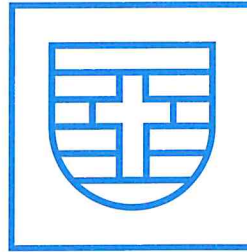


Question 29

How can we be saved?



Answer

Only by faith in Jesus Christ
and in his substitutionary
atoning death on the cross.

Big Idea

Only through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ can we be saved from the punishment we rightly deserve from God.

Aim

To help the children understand clearly that salvation comes through Christ alone and to give them confidence in the saving work of Jesus on the cross.

Bible Passage

Ephesians 2:1–10

Memory Verse

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” (Eph. 2:8–9)

Virtue
Trust





Notes

Leader's Notes

Children in the twenty-first century are growing up in a pluralistic world. They are surrounded daily by a myriad of beliefs, many of which challenge and contradict biblical faith. Children encounter a pluralistic worldview at school, in the movies, on TV, among their friends, and even in their own families. They are taught to tolerate the view that there are many ways to God and many ways to be saved. Today's philosophical climate says it's ok to believe *personally* that salvation is found by faith alone through Christ alone, but it insists that you must not claim exclusivity to the pathway of salvation. Christians believe that salvation is found only through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and his substitutionary atoning work on the cross. This lesson aims to help children understand what it means to be saved by the grace of God in Jesus Christ and to have confidence in the gospel.

Things to remember when planning and teaching:

- It is quite possible that your children will be familiar with the gospel, so be prepared to work hard to apply this lesson in an engaging and heart-penetrating way. Try to be concrete and practical when applying the catechism question and answer to the lives of your children.
- Big Bible words and theological concepts need to be explained carefully and clearly to children.
- Remember to mix and match the activities in the lesson to fit your time frame (see p. 12 for some sample outlines). You won't have time to do them all. Feel free to adapt each activity based on your class's strengths and weaknesses.

Leader's Prayer

Gracious God, thank you for saving me through the death of the Lord Jesus Christ. Please cause me to rejoice in my salvation and boldly proclaim the gospel to the next generation. Grant understanding to the children who will hear this lesson. May they know joy

and confidence as they trust in Jesus for salvation, and may they humbly be prepared to challenge the pluralistic air that surrounds them and point others to Jesus, who is the way, the truth, and the life. In Jesus's name. Amen.



Leader's Tool Kit

- Ping-pong balls
- A permanent marker
- Q29 Who Am I? clues (RB)
- Blank index cards
- A large piece of paper
- Red construction paper cut into large hearts, two for each child
- A large paper cross
- Markers

10 Catechism Recap

Write the numbers 1–28 on ping-pong balls and put them into a bag or box. If your budget allows, you could purchase a bingo cage or blower to add to the fun, or make your own.

Divide the children into two teams, and explain that you are going to have a quiz to help them remember some of the catechism

questions that they've already learned. Let each team pick a numbered ball out for their opponents. The opposing team will get two points if they can remember the catechism question and answer associated with the number. The team with the most points wins!

5 Introduction to Question 29

Familiarize yourself with the story of the Chilean miners who were trapped underground for sixty-nine days in August 2010, when the San Jose Mine collapsed. Print out some pictures of the scene, the mine, and the rescued men.

Begin by asking the children if they have ever been saved from something terrible happening to them. Try to keep this question grounded in real life, rather than jumping straight to the gospel at this stage. Perhaps they've been saved from:

- Getting lost in the mall

- Running out in front of a car
- Falling and breaking a leg

Ask, "What did it feel like to be saved?"

Ask the children if they've ever heard any stories about people being saved. Once you've exhausted their stories, share the story of the Chilean miners.

Ask, "Who did the saving? What kind of people do you think they were? Were they brave or strong? Why did they want to save someone else?"

**Notes**

Introduce Question 29: “How can we be saved?” Commend the children for their participation in the discussion. Remind them that everyone needs to be saved, not

from a fire or from drowning or from a car crash, but from the punishment of God that is due to everyone who sins against him.

10 Activity**Who Am I?**

Print out the Q29 Who am I? clues (RB). Ask your children to guess who the clues describe.

Read the clues in stages, and see how many clues the children need to identify the professions of the lifesavers. For example:

- I work in a team with other people.
- I wash my hands often.
- I often use a scalpel in my work to save people.
- I’m used to seeing lots of blood.
- Nurses work with me.
- I am a surgeon!

15 Teaching Outline

Cut out two large paper hearts for each child; they must be suitable for writing on. Stick up a cross at the front of your meeting room. Pass out markers.

Begin the teaching time with prayer, asking that God would help you to teach the lesson faithfully and the children to listen well.

Remind your children that in the story of the Chilean miners, you encountered people who really needed a savior. They needed to be saved. They were helpless and unable to save themselves.

Explain that it’s not only people who are stuck in a burning building or a collapsed mine who need to be saved. That’s why the question “How can I be saved?” is such an

important one! The Bible clearly teaches that everyone needs to be saved.

Everyone who has ever lived or will ever live is facing punishment and death because everyone has disobeyed God. Emphasize to the children that this includes you and them. Tell them that there is nothing we can do to save ourselves from this fate.

Briefly discuss what sin is (refer to Question 16) and the consequences of sin for each man, woman, and child. Be sensitive to those children who may be worried by this reality, but also seek to engage well with children who behave as if they’ve heard it all before. Be prepared to explain sin in a more detailed way to new or visiting children.



Explain that you're going to read a bit more from Paul's letter to the Christians in Ephesus.

Read Ephesians 2:1–3. Provide Bibles for the children so they can read along with you.

Help the children to see that the passage describes those without a Savior as “dead in [our] trespasses and sins,” a devastating description that applies to everyone who has lived, is living, and will live. Help them to understand how people can be described as dead, when by all appearances they're living and breathing. Those who have sinned against God are dead spiritually. They have no relationship with God because their sin separates them from God, and therefore they can do nothing to please God.

We need a Super-Savior to save us from this terrible predicament!

Explain to the children that in the passage Paul identifies everyone as a *sinner*—someone who has rejected God's rule and failed to live according to his laws.

Have the children write some of their personal sins on a paper heart. Gently help the children who believe that they're sinless to see where they disobey God. This may be an appropriate time to share a little of your own testimony, highlighting how you came to realize that you were a sinner and dead in your trespasses and sin, one who deserved to be punished by God. Have them fold the heart in half so that no one can see inside.

Read Ephesians 2:4–10.

Tell the children that these verses are truly amazing because they explain that God so loved the world that he sent his only beloved Son to save all those who are dead in their sins, to bring them from death to life.

Jesus is the Super-Savior! He's the only One who is able to save.

Explain to the children that God still had to punish someone for all the sins committed because he is a just God; Jesus took the place of and bore the punishment for sinners. Jesus was the only person who ever lived a perfect, sinless life. He was the only person who didn't deserve punishment and death, because he never disobeyed God. Tell the children that when Jesus died on the cross, he stood in to take the punishment for sin. He paid the price that was required for people to be made alive to God. It is the greatest swap of all time: God takes the repentant sinner's sin and puts it on Jesus. And he takes Jesus's perfect righteousness and imputes it to all those who have faith in him.

Ask the children to bring their sin-stained paper hearts to the foot of the cross and have them pick up a clean, unblemished heart.

Explain to them that if they put their faith in the Lord Jesus and confess their sins, he gives them a clean heart. Remind the children that those who don't trust in Jesus are described as dead, but those who trust in Jesus are made alive—they have a heart transplant. The

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good news is that those who are alive—those who have put their trust in Jesus to deal with their disobedience and sin—will enjoy a relationship with God forevermore.

Remind the children that new life is a free gift from God. The Bible calls that *saving grace*. We don't have to do anything to be saved except repent and believe in Jesus, whose resurrection from the dead ensures our eternal life.

Conclude the teaching time by helping the children commit Question 29 and the answer to memory.

(These notes are just for guidance. Please expand or amend them to suit your own children and context. Write out your talk in your own words and include illustrations and applications that you know will connect with your children.)

Activity

Divide the children into groups and ask them to act out a news report describing what occurred on the cross of Calvary on the first Good Friday and why it needed to happen. You might want to challenge them to include certain words in their report, such as:

Dead	Alive	Swap
Gift	Saved	

Discussion and Question Time

Some questions that might arise include:

? What happens to those who don't repent and believe in Jesus?

Explain to the children that the Bible teaches that those who remain dead in their sin will face the punishment of God and separation from his presence eternally (John 3:36). Be mindful that this reality could be distressing to some children.

? How can we be sure that we are saved?

Encourage the children to have confidence in Jesus and to rejoice in

the knowledge that once they have asked Jesus to deal with their sin, they can be sure they are saved. Explain that those who are alive in Christ will have a desire to live for God and to stop sinning. Our confidence is not based on how strong our faith is, but on what a Super-Savior Jesus is.

? Can we lose our salvation?

No one who has truly put their trust in Jesus will lose their salvation. Share John 6:37: "All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out."



Use this opportunity to help the children think about their own lives and how this catechism question and answer affects them personally.

- Have they repented of their sin and believed in Jesus?
- How will they respond when they hear someone say that there are other ways to be saved, like living a good life?
- What does knowing that they are saved mean for them if they have already chosen to follow Christ?

Notes

10 Virtue Vision



Trust

Invite the children to reflect back to beginning of the session and the story of the Chilean miners.

Ask them to consider how the trapped miners might have come to the decision to trust those men and women who were attempting to save them.

Similarly, ask the children to consider why people trust firefighters or paramedics to save their lives.

Explain to the children that when you are in a life-threatening situation, you trust the men and women who are equipped and trained to save you. It's easy to place your

trust into the hands of another when there is no other way out.

Remind the children that we need a Super-Savior to rescue us from death. Ask them whether Ephesians 2:1–10 has identified someone who is trustworthy and able to save.

Ask the children if they consider Jesus to be trustworthy. Invite them to voice any concerns they may have about trusting Jesus.

Remind them that Jesus is the only one who is able to save them and bring them from death to life.

10 Memory Activity

Write each word of the memory verse or catechism question and answer on a separate index card. You will need one full memory verse set of cards for each team.

- Divide the children into teams.
- Read the memory verse or question and answer aloud to the children.
- Read it again, inviting the children to repeat each phrase after you.



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- Read it again, inviting the children to say the entire verse along with you.
- Hand out a full set of memory verse cards to each team; make sure the words are not in order! Ask the children to put the words in the correct order. The first team to finish wins!
- Practice the memory verse together one final time.



Closing Prayer Time

Conclude the lesson by reading aloud some of the things that the children wrote on the gratitude wall and thank God for his grace, most perfectly shown in Jesus.