

Working Out Salvation

These Children's Materials are inspired by John Wesley's sermon. The intention is for both adults and children to be studying similar bible materials at the same time, to facilitate family discussion. These suggested materials are therefore meant to help plan the children's programme of inter-generational connect groups.

You can use these materials to plan for a children's programme of 50-60 mins (excluding worship, prayer etc). The basic components are as follows –

Bible Story/ Stories

Discussion

Activities/ Games

It is important for all facilitators to pray and prepare before the 'lesson' proper. The 'lesson' is only the beginning, May you continue to walk with the children, especially your own, over these materials after the 'lesson'.

SUMMARY

For children to know that we obey, and continue to obey, with an attitude of holy reverence for God and a respectful care of the precious gift of salvation.

GOALS FOR CHILDREN

To live as God's people,

1. We Obey God with a deep respect for Him.
2. We are saved by believing in Jesus. Salvation is a gift of God. I can do nothing to earn it.

 "...saved by grace through faith in Jesus" Ephesians 2:14
3. We know it is God who works in us to will (decide) and to act according to His good purpose.
4. We know salvation is free in Christ; and sanctification (becoming more like Jesus) requires faith and works.

Working Out Salvation

Pre-class story

Part 1: Salvation?

Wow. Big word. *What is it?* (get children's responses)
 Salvation means being delivered from harm, ruin or loss.
 It comes from the root word "being saved".

"What am I saved from?" I am saved from sin and the bad, nasty things that harm me. For example, angry feelings, harmful acts and habits (hitting others or lying).

"Who saves me?" Jesus, He is the Son of God.

"What did Jesus do*, and how did Jesus save me**?"

*Jesus died on the Cross to take away my sins once and for all. Because God is Holy (this means He is perfect), He cannot tolerate sin.

**By dying on the cross, Jesus uses His blood to make me right with God.

Salvation is a big term, and it means being saved by Jesus because I believe in Him.

Part 2: Working out salvation

What can we do to be saved?

Simply by believing in Jesus, and inviting Jesus to stay my heart as my personal Saviour.

Do we need to work for salvation? No.

But after believing in Jesus, we do have "work" to do, and that is to follow Jesus; to learn and grow to be more and more like Jesus.

A. Bible Story

Read Philippians 2:12-13

As you have always obeyed, continue to do so... working out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose.

B. Teaching/ Discussion

- **First,** acknowledge that salvation is God's gift. No one can work for it and no one should boast of it.
- **Second,** it is God who works in us, both to will and to do His will (God's best choice for us).

And, we give God the glory. God is at work in and through us. With God's help, we can stop evil (sin).

Jesus can help us to think, speak and do good from the inside out.

If we do well, give thanks to God; do not be proud.

When we are still learning (work in progress), also give thanks to God. We continue to seek His supply of grace and strength through prayer, and we act with belief. His Holy Spirit will help us learn, grow and overcome.

Extension for 9-12yo

- **Third**, "with fear and trembling"

Fear and trembling: with singleness of heart (focus only on God), sincere respect. A deep and holy reverence of God as the Highest, above everything (self and others). With this posture, we will study, play and serve God wholeheartedly (with all our heart), and with integrity. We live and have our being to please and honour God.

Ephesians 6:5-6

What does it look like?

For example:

Study: pray and put your head (think, focus), your heart (be willing, adopt a joyful and positive attitude), and your hand (practise) to it.

Play/ rest: be free to enjoy, free of guilt and at peace with God and self.

Serve: willingly, joyfully, working as a team so that Jesus shines.

C. Application

Think, share and act	4-6yo	7-9yo	10-12yo
Name one good thing that you find hard to do. Why is it hard to do?		√	√
What are you doing about it now?		√	√
How can we overcome? Besides praying, what else can be done?		√	√
Memory verse- Philippians 4:8 Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things.	√ Simplified	√	√
What do you understand about having a "high view of God"? It is to know that God is Almighty (all powerful) and, above all, to know that He is able to do anything. Pray and ask God to teach me these daily.	√	√	√

Closing question:

God is with me. How would I live today giving honour to Jesus?

D. Activities/ Games**Materials needed**

Colouring and writing materials including crayons, marker, pencils, pens and paper

For 4-6yo

- Ask the child to list one bad habit he or she wants to stop.
- Ask the child to list two good deeds that he or she can do for his or her family member or a friend.
- Ask the child to pray for 3 friends today. Pray God's Word and His blessings. For example: "Dear God, I thank you for Jesus who loves us. Thank You, Jesus, for the gift of salvation. God is all powerful and He is able to work in us, both to will and to do His will. God, help us to give You the respect that You deserve. I praise You for Your power and work in us. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen."

For 7-12yo

- Ask each child to draw and decorate a poster with one of the two Bible verse given below.

Philippians 2:12-13

Always obey ... continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God who works in you, to will and to act according to His good purpose.

Philippians 4:8

Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things.

For 9-12yo (additional activity)

- Ask the children to do a skit about their understanding of salvation. Take a video to share with their parents.

General note for discussion / interaction with the children.

Affirm any emotions that the children feel, especially if it is difficult. The main thing is to point them to the Word of God and ask them to express their genuine thoughts and feelings (vs forcing them to give up the difficult thoughts and feeling before they are ready).