



Small groups that focus on the Big Idea for the week can use this guide to apply the message to life and take action. Feel free to use whatever parts of this guide best fit your group personality and time frame. Do NOT feel like you have to use every question. All verses, unless otherwise noted, are from the New International Version (NIV).

7.25/26.09 // WHY-FI – Questions About Salvation

BiG iDEA: You can know you're saved when you trust in Christ.

// Ice Breaker _____

Option 1: How has your life changed since being saved?

Option 2: Pretend you are doing a 'Man on the Street' interview. How would most people answer the question 'Why should God let you into heaven?' What do you think God would say about those answers?

// Questions for Discussion _____

1. Read Romans 6:23

The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

What would you say to someone who insists they would obviously get into heaven because of all the good they do?

How could the Bible help in your explanation?

2. Read Isaiah 59:2 (NLT)

But there is a problem--your sins have cut you off from God.

Sin condemns us and keeps us from entering heaven. What is your definition of sin?

What are some other problems with sin that affect us now?

Optional: Can you (or anyone in the group) give an example of how sin negatively affected your (their) life?

3. Read Ezekial 18:20

The soul who sins is the one who will die. The son will not share the guilt of the father, nor will the father share the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous man will be credited to him, and the wickedness of the wicked will be charged against him.

Luke 18:16

But Jesus called the children to Him and said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

Sin corrupts us. How would you explain the difference between a baby being born with a sinful nature, but not “in sin?”

How would you explain what happens to a young child who dies?

How does that make you feel?

4. Read Ephesians 2: 8-10

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. ¹⁰For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

A newcomer asks you what this bumper sticker means. How would you respond?



How important are the prepositions in this phrase?

5. Read James 2:19

You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

John 6:28-29

²⁸Then they asked Him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" ²⁹Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the One He has sent."

What do you think the difference is between the demons belief in God and what Jesus says our belief should be?

6. Read Mark 16:16

Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

How important is baptism in salvation? Why?

What would you say are the benefits of being baptized?

7. Southpoint baptizes by immersion. Why do we do it this way?

What are the requirements for baptism?

8. Read 1 Peter 1:5

"...Kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." 1 Peter 1:5 (NKJV)

Many sincerely question whether we can lose our salvation by turning our back on God. What are your thoughts on that? How much free will do you think we have?

What is God’s responsibility, and our responsibility according to 1 Peter 1:5?

How can you make sure you will not lose your salvation?

9. Read John 10:28

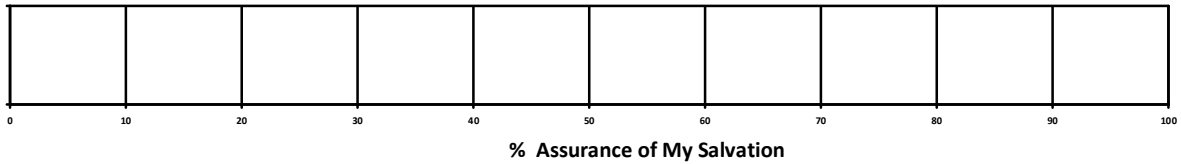
"I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand."

Read John 15:6

"If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned."

How do these two statements of Jesus relate to God's responsibility and our responsibility when it comes to having assurance of our salvation?

10. Using the scale below, how sure are you that you are saved?



If you said 100%, good. Why? If not 100%, how could you be 100% sure of your salvation?

// Application _____

Read and commit to memory Ephesians 2: 8,9

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.

1 Peter 3:15 says But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have....

Take some time to think about the hope you have because of your salvation. Write out a brief statement on a 3x5 card about how you became saved and the hope it has given you. Review it often to be able to tell others what Jesus has done for you.

// Prayer _____

Pray that many Downriver will be saved.

Thank the Lord for the gift of salvation.