

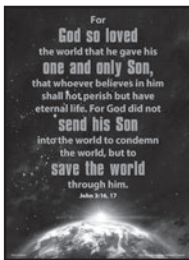
Unit 2

God Sends and Offers Salvation

Bible Memory

John 3:16, 17

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”



Bible Skills

Bible skills are intentionally integrated into each lesson. You'll help preteens learn how to use their Bibles so they are immersed in God's Word.

Look for this symbol throughout the teacher guide to identify activities that work well for all kids, including those with special needs. Additional helps for teaching kids with special needs can be found on the *Resources* CD and at www.21stcc.com.



Note

Because units 1 and 2 this quarter feature a seven-week overview of the Bible, no specific Scripture texts are printed on the *PreTeen Resources* CD printable files for lessons 1–7. Students will be encouraged to find and read a variety of Scripture passages throughout the lessons. Be sure to have classroom Bibles available.

Lesson	Scripture	Focus
Lesson 5 Jesus' Life	Matthew–John	♥ God sent salvation.
Lesson 6 Early Church	Acts–Revelation	♥ God offers salvation to all people.
Lesson 7 Back Through the Bible	Summary of Bible Chronology	♥ God's plan of salvation includes you!

Immerse Materials for Unit 2

PreTeen Activities

Lessons 5–7

PreTeen Resources

Visuals

Sheets 1–4—Bible Time Lines

Sheet 6—John 3:16, 17 Bible Memory Poster

CD

Printable Files

A Gift from God, lesson 6

Bible Five-O Game Card, lesson 5

Bible Five-O Questions, lesson 5

Do Your Part, lesson 7

How Did We Get the Bible?, lesson 5

King James Version Bible Memory, unit 2

Optional Bible Skill Builders, lessons 5–7

Prophecies Fulfilled, lesson 5

Special Needs Helps (see CD Contents for complete list of files)

Teacher Helps (see CD Contents for complete list of files)

The Church Today, lesson 6

Who Am I?, lesson 6

Live Wire student magazine

Issues 5–7

Additional Activities for Unit 2

Offer these activities for early arrivers, for preteens who finish activities quickly, or whenever there is extra time.

Unit Service Project—Sharing Faith

Challenge preteens to share their faith and God’s offer of salvation with younger kids in your congregation. Make arrangements for preteens to visit a children’s class at the end of this unit. Let preteens take the lead in planning what they will do. Maybe some can act out a Bible story. Others might want to read Scripture or sing a song. Maybe each preteen can find a short children’s Bible storybook to share one-on-one with a child. Encourage and guide the preteens to be a positive role model to the younger children as they share their faith.

Review Games

Don’t miss the Review Games and Extra-Time Activities provided on the *Resources* CD. Use these ideas whenever you have extra moments at the beginning or end of your class time.

Pray for Me

Make copies of the *Resources* CD Prayer Request Cards. When students have private requests they would like you to pray about, they can write them on the “Dear teacher” request cards and place them in a box labeled “Prayer Requests for the Teacher.” When students have requests they would like their classmates to pray about, they can write them on the “Dear friends” request cards for you to share during your prayer time.

Optional Bible Skill Builders

Use the Optional Bible Skill Builder activities provided on the *Resources* CD whenever you have time—before, during, or at the end of your class time.



Jesus' Life

Lesson 5












Scripture: Matthew–John
Bible Memory: John 3:16, 17
Focus: ♥ God sent salvation.

Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

By teaching preteens about God, you're living a life that reflects your thankfulness for God's goodness, grace, and salvation. By commending God to the next generation (see Psalm 145:4), you're helping preteens know about and understand God's plan and His amazing love—so they will want to be part of God's kingdom too.

Lesson 5 at a Glance

<p>1 FOCUS IN Use one or more of these activities to help students <i>explore people and events in Jesus' life.</i></p>	<p> Quick Step People and Events</p> <p> Option Bible Five-O</p>	<p>Immerse Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Resources</i> sheets 1–4 • <i>Resources</i> CD Bible Five-O Game Card and Bible Five-O Questions printable files 	<p>Other Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • roll paper, markers, Bibles, timer, reusable adhesive • pencils, small game markers
<p>2 EXPLORE HIS WORD Use these activities to help students <i>understand that God sent salvation through Jesus.</i></p>	<p> Bible Exploration Matthew–John</p> <p> Bible Memory John 3:16, 17</p> <p> Optional Bible Skill Builder</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Activities</i> for lesson 5, <i>Resources</i> sheets 1–4 • <i>Resources</i> sheet 6 • <i>Resources</i> CD Optional Bible Skills 5 and How Did We Get the Bible? printable files 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bibles, pencils • reusable adhesive, Bibles • various Bible translations and paraphrases
<p>3 MAKE IT REAL Use one of these activities to help students <i>realize that God sent the salvation He had prepared for in the first six eras of Bible history.</i></p>	<p> Quick Step The Preparation Ends</p> <p> Option Prophecies Fulfilled</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Resources</i> sheets 1–4, <i>Activities</i> for lesson 5 • <i>Resources</i> CD Prophecies Fulfilled printable file, <i>Resources</i> sheets 1–4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bibles, pencils • scissors, Bibles
<p>4 LIVE IT OUT Use one of these activities to help students <i>show thanks for and tell others about God's plan of salvation.</i></p>	<p> Quick Step Express Your Thanks!</p> <p> Option STONE Remembrance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Resources</i> sheets 1–4, <i>Activities</i> for lesson 5 • <i>Resources</i> sheets 1–4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pencils • whiteboard, dry-erase marker, small stones, crayons, index cards, pencils, markers, quick-drying craft glue

Focus In (10-15 minutes)

- 1** Use one or more of these activities to help students **explore people and events in Jesus' life.**

Welcome

- Welcome each student warmly by name.
- Early arrivers will enjoy doing one or more of the additional activities described on the unit page.

Quick Step People and Events

Divide the class into two teams. Give each team a length of roll paper and markers. Tell one team to label its paper "People in Jesus' Life." Tell the other team to label its paper "Events in Jesus' Life." SAY: **As a group, think about either the people in Jesus' life or the events in His life. Come up with as many as you can, and write them on your paper. You can have several people writing on your paper at a time.** Tell preteens that they can use their Bibles and look on the Bible time lines for ideas. Give them four or five minutes to work; then call time. Display the papers where everyone can see them, and read what the teams wrote. See which team came up with the most items.

ASK: **For you, which event in Jesus' life is the most unusual? interesting?**
Accept responses.

Of all the people whom Jesus interacted with, who would you have liked to be? Why?

SAY: **It would have been awesome to have lived when Jesus did and to have known Him! But it's definitely great to live now because we know that ♥ God sent salvation when He sent Jesus to earth!**

Option Bible Five-O

Distribute the Bible Five-O Game Cards. Have preteens prepare their cards by filling the squares with names of the people, places, and things listed beside the game board. As questions are asked and answered, game markers are to be placed on squares where correct answers have been written. The first student to have five game markers in a row should call out "Bible Five-O." Have students clear off their cards between rounds of the game. Continue down the list of questions until all questions have been asked.

ASK: **Which miracle of Jesus do you think was the most amazing? Why?**
Accept responses.

For you, which event in Jesus' life is the most unusual? interesting?
Of all the people who Jesus interacted with, who would you have liked to be? Why?

SAY: **It would have been awesome to have lived when Jesus did and to have known Him! But it's definitely great to live now because we know that ♥ God sent salvation when He sent Jesus to earth!**

Focus

- ♥ God sent salvation.

Materials

2 lengths of roll paper (or 2 large sheets of paper), markers, Bibles, *Resources* sheets 1-4, timer, reusable adhesive



If you have some preteens who struggle with reading and writing, consider assigning roles: writers, Bible readers, those who look on the time lines, etc.

Materials

copies of *Resources* CD Bible Five-O Game Card (1 per student) and Bible Five-O Questions printable files, pencils, small game markers (coins, buttons, paper clips)



Teaching Tip

If you have preteens who would be unsure about answering the questions, let students pair up to play the game.

Focus

♥ God sent salvation.

Explore His Word (25 minutes)

2 Use these activities to help students **understand that God sent salvation through Jesus.**

Bible Background for the Teacher

Events from Jesus' Life, the seventh era of Bible history, are described in detail by four men: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Matthew, Mark, and Luke report many of the same events and are referred to as the synoptic Gospels, meaning "seeing together." John's account is different in content.

The Bible gives no record of the childhood of Jesus beyond His birth (Matthew 1, 2; Luke 2), except that He grew up in Nazareth and visited the temple when He was 12 years old (Luke 2:39-52). Jesus' ministry lends itself to division into three one-year periods and a final period of a few months. During His first year, Jesus was baptized and tempted. He performed His first miracle, talked with Nicodemus, and converted the woman at the well of Samaria.

Jesus' second year was a year of popularity. Jesus began His first preaching tour through Galilee, called 12 apostles, and preached the Sermon on the Mount. During this same year, He traveled a second time through Galilee, calmed a storm, and raised Jairus's daughter. The third year of Jesus' ministry was characterized by increasing opposition. Jesus fed the multitudes, walked on water, and heard Peter's good confession. During this year, Jesus was transfigured. His attendance at the Feast of Tabernacles was part of His later Judean ministry.

During the final weeks of Jesus' life, Jesus made His last trip to Jerusalem, raised Lazarus from the dead, blessed the little children, and was anointed in Bethany. During His final week on earth, Jesus entered triumphantly into Jerusalem, cleansed the temple, instituted the Lord's Supper, and prayed in Gethsemane. Jesus was betrayed by Judas; arrested, tried, and crucified; and buried by Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. During a 40 day period following His resurrection, Jesus appeared at least 11 times to individuals and groups of believers before ascending to His Father. Jesus' life was devoted to bringing God's salvation to people.

Materials

Activities for lesson 5, Bibles, pencils, Resources sheets 1-4



Answers

- 1=save, sins
- 2=Savior, Messiah
- 3=Son, Holy Spirit
- 4=loved, save
- 5=storms, Son
- 6=Messiah, Son
- 7=resurrection, life
- 8=Jesus, Son
- 9=sins, cross
- 10=hope, inheritance

Bible Exploration Matthew-John

Distribute the leaflets and have students turn to the activity Salvation Is Sent. Divide the class into pairs. Assign each pair one or more of the questions to complete. Tell students to work together to read their questions and the Scriptures listed. When each pair has come up with its answers, students should write the answers in their leaflets.

Call preteens' attention to the fifth and sixth Bible time lines. SAY: **Jesus is the highlight of God's plan for our salvation. Every part of God's plan points to Jesus. Every person or event in Bible history either points ahead to Jesus, tells about Jesus, or points back to Him. Jesus is the center of God's plan of salvation.** Point to the first icon on the time line. **John the Baptist was born six months before Jesus. When John grew up, he prepared the way for Jesus.** Have those with questions 1 and 2 read the questions, filling in the blanks. See the narrow column for answers.

SAY: **Sometime following Jesus' birth, the Magi visited Him, bringing gifts to worship Him. At age 12, Jesus was with teachers in the temple, asking and answering questions. He knew already that He needed to be in His Father's house.** Have those with question 3 read the question, filling in the blanks. **Following this, Satan tempted Jesus to sin. But Jesus**

didn't give in, and did not sin. Have those with questions 4 and 5 read their question, filling in the blanks. **Jesus also taught people. He gave a Sermon on the Mount and told many parables.**

Have those with question 6 read the question, filling in the blanks. SAY: **Sometime after Peter's confession, Jesus took Peter, James, and John to a mountain and was transfigured before them. Long-dead Old Testament men Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus.** Have those with question 7 read the question, filling in the blanks.

SAY: **Throughout His time on earth, Jesus taught people about God and His kingdom. One thing He taught was what the greatest commandments were—to love God with everything we have and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. Later in His ministry, Jesus celebrated Passover with His followers. This included what we now call the Lord's Supper. Not long after that, Jesus was arrested, tried, and crucified on the cross.** Have those with questions 8–10 read their questions, filling in the blanks.

SAY: **Following His resurrection, Jesus appeared to many people, including two men traveling on the road to Emmaus. At the end of His life, Jesus gave a commission to His followers to tell everyone about Him and make disciples. Jesus' time on earth ended when He ascended into Heaven.**

ASK: **What part did the era of Jesus' Life play in God's plan for salvation?** (Jesus is the center of God's salvation. Everything in God's plan points to Jesus.)

SAY: **When we understand that ♥ God sent salvation when He sent Jesus, it helps us realize how important we are to God. It helps us know how much God loves us and wants each of us to be saved.**

Bible Memory John 3:16, 17

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

Display the John 3:16, 17 poster on a wall or bulletin board. Ask students to turn in their Bibles to John 3:16, 17, and have a volunteer read the verses aloud.

ASK: **Who said these words and to whom?** (Jesus, Nicodemus)
How would you summarize these verses if you wanted to tell a friend about these verses? Accept responses.

SAY: **These verses really sum up God's plan, don't they? God loves us so much that ♥ God sent salvation when He sent Jesus. We can be saved from our sins through Jesus because God wants everyone to be in Heaven with Him.** Invite students to say the Bible Memory together. Encourage them to work on memorizing this important Scripture passage.

Materials

Resources sheet 6,
reusable adhesive, Bibles



Note

The Bible Memory in the *King James Version* is included on the *Resources* CD.

Optional Bible Skill Builder

Print and use the
Resources CD Optional Bible Skills 5 printable file.



Focus

♥ God sent salvation.

Make It Real (10–15 minutes)

- 3** Use one of these activities to help students **realize that God sent the salvation He had prepared for in the first six eras of Bible history.**

Materials

Resources sheets 1–4,
Activities for lesson 5, Bibles,
pencils



Offer to help those who struggle with reading and writing.

Materials

Resources CD Prophecies Fulfilled printable file, scissors, Resources sheets 1–4, Bibles



Teaching Tips

If a lot of your students participate in singing groups or any particular sport or hobby in which they prepare, use that instead of soccer.

If you have a large class, pair students up and give each pair a card.

Quick Step The Preparation Ends

ASK several preteens to tell what they do that takes a lot of preparation. SAY: **Right now, you get to be part of a group preparing for something. There are two choices: preparing for a singing competition and preparing for a soccer game.** Tell students to choose which group they want to be part of, and have those groups get together. Tell the groups to think about how they would prepare for their activity, then work together to show the other groups how they would prepare. Give the groups a few minutes to work on this. Then let them present how they would prepare. **How well you do in a singing competition depends on the preparation you've done. The same is true for a soccer game, a vacation, and lots of things.** Direct students' attention to the first four Bible time lines. **God spent 2,000 years preparing for our salvation. Let's compare the preparation to what happened.**

Have students look in their leaflets at the activity The Preparation Ends. Have a volunteer read the first sentence under "The Preparation." Then have all preteens look up the Scripture passage and read it to themselves. Ask a volunteer to answer the question. Do the same for questions 2–4. (Answers: 1=a virgin named Mary; 2=the Holy Spirit descended on Him; 3=pierced it; 4=Joseph's tomb) Then ask everyone to turn to Galatians 4:4, 5, and have a volunteer read it aloud. Have another volunteer answer the question. (Answer: God sent His Son to redeem us.) SAY: **God had prepared a nation and a family through which Jesus would come. The prophecies about the one who would bring salvation were all fulfilled in Jesus. The evidence shows clearly that ♥ God sent salvation when He sent Jesus.**

Option Prophecies Fulfilled

Before class, make two copies of the printable file. Keep one copy intact for your use. Cut apart the cards on the other copy.

Have students gather in a circle. SAY: **Think about how you would prepare for a big soccer game. Get one idea in mind. Start by saying: I'm preparing for the big soccer game by ____.** Then ask the student on your right to repeat your idea and give his idea. Keep going around the circle in the same way until preteens run out of ideas. Then direct students' attention to the first four Bible time lines. **God spent 2,000 years preparing for our salvation. Let's see whether or not the preparations and prophecies about Jesus' coming happened.** Mix up the cards from the printable file, and then give each preteen a card. **Some of you have cards that are prophecies about the salvation that would come, and some of you have cards that tell how that prophecy was fulfilled.** Tell preteens to read their cards and then get up and find the person who has the card that matches theirs. Pairs should stay together. When all the matches are found, have pairs read their cards. Then have students sit down and turn in their Bibles to Galatians 4:4, 5, and have a volunteer read the verses aloud. **The evidence shows clearly that ♥ God sent salvation when He sent Jesus.**

Live It Out (10 minutes)

- 4 Use one of these activities to help students **show thanks for and tell others about God's plan of salvation.**

Focus

♥ God sent salvation.

Quick Step Express Your Thanks!

Draw students' attention to the Bible time lines. SAY: **From the beginning, God had a plan for our salvation. During the eras of Old Testament history, God prepared for that salvation. Then, at just the right time, ♥ God sent salvation when He sent Jesus to earth. God loved us so much that He sent Jesus, not just to teach and do miracles, but to die on the cross for our sins. That's a lot of love! Let's thank God for His love and for sending salvation for us.** Ask preteens to turn in their leaflets to the activity Express Your Thanks! Read the instructions. Encourage preteens to write their thanks to God. Tell them that no one else will see what they're writing.

When you sense that preteens are done, invite them to spread out in your area. Encourage them to silently pray the prayers they've written and to ask for God's help in telling others about salvation. Ask students to remain quiet until after you pray. After a brief time of silence, close in prayer. Thank God for His plan of salvation and for sending Jesus.

Option STONE Remembrance



Before class, write the acrostic from the narrow column on the board.

Draw students' attention to the Bible time lines. SAY: **From the beginning, God had a plan for our salvation. During the eras of Old Testament history, God prepared for that salvation. Then, at just the right time, ♥ God sent salvation when He sent Jesus to earth. God loved us so much that He sent Jesus, not just to teach and do miracles, but to die on the cross for our sins. That's a lot of love! Let's thank God for His love and for sending salvation for us.**

Give each preteen a stone and an index card. SAY: **These small stones can help us remember the large stone that was in front of Jesus' tomb, which was rolled away when Jesus rose from the grave.** Draw students' attention to the acrostic on the board, and have a volunteer read it aloud. Then tell students to write the acrostic on their index cards. Preteens can also decorate the cards and use crayons to color the stones. As they work, say: **This acrostic can help us remember what our responses to God can be for sending salvation. We can show our gratitude, our thanks. We can tell others about salvation. We can keep God's commands. We can accept Jesus as our Savior through faith, repentance, and baptism. And we can praise God.** Preteens can glue their stones onto their cards and take the project home.

Close with a time of prayer. Lead preteens in directed prayer. Tell them that you'll pray and then pause. When you pause they should silently pray the same thing that you've prayed. PRAY: **Dear God, thank You for Your plan of salvation.** Pause. **Thank You for Jesus.** Pause. **Thank You that Jesus was willing to die on the cross.** Pause. **Help me to tell others about your plan of salvation.** Pause. **In Jesus' name, amen.**

Materials

Resources sheets 1-4,
Activities for lesson 5,
pencils



Materials

whiteboard, dry-erase
marker, Resources sheets
1-4, small stones (can use river
stones), crayons, index cards,
pencils, markers, quick-drying
craft glue



Acrostic

Show gratitude to God each day.
Tell about God's salvation.
Obey God's commands.
Name Jesus as Lord of my life.
Exalt and praise God.

Live Wire

Distribute *Live Wire* to students before they leave. They will enjoy the articles, puzzles, and other features included in this fun student magazine.

Be sure parents know about the *Faith & Family* pages available online to print and use with their children at home. Go to www.21stcc.com.



Early Church

Lesson 6



Scripture: Acts–Revelation










Bible Memory: John 3:16, 17

Focus: ♥ God offers salvation to all people.

Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

God chose to work through the early church, and He still chooses to work through the church today—including your ministry with preteens. What an amazing opportunity you have to share with the preteens in your class and with others the salvation that God offers. Take time today to thank God for your salvation and for the joy and purpose it brings to your life.

Lesson 6 at a Glance

<p>1 FOCUS IN Use one or more of these activities to help students <i>learn about the Early Church era.</i></p>	<p> Quick Step Who Am I?</p> <p> Option Toss It!</p>	<p>Immerse Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Resources</i> sheets 1–4, <i>Resources</i> CD Who Am I? printable file • <i>Resources</i> sheets 1–4 	<p>Other Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whiteboard, dry-erase marker • 25 balloons, permanent marker, roll paper
<p>2 EXPLORE HIS WORD Use these activities to help students <i>explain how God used the early church to offer His salvation to everyone.</i></p>	<p> Bible Exploration Acts–Revelation</p> <p> Bible Memory John 3:16, 17</p> <p> Optional Bible Skill Builder</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Activities</i> for lesson 6, <i>Resources</i> sheets 1–4 • <i>Resources</i> sheet 6 • <i>Resources</i> CD Optional Bible Skills 6 printable file 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bibles, pencils • Bibles • various Bible translations and paraphrases, paper, pencils
<p>3 MAKE IT REAL Use one of these activities to help students <i>explore how God uses the church today to offer His salvation to everyone.</i></p>	<p> Quick Step How Might God Use You?</p> <p> Option The Church Today</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Activities</i> for lesson 6 • <i>Resources</i> CD The Church Today printable file 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • scissors
<p>4 LIVE IT OUT Use one of these activities to help students <i>choose to accept God's gift of salvation.</i></p>	<p> Quick Step God's Gift of Salvation</p> <p> Option A Gift from God</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Activities</i> for lesson 6 • <i>Resources</i> CD A Gift from God printable file 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • small items (see activity), Bibles • scissors, gift bags, small treats, Bibles

Focus In (10-15 minutes)

- 1** Use one or more of these activities to help students **learn about the Early Church era.**

Welcome

- Welcome each student warmly by name.
- Early arrivers will enjoy doing one or more of the additional activities described on the unit page.

Quick Step Who Am I?

SAY: **From the beginning, God had a plan.** Draw students' attention to the last two Bible time lines. **These time lines represent the era of the Early Church. This era is when God began offering salvation to all people.** Have volunteers read the text under each icon. Tell preteens that these are major events that happened and important people who lived during this time period.

Divide the class into two teams. Tell preteens that they're going to play a game of Who Am I? You will read a statement about someone who lived during the Early Church era. They decide who it is and give an answer. If correct, they get 20 points. Keep score on the board. If not correct, the other team gets another hint and can give an answer. If correct, they get 15 points. If not correct, the first team gets another hint and can give an answer. If correct, they get 10 points. When done playing, SAY: **All these people lived in the Early Church era when God began offering salvation to all people.**

Option Toss It!

Before class, label each inflated, tied balloon with the same text that's under each of the icons on the Early Church time lines. Using large letters, title each paper "Teachings," "Miracles," "Events," or "Conversions."

SAY: **From the beginning, God had a plan.** Draw students' attention to the last two Bible time lines. **These time lines represent the era of the Early Church, when God began offering salvation to all people.** Have volunteers read the text under each icon. Tell preteens that these are major events that happened and important people who lived during this time period.

Place the prepared papers on the floor, and have preteens stand several feet from them. Place the balloons on the floor. SAY: **These balloons have the same text on them as the text that's under the icons on the Bible time lines. On the count of 3, grab a balloon and read what's written on it. It either describes a teaching, a miracle, an event, or a conversion. When you've decided what's described on your balloon, toss the balloon onto that paper. When I count to 3 again, grab another balloon and do the same. We'll keep going until all the balloons are on the right papers. 1, 2, 3!** After all the balloons have been tossed, if some are not on the right paper, toss them out and have preteens try again. **These teachings, miracles, events, and conversions happened during the Early Church era when God began offering salvation to all people.**

Focus

- ♥ God offers salvation to all people.

Materials

Resources sheets 1-4, *Resources* CD Who Am I? printable file, whiteboard, dry-erase marker



Materials

25 balloons, permanent marker, 4 lengths of roll paper, *Resources* sheets 1-4



For kids who struggle with impulse control, model how to play, and give some guidelines, such as: take one balloon at a time, keep hands to self, etc.

Focus

♥ God offers salvation to all people.

Explore His Word (25 minutes)

2 Use these activities to help students **explain how God used the early church to offer His salvation to everyone.**

Bible Background for the Teacher

In Jerusalem on Pentecost (AD 30), the apostles received the promised Holy Spirit. Peter preached, and 3,000 believers were baptized. The church was established, and Peter and the other apostles continued to testify of Jesus, performing many miracles. Stephen, one of seven men chosen to serve widows, was stoned to death; and the growing church was scattered by persecution. Philip, another of the seven, made converts in Samaria and baptized an Ethiopian official (Acts 8).

From his vision and meeting with Cornelius, Peter learned that non-Jewish people, Gentiles, were also to be saved (chap. 10). The last mention of Peter is at the Jerusalem Council, about AD 50. Paul is first mentioned (as Saul) at Stephen's death. Paul's conversion occurred that same year (about AD 35). Three years later, Paul returned to Damascus, went to Jerusalem for a short time, then moved on to Tarsus for about five years. Barnabas brought Paul to Antioch for a year, and they delivered famine relief from Antioch to Jerusalem (11:25-30).

Paul and Barnabas were sent out on a missionary tour by the church at Antioch. They appointed elders in the churches and returned to Antioch for about a year. The church continued to grow as Paul went on second and third missionary trips. Paul preached and performed miracles during these trips and also spent time writing and encouraging the new believers in Jesus. Much of the last part of Paul's life was spent before courts and under house arrest. It appears that Paul was released from a Roman prison in about AD 62, but then returned to prison and was executed in about AD 67. To combat persecution and false doctrine at the close of the first century, the aging apostle John wrote 1 John, 2 John, and 3 John. Exiled to the island of Patmos in about AD 96, John testified to the revelation of hope and reaffirmed the glorious second coming of Christ.

Materials

Activities for lesson 6,
Bibles, pencils,
Resources sheets 1-4



Teaching Tip

Help preteens who don't like to act find ways to be involved, such as finding or making props or making sound effects.

Bible Exploration Acts-Revelation

SAY: The church's job is to tell the world that ♥ God offers salvation to all people through Jesus. The book of Acts tells how the early church spread the good news of salvation through Jesus. Other books in the New Testament are letters written to believers by Paul and other leaders. These books were written to encourage and give instructions about living for God and offering His salvation to others.

Distribute the leaflets and ask preteens to turn to the activity Salvation Is Offered. Divide the class into groups of two or three preteens. Assign each pair or group one or more of the statements to read, along with the Scriptures listed. They should work together to decide whether the statement is true or false. If it's false, students should be ready to say how they would change it to make it true.

Call preteens' attention to the last two Bible time lines. SAY: **Jesus' church began on the Day of Pentecost. The Early Church era gives us the pattern for telling the good news about Jesus. God worked through the people and events of the Early Church era to tell God's message of salvation through Jesus.** Ask the students with statements 1-9 to read them and say whether they're true or false. If a statement is false, they should say how they would change it to make it true. (Answers: 1=T; 2=F, taught about Jesus; 3=F, Peter; 4=T; 5=T; 6=F, Paul and Silas, Paul; 7=F,

Eutyclus, Paul; 8=T; 9=T.) Draw preteens' attention to the section How God Used the Early Church to Offer His Salvation to Everyone. Divide the class into four groups. Assign each group one of the statements and Scripture passages to read. After reading the Scriptures, each group is to decide how to act out what they've read. When groups are done, have them act out their situations. After each group is done, ask these questions:

ASK: **Is this like anything that we Christians do today to offer God's salvation to others? What?**

Is this something our church family already does? How?

Is this something that you and/or your family already do?

When all the skits are done, SAY: **♥ God offers salvation to all people. Paul found out that salvation wasn't just for the Jewish people, but for the Gentiles as well. It's still true today. No matter what ethnic background people are or where people live, ♥ God offers salvation to all people. What an awesome opportunity we have as Christians to spread God's message of salvation.** Draw students' attention to the last section of the last Bible time line. **You'll notice that the time line describes events that have not yet taken place. One day Jesus will return. After that comes either judgment or redemption. Those who have chosen not to follow Jesus will be judged. Those who have chosen to follow Jesus will be redeemed, and we'll live in Heaven where we will give God eternal praise.**

Bible Memory John 3:16, 17

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

Continue to display the John 3:16, 17 poster on a wall or bulletin board. Ask students to turn in their Bibles to John 3:16, 17, and have a volunteer read the verses aloud. Draw students' attention to sheet 6. SAY: **Think of someone you love. Say these verses to yourself, substituting that person's name for "the world" (occurs three times) and "whoever."** Pause as preteens do this. **Do the same thing again, but substitute the name of someone you only know a little bit.** Pause as preteens do this. **Do the same thing again, but substitute the name of someone you don't get along with very well.** Pause as preteens do this.

ASK: **Did God love wealthy people enough to send Jesus?** Accept responses.

Did God love homeless people enough to send Jesus? people who are from this country? people who are from another country? people who are like you? people who are not like you at all?

SAY: **♥ God offers salvation to all people. No matter who you are, God offers you salvation.** Ask students to say the Bible Memory together.

Materials

Resources sheet 6,
Bibles



Note

The Bible Memory in the *King James Version* is included on the *Resources* CD.

Teaching Tip

You might want to model how to do this before preteens try it.

Optional Bible Skill Builder

Print and use the
Resources CD Optional Bible
Skills 6 printable file



Focus

♥ God offers salvation to all people.

Make It Real (10–15 minutes)

3 Use one of these activities to help students **explore how God uses the church today to offer His salvation to everyone.**

Materials

Activities for lesson 6



Possible Answers

1st situation: talk naturally about Jesus, make sure that what you say and do reflects Jesus, invite your friend and his family to a church service or event, do good things for your friend and his family

2nd situation: give some of your own money to help, your family or class could take on a project to help them, organize a project to help them that all the kids' classes or the entire church family could do

Materials

Resources CD The Church
Today printable file,
scissors



Tech Tip

Record the preteens acting; then let them watch themselves in action!

Quick Step How Might God Use You?

Have preteens stand and form a circle. Tell them to put their hands in the center. Then they should grab other hands at random. SAY: **Now the fun begins! Work together to get yourselves untangled without dropping the hands of those you're holding onto.** Let preteens have fun working on this for a few minutes. Then ask them to sit down.

ASK: **In what ways did you work together to get untangled?** (suggested ways to get untangled, tried different ways of getting untangled)

SAY: **Much like how you worked together, God uses the church today to work together to offer His salvation to everyone. Let's see if we can figure out a few ways that God does this.** Have students look in their leaflets at the activity How Might God Use You? Read the instructions, and then have a volunteer read the first situation aloud. Tell preteens to think about how to answer the question. Suggest that they might get some ideas from the activity How God Used the Early Church to Offer His Salvation to Everyone. After a few minutes, have volunteers share what they came up with. Do the same with the second situation. Then have preteens look again in their leaflets at the activity How God Used the Early Church to Offer His Salvation to Everyone. **We could cross out "the Early Church" and put our congregation's name there. These are all things we can and should be doing today. ♥ God offers salvation to all people, but He uses us to spread the good news.**

Option The Church Today



Before class, cut apart the cards on the printable file.

SAY: **Similar to how God used the early church, God uses the church today to work together to offer His salvation to everyone. Let's see if we can figure out a few ways that God does this.** Divide the class into two groups. Give each group a card. Tell preteens that they are to work in their groups to act out the situation on their cards. Encourage everyone in the groups to participate: either planning what to do, finding props, being part of a group that doesn't speak, or having speaking parts. When groups are ready, have Group 1 present its skit.

ASK: **How did God use a few friends to offer His salvation to others?**
(The friends started a Bible study and invited friends who didn't know Jesus.)

Then have the other group present its skits. Ask the same type of question after each skit. Then have the groups act out situations 3 and 4. SAY: **Teaching, preaching, and baptizing. Going and telling about Jesus. Sending out those who will go and tell about Jesus. Doing good things and helping those in need. These are all things we can and should be doing today. ♥ God offers salvation to all people, but He uses us to spread the good news.**

Live It Out (10 minutes)

- 4 Use one of these activities to help students **choose to accept God's gift of salvation.**

Quick Step God's Gift of Salvation

SAY: **I hope you'll accept my gift.** Give each preteen something with not much monetary value that you have readily available, such as paper clips, pencils, markers, and so forth. **That wasn't much of a gift. Here, I hope you'll accept my gift.** Give something small again, such as pennies. **That wasn't much of a gift either. What if I gave each of you \$50,000? Would you accept it?** Accept responses. **Well, I know of a gift much more valuable than \$50,000!** Ask preteens to turn in their Bibles to Ephesians 2:8, 9. Have a volunteer read the verses aloud. **Salvation is a gift from God. And ♥ God offers salvation to all people—including you!**

ASK: **Salvation through baptism and eternal life in Heaven—that's the greatest gift ever! Have you accepted God's gift through faith, repentance, and baptism?** Encourage kids not to answer out loud but to think about it. If they have not yet done this, encourage them to talk to their parents or other trusted adults about it, including yourself.

Have preteens turn in their leaflets to the activity God's Gift of Salvation. Read the instructions. Have volunteers read aloud how the Scriptures say we accept God's gift of salvation. Encourage any questions about that. Challenge preteens to look up and read the Scriptures during the week. Close with a time of prayer. Invite preteens to pray for themselves and each other as they consider how they'll respond to God's gift of salvation.

Option A Gift from God

Before class, cut apart the strips on the printable file. Place a set in each gift bag. Also include a treat, such as candy or something you know your students would like.

ASK: **Would you accept a gift from me? Why or why not?** Accept responses, then give each preteen a gift bag. As they look in their bags and eat their treats, ask:

Would you all accept a gift from God? Why or why not?

Ask preteens to turn in their Bibles to Ephesians 2:8, 9. Have a volunteer read the verses aloud. **Salvation is a gift from God that we accept through baptism. And ♥ God offers salvation to all people—including you! Salvation and eternal life in Heaven—that's the greatest gift ever!**

ASK: **Have you accepted God's gift through faith, repentance, and baptism?** Encourage kids to think about it. If they have not yet done this, encourage them to talk to their parents or other trusted adults about it, including yourself.

Ask preteens to pull out the strips of paper from their bags, and have volunteers read aloud how the Scriptures say we accept God's gift of salvation. Then have preteens put the papers back into their bags. Challenge them to look up the Scriptures during the week. Close with a time of prayer.

Focus

♥ God offers salvation to all people.

Materials

small items (paper clips, pencils, markers, pennies, etc.), Bibles, *Activities* for lesson 6



Teaching Tip

See the *Resources* CD Leading Young Hearts Into the Lord's Church printable file for help in discussing with preteens God's gift of salvation.

Materials

copies of *Resources* CD A Gift from God printable file (1 per student), scissors, gift bags (or paper lunch bags, 1 per student), small treats, Bibles



Be aware that sometimes talk of salvation can cause anxiety for preteens with special needs.

Live Wire

Distribute *Live Wire* to students before they leave. They will enjoy the articles, puzzles, and other features included in this fun student magazine.

Be sure parents know about the *Faith &*

Family pages available online to print and use with their children at home. Go to www.21stcc.com.



Back Through the Bible

Lesson 7



Scripture: Summary of Bible Chronology










Bible Memory: John 3:16, 17

Focus: ♥ God's plan of salvation includes you!

Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

How wonderful that we serve a personal God! Just think—the creator of the universe takes time to listen to us, loves us, and wants a relationship with each of us. You can be confident that ♥ God's plan of salvation includes you! Every preteen in your class, every person in the neighborhood, every family member, every individual—all are included in God's plan of salvation. May God help us see people through His eyes, and may we continue to study the Word of God so we can share His offer of salvation with them.

Lesson 7 at a Glance

<p>1 FOCUS IN Use one or more of these activities to help students <i>review and sequence the three stages of God's plan of salvation and the eight eras of Bible history.</i></p>	<p> Quick Step Name That Stage and Era</p> <p> Option Hold It High!</p>	<p>Immerse Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Resources</i> sheets 1–4 • <i>Resources</i> sheets 1–4 	<p>Other Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whiteboard, dry-erase marker • whiteboard, dry-erase marker, scrap paper, markers
<p>2 EXPLORE HIS WORD Use these activities to help students <i>summarize the overview of Bible chronology, using the three stages of God's plan of salvation.</i></p>	<p> Bible Exploration Summary of Bible Chronology</p> <p> Bible Memory John 3:16, 17</p> <p> Optional Bible Skill Builder</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Resources</i> sheets 1–4, <i>Activities</i> for lesson 7 • <i>Resources</i> sheet 6 • <i>Resources</i> CD Optional Bible Skills 7 printable file 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bible, pencils • Bibles, ball of yarn • various Bible translations and paraphrases, paper, pencils
<p>3 MAKE IT REAL Use one of these activities to help students <i>understand that God's plan of salvation includes everyone.</i></p>	<p> Quick Step Salvation for All</p> <p> Option It's for Everyone!</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Activities</i> for lesson 7 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pencils, Bibles • roll paper, markers, scissors, whiteboard, dry-erase marker, Bibles
<p>4 LIVE IT OUT Use one of these activities to help students <i>discover their part in God's plan of salvation.</i></p>	<p> Quick Step What's My Part?</p> <p> Option Do Your Part</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Resources</i> sheets 1–4, <i>Activities</i> for lesson 7 • <i>Resources</i> CD Do Your Part printable file, <i>Resources</i> sheets 1–4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pencils • reusable adhesive, colored pencils

Focus In (10–15 minutes)

- 1 Use one or more of these activities to help students **review and sequence the three stages of God’s plan of salvation and the eight eras of Bible history.**

Welcome

- Welcome each student warmly by name.
- Early arrivers will enjoy doing one or more of the additional activities described on the unit page.

Quick Step Name That Stage and Era

Divide the class into two teams. Draw students’ attention to the Bible time lines. SAY: **I’m going to call out a person or event pictured on the Bible time lines. Working as a team, you’ll get 5 points by naming the stage during which that person lived or the event happened. You’ll get 10 points by naming the era. We’ll alternate between the teams.** Give each team the opportunity to name the three stages of God’s plan of salvation and the eight eras of Bible history, and award bonus points. Choose a spokesperson for each team. Continue playing as time permits.

SAY: **From the beginning of time, God had a plan—a plan for our salvation. The eras of Bible history each played a significant role in God’s preparing, sending, and offering salvation. Let’s be thankful that ♥ God’s plan of salvation includes you and me!**

Option Hold It High!

Before class, write on the board the three stages of God’s plan of salvation: God prepares for salvation. God sends salvation. God offers salvation. Also write the eight eras of Bible history: Creation & the Fall, Patriarchs, Exodus & Conquest, Judges, Kings & Prophets, Exile & Return, Jesus’ Life, Early Church.

Let preteens pair up to do this activity. Give each pair of students several sheets of scrap paper. Tell them to tear the papers into 11 pieces. They should use markers to write each stage and era on separate pieces of paper. Then draw students’ attention to the Bible time lines. SAY: **I’m going to call out a person or event pictured on the Bible time lines. Quickly decide which stage of salvation that person lived during or when that event took place, and hold that paper high.** Call out a person or event. Check to make sure everyone held up the right paper. Continue as time permits. **Next, when I call out a person or event, decide which era of Bible history that person lived during or when that event took place, and hold that paper high.** Call out a person or event. Check to make sure everyone held up the right paper. Continue as time permits.

ASK: **What are the three stages of God’s plan of salvation?
What are the eight eras of Bible history?**

SAY: **From the beginning of time, God had a plan—a plan for our salvation. The eras of Bible history each played a significant role in God’s preparing, sending, and offering salvation. Let’s be thankful that ♥ God’s plan of salvation includes you and me!**

Focus

♥ God’s plan of salvation includes you!

Materials

Resources sheets 1–4, whiteboard, dry-erase marker



Teaching Tip

Choose new spokespersons after every few rounds.

Materials

whiteboard, dry-erase marker, scrap paper, markers, *Resources* sheets 1–4



Be sure that the pairs are carefully chosen so this is a good experience for everyone.

Focus

♥ God's plan of salvation includes you!

Explore His Word (25 minutes)

2 Use these activities to help students **summarize the overview of Bible chronology, using the three stages of God's plan of salvation.**

Bible Background for the Teacher

Adam and Eve were created sinless, but they could choose to do right or wrong. When Adam and Eve chose to do wrong, the friendship between God and people was broken. People needed a Savior in order to fix what had been broken. So God promised a Savior.

From that time forward, God prepared for the coming of Jesus to earth. God chose to send the Savior through a nation of people, and He began to prepare that nation for Jesus. Though God called the nation of Israel to be His people, they were not always faithful. Israel became caught in a cycle of disobedience, repentance, and deliverance. Each time God delivered Israel from its enemies, Israel grew toward faithfulness, and the people learned about God's faithfulness. Despite their failures, God was always with them.

God provided Jesus with a nation, a family within that nation, and a homeland. It was very important to God's plan that Jesus would come to earth as a human. In order to do that, Jesus gave up His heavenly position and power. The relationship between man and God had been broken. God paid the price to fix what sin had broken. He did that through the sacrifice of His only Son, Jesus. There is no other way to be saved. The early church reached out to everyone with the good news about salvation through Jesus. Believers in the early church also focused on growing strong in their relationships with God. When we are baptized and accept God's offer of salvation, we begin a loving relationship with God—a relationship that can last forever!

Materials

Bible, *Resources* sheets 1-4, *Activities* for lesson 7, pencils



Bible Exploration Summary of Bible Chronology

Hold up your Bible. SAY: **History is His story, God's story.** Draw students' attention to the Bible time lines. **God's story begins with creation and continues throughout eternity.** Distribute the leaflets and have students look at the activity God's Plan.

ASK: **What are the three stages of God's plan of salvation?** (God prepares for salvation. God sends salvation. God offers salvation.)

Tell students to fill in the blanks in their leaflets. Remind preteens of the sign language they did in lesson 1 for these words: *prepare*, *send*, *offer*. *Prepare*—Hold both hands flat, palms up, hands about a foot apart. Both hands make one small circle. *Send*—Left hand is flat, palm up. With right hand, use the fingertips to brush something off the left hand. *Offer*—Hold both hands flat, palms out, lifting them upward. Practice these signs with the students.

SAY: **When I call out a person or event pictured on the Bible time lines, do the sign for the word that describes which stage of God's plan that person lived during or when the event happened.** Call out a few; then let volunteers take turns calling out people and events.

ASK: **Who are some of your favorite people in the God prepares stage? God sends stage? God offers stage?** Accept responses.
What are some of your favorite events in the God prepares stage? God sends stage? God offers stage?
What happened during the stage of God preparing for salvation? (God prepared a nation and a family through which Jesus the Savior would come.)

What happened during the stage of God sending salvation? (God sent Jesus to earth to die for our sins.)

What happened during the stage of God offering salvation? (God used the early church to offer His salvation to all people, and that continues with the church today.)

Tell students to look in their leaflets at the last time line. SAY: **Look between the “John’s revelation” icon and the “Jesus will return” icon. This is the time period that we’re living in. We have the great privilege of seeing the big picture of God’s plan, of how He worked through history to prepare, send, and offer salvation.**

ASK: **What do you think is happening today about God’s plan of salvation?** (The church continues to tell people about God’s plan of salvation.)

SAY: **Thank God that He had such a wonderful plan, and that ♥ God’s plan of salvation includes you and me!**

Bible Memory John 3:16, 17

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”

Continue to display the John 3:16, 17 poster on a wall or bulletin board. Ask students to turn in their Bibles to John 3:16, 17, and have a volunteer read the verses aloud. Then ask students to say the Bible Memory together.

Ask students to stand and form a circle. Holding on to one end of the yarn, say the first word of the Bible Memory as you pass the yarn to a student standing next to you. That student says the next word and then passes the yarn to the next person. Keep going until the Bible Memory has been said. Tell students they can refer to the poster if they need to. When finished, let students try it again. Ask them to say the Bible Memory a little faster and pass the ball of yarn faster.

SAY: **Like a circle, God’s love is never-ending. Because God’s love is never-ending, He desires everyone to accept His gift of salvation through faith, repentance, and baptism. ♥ God’s plan of salvation includes you and me, our friends, our families, everyone we know, and everyone we don’t know.**

Materials

Resources sheet 6,
Bibles, ball of yarn



Note

The Bible Memory in the *King James Version* is included on the *Resources* CD.

Optional Bible Skill Builder

Print and use the
Resources CD Optional Bible Skills 7 printable file.



Focus

♥ God's plan of salvation includes you!

Make It Real (10–15 minutes)

3 Use one of these activities to help students **understand that God's plan of salvation includes everyone.**

Materials

Activities for lesson 7,
pencils, Bibles



Quick Step Salvation for All

Ask all those who have blue eyes to stand. SAY: **Congratulations! God offers salvation to those with blue eyes.** Pause as students may start to complain. **That's not right; have a seat.** Ask all those who were born in January, February, and March to stand. **Congratulations! God offers salvation to those born in January, February, and March.** Pause. **That's not right; have a seat.** Ask all those wearing blue to stand. **Congratulations! God offers salvation to those wearing blue.** Pause; then ask everyone to sit down. **That was pretty ridiculous, wasn't it? We'd never believe that God's salvation was only for a select group of people, would we?**

Ask students to turn in their leaflets to the activity Salvation for All. Read the instructions. Let preteens pair up to do this activity. Encourage them to also include the names of some people they don't get along with very well or don't like very much. When everyone is done, have volunteers read the sentences, filling in the blanks with the words from the Scriptures. (Answers: 1=the world, whoever, the world, the world; 2=us, we, us; 3=we, us, our; 4=you, anyone, everyone) SAY: **On your own, go back through the Scriptures and read the verses with the names of those you wrote below the lines.** Pause as preteens do this. ♥ **God's plan of salvation includes you, your friends, your family, the bully in your class, the wealthy, the homeless, the smart, the not-so-smart . . . the list goes on and on and on!**

Materials

roll paper, markers,
scissors, whiteboard,
dry-erase marker, Bibles
(optional: clear tape)



Option It's for Everyone!



Before class, draw a large heart on roll paper. Write on the heart "God's plan of salvation includes everyone." Cut out the heart, and cut the heart into enough puzzle pieces for each student to have two or three pieces. Be sure that at least a little of the text is on each puzzle piece. Write these Scripture references on the board: John 3:16, 17; Romans 5:8; 1 Timothy 2:3, 4; 1 John 4:10; 2 Peter 3:9.

Have students get into pairs (or trios). Assign each pair one of the Scripture passages to look up. Have students read the Bible verses aloud.

ASK: **To whom does God offer salvation?** (the world, sinners, everyone) **Does that include friends and family? people you don't know very well? kids who laugh at you and are mean to you? people who are very different than you? kids you don't like?** (yes!)

Give each preteen two or three puzzle pieces. SAY: **Write on each puzzle piece the names of a few people to whom God offers salvation. Of course, that's everyone, so include your friends, family, kids at school and the neighborhood, other people you know, bullies, kids who are mean . . . you get the idea.** When preteens are done, have them work together to put the puzzle together. **The good news is that ♥ God's plan of salvation includes you and everyone in the world.**

Teaching Tip

You could have students tape the puzzle pieces to a sheet of roll paper and display it in your room.

Live It Out (10 minutes)

- 4 Use one of these activities to help students **discover their part in God's plan of salvation.**

Focus

♥ God's plan of salvation includes you!

Quick Step What's My Part?

Draw students' attention to the Bible time lines. SAY: **From the beginning, God had a plan. And that plan was all about our salvation. People like Abraham, Moses, Ruth, David, Elijah, Daniel, Esther, Peter, and Paul all had their place in God's plan of salvation. Now it's our turn. We who are Christians are to continue offering salvation to others. And each of us has a part in that. Let's think about what part each of us might play in telling others about God's plan of salvation.** Have preteens turn in their leaflets to the activity What's My Part? Read the instructions. Encourage preteens to mark the things they could be doing to be a part of God's plan of salvation. **Most, if not all, of these are things that we all can do. I may do them differently than you do, but that's OK. God needs each of us to do our part. ♥ God's plan of salvation includes you, doing your part—in your own unique way—in offering God's salvation to others.**

Close with a time of prayer. Invite volunteers to pray. Encourage them to thank God for the salvation He offers to everyone, and for His help in doing their part in offering salvation to others.

Option Do Your Part

Before class, display the Do Your Part posters on different walls in your room.

Draw students' attention to the Bible time lines. SAY: **From the beginning, God had a plan. And that plan was all about our salvation. People like Abraham, Moses, Ruth, David, Elijah, Daniel, Esther, Peter, and Paul all had their place in God's plan of salvation. Now it's our turn. We who are Christians are to continue offering salvation to others. And each of us has a part in that. Let's think about what part each of us might play in telling others about God's plan of salvation.** Draw students' attention to the Do Your Part posters you've displayed in your room. Have volunteers read what each poster says. **Most, if not all, of these are things that we all can do. ♥ God's plan of salvation includes you, doing your part—in your own unique way—in offering God's salvation to others.** Tell preteens to get a colored pencil and go to each poster. If they will try to do what's listed on a poster, they should sign their names. If they know of specific ways they will do something, they can write it on the posters. Give preteens time to do this. Tell them to be seated when they're done.

When everyone is done, close with a time of prayer. Tell preteens that you'll lead them in directed prayer. You will pray and then pause as they silently pray what you've just prayed. PRAY: **Dear God, thank You for offering salvation to us. Pause. Help us to pray for others to get to know You. Pause. Help us to do good things and help those in need. Pause. Help us to talk about your love and Your offer of salvation. Pause. Help us to give money to those who are going and telling about Jesus. Pause. Help us invite others to church services and Bible studies. Pause. Help us to do everything in Jesus' name. Pause. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Materials

Resources sheets 1-4, Activities for lesson 7, pencils



Offer support and help with reading and writing as necessary.

Materials

Resources CD Do Your Part printable file, reusable adhesive, Resources sheets 1-4, colored pencils



Offer support and help with reading and writing as necessary.

Live Wire

Distribute *Live Wire* to students before they leave. They will enjoy the articles, puzzles, and other features included in this fun student magazine.

Be sure parents know about the *Faith & Family* pages available online to print and use with their children at home. Go to www.21stcc.com.

