Deep Down Discussion Sheet

use with all THREE lessons

response activities for deeper learning

P.1

Questions to aid discussion of the key concepts and for use in games

Be familiar with these questions and answers. Look for opportunities to ask questions and discuss their answers, such as while the children work on their coloring pages, as part of their response games, or during play time. Remember: your goal isn't to ask all these questions or only talk to the children about these things. It is to be deliberate in having good conversations with them, however much or little you have.

BIG QUESTION

How Can We Be Saved? It Is God's Free Gift!

Meaning

We all have disobeyed God. We have all lost the wonderful special closeness with God that He meant for us to have with Him. No matter how hard we try, we can't ever be good enough to win back special closeness with God. No, we can't save ourselves, but God can. That's why He sent Jesus: to save us as a free gift from Him. Anyone who turns away from their sins and trusts in Jesus as their Savior, will receive His forgiveness. They will become His people, who know Him in their hearts by His Holy Spirit. And one day, God will take them to live with Him forever. This is the free gift God offers to you and me. God is so kind to us!

choose a few

Discussion Questions

- 1. How can we be saved? It is God's free gift.
- 2. Who has disobeyed God? We all have.
- 3. What happened to the special closeness with God that God created us to have? We lost it because we are sinners.
- 4. Can we ever be good enough to win back special closeness with God? No, we cannot.
- 5. Who did God send as a free gift to save us? Jesus.
- 6. What must we do to receive God's free gift of salvation? Turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior.
- 7. What does God promise to all who do this? Forgive their sins, and make Him their people. They will know them in their hearts now, by His Holy Spirit. Then, after their bodies die, He will bring them to live with Him, happy forever!

BIBLE TRUTH

It Is God's Free Gift...When We Tell God Our Sins and Turn Away from Them!

Meaning

We are all sinners who disobey God. We hear God's laws from the Bible and we know that we have broken them. We hear how we are supposed to love God and His good ways, and we know that we do not. We hear about God's punishment for sin, and we know that we deserve it. But God is so merciful! He has provided a way to save us from His punishment. How? God wants us to tell (confess) our sins to Him and ask for His forgiveness through His Son, Jesus, who died on the cross to take the punishment for the sins of God's people. And, God wants us to turn away from a life of disobeying Him and ask Him to help us to live for Him instead (that's what it means to repent of our sins.) If we do these things, God promises to forgive our sins and make us His very own people. We will get to know Him in our hearts by His Holy Spirit now. And one day, when we die, we will go to live perfectly happily with Him forever.

choose a few

1. Who are sinners? We all are.

Discussion Questions

- 2. When we hear God's laws, what do we know? That we have broken them.
- 3. When we hear we are supposed to love God and His good ways, what do we know? That we do not love Him or His good ways as we should.
- 4. When we hear about God's punishment for sin what do we know? That we deserve it.
- 5. Does God want us to have His punishment for sin? No, He does not. He wants to save us.
- 6. How can we be saved? By telling Him our sins, turning away from wanting to disobey Him; and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.
- 7. What does God promise to do when we trust Jesus as our Savior? Forgive our sins, make us His very own people, who know Him now in their hearts, and one day go to live with Him forever.

Deep Down Discussion Sheet

use with all THREE lessons

P.2

Questions to aid discussion of the key concepts and for use in games

THE GOSPEL

What is God's good news for you and me? The gospel! How Can We Be Saved? It Is His Free Gift... When We Tell God Our Sins and Turn Away from Them. We all have chosen to disobey God and His good laws. We deserve His punishment, not His love. But God is so merciful that He made the way for us to be saved from our sins and become His people as His free gift. How? Through Jesus, His Son. Jesus lived a perfect life; then, on the cross, He gave it as the full payment for the sins of God's people. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead. He had beaten sin and death for God's people. Now, we can receive God's free gift of salvation when we tell God our sins, turn away from them, and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask Him to help you. He loves to do this!

BIBLE TRUTH BIBLE VERSE

"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." --1 John 1:8-9, ESV

Learn a Little: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful to forgive our sins."

Meaning

This verse reminds us that we are all sinners. We deceive ourselves if we think we are not. But, the good news is, that if we admit we are sinners and confess our sins to God, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and save us through Jesus.

Discussion Questions(choose a few)

- 1. If we say we are without sin, who do we deceive (who are we fooling)? Ourselves.
- 2. Who is faithful to forgive our sins, if we confess them to Him? God is.
- 3. What does God purify us from when we confess our sins to Him? All unrighteousness. That means He treats us as if we have never disobeyed Him.
- 4. What do we need to do for God to forgive our sins? We need to confess our sins to God, telling Him that we know that we have disobeyed Him and deserve His punishment. We need to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. God promises to forgive the sins of all who do!

BIBLE STORY

The Case of the Changed Climber choose a few

Discussion **Questions**

- 1. What did Zacchaeus have? Just about everything that money could buy.
- 2. What did Zacchaeus want that money couldn't buy? He wanted God's forgiveness.
- 3. What kinds of bad things did Zacchaeus do to get all his money? *Good food, a nice house, beautiful clothes, and just about whatever else he wanted.*
- 4. What special place was Zacchaeus not allowed to go to because of the bad things he did? *The place to worship God.*
- 5. Why did Zacchaeus climb the tree? *He was too short to see Jesus and no one would make a place for him along the road.*
- 6. What did Jesus tell Zacchaeus to do? To come down from the tree and take Him to his house to be his quest.
- 7. What did Jesus offer Zacchaeus? Forgiveness from his sins.
- 8. What did Zacchaeus do that showed that he really had turned away from his sins and trusted in Jesus as his Savior? He promised to pay back all the people whose money he had wrongly taken.
- 9. Who worked in Zacchaeus' heart so that he would be changed? The Holy Spirit.
- 10. How can we have God's forgiveness for our sins? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.