

FOOTPRINTS

Leader's Guide for LESSON 3

For Kids

The Gift of Jesus' Grace

Welcome (7 Minutes)

As the parents/mentors and children arrive, give each a warm welcome. Encourage a young person to help you greet others as they arrive. Begin your group time together by inviting the participants to share by asking, "Where have you seen God at work in your life this past week?" (Acknowledge all responses.)

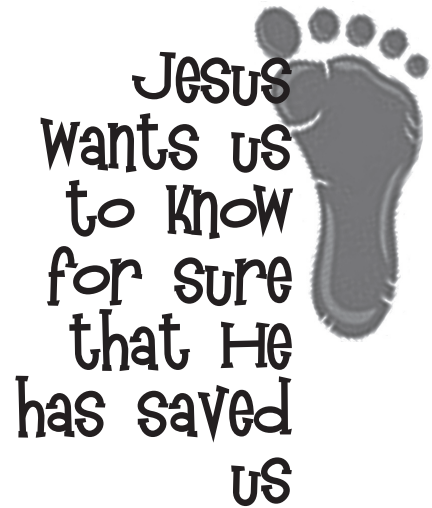
Say: Last week we learned that Jesus is a Friend we can trust. Find someone who is not in your family to share with, and briefly tell what you trusted with Jesus this past week.

Use the "M.M." ball (see Curriculum introduction for instructions) to ask the families about their use of *Mentoring Moments* for family worship at home

Goals for this lesson

By the end of this lesson, participants will:

- **Know** with assurance that they are saved
- **Feel** secure in what Jesus has done for them
- **Respond** by thanking Jesus for His gift of salvation



*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*



The Bridge (10 Minutes)

Activity

Invite the participants to divide into two groups with children in one group and adults in the other. Instruct them to take opposite ends of the tug-of-war rope.

Say: Ready, set, go!

Affirm the winners and the losers.

Debrief

Ask: Was this contest fair? (No.) Why?
(The adults were stronger.)

Invite one of the youngest/smallest children to stand at one end of the rope and one of the oldest/largest children to stand at the opposite end. **Say:** Get ready. Then **Ask:** Is this contest fair? (Acknowledge responses.) **Say:** Let's get some help for (name of smaller child.) Invite one of the strongest adults to stand beside the smaller child and hold the rope along with him/her.

Say: Ready, set, go!

Ask: Why didn't (name of smaller child) have a chance against (name of larger child)? (Acknowledge responses.) Did you expect (name of larger child) to lose when (name of adult) came to help? Why? (Acknowledge answers.)

Say: We are in a tug-of-war with Satan. He knows he can win. But when we choose Jesus, Satan doesn't stand a chance. Jesus wants you to know that with Him pulling for you, you can know for sure that you will be a winner every time.

Prayer: Pray or invite a volunteer to pray for the Holy Spirit to direct this meeting.

You need

- Long, heavy-duty rope

Ahead

Mark out space on the floor for a tug-of-war. Mark a center spot and two spots of equal distance from the center. Mark the center of the rope and lay the rope on the floor with the center of the rope on the center of the floor marking. The winning team will move the center of the rope across the spot marked on the floor at their end.



Into the Word (25 Minutes)

Write this lesson's *Footprint* on the board:
Jesus wants us to know for sure that He has saved us.

Activity

Say: We are going to read a story from the Bible. I would like you to imagine what it would have been like to be there. What would you see, hear and feel if you were there? Read Luke 23:33-45 NIV around the circle with one person from each family reading one verse.

Say: This is a sad story, isn't it? **Ask:** What would you see? ...hear? ...feel? if you had been there? **Say:** In our lesson today we are going to discover why Jesus was willing to die on the cross for us.

Ask: If Jesus came back to our earth today do you know for sure that you would go to heaven with Him? (Acknowledge answers.)

Say: Jesus wants you to know for sure. Let's look at what the Bible teaches us about being sure we will go to heaven with Jesus.

You need

- White board or flip chart
- Markers
- Bibles
- Pens/pencils

Ahead

Write the Bible Discovery Scripture references on separate slips of paper for distribution among the families. Be sure to include the number reference.

Bible Discovery

Distribute the Scripture texts to the families and instruct them to look up their verses and be prepared to read them to the class. Encourage family groups to assign a student to read the verse to the whole group when called. Allow 2-3 minutes.

Write on the board: Five steps to Jesus

- 1 Read Romans 5:8.** What did God show us by sending Jesus to die for us? (God showed us how much He loves us.)

Write on the board: STEP 1 — Know that God loves you

- 2 Read Romans 3:23 and 6:23 (first part).** These texts tell us that all people have a problem. What is our problem? (We are sinners who deserve to die; we need someone to save us.)

Write on the board: STEP 2 — Realize you need the Savior

- 3 Read 1 John 1:9.** What does confess mean? (Admit you are a sinner.)

Write on the board: STEP 3 — Confess your sins

- 4 Read John 3:16.** How do we receive eternal life? (By believing in Jesus.)

Read Romans 6:23 (last part) What is God's free gift to you? (God's gift is eternal life.)

Write on the board: STEP 4 — Believe in Jesus and have eternal life

- 5 Read Revelation 3:20.** Once we believe in Jesus as our Savior, once we realize that He can take care of our sin problem and give us eternal life, what do we need to do? (Open the door of our heart to Jesus.)

Write on the board: STEP 5 — Invite Jesus into your heart

Ask: When you go home, why don't you knock before you enter? (Because you belong in the family.) You have a room inside. You may even have a key to the door. Heaven is the same way. You don't have to ask permission to get in. You don't have to wonder if He will let you in. You are Jesus' child. He is your key to the door of heaven.

- 6 Read 1 John 5:13.** What does this verse say that we can know for sure right now? (That we have eternal life.)

Write on the board: We can KNOW we have eternal life!

Review/Quiz

Steps to follow:

1. Review the summary points written on the board.
2. Cover or turn the board around and quiz the class by asking, "What are the five steps to Jesus?" After they complete these five ask "What can we know for sure right now?"
3. Encourage adults to allow students to answer the questions and assist only if needed.



My Choice (5-8 Minutes)

Say: A gift is not something we earn or win. It is something we accept from another person. And that's how it is with Jesus; salvation is not something we earn or win. It is Jesus' gift to us, and it becomes ours when we accept it

Leader Share briefly your experience of understanding that Jesus' gift of salvation was for you. What does being assured of salvation mean to you? How has it made a difference in your life?

Distribute one *My Choice* handout to each family group.

Say: Parents and mentors, move your chairs into a family circle and follow the instructions on *My Choice* with your child. When you are finished with *My Choice* turn the paper over and continue with *My World*.

You need

- One copy of *My Choice* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils
- Small gifts/trinkets for each child (i.e. pencil, eraser, bookmark, etc.)



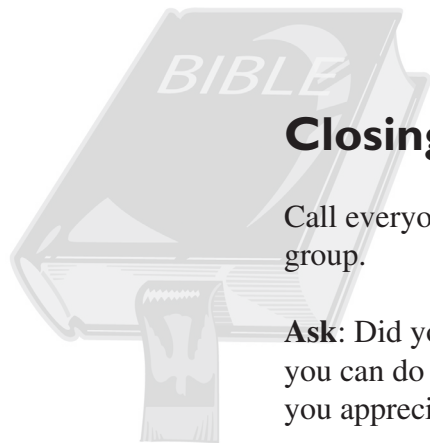
My World (5-8 Minutes)

Leaders: While the families are working together, the leader and co-leader pray for each of the parents/mentors and children.

If some families finish early, as leader you can: 1) engage those families by asking them about their family circle time or 2) give a time "warning" to the other families such as, "Please finish in three more minutes." Let them know they can finish their *My World* time together at home.

You need

- One copy of *My World* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils



Closing (2 Minutes)

Call everyone back together as a large group.

Ask: Did you think of something specific you can do this week to show Jesus that you appreciate His gift of salvation?

You need

- One *Mentoring Moments* handout for each family

Grace Point — Say: Next week I will invite you to share what you did to show Jesus that you appreciate His gift of salvation.

Say the *Footprint* together: **Jesus wants us to know for sure that He has saved us**

Close with a prayer or invite a volunteer to pray:

- thanking Jesus for His gift of eternal life

Distribute *Mentoring Moments* and instruct the families to use these at home to build on the concepts developed in this lesson.

My Choice

1. Say the *Footprint* together: **Jesus wants us to know for sure that He has saved us.**
2. Parents/mentors: **Review** with your child the points made in this lesson by going over them one at a time and asking, “Do you understand what this means?” or “Do you have any questions about this one?” Clarify any points as needed.

Five Steps to Jesus ...

Step One — Know God loves you	Romans 5:8
Step Two — Know that you need a Savior	Romans 3:23
	Romans 6:23 (first part)
Step Three — Confess your sins.....	John 1:9
Step Four — Believe in Jesus and have eternal life.....	John 3:16
	Romans 6:23 (last part)
Step Five — Invite Jesus into your heart	Revelation 3:20
Know right now that you have eternal life.....	1 John 5:13

3. **Activity:** Select an item for your child and place it in a plain brown paper bag. Tell your child that he/she can have the gift if he/she correctly identifies what it is. The child must describe it in exact detail (color, shape, weight, etc.) After a few moments of incorrect guessing, give the item to your child and make the following points.
 - You did not earn this by guessing correctly. You did not win this. It is a gift. I offered it to you, and it became yours when you reached out and took it.
 - We can never win or earn heaven. Eternal life in heaven is a gift from God; it becomes ours when we accept Jesus.
4. Parents/mentors: **Share** briefly a time when you received a surprise gift. Discuss how that gift reminds you of God’s gift of salvation.
5. **THE CHOICE — Ask:** Do you want to accept Jesus’ gift of salvation? If your child says “Yes,” Invite him/her to pray a prayer of invitation to Jesus.* (See model prayer on reverse side.) If your child is not sure or says “No” or “Not now,” **Say:** It’s all right if you need time to think about this or want to wait. **Ask:** Can you tell me why? Is it okay if we talk about this next week?
5. **Prayer:** Form a family prayer circle and thank Jesus for His gift of salvation.

*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*

My World

1. **Ask:** How do you feel knowing that you have eternal life and will go to heaven?
2. **Discuss:** What can we do as a family to show Jesus that we appreciate His gift of salvation?

Things we can do to show Jesus we appreciate His gift of salvation:

3. **Ask:** When can we do this together?

Prayer of Invitation*

Dear Jesus,
Thank You for loving me enough to die for my sins.
I want to be in heaven with You.
Forgive me of all my sins and completely clean out my whole heart.
I accept Your free gift of salvation.
Come into my heart and stay there forever.
Thank You, Jesus!
—Amen.

Special Note to parents/mentors: Many adults have questions about knowing they are saved. If you or your child have questions, write them down and meet with the class leader or your pastor to discuss them together.

Grace Point — Next week you will be invited to share what you did to show Jesus you appreciate His gift of salvation.

Next Week Parents/mentors, you will be asked to share a personal devotional time with God that was especially meaningful to you.

The Gift of Jesus' Grace!

Mentoring Moments for Lesson 3

Mentoring Moments are meant to extend the lesson you studied with your small group. Each *Mentoring Moment* choice contains a Scripture, an activity, discussion questions, and a prayer point grouped around a particular topic. They are perfect for use in family worship. If time does not permit the completion of the activity, using just the Scripture and discussion questions can provide a *Mentoring Moment* anywhere, even in the car.

Choice One

Scripture: Joshua 24:14-15

Activity: Review your Sabbath school lesson this week (or choose a favorite Bible story) and identify people who have either accepted or rejected Jesus' gift of eternal life. What clues in the story help you know what choice they have made?

For Discussion: Why would serving the Lord seem undesirable? Why would anyone want to reject eternal life?

Prayer Point: Ask Jesus to always make you willing to serve Him. Thank Him for making it possible for you to have a choice.

Choice Two

Scripture: Romans 6:23

Activity: Look at a pay stub for a member of the family. Take note of all the deductions.

For Discussion: Whose wages were those? What were all the deductions for? Does the Bible say that anything is deducted from the wages of sin? What's the best gift you've ever received? Was there anything you did to deserve or earn it? What's the difference between wages and a gift? What's better – wages or a gift?

Prayer Point: Thank Jesus for giving you eternal life as a gift, instead of the wages we have earned.

Choice Three

Scripture: Revelation 21:1-5, Revelation 22:1-6

Activity: Look up the outcome of a sporting event in the sports pages of the newspaper. What was the outcome? Did the players know the outcome this time yesterday?

For Discussion: The verses you just read tell you the outcome of the enmity between Satan and God's people. What is that outcome? How does that make you feel?

A fourth grader named Landon said this about heaven: "When I think about heaven I imagine there will be real pretty green grass, lots of trees and happy children playing all the time."

I know heaven will be perfect! There will be nothing bad there, not one thing! The best thing I imagine about heaven is all my family and friends being there with Jesus.”

What are some things that you imagine about heaven?

Prayer point: Thank Jesus for guaranteeing the outcome of the enmity between us and Satan. Thank Him for telling us the outcome in the Bible

Choice Four

Scripture: Genesis 3:8-10; 1 John 1:9

Activity: On a piece of paper write down something that God already knows, but that you need to tell Him in order to reestablish your connection with Him. After your prayer, destroy the piece of paper (burn it carefully with adult supervision, tear it into tiny pieces, flush it down the toilet, etc.).

For discussion: Did God know what Adam and Eve had done before they told Him? Does God know what sins you have committed before you confess? Why do you think the Bible tells us we need to confess? Before Adam and Eve sinned, they used to enjoy a daily walk in the garden with God. As soon as they sinned, they hid from God. That’s what sin does – it separates us from God. Confessing reestablishes our connection with God. Someone once said that confessing is telling God what He already knows.

Prayer Point: Thank Jesus for forgiving all your sins. Ask Him to help you always be honest with Him and to keep your connection strong.

Choice Five

Scripture: John 14:15; John 15:12

Activity: Give your child a small gift certificate (to a toy store, ice cream shop, etc.) When your child accepts it, ask what it would take to help them enjoy that gift. Chances are they will want you to take them to the store as soon as possible.

For discussion: Why do some people seem content to accept the gift of salvation and never give it a chance to change their lives? In what ways should Jesus’ gift change you? Is your life showing that you have accepted Jesus’ gift of salvation? Is there anything your family might change to better show that they have chosen to accept God’s gift?

Prayer Point: Thank God for his wonderful gift and ask Him to help your life show that you have accepted His gift.