



Foundations: *Salvation Study Guide*
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FOUNDATIONS TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Small Group Roster | Inside Front Cover |
| Foreword <i>by Rick Warren</i> | iv |
| Preface | vi |
| How to Use This Video Curriculum | ix |
| Session One: Man’s Problem, God’s Provision | 1 |
| Session Two: Pictures of Salvation..... | 9 |
| Session Three: Assurance of Salvation..... | 19 |
| Session Four: Personal Security..... | 27 |
| Small Group Resources | 37 |
| Helps for Hosts | 38 |
| Frequently Asked Questions | 42 |
| Group Guidelines | 44 |
| Circles of Life Diagram | 46 |
| Small Group Prayer and Praise Report | 47 |
| Small Group Calendar | 50 |
| How to Establish a “Spiritual BASE” for Your Life | 51 |
| Serving the Lord’s Supper | 53 |
| Answer Key | 55 |
| Key Verses | 57 |



Session One

MAN'S PROBLEM,
GOD'S PROVISION

man's PROBLEM, GOD'S PROVISION



BIBLE TEACHING

Watch the video lesson now and take notes in your outline on pages 3-5.

The Problem: Man's Need for Salvation

The major theme of the Bible is God's eternal plan to rescue us from our sin through Jesus' birth, his death on the cross, and his resurrection. God knew from the beginning that his creation would need a Savior, so he set in motion all that would be necessary to accomplish the salvation of his children.

To understand man's need for salvation we must look at two things: the nature of God and the nature of man.

The nature of God

We underestimate our need for a Savior because we underestimate who God is.

- God is _____

For this is what the high and lofty One says—he who lives forever, whose name is holy: "I live in a high and holy place, but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite."
(Isaiah 57:15 NIV)

Exalt the LORD our God and worship at his holy mountain, for the LORD our God is holy (Psalm 99:9 NIV)

God cannot tolerate anything that is evil.

- God is _____ and _____

FOUNDATIONS SALVATION

Holiness has more to do with God's character.

Righteousness and justice have to do with God's dealings with mankind in relation to his character.

The LORD is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion. (Psalm 116:5 NIV)

The Lord is fair in everything he does and full of kindness. (Psalm 145:17 LB)

The nature of man

- Our nature: _____ (Genesis 2:17; Genesis 3)
- Our choice: _____ (Romans 3:10-18)
- Our condition: _____ (Luke 19:10)

A CLOSER LOOK

What Are the Consequences of Sin and Lostness?

- Sentenced to physical and spiritual death (Genesis 3:19; John 3:18; Romans 6:23)
- Separated from God (Ephesians 2:12)
- Dominated and controlled by sin (Ephesians 2:1-3; Romans 6:6)
- Spiritual blindness (2 Corinthians 4:3-4)
- Without understanding (Romans 3:11)
- Enemies of Christ (Matthew 12:30)
- Objects of God's wrath (Ephesians 2:3)
- Considered children of the Devil (John 8:44)

The Bible portrays mankind's lostness as the most pitiful condition imaginable. Not only is our life on earth wasted as we live for self and selfish desires but the consequence is eternal separation from God (Romans 6:23; Luke 13:3; Matthew 25:46).

man's PROBLEM, GOD'S PROVISION

The Provision: God's Solution to Sin

²⁵God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—²⁶he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus. (Romans 3:25–26 NIV)

Three central truths about salvation:

1. Salvation is not by works but by _____ .

⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:8–9 NIV)

2. Salvation is not initiated by us, but by _____ .

⁶When we were unable to help ourselves, at the moment of our need, Christ died for us, although we were living against God. ⁷Very few people will die to save the life of someone else. Although perhaps for a good person someone might possibly die. ⁸But God shows his great love for us in this way: Christ died for us while we were still sinners. (Romans 5:6–8 NCV)

3. Salvation is not an afterthought with God; it is his _____ .

^{18b}You were bought . . . ¹⁹with the precious blood of Christ, who was like a pure and perfect lamb. ²⁰Christ was chosen before the world was made, but he was shown to the world in these last times for your sake. (1 Peter 1:18b–20 NCV)

It is God who saved us and chose us to live a holy life. He did this not because we deserved it, but because that was his plan long before the world began—to show his love and kindness to us through Christ Jesus. (1 Timothy 1:9 NLT)

FOUNDATIONS SALVATION

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. What have you heard in this session about the nature of God and the nature of man—God’s holiness and man’s unholiness? How has what you’ve heard enhanced your understanding of God’s provision for us?
2. Some people, before coming to Christ, have a greater sense of being lost than others. Why do you think this is true? What causes one person to realize their lostness more clearly than another person?
3. What simply amazes you about God’s salvation?

man's PROBLEM, GOD'S PROVISION

4. What impact do you want the understanding of God's love and provision to make in your life?

Once we understand God's love for us, including the lengths to which he has gone to provide for our salvation, we begin to feel a growing sense of urgency for the people around us who have not yet heard this good news.

Did You Get It? How has this week's study helped you see our deep need for salvation?

Share with Someone: Think of a person you can encourage with the truth you learned in this session. Write their name in the space below and pray for God to provide that opportunity this week.

LIVING ON PURPOSE

Evangelism

Ask God to help you sense the aloneness or emptiness of someone around you this week. How might he want you to come alongside that person and help them to see God's solution for their pain?

PRAYER DIRECTION

Spend a few minutes in prayer praising God for his holiness, righteousness, and justice. Thank him for your salvation. In short, one-sentence prayers, express your thankfulness for the characteristics of God we discussed in this session.