



DATE(S)

April 2-3, 2022

SERIES AND LESSON TITLE

Gospel – Week 3 (Salvation)

TAKE-HOME POINT (THP)

The Gospel says we are saved
by grace.

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Philippians 2:6-8
2 Corinthians 5:21
John 14:6

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Give any Campus-Specific Announcements

OPENING GAME / GROUP TIME

LARGE-GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

“The Impossible Shot”

It’s March Madness! That means it’s time for The Impossible Shot. Set up a small basketball hoop in your room and give students a chance to make it. Remember – it’s supposed to be difficult! You can let everyone go if you have a smaller group, or you can allow first-time guests and the ones who brought them to go or choose students (or a group) at random. The prize needs to be BIG!

OPENING SMALL GROUP

QUESTIONS

Take attendance and make sure to welcome anyone who is a first-time guest!

What was the highlight of your week?

What is the best movie or TV show scene where someone gets rescued or their life is saved?

When you’re finished (and there’s time), pray for our time of worship/singing.

STUFF TO ASK TO UNIQUELY CONNECT THE LESSON TO KIDS’ LIVES

ACTIVITIES

STUFF TO DO SO THINGS AREN’T BORING



LARGE-GROUP SCRIPT

THE MESSAGE

Gospel – Week 3 (Salvation)
April 2-3, 2022

Welcome again to Northview Students! We are in a series called “Gospel” where we are looking at the most important person and the most important thing about Christianity: the Gospel. As we’ve talked about, “gospel” simply means “good news.” There are four parts to the Gospel: creation, sin, and the third part (what we are talking about today) is salvation.

In June & July of 2018, a soccer team in Thailand told their families they were heading to practice. After practice, they decided to explore the Tham Luong (pronounced Tom Loo-Ong) cave system. Due to heavy rains, the cave flooded and trapped the boys almost two miles into the cave from where they entered. Here is a picture to show where they were located in the cave... **(Show picture of cave)**

They were able to get to high ground and survive for over a week with no food. Professional divers, members of the Navy in England and the U.S., etc. all worked together to figure out a way to rescue the boys and their coach. This type of rescue would take several days and was believed to be impossible – they could get the whole team out, but probably not all of them alive.

Now, I don’t think any of us here have been stuck in a cave for two weeks waiting for a rescue team to come and get us. However, as we talked about last week, we are sinful people because all of us have disobeyed God. We are imperfect. We all fall short of God’s glory and because of that, we are in sin.

Our **THP (Take Home Point)** today is amazing news because it will tell us how we can be saved from our sin. It’s only because of Jesus and His grace. Here it is...

The Gospel says we are saved by grace.

Let’s look at our Lego blocks again. Make sure all three of your blocks are disconnected – just three individual blocks. Those blocks are disconnected because sin has separated us from God. However, God’s plan for salvation involved Him becoming a human being. Christians believe that God is a Trinity – God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit. Three distinct parts of God, but all equally still God. In the New Testament in Philippians 2:6-8, it says this: *“...Christ Jesus, who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death – even death on a cross!”*

THE MESSAGE

This verse says that Jesus Christ, God in human form, humbled himself and actually died. The one true God died for you and me! God can't die because He is perfect, and yet He humbled himself to the point where he could. Why is God dying significant? It's because the punishment for sin is death: either we should die for our sins or someone else has to. Someone would have to take our place – to die in our place.

In C.S. Lewis's *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe*, Edmund is one of the Pevensie children who travel to this magical land called Narnia. Edmund betrays his family and joins forces with the White Witch, who represents Evil in this story. Aslan The Lion, who is the true king of Narnia and represents the Jesus figure in this story, is confronted by the White Witch who says that Edmund now belongs to her because of his crimes against his family and deserves to die. Aslan talks with the White Witch and comes out to tell everyone that the witch has agreed to let Edmund live...but he does something really interesting – he doesn't tell them why. We later find out that Aslan agrees to die in Edmund's place. It is a powerful illustration of God dying for us, even though He is innocent, and we are guilty.

In the New Testament in 2 Corinthians 5:21, the writer, Paul, says this about God saving us: *"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."* Essentially, this verse says that Jesus took our place and took our punishment. Jesus himself asked God if there was another way to save us other than dying (particularly Luke 22:42). God doesn't answer Jesus's prayer...which is pretty crazy. Have you ever prayed for something and you didn't feel like God answered your prayer? I'm sure most of us have experienced that. Well, Jesus knows exactly how you feel...his prayer wasn't answered either. Yet, the very next thing he prays is this: *"Not my will, but yours be done."* He decided to go through with it anyway because He loved us!

Let's go back to our Lego blocks. Remember our THP: **"The Gospel says we are saved by grace."** This is where the "grace" part comes into play. When Jesus died for us, that paid the penalty for our sins, which means the only way we can be saved and have a relationship with God is through Jesus. Take your yellow block that says "Us" and then put the red block that says "Jesus" on top of the yellow block. This shows that it was Jesus's death and His grace (meaning undeserved love) that saved us. Jesus himself said in John 14:6: *"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."* When you see the red block on top of the yellow block, remember this verse so it can remind you that Jesus is the only one who HAS saved us, and CAN save us!

THE MESSAGE

I want to go back to our opening story of the boys from Thailand being rescued from the cave. Before they began to head into the cave to rescue the boys, the team had to come up with a plan. Since none of the boys could swim and had no diving experience, there was a high probability that all of them would panic underwater. The team decided to give them some medicine that calmed them down. Then, they decided that two divers would be responsible for each kid when they brought them back through the cave. However, when they started going, they realized the visibility was so low and the cave was too narrow. That meant each kid had to be harnessed to the diver and held very closely. If they didn't, they might lose track of their path back or even lose the kid because the water was so murky. Plus, if they bumped into the rock structure of the cave and knocked off their mask or the boy's mask, they would drown.

Here is the technique they used (**Show picture of rescue diagram**). One diver was responsible for each kid. I want you think about this picture and compare it to how Jesus has rescued each of us. The only way to rescue those boys was for this plan and technique to work. If it did, they would come out alive. If it didn't, they would die. It was the only way.

Students, Jesus Christ has rescued each and every one of us. It was His gift to us: His gift of grace. Those boys didn't have to earn the right to be saved – it wasn't like, "Hey, as long as you can prove to us that you're a good kid and you'll wash the dishes every day for a year and always make your bed or get straight A's...THEN we'll bring you out." The divers went and rescued them simply because they were precious people who missed their families and wanted to survive.

Jesus Christ saved us because He loved us. That's why our THP is true: The Gospel says we are saved by grace. It was a gift and one that we didn't have to earn. Here is my question for you as we close: have you experienced that grace before? Do you want Jesus to rescue you from your sin? Have you made a decision to accept that free gift of grace He has given to you? If you haven't, I want to give you that opportunity today.

(Leaders Note: Move into Gospel presentation and then close in prayer once you're finished.)



CLOSING GROUP TIME

CLOSING SMALL GROUP

QUESTIONS

Leaders Note: Make sure everyone in your group has their Lego Blocks!

What was the THP today and why was that important during the message?

Read these two verses from the New Testament: 2 Corinthians 5:21 and John 14:6

"God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God."

"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

How would you explain the third part of the Gospel (according to our THP) using your Lego blocks? Why is it significant that we don't have to earn God's grace or God's love?

Let's say a friend comes and asks you, "Why does Christianity talk about a cross or Jesus dying on a cross?" How would you answer that question?

How will the THP help you to live differently this week? Be specific.

How can this group pray for you this week?

ACTIVITIES

Celebrate those students who made a first-time decision or re-commitment to Jesus today! Tell them that this group is a support system for them, and they don't have to do this life alone.

Make sure that all students return their Lego Blocks before they leave!

After your group is finished with your discussion questions, close in prayer!



PREP NEEDS

SMALL-GROUP SUPPLIES

- Lego blocks and hand-outs
- Some Bibles for students to share during group discussion
- Pen/paper for SOAP study (optional)
- Playlister material

LARGE-GROUP SUPPLIES

- Lego blocks and hand-outs

AUDIO/VISUAL NEEDS

AppleTV with the Playlister app or simply access the Playlister material on the Northview Church website: www.northviewchurch.us

