CHARIS YOUTH

Series: Why We Believe

Lesson 4: Everyone Needs Jesus

About This Lesson

Jesus is the only way to get to God and heaven. Many youth want to live life without constraint and feel that later in life, there will be time to think about salvation and eternity. Each person must stand before God and give an account for their choice to believe in Jesus as their Savior or their choice not to believe in Him. Just because young people have gone to church and heard the Gospel doesn't mean they have personally responded to it. Use this lesson as another opportunity for the young people to say "yes" to Jesus as their Savior.

Key Takeaway: It doesn't matter who you are, where you are from, how good, or how bad you think you are—EVERYONE NEEDS JESUS!

Key Verse: Romans 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Teaching Outline:

I. THE NEED FOR SALVATION

Ephesians 2:1–5 and 8 *And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,*
[2] in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, [3] among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

[4] But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, [5] even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)… [8] For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.

A. It doesn't matter who you are, where you are from, how good or how bad you think you are—EVERYONE NEEDS JESUS!

Romans 3:9–10 *What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin. [10] As it is written: "There is none righteous no, not one."*

B. Illustration: Prepare three glasses of water or bottles of water and three things to add to the water that would make it undrinkable. This makes the point that any amount of bad ruins the water just like one sin (there are no "little" sins) causes us to be sinners in need of salvation. Set up three glasses of water and talk about how each item you add to the water contaminates it—no longer pure. Add 30% to one glass and 3% to another. Which water would you rather drink? 70% pure 30% contaminated, 97% pure 3% contaminated, or 100% pure?

II. THE FALL

Mankind was created in the image of God.

Genesis 1:26–27 *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." [27] So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created Him; male and female He created them.*

1. Man was the crown of God's creation. We were created for the purpose of a relationship with God. We were given free will. We were given conscience and intelligence. We could think for ourselves and choose for ourselves.

A. God gave only one command found in Genesis 2:17 *"but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."*

B. The temptation and fall of mankind.

Genesis 3:1–8 *Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"*
[2] And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; [3] but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

[4] Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. [5] For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."
[6] So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. [7] Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.
[8] And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

1. Do not be ignorant of the enemy's devices and tricks.
2. "Has God indeed said…" The devil likes to twist God's Word. Satan also tried to tempt Jesus, by twisting the Word of God (Matthew 4:6).
3. "You will not surely die." The devil is the author of lies (John 8:44).
4. "They hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God." Sin does not drive God away from man. Sin drives man away from God. Sin causes man to run away from God. God still loved us even while we were sinners. When we know that our sin has been paid for, we can run freely back to God!

C. Sin caused man's fall and the lost relationship with God, the loss of being in the presence of God, and the loss of dominion over the earth. The fall opened the floodgates of sin, sorrow, sickness, and death upon humanity.

1. Man lost the ability to tell the difference between good and evil—the reason why they wanted to eat the forbidden fruit.

Isaiah 5:20 *Woe unto those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!*

2. Original Sin: Through one man, sin entered the world. All who were born of Adam were born into sin.

Romans 5:12 *Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin.*

3. Individual Sin: Everyone has committed individual sins as well!

Romans 3:23 *For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*

4. Consequence of sin: Death
Romans 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

III. JESUS IS GOD'S PLAN FOR SALVATION

A. Jesus is the only way for mankind to be saved!
Acts 4:12 *Nor is there salvation in any other, nor there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*

1. Peter spoke this after being arrested for preaching about Jesus and the resurrection from the dead. When you preach about Jesus and the resurrection of the dead, there are three reactions:
   a. You will be dismissed as a fanatic.
   b. You might upset someone and have to deal with their reaction to you.
   c. People will hear the truth, believe, and be saved.

B. Salvation is the Greek word soteria. Where we get the term "soteriology," the doctrine of salvation. Salvation means forgiveness, healing, deliverance, peace, protection, safety, preservation, and soundness.

C. What can we say about salvation?

1. Salvation is a work of the Holy Spirit. Salvation comes from God and not man. It was planned by the Father, purchased by the Son, and worked by the Holy Spirit.
   Titus 3:5 *Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Spirit.*

2. God's will is that all might be saved.
2 Peter 3:9 *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

3. Salvation is through Christ alone!
John 14:6 *…I am the way, the truth, and the life, No one comes to the Father except through me.*

4. Salvation is a product of God's Word.
1 Corinthians 1:18 *For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*
2 Timothy 3:15 *And that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*

5. Salvation is given by grace and received by faith.
Ephesians 2:8 *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.*

IV. GRACE – JESUS DID FOR US WHAT WE COULD NOT DO FOR OURSELVES

Titus 2:11–13 *For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, [12] teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, [13] looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.*

NOTE: Although Jesus hasn't appeared physically to everyone, Romans 1:20 points out that everyone is without excuse.

A. God's grace is not a license to sin. On the contrary, it causes us to live soberly and righteously. We have been saved by Jesus, and therefore, we want to be like him.

B. Grace: God's unmerited favor and provision for us through Jesus's death, burial, and resurrection. Faith: Man's positive response to the grace of God.

C. You are saved by believing with your heart and confessing with your mouth!
Romans 10:9–10 *That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. [10] For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*
Matthew 10:32–33 *Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. [33] But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.*

Bottom Line:

"The only sin Jesus ever had was ours. And the only righteousness we can ever have is His." —A. W. Tozer

Small Group Time:

1. Everyone needs Jesus. Sometimes, we don't share with someone about Jesus because we think they are a really good person.
   - Who do you know who is a really good person but probably doesn't know Jesus as their Savior?
   - How would you feel if something happened to them and you never shared with them about Jesus?

2. There are three reactions to sharing about Jesus: you will be dismissed as a fanatic, you might upset someone, or people will hear the truth, believe, and be saved.
   - What has kept you from sharing your testimony and talking to someone about Jesus?
   - What will help you get over that obstacle and share about Jesus?

3. Your salvation story is your testimony of how Jesus changed your life. When you share your story, it speaks prophetically into someone's life. They see what Jesus did for you and realize Jesus can do that for them!
   - What is your salvation story?

Declaration:

"I am a sinner in need of a Savior. I choose to receive the 'free to me' gift of salvation that Jesus paid for with His life. I am a child of God!"

Youth Weekly Journal:

Handout, Email, or Download

- **Question:** What would you tell someone who was considering salvation?
- **Pray:** Ask God for boldness to share your salvation story and invite others to make Jesus their Savior.
- **Read:** Read about the salvation stories of the Ethiopian man (Acts 8:26–40) and the jailer (Acts 16:25–40). Imagine interviewing them and writing up their

salvation story. Think about the impact their story had on others. Your story can impact others also!

- **Live It:** Look for a divine setup and share your testimony with someone. When you desire to tell others about Jesus, you know that is Jesus' desire also, and He will help you do it!
- **Create:** Use your cell phone to record your salvation story. If you feel comfortable, send it to your youth leader to be posted and shared with the whole group. Remember, your story might challenge someone to become a Christian.

EXTENDING THE LESSON

Icebreaker Question: If you could rename yourself, what name would you choose, and why?

Opening Activity Suggestion: Search for a quick science experiment or object lesson that makes the point that an element (Jesus) is needed by everyone in every situation or something is missing and must be present for the experiment to work.

Another option is showing the official Christian music video of Terrian "Honestly, We Just Need Jesus."

Opening Affirmation: "Today, I will be taught the Word of God. My mind is alert, my heart is receptive, and I will never be the same. I am about to receive the incorruptible, indestructible, ever-living seed of the Word of God. I will never be the same—never, never, never. In Jesus' name. Amen."

Giving Time: Genesis 26:12–14 *Then Isaac sowed in that land, and reaped in the same year a hundredfold; and the LORD blessed him.* [13] *The man began to prosper, and continued prospering until he became very prosperous;* [14] *for he had possessions of flocks and possessions of herds and a great number of servants. So the Philistines envied him.*

Isaac went through struggles, but God directed him where to go and blessed him. When we follow God, He has good plans for us. God invested in Isaac and prospered him until others were envious. What God did for Isaac, He can do for you!

BEYOND –
ADDITIONAL APPLICATION FOR CHURCH OR HOME

Challenge: This week, challenge everyone to share their salvation story (testimony) with someone and ask that person what is keeping them from praying right then to receive salvation. Check back next week to see what happened.

Biblical Worldview: The Bible shows that everyone needs salvation through Jesus. The young people should look at their family, neighbors, and friends as people who need to hear about Jesus so they can say "yes" to Him. Ask the group: Do your family, neighbors, and friends know that you are a Christian? and are you living your biblical worldview so that people know you are a follower of Jesus? When people know that you are a Christian, they will be more apt to come talk to you when they have a spiritual question or difficulty in life.

Outreach/Missions: Distribute any missionary newsletters you have and spend time praying for each of your church's sponsored missionaries. Focus on praying for creative ideas and opportunities to share about Jesus and pray with people for salvation.