

Lesson 8

Jesus is Our Savior

Memory Verse:

Because of what the Son has done, we have been set free. Because of Him, all of our sins have been forgiven. *Colossians 1:14 (NIRV)*

Scripture References:

-  Colossians 1:14
-  Matthew 1:23b
-  Mark 14-16
-  Ephesians 3:14-19
-  1 John 1:7-2:2

Materials Needed:

- Bible
- PowerMark Seeker Series #4, "Redemption"
- 5-10 consumer products such as candy, toys, or games
- Paper
- Markers
- Chalkboard and chalk
- Small plate or saucer
- Clear glass
- Small coin
- Short candle
- Matches
- Water
- 10 – 15 large balloons
- Needle or tack
- Devices used to measure (tape measure, measuring cup, scale)
- Tarnished coins and one shiny coin
- Two small bowls
- Salt
- Vinegar
- Paper towels or small towel
- Teaspoon
- 2 dice or number cubes

Life Point:

**Jesus saves us
from our sins.**



This lesson is based on **Seeker Series Issue #4: Redemption**. It is recommended that you read this story before class so that you are familiar with it. Make sure each child has their own copy.

Lesson Summary:

In this lesson, the children will learn:

- Jesus saves us from our sins
- Jesus paid the price for our sins when He died on the cross
- Forgiveness of sins is only available through Jesus

Teacher Introduction:

PowerMark Seeker Series Issue #4, "Redemption", begins to answer the question, "Who is Jesus?" In this book, PowerMark presents the life, death and resurrection of Christ. The story covers His life on earth and why He left heaven to come to earth. PowerMark ends the story with Jesus' promise of eternal life in heaven for those who follow Him.

Today's lesson presents the story of salvation. Jesus, God's only Son, came to this earth to show us God's love and pay the price for our sins through His death on the cross. As you teach this lesson, remind the children that salvation and forgiveness of sins is found only through God's greatest act of love, the sacrifice of His only Son.

Be sure to allow time at the end of the lesson, during small group time, to invite the children to ask for God's forgiveness of sins through Jesus.

Large Group Time

Supplies:

- Bible
- 5-10 consumer products that children are familiar with such as candy, toys, games, etc.
- 3 – 4 sheets of paper
- Markers

➤ **Optional:** You can use a picture of each item instead of purchasing the items.

🕒 Lesson Introduction

Title: “The Price is Right”

Purpose: For children to learn that only Jesus could pay the price for our sins.

Preparation: If necessary, remove the price tags from the items you gathered. Write the actual price of each item on a piece of paper 8 cm x 8 cm (3 inch x 3 inch). On the other side, write a large dollar sign (\$). Place these items on a table in the front of the class. Put the price signs face down (dollar sign up) in front of each item. Make a sign that says “FORGIVENESS OF SIN” on one side and “JESUS’ DEATH” on the other side.

How to Play: Divide the children into two equal teams (Team A and Team B). If you have a lot of children, select 8 to 10 children for each team. Begin by asking Team A to guess the price of the first item on the table. If they guess correctly, turn over the price sign and award the team 5 points. If they guess incorrectly, state if their guess was high (over the price) or low (under the price) and allow Team B to make a guess. If Team B guesses correctly, award them 5 points. If their guess is incorrect, tell them whether it was high (above the price) or low (below the price) and Team A makes a guess. This continues until all of the items have been priced correctly. The team with the most points wins.

We are going to play a game called “The Price is Right.” In this game, the teams try to guess the price for each of these items. Briefly showcase each item on the table and begin the game.

When the game is over, say: **I still have one more item.** Hold up the sign you made with the “FORGIVENESS OF SIN” side facing the children. **How much money would it cost to buy this?** Allow response. Answer: no amount of money can purchase forgiveness of sin. **If money cannot pay the price for forgiveness of sin, how is it possible to have it?** Turn the card over and have the children read what it says. **Jesus’ death on the cross paid the price for our forgiveness of sins. Today, we are going to learn the main reason that Jesus came to earth as a man and how we can receive forgiveness of our sin.**

🕒 Bible Lesson

Supplies:

- Bible
- Chalkboard & chalk

📖 Scriptures:

Title: “Jesus’ Death and Resurrection”

Purpose: To teach the children the story of Jesus’ death and resurrection.

Preparation: Rehearse the drawings prior to the lesson so that you are

Seeker Series Curriculum ♦ Lesson Eight

- Mark 14-16



Figure 1

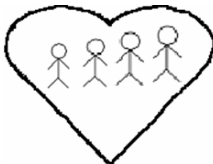


Figure 2



Figure 3

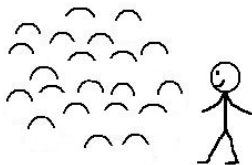


Figure 4

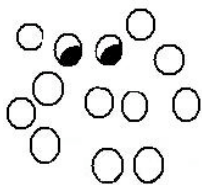


Figure 5



Figure 6

familiar with them and can easily draw them.

In last week's Bible lesson we learned about Jesus and some of the reasons He came to earth. We learned that God sent Jesus because He loves us. Jesus was God's gift of love for me and you. Draw a heart on the board.

We also learned about His birth and the shepherds that came to worship Jesus, the Lamb of God, who would take away the sins of the world. Draw the lamb shown in (Figure 1).

Mary and Joseph took Jesus to Nazareth, where they had lived before Jesus was born. This was the town that Jesus grew up in. Draw four stick figures beginning small and getting larger in size representing Jesus growing up (figure 2). The Bible says that Jesus grew in wisdom and stature or size. While He was growing, He gained favor in the sight of God and man. God loved Him and so did a lot of other people. Draw a heart around the stick figures (Figure 2).

As Jesus grew, he probably did a lot of the same things that other children did. Jesus was like us in a lot of ways. The only difference between Jesus and all other people is that Jesus never sinned. Write the word "SIN" with a no symbol (⊘) over it (Figure 3). He never disobeyed God or His commands. He was tempted to sin just like all of us are yet He never gave into temptation.

When Jesus was 30 years old, He began teaching people how to live for God. He was a famous teacher and hundreds of people followed Him as He taught. He taught in many cities and villages throughout Israel. Draw stick figure Jesus and many "C"'s for crowd (Figure 4). Jesus also performed many incredible miracles like raising the dead, giving sight to the blind and healing sickness and disease.

However, there were some people, like the teachers of the law and religious leaders, who did not like what Jesus was teaching. They felt threatened by Jesus, His powerful teaching, and how popular He had become with the people. They wanted to stop Jesus and get rid of Him and His teaching so they made a very evil plan.

These leaders offered Judas, one of Jesus' disciples, 30 silver coins if he would turn Jesus over to them. Draw several coins using "O" shapes. Judas agreed to their plan and looked for an opportunity to betray Jesus. Use two of the "O" shapes to create a pair of eyes (Figure 5).

Jesus and His twelve close friends or disciples went to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover, a special Jewish holiday. On Passover, Jesus had a special meal with His friends; this would be the last meal that He would eat with them. At this meal, He told them that He was going to be betrayed by one of them and He would be handed over to be crucified (nailed to a cross). His friends were very sad to hear this news. Draw sad face (Figure 6).

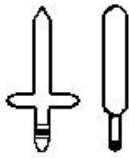


Figure 7

After their meal, Jesus and the disciples went to a garden on the Mount of Olives. He went there to pray and ask God to help Him to do what He came to the world to do – take the punishment for sin by dying on a cross. After He had prayed, He returned to his disciples. Soon, Judas came into the garden with a large crowd carrying swords and clubs following him. *Draw the sword and club (Figure 7).* Judas greeted Jesus with a kiss to show the crowd who to arrest. They arrested Jesus and took Him into the city of Jerusalem.

They took Jesus to the high priest. The leaders told the high priest lies about Jesus and said mean things. They beat Him, slapped Him, and spit on Him. Then they took Jesus to a man named Pilate, a Roman ruler. They wanted him to sentence Jesus to death even though Jesus never did anything wrong. Pilate didn't find anything wrong with Jesus but he gave permission because he was worried that the people would start a riot and cause him trouble.

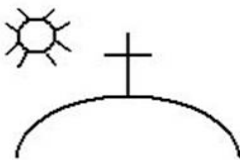


Figure 8

Later that day, after Jesus was beaten and whipped by the Roman soldiers, they made Him carry a heavy wooden cross on His back. Because Jesus had been hurt so badly by the beatings, He was too weak to carry the cross. The soldiers made someone else carry the cross up the hill to the place where Jesus would be crucified. They nailed Jesus to the cross and placed the cross in the ground. *Draw a hill, sun, and then add the cross (figure 8).*

They continued to say mean things to Jesus. He could have stopped them, He could have come down from the cross, but instead He chose to go through all of this suffering and pain for us. He chose to take the punishment for our sins.

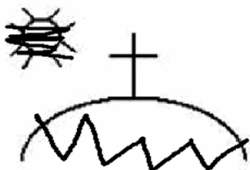


Figure 9

Soon the sky became as dark as night even though it was still the middle of the day. *Color over the sun (figure 9).* The ground shook in a violent earthquake. *Draw zigzag lines through the ground to represent earthquake (figure 9).* Jesus had died. It was a very sad and scary time.



Figure 10

Draw the tomb as in (Figure 10). A couple of Jesus' friends took Jesus' body from the cross and placed Him in a tomb. The tomb was a cave in the side of a hill. They rolled a huge stone over the opening of the cave and went away very sad. Roman soldiers were sent to guard Jesus' tomb.

On the third day after Jesus died, a few women, who were friends of Jesus, came to the tomb early in the morning. *Add a rising sun to the tomb (Figure 11).* When they got there they noticed that the large stone that blocked the opening of the cave had been rolled away! *Color in the first stone and add a new stone to the left to create an open tomb (Figure 11).*



Figure 11

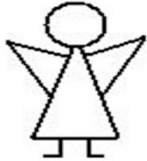


Figure 12



Figure 13

When they entered the tomb, Jesus' body was gone! Instead, an angel was in the tomb. *Draw the angel as in (Figure 12).* The angel told them, "Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. But He has risen! He is not here! See the place where they had put Him. Go! Tell his disciples..." So the women ran to tell the good news that Jesus was alive!

Jesus appeared to His friends and followers many times during the next forty days. Then, while many people were gathered around Jesus, He told them to go and share the good news about Him all over the world so that many more people would be followers of Jesus, too. While He was talking, He began to rise from the ground. He went higher and higher until a cloud hid Him. *Draw 2 or 3 clouds (Figure 13).* While Jesus was leaving, He made a promise. He said, "I am with you always." *Write "I am with you always" in one of the clouds (Figure 13).* Jesus returned to heaven to be with His heavenly Father. He is preparing a special place in heaven for all the people who choose to follow Him.

This Bible story and art adapted from the "Big Book of Bibles Story Fun" Published by Gospel Light Pages 34, 140, 178, 179, 185

© Object Lesson

Supplies:

- Bible
- Small plate or saucer
- Clear glass
- Small coin
- Short candle
- Matches
- Water

➔ **Optional:** Add a drop of blue food coloring to your water to make it more visible to the children.

Title: "How Jesus Saves Us"

Purpose: To illustrate how God provides salvation through Jesus.

Preparation: Be sure that your candle is shorter than the glass you are going to use for the lesson. Light the candle and drip a little wax in the center of the saucer. Blow out the candle and stand the candle up by placing the base of the candle in the melted wax. Hold in place until the wax hardens, holding the candle upright.

Say: In our Bible lesson today, we learned that Jesus died on a cross for our sins. Did He stay dead? (Allow response.) No. He rose from the dead and now He is with God the Father in heaven.

Heaven is a perfect, beautiful and holy place. There is no pain, sadness, suffering, or anything bad in heaven. Heaven is perfect and holy because that is where God lives and God is perfect and holy. Because God is holy, there is no sin allowed in heaven. God wants everyone to go to heaven but there is a problem. We have sin in our lives.

As we have already learned, all of us have sinned. We sin when we disobey God. What are some examples of sin? Allow the children to

share some examples of sin. **This water represents sin.** Pour some water into the saucer until it almost fills the saucer. **The saucer represents the world.** Hold up the coin. **This coin represents you and me.** **We are not perfect, we have all sinned. I'm going to place this coin in the water to show that all of us have sinned.** Put the coin on the saucer, close to the edge so that it is covered by the water.

However, God still loves each and every one of us. He still wants us to go to heaven. But we can't go there if we are living in sin. Since God is perfect, He can't have anything to do with sin. Sin can't be near Him. So how is God going to save us if we are covered in sin? Is it possible for me to take the coin from this saucer without getting my fingers wet? Allow response. No. If I reach in there to get the coin my fingers will get wet. So what are we going to do with this sin? (Allow response.)

God had a solution for our sin. He sent His Son, Jesus, to earth to take away our sin. Light the candle. **Jesus is the Light of the World.** He never sinned against God. He was the only person who could pay the price for our sin. If Jesus had sinned, then He would have died for His own sin. But He never sinned.

Hold up the glass. **This glass represents Jesus' death.** What do you think would happen if I placed this glass over the candle? (Allow response.) **Let's find out what happens when I put this glass over the candle.** Put the glass over the candle so that the opening of the glass touches the bottom of the saucer. The candle will go out because the flame needs oxygen. After the flame goes out, the water in the saucer will be drawn up inside the glass, uncovering your coin. **The Bible says that the punishment for sin is death. When Jesus died on the cross, He took upon Himself all our sin just like this cup took in all of the water representing our sin. By His death, He paid the price for sin. Now our sin can be forgiven and removed.**

Can I reach down and get the coin now without my fingers getting wet? (Allow response.) **Yes I can. We can be with God forever in heaven. He made it possible through Jesus' death on the cross. By believing that Jesus died for our sins and rose again, asking God to forgive us of our sins, and deciding to follow God's way we can be sure that we will spend forever with God in heaven.**

© Bible Verse

Supplies:

- Bible
- 10 – 15 large balloons
- Black marker
- Needle or tack

Because of what the Son has done, we have been set free. Because of Him, all of our sins have been forgiven. *Colossians 1:14 (NIRV)*

Purpose: To review the Bible verse introduced last week.

Preparation: Inflate the balloons and write one word from the verse on each balloon. The verse reference will go on one balloon.

Seeker Series Curriculum ♦ Lesson Eight

➔ **Optional:** Before popping any balloons, toss them into the group 2 or 3 times followed by putting the verse in order.

Activity Instructions: Tell the children that you are going to toss balloons into the group. They need to tap the balloons up in the air, around the room but they have to stay in one place or in their seats. They keep tapping the balloons around the room until you say “STOP!” When you say stop, the children must hold the balloons in their hands. The children who are holding the balloons come to the front of the room and work together to put the verse in order. Lead all of the children in saying the verse. Pop a couple of balloons with the needle or tack. Say the verse again. Repeat until all of the balloons are popped.

Small Group Time

© Small Group Activity #1

Supplies:

- Bible
- Devices used to measure (i.e., tape measure, measuring cup, scale, etc.)

Scripture:

📖 Ephesians 3:14-19

Title: “Big, Big Love”

Purpose: To illustrate how God’s love is immeasurable.

Preparation: Gather a few measuring devices used to measure height, width, liquid or weight.

Hold up the tape measure. Ask: **Who can tell me what this is?** (Allow response.) **What is this used for?** (Allow response.) **It is used to measure how high or wide something is. What are some things that are measured using this tape measure?** (Allow response.)

Hold up the measuring cup. Ask: **Who can tell me what this is?** (Allow response.) **What is it used for?** (Allow response.) Possible answer: to measure liquid or dry solids. **What are some things that are measured using this measuring cup?** (Allow response.) **When would you use this?** (Allow response.) Possible answers: cooking, baking, science projects.

Lastly, hold up the scale or show a picture of one. **Who can tell me what this is?** (Allow response.) **What is it used for?** (Allow response.) To measure how much something weighs. **What are some things you could weigh on this scale?** (Allow response.) Answers will vary depending on the type of scale used.

There is something that none of these measuring tools can measure because it’s too big. Does anyone know what it is? Allow the children to guess the answer. **I’ll read a passage of scripture from God’s Word. After I read it, let’s see if you can answer the question.** Read Ephesians 3:14-19.

Did anyone figure out the answer to my question? (Allow response.) **The answer is the love of Christ. None of these tools are able to measure that love. It is such a great and big love that these tools could not possibly measure it.**

When Jesus came to earth, did He love us this much? Hold your hands close together, palm facing palm as though measuring the width of something with your hands. Allow the children to respond. They should say no. Move your hands a little farther apart. **How about this much?** No. Still farther apart. **This much?** No. Move your hands even further apart. **How about this much?** No. Now hold your arms and hands outreached as though you were hanging on a cross. **This is how much Jesus loves us. He loves us so much that He died on a cross for our sins so that we could be forgiven and be made right with God once again. That's big, big, BIG love!**

© Small Group Activity #2

Supplies:

- Bible
- Tarnished, old coins (copper coins)
- Two small bowls
- One shiny, new coin (old and new coins should be of the same value)
- Salt
- Water
- Vinegar
- Paper towels
- Teaspoon

Scripture:

- 1 John 1:7-2:2

Title: "Forgiven and Made New"

Purpose: To illustrate God's forgiveness and new life through Jesus' death on the cross.

Preparation: In one bowl, pour about a half-inch (1 cm) of vinegar. In that same bowl, add two teaspoons of salt and stir. Pour some water into the other bowl. Gather the new copper coin and enough old, tarnished coins for you and the children to have one. Place the two bowls, coins, spoon and towels on a tray. To make sure you have the correct mixture of vinegar and salt, put one of the tarnished coins in the solution. Move it around in the solution using the spoon. It should become shiny in a very short amount of time. If you are not pleased with the results, try adding more salt to the solution. Use the spoon to remove the coin from the solution and put it in the bowl of water to rinse off the solution.

Hold up the shiny coin and one of the tarnished coins. **What are these?** (Allow response.) **What is the difference between these two coins?** (Allow response.) **One of the coins is tarnished and dark, the other coin is shiny and new.**

Hold up the old, tarnished coin. **This coin represents a person who has not asked God to forgive his or her sin.** Hold up the new, shiny coin. **This coin represents a person who believes in Jesus and has accepted God's forgiveness of sin.**

Is the shiny coin worth more than the tarnished coin? (Allow response.) Answer: No, they are both worth one cent. **No, these two coins have the same value; they are both still worth one cent** (or whatever the coin's value). **That reminds me that God loves and values all people the same. His love doesn't change just because we are sinful. In fact, the Bible says in Romans 5:8, "Here is how God has shown His love for us. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Even when our lives are sinful, God still loves us and wants to offer us forgiveness and give us a new life.**

Hold up the tarnished coin. **Do you think it is possible to make this coin shiny again?** (Allow response.) **I am going to put this coin in the first bowl.** The vinegar and salt mixture. **This bowl represents God's forgiveness. God's forgiveness of our sins is made possible through Jesus' death on the cross. We learned today that Jesus paid the price of our sin, which is death, by offering His very life as a sacrifice for our sin.** Read 1 John 1:7-2:2 and then put the tarnished coin in the solution, moving it around with the spoon. Rinse the coin off in the water solution and dry it with a paper towel. **What happened to the coin?** (Allow response.) It became shiny again. The tarnish stain is gone. **This coin has been cleansed. It is good as new.**

The same is true with our lives. When we ask God to forgive us of our sins, He will do it. Not only are our sins forgiven, we also are made new. It is as though we never sinned. Hold the newly cleansed coin up with the shiny, new coin used earlier.

Give each child a tarnished coin. **Each of you is going to put the coin I gave you in the bowl representing God's forgiveness. As you hold the tarnished coin in your hand, think of the things you have said or done that were wrong or sinful. Then as you put the coin in the "Forgiveness" bowl, think of God's forgiveness and how He takes away your sin, making you clean and new.** Have each child, one at a time, put the coin in the solution, rinse in the water, and dry with a towel. Tell them to keep the coin to remind them of God's forgiveness. **Remember, forgiveness of sins is only made possible through Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.**

© Bible Verse Review

Supplies:

- Bible
- Marker
- 12 sheets of paper
- 2 dice or number cubes (1-6 on each cube)

Because of what the Son has done, we have been set free. Because of Him, all of our sins have been forgiven. *Colossians 1:14* (NIRV)

Purpose: To review the Bible verse introduced last week.

Game: "Disappearing Words"

Preparation: Write one or two words of the verse on each sheet of paper so that you use exactly 12 sheets of paper. Write a number on each sheet above the word (1-12). Hang the sheets of paper in order on the wall or lay them on the ground or table.

Activity Instructions: Divide the children into two teams. Say the verse together a few times. Give the two dice to one of the children on Team A. He rolls one or both of the dice and turns over the verse sheet with the same number (for example: he rolls a 4 and a 3 with the dice. $3+4=7$. Turn over the verse sheet with the number 7). He then chooses a child on the opposite team to read the verse, filling in the missing word(s). If the child says the verse correctly, his or her team gets 1 point. This child rolls one or both dice and turns over another verse

sheet. If a child rolls a number that has already been turned over, his turn ends and the dice go to the opposite team. Continue playing until all verse sheets have been turned over. The team with the highest points wins.

© Life Application

Supplies:

- ❑ PowerMark Seeker Series #4 “Redemption” books (one for each child)

Purpose: To find ways to apply this lesson to daily living and encourage the children to change their lives in order to live the way God wants them to live.

Make sure each child has a copy of PowerMark Seeker Series #4, “Redemption”. Review the story up to page 10. Have the children take turns reading beginning on page 11 and going to the end of the book (one child reads a page or only one speech bubble and then another child has a turn). After reading the story, ask the following discussion questions.

1. **Why did God send His Son, Jesus, into the world?** *He sent His Son to save the world (page 11).*
2. **Why was Jesus the only person who could die to pay the price for our sin?** *Because a perfect person had to die to pay the price for our sin and Jesus is the only perfect person who has ever lived (page 11).*
3. **What did Jesus take upon Himself when He died on the cross?** *Jesus took on Himself the sins of everyone (page 11).*
4. **After Jesus died, where was His body laid?** *In a tomb made from a cave (page 12).*
5. **What happened three days after Jesus’ death?** *Jesus came back to life; He rose from the dead (page 12).*
6. **After His resurrection from the dead, how many days did Jesus stay with His followers?** *Forty days (page 12).*
7. **At the end of those forty days, what happened?** *Jesus ascended (rose up) into heaven in the sight of His followers (page 12).*
8. **Even after a person becomes a Christian, he or she will sometimes sin. What should a Christian do if he or she sins?** *Pray and ask Jesus to forgive us for our sin (page 13).*
9. **Where is Jesus today?** *He is in heaven with God the Father (page 13).*
10. **What is Jesus doing while He is in heaven?** *He is praying for us; He is preparing a place for us (page 13).*
11. **Before Jesus left the earth, He made a promise. What was the promise?** *He promised that He would return to earth someday to take those who believe in Him back to heaven with Him (page 13).*

© Closing Prayer

Since this lesson presented why Jesus came, take this opportunity to invite the children to accept Jesus as their Savior. Draw their attention to page 11 in Seeker Series #4, "Redemption." Take some time to briefly explain the way of salvation through Jesus, God's Son.

End the small group time in prayer. Instruct the children to bow their heads and close their eyes. Ask if anyone would like to ask Jesus to take away their sin. Lead those that respond in a salvation prayer. Break the prayer into small phrases and have the children repeat the prayer after you. Here is a sample prayer of salvation:

**Dear God,
I am sorry for all of my sin.
Please forgive me...
For all of the wrong things...
I have done, said, and thought.
I believe Jesus died on the cross...
So my sins could be taken away...
And He came back to life...
Three days later.
Please come into my life...
And help me love You...
And live like You want me to live.
Thank You for taking my sin away...
And loving me.
In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.**

In addition to the prayer of salvation, allow time for the children to share prayer requests or praise reports. After they have shared, pray for their needs and praise God for their praise reports. You can also have the children volunteer to pray for each others' needs. As you are praying, summarize what was learned today.