

Sunday morning
teaching plan

Date:
7th September

Vicky Bees Series

TITLE:	Be saved and do NOT be like others
THEME:	Jesus calls us to be different from the rest. To find salvation in Him
AIM:	To understand that we need salvation and as Christians we must live differently

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

In Acts 2, in Peter's first sermon, he challenges people to *call on the name of the Lord and BE SAVED*. This of course is vital for all of us. But professing faith in Jesus is one thing, living it out each day is another. Paul in his letter to the Thessalonians urges people NOT TO BE like everyone else around, asleep but BE ALERT. We are to be different in the way we live, act, speak and think. We must live under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, being changed and transformed into the likeness of Christ.

WARM UP

If the weather permits, go outside and play "tag." One person has to tag as many as possible. If you get tagged then you must stand still with arms out wide. Someone else must touch your hand to rescue you.

Indoor game: True/ false. Divide room into two using masking tape. One side is true, one side is false. Read out examples of crazy laws from around the world... decide if true or false. You are out if standing on false side when answer is revealed. (point - laws may be weird and we might disagree... but they are there for a reason. God's law is the same. Rom 6:23 (wages of sin))

MAIN TEACHING

Activity 1. Discussion Time:

- If you were a passenger on the Titanic and you were drifting in the freezing sea, with no hope of survival... would you climb aboard a life raft if one came along and someone offered you a hand up?
- What if a complete stranger came up to you and said, "don't go in that building" it's about to collapse. I've seen the future!" Yet you've paid a lot of money to go in and see a concert.
- What if someone actually did rescue you from certain death... maybe pulled you from a burning car or building... how would you thank /repay them?

Teaching point.

The Bible teaches that we all do need rescuing... we need to BE SAVED. We have all sinned, or fallen short of God's standards and there is a consequence: separation from God for eternity, death and hell.

But God has provided a rescue for us: Jesus. His death and resurrection are the way in which God will rescue us from ourselves. But we need to accept His help, and choose to be rescued. This is called salvation.

Activity 2. Watch Cheesy video explaining salvation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OM4nk4T6SS4>

1. Look up Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23. What do these tell us about ourselves and God?
2. Look up John 14:6, Romans 10:9. What do these tell us about how we can be rescued from sin?

Teaching point.

Sin (our own selfishness and independence) has led us away from God. We cannot be in His presence because He is too holy and we are not holy. We cannot change this. Nothing we do can bridge the vast chasm between us and God. God therefore has chosen to bridge it. He sent Jesus, His perfect Son to die as a punishment for our sin. If we place our trust in Jesus and believe what He did, then we will be saved.

If time watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xs8kEyZUvM>

Activity 3 . Do not be like others.

1. **Read : 1 Thessalonians 5:4-6.** Discuss with a partner what you think this passage means.
2. Look at the word clouds on the PPT. How do they differ? Could they ever be merged?
3. Which would you prefer to be? Why?
4. How can you tell whether a person is a football fan ? What marks a Christian out ? Are they as easy to spot? Should they be?

Teaching point

Our Christian life should be distinctive. It should be obvious to others that we love the Lord Jesus. Our lifestyle choices, actions, words, friendships, should point others to Jesus. These things are deliberate choices we make every day. It doesn't happen by accident. What are the things in your life you need to alter in order to reflect Jesus more?

TAKEAWAY

Ensure there is time for questions, reflection and opportunity for prayer.

Give an opportunity for anyone to follow you in a prayer of confession and commit/ recommit themselves to Jesus. (see below)

EXTRA INFORMATION

Lord Jesus, I am so sorry for ignoring you and going my own way. I am sorry for my sins, the ones I know about and those I don't. Please forgive me. I give you my life. Help me to follow you with all my heart, and may my life reflect your love and truth, every day from now on. Amen.