEED FOR GOD TO SAVE US.  
- False. Read 1 Peter 3:21 and explain that there are other things necessary also: grace, confession, repentance, and baptism.
3. TRUE – FALSE ? IN GOD’S PLAN OF SALVATION, CONFESSION MEANS TO DECLARE THAT JESUS OF NAZARETH IS THE SON OF GOD (DIVINE).  
- True. “Homologeo” means to agree with something. In this case, it means to agree and consent that Jesus is God’s Son (and therefore, divine).
4. TRUE – FALSE ? ANANIAS TOLD SAUL (PAUL) TO WASH AWAY HIS SINS BY PRAYING TO JESUS AND NOTHING ELSE.  
- False. He told him to get up and be baptized. Likely he was praying already. In baptism, we are calling upon the Lord to save us from our sins.
5. TRUE – FALSE ? JESUS COMMANDED US TO MAKE DISCIPLES BY PREACHING THE GOSPEL AND BAPTIZING THOSE WHO BELIEVE IT.  
- True. Matthew 28:19, 20; Mark 16:15, 16.
6. TRUE – FALSE ? THERE IS NO EXACT TEACHING ON HOW TO OBEY THE GOSPEL. WE ONLY NEED TO BELIEVE IN JESUS AND THAT’S ALL.  
- False. Romans 6:16-18 teaches there is a kind of teaching that liberates us from sin. If there is a kind, then it is an exact kind.
7. TRUE – FALSE ? PETER TOLD BELIEVING JEWS ON PENTECOST TO REPENT AND BE BAPTIZED TO RECEIVE GOD’S FORGIVENESS.  
- True. Both that and baptism share the same purpose: forgiveness.
8. TRUE – FALSE ? FAITH COMES THROUGH A RELIGIOUS “EXPERIENCE” LIKE A DREAM, VOICE, OR VISION FROM GOD.  
- False. Romans 10:17 states that faith comes by hearing God’s Word.
9. TRUE – FALSE ? ONLY PEOPLE WHO CAN, AND DO, BELIEVE, CONFESS AND REPENT SHOULD BE BAPTIZED.  
- True. Baptism alone is nothing without these other things, as they are without it.
10. TRUE – FALSE ? IF I BECOME A CHRISTIAN BY OBEYING THE GOSPEL, I CAN KEEP ON DOING WHATEVER I WANT AND GOD WILL FORGIVE ME.  
- False. God has forgiven us through the death of Jesus and to keep sinning is to “trample” on His blood, Hebrews 10:29. Besides, repentance means we determine to stop living sinfully, ridding ourselves of bad habits and ungodly ways.

## ACTIVITIES

THE OBJECT USED IN THIS LESSON IS THE **SECRET CODE BOOK**. THIS ILLUSTRATES THE IMPORTANCE OF VIEWING EVERYTHING IN THE LIGHT OF GOD'S WORD. IF WE DO NOT USE THE BIBLE TO TELL US WHAT IS RIGHT AND WRONG, WE WILL NEVER BE SAVED FROM SIN OR KNOW WHAT GOD EXPECTS OF US.

### ENCODED RIDDLE

GIVE OUT A WORK SHEET WITH A RIDDLE WHICH STUDENTS WILL DECIPHER USING A CODE BOOK. I HAVE A CODE BOOK AND A WORK SHEET FOR YOU TO USE. FEEL FREE TO MAKE AND USE YOUR OWN.

### PASSWORD

PLAY PASSWORD USING KEY WORDS FROM THE TEXTS. PLAYERS DIVIDE INTO TEAMS AND EACH GETS A TURN TO GIVE A CLUE TO THEIR TEAM MATES. WHOEVER GETS THE MOST RIGHT IN THE ALLOTTED TIME, WINS. I WILL PROVIDE RULES TO THE GAME OR YOU CAN INVENT YOUR OWN.

## TESTING

HAVE EACH STUDENT PREPARE AN 'EXIT SLIP' (A SLIP OF PAPER DESCRIBING ONE OR MORE THINGS THEY LEARNED FROM THE CLASS). WHEN THEY ALL ARE FINISHED, EACH ONE TAKES THEIR TURN READING IT TO THE CLASS AND MAKING COMMENTS (IF DESIRED).