

### HOW TO BE SAVED

#### Sharing

1. Have you ever found yourself apologizing for something you never meant to do?
  - Explain: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Have you ever determined to diet only to break it within the hour? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No
  - How did you feel? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Have you determined to stop a health-destroying habit only to give in to the first craving of the next day?
  - What was your reaction? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Did you ever make a resolution to study your Bible and pray every day only to find that obstacles occur that make it virtually impossible to stick to a schedule? Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Studying

5. Human nature is interesting. We have intentions to act in a certain way, but our actual experiences constantly contradict our intentions. We want to do what is right, we want to feel Godly inside, and we tell ourselves over and over again what we need to do and how we should feel—but, we simply can't control ourselves.
6. Within each of our lives there is a daily, moment by moment struggle between good and evil. It helps us to know that the Apostle Paul, one of the world's greatest Christian men, experienced the same daily struggle as we do.
  - Read Romans 7:19,20 "For the good that I will to do, I do \_\_\_\_\_ do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me."
7. Sometimes we believe that if we could only mature as a Christian the struggle would end. Consider the life of the Apostle Paul to see if that is true. Paul was a mature Christian. He wrote Romans 7 at the high point of his life—he was about 60 years old and had been a committed Christian for some 25 years. Paul prayed fervently, worked mighty miracles, wrote numerous letters to churches, spoke courageously before governments, kings and rulers.
8. He had suffered for Christ: He had been tossed into prison, beaten and stoned. Here was Paul, the most mature person of the Christ-centered, gospel-delivering, post-resurrection period of history—at the peak of his performance saying, "I don't get it. I do not get it. I do the things that I hate. The very things that I want to do, I don't do. That which I don't want to do, I do. What is wrong with me?"
  - Read Romans 7:22, 23 "For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man (*Inside my mind*). But I see another law in my members, (*my physical flesh*) warring against the law of my mind and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin, which is in my members" (*There was a war between Paul's mind and his flesh*).
  - Read Romans 7:24 "O wretched man that I am! (*Wretched because he has no power to deliver himself*). Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? (*He is a captive of his sinful body, a helpless slave of sin and therefore under a death sentence. The body, the seat of the fleshly desires, has become "a body of death", since it is controlled by sin*). Paul has described the bondage of the will to the flesh which is the condition of the natural man, and closes with the cry for deliverance. —The Peoples Bible

9. From this passage of Scripture we learn that one of the marks of a mature Christian is the awareness of this struggle with sin in our lives. It is an honest awareness of a civil war between good and bad, right and wrong, righteousness and evil, that continually rages between our minds (spiritual thoughts) and our bodies (fleshly actions) and will continue until our dying day.
10. The struggle begins for every person at birth because we are all sinners.
  - Psalm 58:3 “The wicked are estranged from the womb; They go \_\_\_\_\_ as soon as they are born speaking lies.”
  - Babies don’t need to be taught how to be bad. We are born with this knowledge because we are born in sin.
  - Speaker Ellie Green relates an incident when her daughter, Sheri, was two-years-old. Wanting to help cook, Ellie lifted her up onto the kitchen counter and warned her about the red-hot burners lighted on the stove, explaining that if she touched them it would burn her very badly and cause her great pain. Sheri looked at the stove for a moment and then, very deliberately, placed her little hand flat onto the red-hot burner! We’re all a bit like Sheri. We’re born with a sinful nature that leads us to war between what we know to be right and what our bodies crave to do.
  - Read Romans 3:23 “For \_\_\_\_\_ have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.”
11. What is the answer to what Martin Luther called “simil justus epeccator” which means ‘Simultaneously, Saint and Sinner.’ There is only one way out of this civil war that rages within us: We need a Savior.
12. How to be saved:
  - **We can know that we have eternal life.** (1 John 5:13 “that you may know that you have eternal life.”)
  - **Eternal life is a gift.** (Romans 6:23 “. . . the gift of God is eternal life.”)
  - **None of us deserves eternal life because all have sinned.** (Romans 3:23 “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”)
  - **Salvation is only through Jesus Christ.** (Acts 4:12 “Nor is there salvation in any other for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”)
  - **All sin must be punished because God is just.** (1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” Romans 6:23 “But the wages of sin is death . . . .”)
  - **God’s punishment for all sin was placed on Jesus.** (Matthew 1:21 “and she will bring forth a son and you shall call His name Jesus for He will save the people from their sins.”)
  - **We must believe in Jesus Christ as the Savior of the world and the only way to salvation.** (John 6:47 “He that believes on Me has everlasting life.”)
  - **We must receive salvation as a free, unearned gift.** (Romans 6:23 “. . . The gift of God is eternal life.”)
  - **When we accept the gift of salvation we walk in newness of life.** (Romans 6:6 “Knowing this, that the old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with that we should no longer be slaves of sin.”)
  - **We are saved as a new spiritual creation.** (2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away . . . All things have become new.”)

13. God wants all of us to be saved.

- Read 2 Peter 3:9 God is “. . . Longsuffering toward us, not willing that \_\_\_\_\_ should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

14. Jesus told three stories that illustrate His relentless pursuit of people who are lost. The theme of the stories is the Father’s yearning love for the lost and the lengths to which God is willing to go to save us.

- **The Lost Sheep:** Read Luke 15:4-6 “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost.’”

In this parable of the lost sheep, the sheep is lost, knows it is lost and is crying out for his shepherd, come and save him. Even though the shepherd had 99 sheep, he went out to save the one that was lost. There was great rejoicing when the sheep is found.

- **The Lost Coin:** Read Luke 15:8-9 “Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls her friends and neighbors together, saying, Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I lost.”

In this parable the coin has no idea it is lost. In Jesus day the homes of the poor were small with dirt floors and few windows. Finding a lost coin in a dark, dirty place would not be easy. The silver coin mentioned as lost would have been worth about a day’s wages. Since that lost coin was very valuable, the woman searched diligently until she found it. There was great rejoicing when it was found.

- **The Lost Son:** read Luke 15:11-22 “A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me. So he divided to them his livelihood. And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in the land and he began to be in want. Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself, he said...‘I will arise and go to my father’...And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned...and am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring out the best robe and put it on him and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to be merry.”

This parable resonates with those who are members of church because in this story the son knew his father well and he knew all about home. However, he made a decision to walk away and ‘do his own thing.’ But when he came to himself, he *knew* the way home. Note that nobody had gone out looking for him. Notice that the Father didn’t reprimand him for going away. Oh, no, the father joyfully welcomed him.

15. Some folks feel that they are too sinful to be saved or so sinful that they can’t come to church. That’s not true. Everyone—both inside and outside the church are sinners in need of God’s forgiveness, grace and redemptive love. Nobody has done anything so bad that God can’t forgive them and save them, if they desire salvation.

16. Jesus looked at people's hearts. He did not discriminate nor choose as followers those the world thought were 'good people.' For example, Jesus called Matthew to be one of His disciples. Matthew was a publican, a tax collector and a man the Jewish Pharisees thought was a sinner.
  - Read Mark 2:13 "And He said to him, 'Follow Me.' So he \_\_\_\_\_ and followed Him."
17. Probably to celebrate the honor that had been extended to him and to inform his friends and acquaintances about his new role as Jesus' disciple, Matthew invited folks to his home for a banquet along with Jesus and his disciples. Observing this, the Pharisees and scribes made an issue of it. Matthew was considered to be an undesirable associate with a bad reputation.
  - Read Mark 2:16 "And when the scribes and Pharisees saw Him eating with the tax collectors and sinners, they said to His disciples, how is it that He eats and drinks with tax collectors and sinners?"
18. Overhearing their complaining, Jesus corrected the inaccurate view of the Pharisees and scribes.
  - Read Mark 2:17 When Jesus heard it, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are \_\_\_\_\_. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."
19. The Pharisees and scribes imagined themselves beyond the need of spiritual healing. The sinners and tax collectors, on the other hand, recognized their need for repentance and forgiveness, so they welcomed Jesus as one who could help them. (Matthew 9:12; Mark 2:17; Luke 5:31)
  - Read Romans 6:23,24 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus."
20. Jesus has made a way for every single person on this earth to be saved. No matter what we have done in our lives and no matter how bad we've been, Jesus is longing to forgive us and 'justify' us. The meaning of 'justify' is this: 'just-as-if-I've-never-sinned.'
  - Read Acts 4:12 "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other \_\_\_\_\_ under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."
  - This makes Christianity a very, very exclusive religion! Our pluralistic society balks at this. They believe that we should respect all religions and that each religion is valid for the person who chose it. But that is contrary to the teachings of Jesus Christ in His Word.
21. The man, Jesus Christ, came into this world to save each of us. All we have to do is accept Him as our Savior. The Bible tells us that through Adam, sin entered the world and spread death to all men. But Jesus Christ came to earth that through Him, all men could be justified and made righteous and thus saved.
  - Romans 5:12,16 "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned . . . And the gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned. For the judgment which came from one offense resulted in condemnation, but the free gift which came from many offenses resulted in justification."
  - Romans 5:17 "For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who received abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One Jesus Christ."
  - Romans 5:18 "Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so, through one Man's righteous act, the free gift came to all men resulting in justification of life."

22. In Romans 7, at the beginning of the lesson we learned of Paul's internal warfare between the spirit and the flesh. Now in romans 8, we learn of his peace and how he came to terms with inner struggle.
- Read Romans 8:1 "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the \_\_\_\_\_."
23. Though we have missed the mark and been sinful, Jesus Christ is a perfect Savior. He is willing that every one come to Him and be saved.
- Read 1 John 1:9 "If we \_\_\_\_\_ our sins He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
23. Don't let anything or anyone stand between you and Jesus Christ. Come to Him today.

## Applying this lesson

24. The theme of this lesson is how much Jesus loves sinners. Speaker Minner Labrador related a story about a woman who called herself a 'black sheep.' He told her that he was jealous of her because Jesus loved black sheep so much. Question 18 discussed the fact that Jesus came to call, not the righteous, but sinners to repentance.
- This lesson has shown me that Jesus longs for ever single person in the world to be saved and that there are no sins that He cannot forgive.
  - \_\_\_\_A check mark at left indicates that I will confess my sins to Jesus and ask for His forgiveness so that I may be cleansed from all unrighteousness.
25. The struggle that we continuously feel within ourselves, between what we ought to do versus what we want to do, is common to all men as described by Paul. When we surrender the struggle to Jesus Christ we become a new creation and live a life that is spiritually free of condemnation.
- I have learned that the 'legal' term for total surrender to Jesus Christ is justification.
  - \_\_\_\_A check mark at left indicates that I understand that I must totally surrender my life to Jesus Christ in order to be justified.
26. Number 12 of this lesson teaches that eternal life is a free gift of God that cannot be earned and that only by accepting Jesus death on the cross as an atonement for our sins can we be saved.
- I understand that there is no other name under heaven whereby I might be saved.
  - \_\_\_\_A check mark at left indicates that I will worship Jesus Christ and Him only will I serve.
27. The parables of Jesus about the lost sheep, the lost coin and the lost son demonstrate the value that God places on the salvation of each individual.
- In light of these parables my attitude toward people around me both inside the church and outside the church should be nonjudgmental, friendly and welcoming.
  - \_\_\_\_A check mark at left indicates that I will retain in my heart the beautiful picture of God's love and grace for every single human being on this earth.