

Salvation

Key Verse

Ephesians 1:7 - In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace. (NIV)

Opening Questions

What comes to your mind when you hear the word redemption?

Exploring the Bible

God's Creation

1. Man Created Perfect

Genesis 1:31 - God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day. (NIV)

Question: What did God say about His creation?

Answer:

Man was the crowning achievement of God's creation, and God declared that everything He created, including man, was very good. Man was perfect and in a perfect relationship with his creator, God.

2. God's First Command

Genesis 2:15-17 - The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die." (NIV)

Question: What did the Lord tell the man not to do?

Answer:

God gave the first command to man. It was a simple one: do not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Man had to freely choose to believe and obey what God said. If he disobeyed, the penalty was death.

3. Man Sins

Genesis 3:6-7 - When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. (NIV)

Question: What did the woman do?

Answer:

Question: What happened after they ate the fruit?

Answer:

God said they would die if they ate of the forbidden fruit. But, when they did eat it, they didn't drop over dead. They did suddenly discover they were naked, and they felt exposed and ashamed. They tried to make some coverings for themselves from fig leaves. They now had the knowledge of good and evil, but it was not what they thought it was going to be. They had disobeyed God, and this came with some big consequences.

Man's Problem

1. Man Sinned

Romans 5:12 - Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned- (NIV)

Question: How did sin enter the world?

Answer:

What entered the world with sin?

Answer:

When Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, sin entered the world. Once they had sinned, sin became a part of the nature of every person. We as human beings sin and disobey God without even trying. Therefore, we are all sinners.

2. All People Are Sinners

Romans 3:23 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (NIV)

Question: How many in this world have sinned?

Answer:

No one has escaped sin. No matter how good we might try to live, we are already marked as sinners before God. From Adam and Eve a sin nature has been passed down to each of us causing us to sin without us even realizing we are sinning.

3. Man Is Separated From God

Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (NIV)

Question: What kind of wages does sin pay?

Answer:

Death is more than having a lifeless corpse. Death is really separation. When we die physically, our physical bodies are separated from our soul and spirit. In other places in the Bible it talks about the second death. This is a point at the end of time when all who have sinned will be permanently and forever separated from God. So, as sinners we are right now separated from God. But, we have an opportunity to come back to God if we follow the path He has prepared for us to come back to Him.

God's Solution

1. Good Works Don't Work

Isaiah 64:6 - All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. (NIV)

Question: What does God think of all of our righteous acts?

Answer:

Titus 3:5 - he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, (NIV)

Question: How much do these righteous things that we do help us to come to God?

Answer:

How many of these things help us get right with God?

- I give lots of money to charity.
- I give my time to good causes.
- I teach a Sunday school class.

2. God Requires a Blood Sacrifice for Sin

Hebrews 9:22 - In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. (NIV)

Question: What needs to happen for forgiveness?

Answer:

A blood sacrifice is an awful price to require for sin. That is how awful our sin is. A blood sacrifice means that something or someone must die. Also, it means that it is impossible for any good works on our part to pay for our sin. Blood has to be shed and the life has to be given. But why?

3. Why Is a Blood Sacrifice Required

Genesis 2:15-17 - The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

Question: What would happen if the man ate from the tree of knowledge of good and evil?

Answer:

4. Jesus Is Our Sacrifice

John 1:29 - The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (NIV)

Question: What did John called Jesus?

Answer:

Question: What is Jesus going to do?

Answer:

Ephesians 1:7 - In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace. (NIV)

Question: (YOU ARE MISSING A QUESTION HERE!!!!)

Answer:

My Response

We have seen that everyone in the world is a sinner and because of that they are separated from God. We have also seen that our good works are useless in solving our sinful condition. Only a blood sacrifice will provide forgiveness, and Jesus was that blood sacrifice to take away our sins. So, the question is how do I receive forgiveness of my sins?

1. Believe and Receive

John 3:36 - Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him. (NIV)

Question: How do we receive eternal life?

Answer:

Question: What happens if we reject Jesus, God's son?

Answer:

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (NIV)

Question: What do we receive if we believe in Jesus, God's son?

Answer:

John 1:12 - Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God- (NIV)

Question: What does it mean when I have believed in Jesus?

Answer:

To believe on Jesus simply means that I believe He is the Lamb of God who died and shed His blood to pay for all my sin. But it is more than just head knowledge of the facts that we have just discussed that constitutes true faith. Here is a simple example of true faith. We can know that an airplane can fly. We might even study all principles related to how a plane is able to fly, and we can believe that all of those facts are true. But, we truly believe in those facts when we get on that plane and commit our life to those principles of flight. When I truly believe, I am giving myself to Jesus as the *only* hope of my salvation. I ask Jesus to forgive all my sin, and I open my heart and my life to Him and I receive Him into my life as the one to save me from my sin and change me and give me a new life.

2. Confess

Romans 10:9-10 - That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. (NIV)

Practical Exercise

Share your testimony. Briefly tell us how you got saved and the changes and the difference that Jesus has made in your life since then...