

Daily Devotions



Week 1

Salvation through Christ

Armand attended a Christian church with his family for the first time on Sunday. His family was invited to attend a service at the nearby Christian church by their neighbors, the Jensens. As the sermon began, Armand was shocked to hear of a man named Jesus who died on a cross to save other men. As the sermon went on Armand learned that this man, Jesus, was actually the Son of God. But not just any god, they called this God, "The Lord God Almighty," and "The Most High God." Armand listened carefully as the Pastor explained that everyone has sinned and fallen short of the glory of this God, and that we deserve to be punished for our sins. The Pastor told that people cannot ever be good enough on their own nor do enough good things to save themselves. So the Most High God, who loves each of us even though we have sinned, sent his own Son to earth to help. The Son of God, Jesus, lived on the earth and never sinned. He gave His life for all people. He was nailed to a cross and died, His blood shed, taking our punishment so that whoever would believe on Him could have eternal life--that is spending forever in heaven, God's home, with Him. And this was God's free gift to anyone who would receive it.

At the end of his sermon, the Pastor invited anyone who wanted to do so to receive the free gift of Salvation. Armand did not pray with the Pastor. Armand understood that just repeating the words of a prayer was not real Salvation. He needed to really understand and be ready to commit his life to this God. He wanted to go back to the Christian church the next week to learn more about the Lord God Almighty, His Son Jesus, and the free gift of Salvation.

Monday: *Read Romans 3:23.* What do you think sin is? How do you think sin separates us from God? Sin is choosing to do what we want to do instead of what God tells us is right in His Word, the Bible. Because God is holy, sin separates us from our holy God. We all need to recognize that we have sinned. We have all done things that do not please God. Take some time today to make a list of things you have done that you know were sinful. (No one else needs to see your list; it is just for you.)

Tuesday: We have all sinned, that's the bad news. But the good news is that God sent Jesus to die for our sins, taking our punishment, that we could be forgiven and if we choose to believe, have eternal life. Repentance is being sincerely sorry for our sin and having a desire not to commit the same sins over and over. *Read 1 John 1:9.* When we come to God in repentance and ask for forgiveness, God is faithful to forgive us and make us clean. If you choose to, you can take your list from yesterday and confess your sins to God asking for His forgiveness. When you do this, you can be certain that you are completely forgiven and clean from sin. And the great news is that God does not keep a list of the wrong things we have done. When our sin is forgiven, God does not remember it anymore.

Wednesday: *Read John 3:16.* This is one of the most popular verses in the Bible. Do you believe that God loves the entire world--the good, bad, rich, poor, young, and old people that live on the earth? What about the people who hate Him, do you think God loves them? Yes! God loves every one of us so much that He sent His own Son as a sacrifice for our sins. And when we choose to believe in Him we will not live separated from God any longer, but instead we will live with Him forever; right now in this life and then in heaven when we die. What do you think of this verse? Will you choose to believe in Jesus and put your trust in Him?

Thursday: This week we have learned that we all have sinned against God. Because of our sin, we deserve to be separated from God. Because of God's love for us, He sent Jesus to die in our place, taking the punishment that we deserve. God promises forgiveness of sins and eternal life in heaven to all who receive Jesus Christ as their Savior. What must you do to be saved? *Read Acts 16:30-31.* Jesus simply calls on us to believe in Him and receive Him in faith. You can pray a prayer like this to receive Jesus as your Savior: *Lord Jesus, I am ready to trust you as my Lord and Savior. I know that I am a sinner and that there is nothing I can do to save myself. I believe you are the Son of God who died for my sins and was raised to life again. Thank You for bearing my sins and giving me the gift of eternal life. I believe your words are true. Come into my heart, Lord Jesus, and be my Savior. Amen.*

Friday: *Read John 1:12.* Once you have received Jesus as your Savior, you are a child of God! You have begun the great adventure of following Jesus. Write out a prayer to God about this week's devotions. What did you already know? Did you learn anything new? Does knowing that God offers this free gift of Salvation change anything in your life?