

**Freedom Weekend
Stand Alone Lesson
January 2 & 3, 2021**

LEADER PREP

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

For students to understand the invite of the Gospel and how to accept it for themselves.

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 1:27; Romans 3:23;
John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9 &
Romans 10:9-10

THINK ABOUT THIS

COMMON MYTH 1: Because my family is Christian, I am saved.

I once heard someone say, "God doesn't have any grandchildren." What they meant was just because your parents or your family believe in Jesus, that doesn't automatically make you a Christian. God gives each person the responsibility and opportunity to accept or reject His free gift of salvation. Put simply: each person must make their own church.

COMMON MYTH 2: Because I am generally a good person, I am saved.

Some people think there is a cosmic scale and if they do more good things than bad things, then they are safe. This is not true. Because of our sin and God's perfection, the bad news is we can't do enough good things to earn our way into heaven. The good news is that because of Jesus' sacrifice, we don't have to. We merely need to accept His invitation, offered to us for free.

This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here. Let the students and the Holy Spirit guide the conversation, too.



CONVERSATION GUIDE

MAIN POINT

Jesus is inviting you to the best party ever - the party of salvation!

GET THEM TALKING

Why is it exciting to be invited to something?

ACTIVITY

Have students work together to match the below verses to corresponding points. Have them write down to take home.

BIBLE VERSES

- Genesis 1:27; Romans 3:23;
- John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9 & Romans 10:9-10

GO5PEL POINTS

- GIFT – Jesus offers forgiveness and eternity with Him in heaven as a free gift.
- GOD – All of us were created to be in a relationship with God.
- SIN – Because of sin, that relationship was broken.
- CHOICE - God loves us completely, so He allows us to chose whether to receive or reject this gift.
- JESUS – Jesus Christ died on the cross and rose from the grave to pay the penalty for our sins and fix what had been broken.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How would you describe each Go5pel point in your own words?
2. What questions do you have about the Go5pel?
3. What holds people back from accepting Jesus' invitation?
4. Why should we accept Jesus' invitation?
5. Have you accepted Jesus' invitation?

NEXT STEP

If you have accepted Jesus' invitation for the first time: AMAZING! Your next step is to tell someone and talk to church leaders about baptism.

If you have accepted Jesus invitation before, can you memorize the 5 points of the Go5pel? Who can you share that invitation with?

PRAYER GUIDE

Ask your students for their prayer requests and close your time together in prayer.

SCRIPTURE

MS students are concrete thinkers, so opening your Bible to read the Scripture with them is a preferred visual cue.

GENESIS 1:27 (NLT)

So God created human beings in his own image.

In the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

ROMANS 3:23 (NLT)

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

JOHN 3:16 (NLT)

"For this is how God loved the world: He gave^[a] his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

EPHESIANS 2:8-9 (NLT)

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹ Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

ROMANS 10:9-10 (NLT)

⁹ If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.