

The Solution to Sin

LifeLab #3

Icebreaker Exercise

Take 10 minutes at your table and tell your story about how you decided to follow Christ, or if you haven't made that decision yet, where you are at in that journey.

The Problem: Man's Need for Salvation

The Nature of God

1. God is holy.

Isaiah 57:15

Psalm 99:9

"Holy" means to be "set apart; to be separate." God is not like us, He is perfect and without blemish.

Habakkuk 1:13

Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot *tolerate* wrong.

2. God is righteous and just.

Holiness has to do with character.

Righteousness and **justice** have to do with God's dealings with mankind in relation to His character.

Psalm 116:5

The Lord is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion.

Psalm 145:17 (LB)

The Lord is fair in everything he does, and full of kindness.

The Nature of Man

1. Our nature: we are sinful.
2. Our choice: we sin.

Romans 3:10-18

3. Our condition: we are lost.

Luke 19:10

The Provision: God's Solution to Sin

Romans 3:25-26

...who have *faith in Jesus*.

Three Central Truths about How We are Saved

1. Salvation is not by works but by grace.

Ephesians 2:8-9

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

Mercy is when God doesn't give us what we do deserve.

Grace is God giving us what do not deserve.

Example: going to a friend's house for a meal and visit. Then before leaving, offering to pay.

2. Salvation is not initiated by us, but by God.

Romans 5:6-8 NCV

3. Salvation is not an afterthought with God; it is His eternal plan.

1 Peter 1:18-20 NCV

2 Timothy 1:9 NLT

Seven Descriptions of Salvation

1. Substitution: Jesus died in my place.

1 Peter 3:18

For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit.

- He was made sin for me (2 Cor. 5:21)
- He bore my sin in His body on the cross (1 Pet. 2:24)
- He suffered once to bear the sins of others (Heb 9:28)
- He was tortured for others' sin (Isa. 53:4-6)
- He was made a curse for me (Gal. 3:13)

Galatians 2:20

...who loved me and *gave himself for me*.

2. Justification: Jesus made me right with God.

Acts 13:39

Through him everyone who believes is justified from everything you could not be justified from by the law of Moses.

Romans 4:25

He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

Justification is a legal term that means "acquittal."

Story: Man who went on vacation from England to Europe and put his Rolls-Royce on a boat so he would have it to drive. During vacation, something happened to the engine and he cabled the Rolls-Royce people in England. They flew out a mechanic and fixed the issue. When the man returned he could find no bill so he contact Rolls-Royce. They sent him a note that read:

“Dear Sir: There is no record anywhere in our files that anything ever went wrong with a Rolls-Royce.”

In the same fashion there is no record of any of your sins in heaven.

3. Reconciliation: Jesus made peace with God possible.

2 Corinthians 5:19 NCV

God was in Christ, making peace between the world and himself... God did not hold the world guilty of its sins. And he gave us this message of peace.

Romans 5:10

For if, when we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

Jesus is the bridge between God and man. And there is no crossing the chasm without the Cross.

4. Adoption: Jesus made me a part of God’s family.

In Roman adoption—which could take place at any age—all previous debts and relationships were canceled, and the new son was wholly defined in terms of his new relationship to his father.

Ephesians 1:5

He predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will.

Romans 8:17 LB

And since we are his children, we will share his treasures—for all God gives to his Son Jesus is now ours too.

Romans 8:15

...you have received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.”

5. Redemption: Jesus purchased my salvation with His blood.

The Greek word for “redemption” refers to slaves being purchased in the marketplace.

Colossians 1:13-14

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

1 Peter 1:18-19 LB

God paid a ransom to save you from the impossible road to heaven which your fathers tried to take, and the ransom he paid was not mere gold or silver, as you very well know. But he paid for you with the precious lifeblood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God.

6. Propitiation: Jesus satisfied God’s justice.

To propitiate is to bring satisfaction or to full a demand or requirement.

Jesus’ sacrifice was enough to satisfy the righteous demands that God had on us because of our sin.

The OT picture is the mercy seat.

1 John 2:2

He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 4:10

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

7. Forgiveness: Jesus sent my sins away from me.

Ephesians 1:7

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace.

Colossians 2:13

When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful

nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins.

Psalm 103:12

As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

Address Forgiveness

This is not a feeling, this is a fact. You accept it by faith. If you don't feel forgiven today, you have to decide to accept it by faith. You cannot keep feeling guilty for sins that you have committed in the past and that Christ has forgiven you.

Three Aspects of Salvation: Past, Present, Future

1. In the past, I was saved from the penalty of sin (justification).
2. In the present, I am being saved from the power of sin (sanctification).
3. In the future, I will be saved from the presence of sin (glorification).

References

Keener, Craig S. *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993.

Holladay, Tom & Kay Warren. *Foundations*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003.