

Lesson 3: New Life, New Purpose

Objective: The point of the lesson is that your students would understand that being living examples of the Gospel story—the good news of God’s gift of salvation through Christ—is completely intertwined in the new life Jesus made possible for them.

Scripture Focus: Romans 1:16-17, 2 Corinthians 4:13, Romans 10:9-15, Matthew 5:16, 1 Peter 2:12

Overview: In Lessons 1 and 2, your students gained a really full look at what it means to be saved by God. This final lesson on salvation will paint the picture for your students of what their life will look like when they begin to truly internalize the amazing gift of salvation. The more they see God’s salvation for what it is, the more they will be compelled to communicate to the world the Gospel. This desire to communicate the Gospel story should be born out the joy of realizing what God has done for them. It should never be a burden, or something they feel pressured to do. It should be a challenge they rise to accept, a joy-filled, yet somewhat serious calling they gladly embrace out of love for others. This lesson will help your students see that they can tell the story of God’s life-giving gift through both their words and actions. Students will be challenged to tell the story of salvation with their everyday lives.

Teacher Prep Video

The *elements Teacher Prep Videos* are short videos designed to help you grasp the main points of the lessons as you prepare to teach.

To access your “*Salvation Teacher Prep Video*,” click on the URL below.

- <https://youthministry360.com/salvation-teacher-prep>

Bible Background

The **Bible Background** is a simple and straightforward way to help you prepare to teach the lesson.

The Details

Who wrote these Books?

The Apostle Paul wrote the Letter to the Romans and 2 Corinthians. These are two of the many letters Paul penned to various churches and individuals. Matthew’s Gospel bears the name of its author. Matthew, a former tax collector, was a disciple of Jesus and a firsthand witness to the stories he relates. 1 Peter 1:1 states that Peter is the author of the letter that bears his name. Peter was one of Jesus’ most trusted disciples, the unofficial leader of the 12, and a key figure in the Gospels and the rest of the New Testament.

When were the Books written?

Romans was probably written somewhere close to A.D. 60, most likely A.D. 57, from the city of Corinth. Paul wrote 2 Corinthians from Macedonia sometime in the mid 50’s AD. Most people hold to Matthew’s Gospel being written in the late 50’s or 60’s AD, though there are some who think it was written after the destruction of the Temple in 70 AD. Most scholars believe that 1 Peter was written slightly before the persecution of Christians that began with the Roman emperor Nero. This would date the Book sometime around A.D. 62–63.

What was the purpose for writing these Books?

Romans

Paul wrote Romans to address the issues that would no doubt come up in a body of believers that was made up of both Jews and Gentiles. Paul addressed big-picture issues such as whether or not the Law could save a person, what the implications of God making salvation available to the Gentiles was for the Jews, and how Christ-followers were to handle such delicate issues as observing Jewish dietary restrictions based in the Law.

2 Corinthians

2 Corinthians was written to more or less correct some harmful developments in the Corinthian church, and to try to bring unity to this body of believers. Corinth was known as one of the most immoral cities in Rome, which was saying a lot. Paul felt it necessary to write multiple letters to the church in Corinth to address issues such as elitism, rampant sexual immorality, and theological misunderstandings.

Matthew

Matthew was probably writing to a primarily Jewish audience. His intent was to convince them that Jesus was indeed the long-awaited Messiah that prophets had been foretelling for hundreds of years. But Matthew was probably aware of a Gentile audience, as well, as his Gospel makes the case that the saving truth of Christ is for all nations.

Peter

Peter was writing an audience who was experiencing persecution because of their faith. Peter was encouraging believers to stay strong, and to count on the death and resurrection of Christ to deliver them to eternal life. Most Bible scholars believe Peter was writing primarily to a Gentile audience, but there would have been Jewish believers who would have received the letter.

The Main Point

Like many elements lessons, these verses follow a very linear pattern making a case that's pretty easy to pick up. You'll start with Romans 1, making the case that our new life in Christ compels us to be messengers of the salvation God offers to us and to others. The 2 Corinthians and Romans 10 passages show how we're to communicate this message in words. The Matthew and 1 Peter passages show how we are to communicate this message through our actions. It's a simple, yet powerful message for your students.

Lesson Plan

The **Lesson Plan** contains three elements: An introductory activity called *The Lead In*; the Bible study section called *The Main Event*; and an application-focused segment called *The Last Word*.

The Lead In

- **Goal:** The goal of this section is get the students thinking about whether or not talking about Jesus to others makes them nervous or embarrassed.
- **Set-Up:** All you'll need for this section is a dry-erase board and marker.

BEGIN, by explaining to the students that you're going to talk about embarrassing moments. Some of them might be serious; hopefully a lot of them are funny. You can share some real life examples, and also some things you're terrified of experiencing (like public speaking, or going on a date with your fly down). As the teacher, get the ball rolling with a couple of examples of things you've experienced (maybe your most embarrassing moment) or things you've seen happen to other people. Then, open it up to the class.

As students share their most embarrassing moments, or the most embarrassing moments they've witnessed, write some of the examples on the board. Some examples might include:

- **Speaking in front of a large crowd**
- **An awesome story of how someone's mom or dad embarrassed them in front of their friends**
- **Going though a whole date with something stuck in your teeth**
- **Anything involving boogers**

THEN, after you've got a good list going on the board, let the students rate them on a scale of 1-10 of how embarrassed they'd be to have that happen. For example, having something stuck in your teeth might get a 3 or 4. But having your mom go into detail about your foot fungus to your date might get a 7 or 8.

NEXT, without being manipulative or overbearing, write "talk to a friend about the Gospel" on the board. Gently let this resonate with the group. Then, simply ask if this belongs on the board. Ask:

- **How nervous does that make you? Is it something you're comfortable doing? Or is it something that makes your stomach turn?**
 - *Answer:* Answers will vary. Encourage students that it's OK to admit that sharing our faith can cause some nervousness. You'll get plenty of chances to flesh this out in the next few minutes.

FINALLY, explain to the students that this lesson is going to focus on the call to tell others about the amazing work Christ has done in our lives, which isn't always a task we embrace. Say:

- **Speaking about our faith isn't easy for a lot of people. But as we'll see, it's the way God has chosen to spread His message around the world. And just because it's not easy, doesn't mean it's not worth doing. And doing often. Let's take a closer look at what this looks like in our everyday lives.**

The Main Event

- **Goal:** The goal is for your students to understand the importance of both telling others about Christ and living out their faith with their actions.
- **Set-Up:** No set up is needed.

FIRST, explain to the students that this is the final lesson in your three-lesson look at salvation. Take some time to remind them of what you've talked about up to this point. Ask them some questions to see what they remember from the first two lessons.

- **(Lesson 1) Our desire to take matters into our hands and be our own "gods" separated us from God. As a result, the punishment we deserve for our sin is death. However, the amazing news is that God desires to save us and bring us back into a right relationship with Him.**
- **(Lesson 2) The only solution to our sin problem is a relationship with Jesus Christ through faith.**

Explain that this lesson will wrap up this series by looking at God's call on our life to take the message of Jesus Christ to a lost and dying world.

NEXT, ask students:

- **When you think about communicating the Gospel to people around you, what comes to mind? What are some different ways we share our faith with people?**
 - *Answer:* Obviously answers will vary. Some students may talk about striking up conversations with total strangers. Others may mention talking about what God's done in their lives with their friends. And others may say something about sharing the Gospel through their lifestyle.

If it didn't come up in their answer to the previous question, bring up the idea of sharing the Gospel with our words and our actions. Explain to the students that you're going to look at a number of passages in Scripture that tell how important both of these aspects of sharing our faith are. We can't elevate one over the other; God calls us to be bold in each!

Read or have a student read Romans 1:16-17. Consider giving some of the context for Romans using the "The Details" Section of the Bible Background. Then, lead students in a short discussion:

- **What does this passage tell us about Paul's feelings about the Gospel?**
 - *Answer:* It shows us that he has a deep passion for spreading the Gospel because he understands its power to save.
- **Read the passage again. Is that a statement you can confidently make about yourself? Why or why not?**
 - *Answer:* Answers will vary.
- **Why should we not be ashamed of the Gospel? Why should we want to spread the good news of Jesus Christ?**
 - *Answer:* If we've truly been changed by the Gospel and have experienced the saving work of Jesus Christ in our lives, we should want others to know and experience the same.
- **What are some of the things that hinder us from having that desire?**
 - *Answer will vary.*

THEN, explain that you're going to look closer at some passages that deal specifically with how we communicate the Gospel with our words. Read or have a student read 2 Corinthians 4:13 and Romans 10:9-15. Explain that each of these passages shows the importance of having boldness in our words. Ask students:

- **If you never read a history book or took a history class, would you know much about history? If you were never taught calculus, would you just wake up one morning and know how to do it?**
 - This is a rhetorical question.
- **Is it reasonable for someone to understand the truth of the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus just from observing how you act?**
 - *Answer:* No, we can't make the assumption that someone will piece all of that together. While our actions are important (more on that in a minute), we're called to tell others the "why" behind our actions and lifestyle.
- **What are some of the reasons or excuses we use to pass this responsibility off to others?**
 - *Answer:* Some common excuses include: I can't answer all their questions; I get nervous; someone else will do it; someone else can do it better than me, and so on.
- **What is the problem with this way of thinking?**
 - *Answer:* Throughout Scripture God uses people that aren't eloquent in speech and aren't the smartest people around. If everyone takes the approach that someone else will do it, no one will do it. The truth is, God has placed people in our lives that we have the unique ability to share with. Take advantage of what God has placed in front of you!
- **The passage says, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" When we don't take the opportunity to share the Gospel with others, not only are we depriving them of an opportunity to hear, we're depriving ourselves as well. What are we missing out on when we pass up those chances?**
 - *Answer:* We miss out on being a part of God's work in someone's life. We potentially miss out on friendships and encouragement. We miss out on seeing God at work. He has invited us to be a part of His work of redemption and there's tremendous blessing that comes from sharing the Gospel.

NEXT, make sure students grasp this idea of God's call on us to live out our faith *and* talk about it. It's not "either/or;" it's "both/and." Read or have a student read Matthew 5:16 and 1 Peter 2:12. Then, ask:

- **How do our actions impact what people think about our words?**
 - *Answer:* Our actions either back up what we say or they prove us to be hypocritical.
- **No one is perfect. We screw up everyday. Does that mean we're hypocritical? Why or why not?**
 - *Answer:* Not necessarily. A Christian messes up each day, recognizes it, can admit it, seeks forgiveness, and strives to grow closer to Christ. That's different than the person who is flippant with their actions.
- **Based on these passages, what should our motivation be to do "good works"? Is this hard to keep in check? Why or why not?**
 - *Answer:* We're called to do good works so that people will see God at work in us. The problem is that too often we want the credit for our good works. We want man's praise for being a good person, or a good Christian. The reality is that God leads us in good works in order that He receives the glory.

FINALLY, make sure your students understand that the call to share the story of what Christ has done for them should never be a burden. It shouldn't be something they feel like they're pressured, or guilty into doing. The salvation God gives us through Christ? The salvation we don't deserve and can never earn? Help students see that when we truly grasp what this gift means for our lives, we should be beating down the door to tell others about it. Explain that we should be motivated by wanting others to experience the life we've experienced in Christ. Encourage them to see themselves as valuable resources for God to use to spread His message of love. Then, transition into "**The Last Word.**"

The Last Word

- **Goal:** The goal is for your students to open up about what hinders them in sharing and living out their faith, and understand that God will be with them in the midst of any nervousness and fear.
- **Set-up:** No set up required.

FIRST, explain to the students that in this section you're going to talk about their experiences, successes, and struggles with both talking about and living out their faith. Remind them that both are equally important. They're two sides of the same coin and one without the other doesn't work the way God intended. Lead students in a brief discussion. Ask:

- **What are you more comfortable doing: talking about your faith with others or boldly living it out in front of others? Why is that?**
 - Answers will vary.
- **Maybe you aren't comfortable with either. If you're open about it, why do you think this is the case?**
 - Answers will vary.
- **What are some of the things that scare you about sharing your faith? What are some of the things that make you nervous about taking a stand for Christ in how you live?**
 - *Answer:* Answers will vary. But try and help students go beyond, "I just get nervous," or, "I don't know what to say." Help them wrestle with all that's at stake when it comes to holding back from communicating the truth of the Gospel.
- **Has sharing your faith with someone ever gone badly? If yes, what happened? How did it make you feel? Has it ever gone well? If yes, what happened?**
 - *Answer:* Answers will vary. Be sensitive to the issues they bring up. Talk with them through the situations and be encouraging.

- **Have you ever gotten a negative reaction for taking a stand for Christ in your personal life? How did that impact you? Have you ever seen the fruit of taking a stand for Christ in your personal life? How did *that* impact you?**
 - *Answer:* Answers will vary. Talk with them through issues and situations they bring up. Encourage them moving forward.

FINALLY, select a few students to read the following verses: Romans 8:31-39 and 2 Timothy 1:7-10. Ask them:

- **In the midst of whatever makes you nervous, what encouragement can you draw from those passages?**
 - *Answer:* The things that make us nervous usually aren't that big of deal. They're minor in the grand scheme of things. We know that the Holy Spirit is with us and gives us strength. We know that He's promised to be with us at all times. Nothing that comes against us can separate us from God's unending love.
- **If you struggle with a spirit of fear and timidity, what are some things that can help you become bolder in your faith?**
 - *Answer:* Seek accountability from an adult in the Church, a parent, or friends that are stronger in this area; ask parents and/or youth workers for resources that help you with questions or doubts you may have; spend time praying for boldness; or just go for it! It never winds up as bad as we convince ourselves it will.

WRAP UP the lesson, and the study, by reminding students that God hasn't left them to do this on their own. If they've put their faith in Christ, they have the living God, the creator of the universe, living inside of them. He's promised to never leave them. Their lives are valuable to God and He's called them to a specific purpose. Remind them that He saved them for this purpose, part of which is to spread His glory and fame to the world. Challenge them to move past excuses and move forward with boldness.

Close in prayer.

- Don't forget to distribute the "Salvation: Lesson 3" devotions to your students. If you're printing them, have them available for students as you wrap up class. If you're texting a link, posting them on Facebook, or some other means of electronic distribution, make sure you inform students of when they will be receiving them.
- Consider texting students a couple of times during the week to encourage them to follow through with reading the devotions.

We Want To Hear From You . . .

- Do you have questions about a lesson?
- Something that worked particularly well you want to share?
- Something that didn't work you want to bring up?

We value your feedback! Please do not hesitate to email us with your questions, comments, or concerns, at feedback@youthministry360.com.

