



THERE IS A SAVIOR
STAY ON COURSE — part 2
SEPTEMBER 4, 2022
FACILITATOR GUIDE

WHO IS THE SAVIOR?

The title of this week’s message is **THERE IS A SAVIOR**.

The word “savior” is defined as:

SAVIOR = One that **SAVES**, **RESCUES**, or **REDEEMS**

Can you think of a time when someone came to your rescue?

If you have been in church for any amount of time at all, you know who the Savior of our soul is—JESUS.

Let’s go around the room and each person say one word that describes who Jesus is.

Christmas is just a little over three months away, and we will, no doubt, hear this verse during the season:

Luke 2:11— For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

How does Luke describe Him in this verse? [Savior. Christ. The Lord.]

1. **SAVIOR** defines what He does. **[Savior describes the task for which He was sent.]**
2. **CHRIST** declares His title. **[Means “anointed Messiah” which describes His place in the Trinity.]**
3. **LORD** expresses who He is. **[Lord elevates Him to Oneness with the Father.]**

So if Jesus' main job description is that of "Savior," then for what reason do we need a Savior? **[Our sin.]**

What comes to mind when you hear the word "sin?" **[We may think of particular actions that we think of as revolting, such as killing, stealing, lying, enslaving, etc. At its essence, sin is going opposite of God's character.]**

CHARACTERISTICS OF GOD:

SIN:

[Ask the group to fill in the blanks concerning characteristics of God first. Then, sin is doing/ or being the opposite of God's character.]

God is _____	therefore, we sin by _____	_____
God is _____	therefore, we sin by _____	_____
God is _____	therefore, we sin by _____	_____
God is _____	therefore, we sin by _____	_____
God is _____	therefore, we sin by _____	_____

1 Peter 5:8—

Be sober-minded, be alert. Your adversary the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour.

Do you worry about sin?

Tim Keller in his book *The Reason for God* describes sin this way:

“According to the Bible, the primary way to define sin is not just the doing of bad things, but the making of good things into ultimate things. It is seeking to establish a sense of self by making something else more central to your significance, purpose and happiness than your relationship with God.”

THE BITE HEARD ‘ROUND THE WORLD

In the beginning, God created a perfect world and enjoyed peace and harmony with all His creation. The whole earth and all on it were set for eternity. However, when sin entered into the picture, it changed everything down to an atomic, molecular level in the entire universe. Now everything either dies or runs down. Sins leads us away from God and towards destruction.

Romans 9: 20-21—

20 Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, 21 the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay.

What has been the effects of man's sin on our world? [Catastrophic fires, damaging storms, floods, volcanoes, etc.]

These are all evidences that sin has led away from God's perfect creation.

Can you think of a time when a personal sin had a very real consequence? [Like getting a speeding ticket, disrespecting your parents, telling a lie, cheating on a test, etc.]

Talk about a time in your life when personal sin had a very real consequence, such as receiving a speeding ticket or being grounded for being disrespectful to your parents. Say, “When we don’t learn from our mistakes, God’s word is very clear that our sinful actions will only get worse.

How have you seen the effects and/or consequences of sin in your own life or in your family history?

Just as sin leads us in a direction away from God, changing our way reverses and points us to God.

REPENTANCE is the word we use for turning around the direction our life is headed in. When we repent, we are turning our back on sin and renewing our relationship with God, each other, and the world. The noun used for repentance in the Old Testament refers to the idea of going back to where we started. In the New Testament, it communicates the idea of doing a 180 degree turn.

What thoughts/ideas/images first come to mind when you hear the word “repent?”

Share a time in your life when you remember making a conscious decision to turn away from something you knew was wrong and you choosing a different way instead.

Romans 8:9, 12-14—

9 But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you...

12 Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do.

13 For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live.

14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

True repentance requires a **SAVIOR**.

We can try to turn on your own, but according to Romans 8:9, what is needed to turn from a sinful nature? [The Holy Spirit]

Repentance isn't about just getting our act together, turning over a new leaf, or scoring more points with God. Real repentance is a complete reorientation where God becomes the center of our life. But this is not something we accomplish on our own. It is Jesus whose Spirit then works in us to bring us back to God. All of our own effort will never be enough to save us and correct our behavior. That is why we trust Jesus for salvation from sin.

Romans 5:8—

But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

How did God demonstrate His love for us? [He sent His only begotten son to die in our place, even though we were sinning against Him.]

MISCONCEPTION: Repentance isn't just saying "SORRY" for wrong-doing. It means to NEVER do it again.

Describe the difference between just being sorry for something and stopping a behavior.

Is there something you have in your life that is not glorifying to God that you need to get free from?

Do you need to make a directional change and head back to God?

Romans 3: 23-24—

23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God;

24 they are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Now is the time to set things right. Don't put off changing your direction any longer!

PRAYER TIME

- Praise Jesus for the gift of His sacrifice for your salvation. Thank Him for the changes He has made in your life.
- Pray that the Spirit will reveal to you any unforgiven sin in your life. Ask Him to show you the areas of your life that you need to pay attention to and rely on the Spirit to help you have the strength to resist the devil.
- Ask God to give you a clean slate daily. Spend time meditating on God's desires for you and keep your focus on Him.