



THEO

Good News



Before You Begin:

- ☐ Cue the DVD to "Good News."
- ☐ Cut each drinking straw in half, then snip a V-shaped notch in one end of each straw half.
Option: children may shoot rubber bands at the targets without straw arrows OR use wads of paper for children to throw.
- ☐ Draw archery target circles on one paper plate and set it on the floor.
Option: draw targets on a white board or chalk board.
- ☐ Print these phrases on separate paper plates, then tape them to the walls of your room: *sin, Savior, eternal life, abundant.*
Option: use "Target Words" (Item Bonus-1) from the CD-ROM.
- ☐ Print the text of John 3:16 on a poster.
Option: print the Bible verse (Item Bonus-2) from the CD-ROM.

Optional Printables:

- Target Words (Item Bonus-1)
- John 3:16 Bible Verse (Item Bonus-2)
- Bonus Parent Page (Print a copy to send home with each child at the end of the session.)

1. Get Started (5-7 minutes)

Practice drinking straw archery. Loop a rubber band around your extended thumb and pinky to create a bow. Fit the V-notch of the straw to the rubber band, draw, and release toward the plate target on the floor.

For safety, require kids to wait until you give the command to shoot. When all straws are released, allow kids to retrieve them before shooting again. Or direct the students to stand in a line, shoot one at a time, and only retrieve arrows after all have been shot.

2. Gain Interest (5 minutes)

Collect the straws and rubber bands.

Guide discussion with these talking points:

- *How many of you missed the target at least once? More than once?*
- *Today Theo mentions a word that means "missing the mark." Can you guess what it is?*

Play a hangman-style game. Invite kids to guess letters until they spell S-I-N. Record the letters with a marker on the back of the paper plate target.

Continue introductory comments:

- *Sin separates us from God.*
- *Today you'll hear what Jesus did so you can be forgiven of your sin.*

3. Grab a Glimpse (10 minutes)

Call attention to the terms posted on the classroom walls (*sin, Savior, eternal life, abundant*). Direct kids to shoot an imaginary arrow toward the word when they hear it in the video. When they do, pause the video and present a definition given below. Now play the "Good News" video. [You may remind younger kids that Bible stories are real, but the video has fun pretend characters that can help them learn more about God.]

Sin—actions, attitudes, words, or thoughts that do not please God.

Savior—one who saves others. Jesus is the Savior because He died on the cross to take the punishment for your sin.

Eternal life—living with God in heaven forever.

Abundant—Rich, plentiful, more than enough. Abundant life is the peace and joy of knowing and serving Jesus.

Ask kids to recall three things Theo mentioned that will not save a person from sin. (*being good, being religious, being smart*) Help kids understand that salvation is not earned like allowance; it is received like a gift.

4. Go Further (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Acts 16. Present some background information from verses 16-24.

- *With God's help, Paul commanded an evil spirit to come out of a slave.*
- *The slave's owners were angry and had Paul and Silas put in prison.*
- *Paul and Silas were beaten with rods and locked in the stocks.*

Assign roles (Paul, Silas, jailer, prisoners, jailer's family) and designate spots in the room to represent the prison and jailer's house.

Read Acts 16:25-34 slowly and dramatically as kids pantomime the action.

Ask kids to recall how Paul told the jailer he could be saved. (*by believing in Jesus*) Remark that the jailer made his faith in Jesus public by being baptized.

Challenge volunteers to compose a sentence about the Bible story using a target word posted on the walls.

5. Get It? Got It! (5 minutes)

Display the text of John 3:16. Lead kids to read it aloud as you dramatically "conduct" with exaggerated motions for loud volume and tiny motions for soft volume.

Allow children to take turns conducting the verse.

6. Grow With the Message (10 minutes)

Guide the entire group to form a giant letter A with their bodies on the floor. Present the A (admit) of the ABCs of Becoming a Christian. [See the Bonus Parent Page.] Invite volunteers to find and read these verses aloud: Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; and 1 John 1:9.

Explain that receiving the gift of salvation often begins with an uncomfortable feeling and the strong desire to remove the sin that separates a person from God (conviction).

Guide kids to form a letter B on the floor to represent *believe*. Remind them that a person becomes a Christian by believing in Jesus, accepting His gift of salvation, and repenting, or turning, from his sin. Invite volunteers to find and read aloud John 3:16; 14:6; Ephesians 2:8-9; and John 1:11-13.

Guide kids to form a letter C to represent *confess*. Define confess as "telling something that is true." Mention that an important part of becoming a Christian is letting others know what has happened! Invite volunteers to find and read Romans 10:9-10,13.

7. Give It Some Thought (5 minutes)

Ask: "What is salvation?" After volunteers respond, tell them that this week they can learn: "Salvation is the rescue from sin and death made possible by Jesus' death and resurrection." [See Q & A on the Bonus Parent Page.]

Lead in prayer. Thank God for providing a way for everyone to have eternal life. Ask God to help the boys and girls know when it is time for them to accept Jesus as Savior.

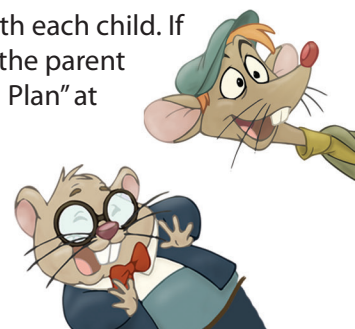
Let kids know when and where you will be available to privately answer questions about becoming a Christian.

8. Going, Going, Gone

Remove the target words from the walls and place them on the floor.

While waiting for parent pick-up, allow kids to take turns shooting a drinking straw "arrow" toward one of the words. Lead each archer to define the word closest to the spot where his arrow landed.

Send home a Bonus Parent Page with each child. If possible, hand the page directly to the parent and show them the "Parents' Action Plan" at the top of the page.



THEO



Parent Page

Good News

Parents' Action Plan

- Learn this week's Q & A and Bible Verse together.
- Read this week's Bible story together.
- Talk through "The ABCs of Becoming a Christian."
- Ask your child to explain why it is impossible to be saved by being good, religious, or smart.

Q & A

Q: What is salvation?

A: Salvation is the rescue from sin and death made possible by Jesus' death and resurrection.

Bible Verse

For God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. *John 3:16* (HCSB)

Bible Story: A Jailer Believes in Jesus

Paul and Silas were in jail in Philippi, praying and singing praises to God. An earthquake rocked the jail and loosened the prisoners' chains.

The jailer was terrified and drew his sword to kill himself. Paul exclaimed, "Don't harm yourself! All of us are here!"

The jailer fell before Paul and Silas and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved!" Paul replied. They told the jailer about the good news of Jesus' salvation.

The jailer took Paul and Silas home and cared for their wounds. The jailer and his family members were baptized. They rejoiced because they had believed in Jesus.

—based on Acts 16:16-34

The ABCs of Becoming a Christian

A—Admit

Admit to God that you are a sinner. Repent and turn away from your sin.
(Romans 3:23; 6:23; 1 John 1:9)

B—Believe

Believe that Jesus is God's son. Accept God's gift of forgiveness from in.
(John 3:16; 14:6; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 1:11-13)

C—Confess

Confess your faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord.
(Romans 10:9-10,13)

Is It Time Yet?

How do you know when your child is ready to become a Christian? A wise man once said, "A person can't become saved until he becomes lost." For some people that realization comes suddenly and with great remorse. For others it comes quietly as an awareness of the abundant life that is available through Christ.

There is no "age of accountability" given in Scripture. A person is ready to become a Christian when he is convicted by the Holy Spirit. Your

task as a parent is not to convict your child but to give him the tools and the knowledge so that, when conviction comes, he will know what to do.

How does a child become a Christian? The same way an adult does! There is not one plan of salvation for adults and another for children. One of the most effective tools for helping children come to faith in Christ is "The ABCs of Becoming a Christian."

We talked with a child in our church recently. Dalton said he had

become a Christian. "Tell me about it," we asked. As we conversed, Dalton came to the conclusion that (in his own words) he had done B and he had done C, but he had not done A. After a bit more conversation, Dalton bowed his head and prayed, "Dear God, I've done B and I've done C, but I haven't done A, so now I want to confess to You that I am a sinner"

—Adapted from "Is My Child Ready to Accept Christ?" by Ken and Kay Parker. Available at www.lifeway.com/article/162229.



**For God loved the world
in this way: He gave His
One and Only Son, so that
everyone who believes in
Him will not perish but
have eternal life.**

John 3:16

