

# Church of God Sunday School

## WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?



### DAILY READINGS:

- ❑ **Monday:** The Philippian jailer asked an important question (Acts 16:16-34).
- ❑ **Tuesday:** You must hear the Word of God (Romans 10:13-17; Luke 5:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 2:13).
- ❑ **Wednesday:** You must realize and admit you need to be saved (Romans 3:23; Isaiah 64:6; Romans 6:23).
- ❑ **Thursday:** What does it mean to believe on Jesus? (John 14:11-12; John 8:30-31).
- ❑ **Friday:** You must confess your sins to God (Psalm 32:5; Proverbs 28:13; 1 John 1:9).
- ❑ **Saturday:** Repentance is turning away from sin (Isaiah 55:6-7; Romans 6:1-2).

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."*  
—Acts 16:30-31

### The Most Important Question

Many people consider the four basic questions of life to be: Who am I? Where do I come from? What is my purpose? and What happens when I die? Yet, the most important question you could ever ask is, What must I do to be saved? When you realize why this question is important and when you learn the answer to this question, the other basic questions will be answered as well. Just as with all important questions about life, the Bible is the best source for answers. This exact question can be found in Acts, Chapter 16. To understand how this question came to be asked and what the answer is, we must look at the story of Paul and Silas.

### Hear the Gospel

God wanted the Gospel (the Good News) taken to the province of Macedonia. God knew there were people there who had honest hearts and would believe, but they must first hear the Gospel. Just as God had sent Philip to explain the Gospel to the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts, Chapter 8), God let Paul know through a vision that he must go and preach the Gospel to people in Macedonia.

After casting an evil spirit out of a young girl, Paul and Silas were beaten and thrown into prison. God was taking them to where the Gospel needed to be shared. Although Paul and Silas were suffering much pain, they "prayed, and sang praises unto God." Their joy in the midst of suffering was noticed: "and the prisoners heard them." This must have greatly affected the prisoners for even though an earthquake opened the prison doors and loosed all of their bands, not one of the prisoners escaped. They had heard the Gospel through the actions of Paul and Silas.



### Acknowledge Your Need of Salvation

When the jailer realized all the prison doors were opened, he thought the prisoners had escaped and knew his punishment for this would be severe. (After Peter's escape, his guards were put to death; Acts 12:19a.) Paul stopped the jailer from killing himself by saying, "Do thyself no harm: for we are all here." The jailer came to Paul and Silas, trembling, and fell down before them. Here we see conviction working. This is what prompted the jailer's question: "What must I do to be saved?" What did he need to be

saved from? He was not in danger from the magistrates (the prisoners had not fled). No doubt, the jailer had heard the prayers and songs of Paul and Silas. Also, he probably knew what had happened to bring these men to his prison (Paul's preaching the Gospel and casting out an evil spirit). The jailer had been hearing the Word of God, and it convicted him of his spiritual condition. He realized that he needed to be saved.

**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ**

Paul's answer to the jailer's question was, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ." Then verse 32 tells us, "And they spake unto him the word of the Lord . . ." Paul and Silas explained to the jailer what it means to "believe." Believing is not just acknowledgment. James 2:19 says that the devils also "believe, and tremble." True belief brings action. (If you truly believed a house you were in was on fire, what action would you take?) To believe on Jesus is to believe that everything He said and did is true. Your words, actions, and life will reflect your belief in Him.

To believe on Jesus also requires understanding of who He is and why He came to earth. Jesus is God who became a man (John 1:1, 14). Why did He do this? Sin had separated people from God. Sin's penalty is death. When Jesus died on the Cross, He paid that penalty and made a way for men and women to have a right relationship with God (John 14:6; Romans 5:10; 2 Corinthians 5:21). He took the punishment of sin for us.

**THE ABCS OF SALVATION**

- (1) Acknowledge your sins
- (2) Believe on the Lord Jesus
- (3) Confess & forsake your sins

**Confess and Forsake Your Sins**

Too often when people have sinned, they would rather say, *I made a mistake, it was an accident, or I messed up.* In other words, they want to minimize what they have done wrong. However, Romans 3:23 says that "*all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*" If you want to have forgiveness from Christ, you must confess (own up to) your sins. Your sins were against God (2 Samuel 12:13; Psalm 51:4), and it is He to whom you are held accountable. If you will confess your sins, the Bible promises that Jesus will "forgive [your] sins, and cleanse [you] from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

What would you think if someone stole something from you, came to you and confessed their theft, and then soon after stole something else that belonged to you? Would you believe that their confession was heartfelt? It is the same when we confess our sins to God. Solomon wrote in Proverbs 28:13 that we must confess AND forsake our sins. When we see sin as God sees it (He hates it), we will want to forsake it. We will change our minds about sin. Another way of saying this is to repent of our sins. The definition of *repentance* is found in Isaiah 55:7. It says the wicked must "forsake his way" and "return unto the LORD." Repentance is turning FROM what is wrong (sin) TO what is right (God).

**"How Do I Get Saved?"**

If someone asked you this question, what would you say? Would you know how to lead them to Christ? Sometimes people think they need to know many Bible Scriptures before they can talk to others about God. Is that true? The plan of salvation is simple. You can begin by using the "ABCs of Salvation" to help you remember.



1. What are considered to be the four basic questions of life?

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2. Before someone can be saved, what must happen first?

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3. The people of Macedonia needed to hear the Gospel. What did the man from Macedonia say to Paul in a vision (Acts 16:9)?

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4. How did the prisoners and the jailer hear the Gospel? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. What prompted the jailer's question? \_\_\_\_\_

6. What does it mean to believe? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. What does believing on Jesus require? \_\_\_\_\_

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8. How do some people minimize their sins? \_\_\_\_\_

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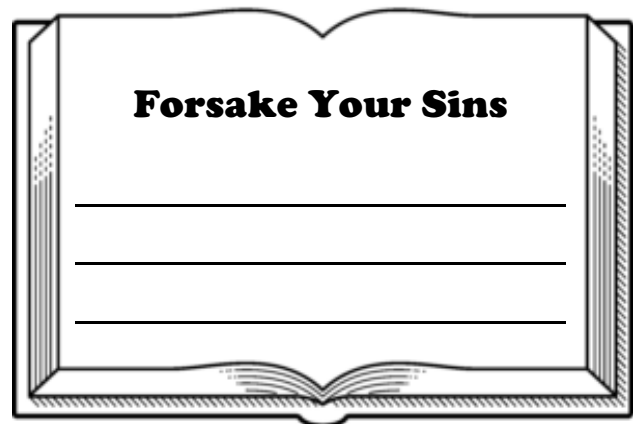
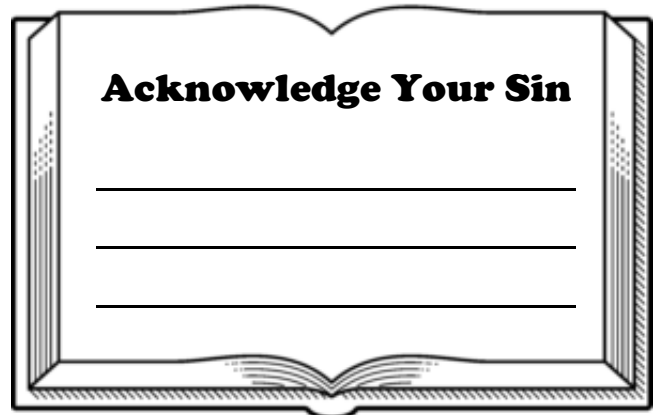
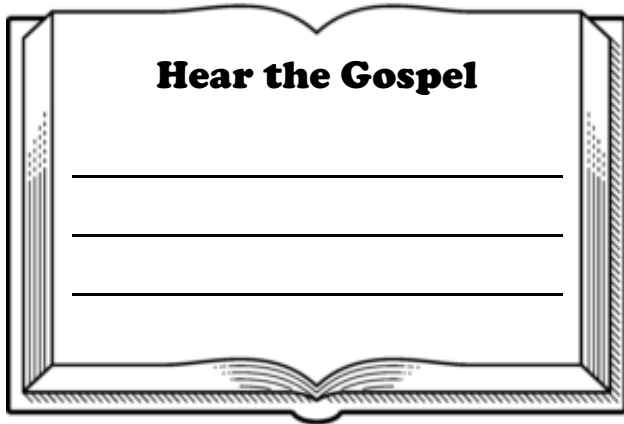
9. Does confessing your sins mean that you have to remember every sin you ever committed? \_\_\_\_\_

Read Luke 18:13 and Luke 23:42. Did the publican and the thief confess all their sins? \_\_\_\_\_

10. What does it mean to confess your sins? \_\_\_\_\_

11. What does it mean when you repent of your sins? \_\_\_\_\_

# Match the Scriptures to the Correct Terms



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| <b>Acts 13:44</b>    | <b>Luke 15:21</b>     | <b>Isaiah 55:7</b> | <b>Matthew 3:6</b>   |
| <b>Leviticus 5:5</b> | <b>Romans 10:17</b>   | <b>Psalms 51:4</b> | <b>Matthew 15:10</b> |
| <b>John 5:14</b>     | <b>2 Samuel 12:13</b> | <b>1 John 1:9</b>  | <b>Romans 6:1-3</b>  |