

discipleship essentials

Essentials for Christian Living
Leader's Guide

UNDERSTANDING SALVATION

LESSON 3: KNOWING MAN ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE

INTRODUCTION

This lesson is part of a Discipleship Essentials module entitled *Understanding Salvation*. This series of lessons examines the very foundational idea of salvation, and what occurs in the life of a person who becomes a Christian. These lessons are critical for every believer to understand before they can effectively share the Gospel with others. Each lesson examines a concept from a Biblical perspective and includes time for discussion of these principles as well as how to effectively apply them to your life. This set of lessons is ideal for use with discipling new believers to ensure they fully understand these ideas.

INTENDED AUDIENCE

The intended audience for these lessons is new Christians or those who would like a refresher on the basics of Christian salvation. Those who are preparing for evangelism and discipleship may benefit from discussion of these ideas. These lessons assume the participant has made a decision to follow Jesus and wants to explore Christianity further.

The Leader's Guide is intended to help the leader prepare for the lessons and can be used in conjunction with other Discipleship Essentials materials found on www.discipleshipessentials.org.

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UNDERSTANDING SALVATION

LESSON 3: KNOWING MAN ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE

PURPOSE

The purpose of this lesson is to gain a Biblical understanding of who man is in relation to God, and how sin has affected our ability to fulfill the intended purpose of our life.

LEADER'S NOTE

In the culture that surrounds you, some people believe that we are merely highly evolved animals. Others believe that we descended from the body of a god. Those are two completely opposite views and both are contradictory to the Bible. Rather than being an animal, we were created in the image and likeness of God. It may be important to help participants clarify these points as they go through this lesson. Taking responsibility for our actions and seeing ourselves as God sees us are steps to restoration with God which are necessary for salvation. This allows us to fulfill the plan God has for us!

INTRODUCTION

(Select two or three of the following questions)

- ❖ Have you ever been surprised by your own actions? Have you done something you never expected yourself to do?
- ❖ What are some of the viewpoints (scientific, worldly, or religious) about how mankind came to be? How do they compare to the Bible? How are they different? *You may discuss evolution, reincarnation, etc.*
- ❖ Do other accounts of the origin of man account for God's purpose? What would most people around you say is the purpose for mankind?
- ❖ Do people around you feel that people are generally good but capable of doing evil, or generally evil but capable of doing good? Or are we rather neutral? What does the Bible say about this?



STUDY

TEACH

- ❖ **The Creation of Man:** The Bible gives us a comprehensive picture of how man came to be. It includes every detail, including God's nature and His purpose. It is important to consider the purpose we were created to fulfill.
 - The human ability to think and reason, to express emotion and language, far surpasses the abilities of any animals. This gift was bestowed when God's image was imprinted on us. God created us in His Image. What does this mean?
 - Explore the following verses:
 - [Genesis 1:26](#)
 - [Genesis 5:1](#)
 - [Genesis 9:6](#)
 - [Ephesians 4:24](#)
 - [Colossians 3:10](#)

TASK

- ❖ Have the group create a list of attributes of God that He has also given to us. *These may include reason, creativity, love, compassion, imagination, desire, humour, etc.*
- ❖ Ask participants to find examples of these traits in the Bible. If no Bibles are available, discuss how they know about these traits, and how God has demonstrated them to us.
- ❖ As a group, or in smaller groups, go through [Psalm 103](#) and make a list of the attributes of God listed there.
- ❖ What attributes does God have that people are not given? *Omniscience, etc.*

TEACH

- ❖ **For His Glory:** We were created for God's glory. God is glorified through us. Discuss with the group what this means, and how it is accomplished. Look up and read, or refer to some of the following verses:
 - [Isaiah 43:7](#)
 - [1 Peter 4:11](#)
 - [1 Corinthians 10:31](#)
 - [Matthew 5:16](#)
- ❖ **To Have Dominion:** We were created to have dominion over the earth. We must remember that dominion comes from God and that He is the ultimate authority. Consider these verses:
 - [Genesis 1:26-28](#)
 - [Psalm 8: 6-8](#)
 - [Romans 13:1-5](#)
- ❖ **The Free Will of Man:** Read through [Genesis 3](#) to understand the story about the fall of man. Although God had given Adam and Eve dominion over the earth and their purpose to glorify Him



was clear, they made a choice to do exactly what God had asked them not to do. From this moment on, the relationship of man to God was tarnished, and we can see in [Romans 1:25](#) that man has been making decisions against God's will ever since. "They exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator."

- Sin has clouded our spiritual understanding in every generation. This is not entirely bad news since each one of us was created with the freedom to make that choice for ourselves. God did not leave us totally unequipped for this task.
 - God created us with freedom to choose. [Romans 1:25](#)
 - God created man with a conscience. [Romans 2:15](#); [Romans 9:1](#)
 - God gave us the power of discernment. [Hebrews 5:14](#)
- ❖ **The Accountability of Man to God:** The Bible tells us that in the final days we must account for the choices we have made. [John 3:36](#) makes clear that the choice is simple for a positive outcome in eternity. See also:
 - [Romans 14:12](#)
 - [Hebrews 9:27](#)

DISCUSSION

- ❖ Summarise what mankind's God-given purpose is. What choices will you make in order to fulfill your purpose? What is your personal responsibility toward God?
- ❖ When we use our gifts and fulfill our purpose, God is glorified. To be fully human is to fully reflect God's glory. How is God glorified in your life?
- ❖ Does it change the choices you make and how you view yourself to know that you have a purpose and are made in the image of God?

PRAYER

Close the lesson in prayer. Pray that each participant will see they have been made in the image of God, with a correct view of mankind in relation to God. Thank God for the discernment He provides, and the guidance in His Word. Pray that God will continue to work in all of us to will and to work for His good pleasure. [Philippians 2:13](#)



HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT

If you are meeting regularly with a group or individual, give participants this assignment to complete before the next meeting. You will want to discuss their experiences at the beginning of the next lesson. Participants may choose to share what they have learned from the Bible in this lesson with those they speak to.

ASSIGNMENT:

Speak to at least three people this week and ask them the following questions:

- Where do you think man came from?
- For what purpose does man exist?
- What do you feel is your primary purpose in life?