Heroic *life*
Discipleship

Our Sure Salvation

THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Leader Guide

Semester 7

Semester 7: Our Sure Salvation — Leader Guide

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First Edition.

Semester 7
Our Sure Salvation

This semester highlights stories from the life of Christ. It introduces children to Jesus through His teachings, miracles, interactions with others, and ultimately the cross and resurrection. As the stories of His life unfold, Christ emerges as the longawaited Savior; the Treasure of treasures; the Son of God and Lord of all; the Man of compassion, authority, sacrifice, and triumph. These lessons cultivate an ability and desire to know, love, worship, and follow the One who calls each disciple to take up their cross and gain His abundant life.

Scope and Sequence

	BIBLE STORY	BIBLE STORY PASSAGE	LESSON TAKEAWAY	MIGHTY MEN & INTERCESSION
LESSON 1	**The Coming Hope** Waiting for the Messiah	Old Testament Overview	Do you see your need for a Savior?	The Maldives
LESSON 2	**Wonderful Savior** The Birth of Jesus	Matthew 2:1-12	Do you see that Jesus is worthy to be worshipped?	John G. Paton
LESSON 3	**Obedient Son** The Baptism of Jesus	Matthew 3:13-17	Will you turn from sin and obey God?	John G. Paton
LESSON 4	**Tempted** The Temptation of Jesus	Matthew 4:1-11	How can you respond to temptation?	John G. Paton
LESSON 5	**Fisher of Men** Calling the Disciples	Luke 5:1-11	Will you give your whole life to follow God?	John G. Paton
LESSON 6	**Compassionate Healer** Cleansing the Leper	Mark 1:40-45	Do you know you are welcomed into the presence of God?	The Philippines
LESSON 7	**Lover of Sinners** Jesus Anointed	Luke 7:39-50	How will you respond to Christ's love?	Adoniram and Ann Judson
LESSON 8	**Merciful and Just** Parable of the Pharisee and Tax Collector	Luke 18:9-14	What are you trusting in?	Adoniram and Ann Judson
LESSON 9	**Triumphant** Casting Out Demons	Mark 9:17-27	Will you live by faith?	Adoniram and Ann Judson
LESSON 10	**Almighty God** Calming the Storm	Mark 4:35-41	Will you trust Jesus to take care of you?	Indonesia
LESSON 11	**Man of Sorrows** Gethsemane	Luke 22:39-46	How will you respond to hard things?	Joanne Shetler
LESSON 12	**The Lamb Slain** The Crucifixion of Jesus	Luke 23:33-43	Do you understand what Christ did for you on the cross?	Joanne Shetler
LESSON 13	**Risen King** The Resurrection	Matthew 28:1-10	Are you living like Jesus is alive?	Joanne Shetler
LESSON 14	**Lord of All** The Great Commission	Matthew 28:16-20	Do you know that Christ is with you?	Joanne Shetler

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Fisher of Men

Calling the Disciples

OVERVIEW

LESSON TAKEAWAY

Will you give your whole life to follow God?

BIBLE STORY GUIDE SUMMARY

Teacher Study Passage: Luke 4:14-5:11

Bible Story Passage: Luke 5:1-11

Jesus took notice of a few fishermen and performed a miracle for them. Simon Peter's initial response to this miracle was to ask Jesus to leave because Peter was a sinful man. Instead of leaving Peter, Jesus invited Peter and the other fishermen to join Him in His ministry. Do you recognize the honor that it is to follow God, and are you willing to surrender your life to do so?

APPLICATION GUIDE SUMMARY

When Jesus called His disciples and when He calls us, He asks us to give Him every part of our lives. He is a Good Shepherd and we can completely trust Him. He gives us all that He is—His abundant life—and there truly is nothing better or more full of joy.

MEMORY VERSE

To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. **When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.**
—John 10:3-4

SCHEDULE

5 min WELCOME & MEMORY VERSE

John 10:3-4

20 min BIBLE STORY LESSON

10 min WORSHIP

20 min INTERCESSION FOCUS & ACTIVITIES

The Maldives

Pray that the few Maldivian Christians would be brave and courageous and rejoice in persecution. (Philippians 1:20)

Activities *(p. 18)*

Coloring Page | Weaving Nets

30 min APPLICATION TIME

20 min MIGHTY MEN

John G. Paton

15 min FAMILY GROUP

Bible Story Guide

REVIEW

- Would anyone like to tell what they remember from the story last time?
- How did Jesus respond when He was tempted by the devil?
- What can you do when you are tempted to listen to the devil?

INTRODUCTION

Tell the opening context from Luke 4:

After Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, He returned to Galilee in the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus had begun to go around preaching the gospel and healing many people. He had just healed the mother-in-law of a fisherman named Simon Peter. Everywhere He went, people wanted to see Jesus, and He said, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose."

STORY

Tell the story accurately:

> On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on Him to hear the Word of God, He was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, and He saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, He asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at Your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him.
>
> **Luke 5:1-11**

Ask a volunteer to retell the story (if time allows), starting with, "On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on Him to hear the Word of God, He was standing by the lake of Gennesaret…"

Teaching Thought:

In the story, consider replacing these uncommon words with the following common synonyms:

Toiled: Worked

Enclosed: Caught

Lead through the story, letting the children fill in details.

For example (see suggested gaps below):

> On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on Him to hear the Word of God, He was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, and He saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, He asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at Your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him.
>
> **Luke 5:1-11**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What might it have been like for Simon Peter to fish all night and not catch anything?
- Crowds of people were listening to Jesus, but what were the fishermen doing?
- Jesus got into Simon Peter's boat. What did Jesus ask Simon Peter to do?
- Jesus sat in the boat and preached to the people on shore. When He had finished speaking, what did Jesus tell Simon Peter to do?
    - What did Simon Peter tell Jesus he had done all night?
- Simon Peter agreed to let down his nets and try catching fish again, as Jesus told him. What else might Simon Peter have done at this point?
    - What might we learn about Simon Peter from the fact that he listened to Jesus and obeyed Him?
- What happened when Simon Peter obeyed Jesus?
- How did the fishermen feel about the catch of fish?
- When Simon Peter saw the catch of fish, he knelt down before Jesus. What else might Simon Peter have done when so many fish had been caught?
    - Peter chose to bow down before Jesus instead of taking care of his boat and the fish. What might this tell us about Peter?
    - Simon Peter told Jesus to go away. Why?
    - Simon Peter told Jesus that he was a sinful man. How did Jesus respond?
    - What might we learn about Jesus from the fact that He told Simon Peter not to be afraid?

- Jesus told Simon Peter that he would catch men (bring men to follow Jesus). He was telling Peter to follow Him. What might we learn about Jesus from the fact that He wanted Simon Peter to follow Him?
- What did Simon Peter, James, and John do as soon as they brought their boats to land?
    - These men were willing to leave everything—their nets, their boats, and even their big catch of fish—to follow Jesus. What might this tell us about the fishermen?
- Is there anything we might learn about Jesus from the way He treated Simon Peter in this story?

CONCLUSION

Explain: In the story we saw that Simon Peter was willing to leave everything to follow Jesus.

- Do we see people today who are willing to follow Jesus like that?
- How about you? Are you willing to give your whole life to follow Jesus?
- Is there anything in this story that might help you know how to follow Jesus?

Application Guide

REVIEW

- Do you remember what we talked about during our last application time? *Resisting temptation*
- What were some ways you were tempted this past week?
- Were there times you didn't give in?
- Were there times you did give in? How will you handle it next time?
- What are some things you remember from our Bible story today?

THE COST

- Do you remember what the fishermen did at the end of our story? *They left everything and followed Jesus*
- Did they keep some things and decide to follow Jesus some of the time? *No, they left everything and followed Him completely*
- Let's look at a verse where Jesus is talking about what it means to be His disciple (His follower).

> And He said to all, "If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me."
>
> **Luke 9:23**

- To deny yourself and take up your cross daily means to completely say no to yourself, flesh, and sin. You are willing for all of that to die. Your life belongs to Jesus now and that's all that matters.
- Who does Jesus say to follow?
- If two people are going different directions, can you follow them both?
- Can you follow your own way or the world's way and Jesus at the same time?
- To follow Jesus you must give everything to Him, every part of your life belongs to Him.
- You can't decide you only want to follow Jesus sometimes and then for the rest of the time live however you want to. Following Jesus means following only Him, no matter what.
- Does that sound a little bit scary? It might a little bit.

Teaching Thought:

Have various children walk in different directions. Have another child try to follow them all at the same time. Demonstrate that this doesn't work and show how you have to choose only one to follow.

Teaching Thought:

Make sure the children understand that they won't be perfect in this right away. It's a process that they will and should be growing in.

THE SHEPHERD

- But let's think about who Jesus is. There's a lot that we could talk about regarding who Jesus is, but let's think about Him as a Shepherd.

> To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. […] The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the

> sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the Good Shepherd. I know My own and My own know Me, just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.
>
> **John 10:3-4, 10-15**

- In these verses, Jesus is the Shepherd and His people are the sheep.
- How does Jesus call His sheep? *By name*
- What might this tell us about Jesus? *He knows and cares about each of them*
- What else does He do with the sheep? *Leads them*
- What might this tell us about Jesus? *He is wise, strong, etc.*
- What do the sheep do? Why? *Hear His voice and follow Him because they know Him*
- What does the thief (Satan) come to do?
- What does Jesus give?
- What kind of Shepherd does Jesus say He is?
- What else does He do for His sheep? *Lays down His life for them*
- What does this tell us about Jesus?
- What happens if the sheep are with someone other than Jesus?
- Does anyone else take care of the sheep like Jesus does?
- How well does Jesus know His sheep?
- Do the sheep know the Shepherd too?
- Now, if you're a sheep you should follow the Shepherd simply because He's the Shepherd. But does Jesus also sound like someone you would *want* to follow? Do you see how giving Him everything and following Him is better than anything else?
- Yes, you give up everything, but in return He gives you Himself! He lays down His life for you. You give Him your life and He gives you His.
- Which life do you think is better: your life or His life?

THE GREATER JOY

- Will everything in life always be wonderful and easy when you follow Jesus?
- No, many things will be hard, but the more you follow Him, the more you'll see that He doesn't make your life miserable. He blesses His people and gives such good gifts. And even when it's difficult, you have Him and the wonderful, abundant life that He gives.

APPLICATION: FOLLOW ONLY JESUS

- Do you know and trust Jesus as your Good Shepherd or are you scared of following Him?
- Are there parts of your life that you haven't given to Him and that you're holding onto?
- Are there things that you still think are better than knowing and following Jesus?
- Are you willing to let them go and trust that He's only good and only wants the best for you?

Mighty Men: John G. Paton

REVIEW

In the previous lesson, John Paton had to run for his life when angry island warriors tried to kill him because they were afraid that he made the spirits angry. The people on the island blamed him for the hurricane and the death of Chief Miaki's son. God protected John and sent a ship to rescue him. He escaped to Australia, where he traveled around the country, telling others about the Tannese people and their need for the gospel and also helping raise money for a missionary ship. While in Australia, he also met the Aborigine people, who reminded him of the precious (though dangerous) Tannese people. After his time in Australia, the mission board sent John back to Scotland for a season, where he met and married his second wife, Margaret. They wanted to return to Tanna Island, but the mission board did not let them go back because it was too dangerous. John and Margaret were disappointed and did not know what God had planned for them to do next.

ANIWA

John, Margaret, and their newly born baby were sent to another island nearby Tanna, called Aniwa. They hoped that the Aniwan island people would be ready to hear the gospel of Jesus. John had to begin all over again, learning a new language, building a new home, and getting to know a new culture. The Aniwans weren't quite as dangerous as the Tannese, but the Patons still needed to be careful. The islanders did not trust the missionaries, but John and Margaret hoped they would grow friendlier as they got to know each other more.

While John worked to build their new house on top of a mountain, Margaret and the baby stayed in a hut. Their only wall was a curtain. The Aniwans were amazed by the missionaries and their strange ways. Sometimes while he was building, John would write a note on a piece of bark and send it down the mountain to their hut for Margaret to read. The islanders were amazed that the wood could talk to Margaret! They did not understand how she could know exactly what John wanted, just by looking at the strange marks he had made on the bark.

FISHHOOK PAYMENT

One day, John badly hurt his ankle while working on the house. It was bleeding and he could not walk on it. He needed help, but the Aniwans would not take him down the mountain. John was stuck and in pain, and he needed wisdom from God. Of course, God provided. John had an idea. He offered to give away a new fishhook to anyone who would carry him a certain distance. At this news, the islanders eagerly lined up. It was a funny line down the mountain, as John paid a fishhook to the first man, who carried him a little way and then passed him to the next man. John paid this next man another fishhook, and he carried him to the third man, and so forth, all the way down to his hut. It was a painful trip, and his ankle was bleeding even more by the time he made it home, but he had gained important understanding of the islanders and their way of living.

A MARRIAGE ORDEAL

Over time, a few islanders became friendly with the Paton family and began to listen to the story of Jesus. Eventually, the Patons were able to start a small church with a few new Christians. A man named

Nelwang was one of those new Christians. He loved to ask John questions, and one day, his questions turned serious. He needed John's help. Nelwang wanted to marry the chief's widow, Yakin. They were in love, and Yakin wanted to marry him too, but there was a big problem. There were thirty other men in the village who also wanted to marry Yakin, and they would certainly kill the man who married her!

Once again, John needed wisdom, so he prayed. Through his prayer, he decided to help Nelwang and Yakin get married in secret. As soon as they were married, the couple escaped to hide somewhere on the island. When the other Aniwans found out that they were missing, the thirty men burned down Nelwang's house. John boldly stepped up and confronted the men. He explained that they didn't really want a wife like Yakin, who had told them no and shown to be ungrateful to them, even though they had kindly offered to marry her. He said to just leave those two silly people alone. Amazingly, they listened to John and left the Nelwang and Yakin in peace. John realized that this wasn't something he had learned in missionary training. Rather, it was a gift from God, and he praised Him for His wisdom.

Nelwang and Yakin were still scared about returning to the village, but after three weeks, they came to the Patons house in secret. They were so grateful to John that they offered to become special helpers to John and Margaret. During the day, Nelwang helped John build, and Yakin worked with Margaret at home. At night, though, they returned to their secret hiding place and would not face any of the villagers. Finally, John told them that since they had decided to believe and trust in Jesus, they should not hide anymore. He told them it was time for them to return to church and face everyone.

Nelwang and Yakin listened to John, and even though they were still afraid, they agreed to return. The day they did was one of the Patons' favorite memories. First of all, Nelwang strolled into the church, carrying his tomahawk over his shoulder. He walked all the way to the front and sat down as close to John as possible. Then, Yakin made her grand entrance. The islanders had an understanding that if anyone became a Christian, he began to wear clothes. In their minds, the more clothing a person wore, the more committed a Christian they were. As the chief's widow, Yakin thought she should really dress up. She arrived wearing a man's long overcoat. It swirled around her feet and buttoned down over her grass skirt. On top of this, she wore a vest, layered underneath a pair of men's pants, the legs hanging over each of her shoulders. She had twisted a red shirt around her head like a turban, with the sleeves hanging over each ear. Finally, she had pinned a colorful shirt to each shoulder, which billowed out like sails when she walked. With all that clothing on the hot island, sweat poured down her face, but her husband beamed with pride as she walked into the church like a queen. John tried hard not to laugh and kindly made his sermon short so that Yakin would not need to suffer while sitting in the intense heat. Thankfully, the day ended peacefully, and Nelwang and Yakin continued their life in the village.

RAIN FROM THE GROUND

Once John and Margaret finished building their house, they decided to start a new project. Aniwa was surrounded by salty ocean water, and since it was difficult to find fresh drinking water on the island, the Patons began digging a well. The islanders had never heard about or seen a well. John explained the project to some of the people who attended his church, telling them that if they dug deep enough, they could find fresh water underground. The islanders thought he was crazy! One friendly chief, Namake, suggested John keep his digging a secret, or the other islanders would simply decide he was a crazy man who had no sense. Then, they wouldn't think he was wise enough to teach them about God.

John was not worried about what the villagers would think. He believed that God wanted to use this well to demonstrate His power and authority over nature so he and Margaret began to dig. He offered to give fishhooks to any islander who would help dig, but the Aniwans didn't want fishhooks or any of the other items John offered. The Patons were left to do the work by themselves. Day by day, they climbed into the hole and kept digging deeper and deeper as the villagers watched. One morning, when

they arrived at digging site, they saw that the sides of the hole had fallen in. Everyone recognized that if John or Margaret had been digging inside when it fell, they would have died. John fixed the sides of the well, made them strong, and continued working. John and Margaret would not let fear stop them. They believed that God had led them to dig the well, and they asked Him to protect them, to help them work hard, and to provide fresh water so that the Aniwans would understand His power and His love. They knew that finding freshwater would be a miracle, since only saltwater is usually found on an island.

Finally, the last day of digging arrived. Water filled the well, and John eagerly scooped it into his hands for the first taste. It was freshwater! The islanders were amazed. John's word was true: he found rain from underground.

After this amazing discovery, the Aniwans dug their own wells, but none of them found freshwater. God had led John and Margaret to the only spot on the island that brought freshwater. Many Aniwans began to realize that God was indeed powerful and knew all things. Because of God's gift of fresh water, many islanders deciding to follow Jesus. The next Sunday, Namake stood up in church and declared that John's God must be the only true God. He said that none of the spirits or gods of the Aniwans had ever answered their prayers as Jehovah God had. In front of everyone, Namake apologized for laughing at John and announced that he now believed in Jehovah God and would give his life to serve God alone. The way Namake said this in front of everyone paved the way for other Aniwans to do the same, and during the weeks that followed, many of the islanders became Christians.

THE GOSPEL SPREADS

Over the next few years, the Patons continued to lead the Aniwan church. They taught them to obey all that Jesus commanded them, and they praised God as they watched the new believers grow in their faith. Soon, the Aniwans began to realize that they needed to share this glorious gospel with others. The first place they turned was the island of Tanna, which was close to John's heart. One day, a few Tannese people arrived on the shores of Aniwa. They were afraid to come to Aniwa because the Aniwan and Tannese people had been enemies for a long time, but they needed to escape because Chief Miaki of Tanna wanted to kill them. However, God had completely changed the people of Aniwa, and they didn't want to kill the Tannese anymore. Instead, they were happy to see them. They invited them to their homes and told them of the true God. Eventually, several Aniwans decided to move to Tanna to share the light of Jesus with their neighbors there. John and Margaret's son Frank was one of eight people from Aniwa who risked their lives to continue the work John had begun many years before. Soon enough, Tannese people became Christians and a church on that island began.

John thought back to the time when he first left his family home and his father had journeyed with him for miles before they said goodbye. John's father had prayed that the Lord would use his son to spread His glory throughout the earth, and now, as John's own son preached the gospel in Tanna, he praised God for answering his father's prayers. The light of Jesus Christ had indeed spread through these far islands, and John rejoiced that God allowed him to see it.

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Our Sure Salvation

THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Activities

Semester 7

Semester 7: Our Sure Salvation — Activities

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5

Fisher of Men

Calling the Disciples

Teaching Thought:

This activity can be used to remind children how Jesus called the fishermen and how the fishermen left everything behind to follow Him.

Teaching Thought:

You can have the children cut these out if you prefer.

GROUP 1 AND 2 ACTIVITIES

Coloring Page

Weaving Nets

Supplies and Preparation:

- Net template with the indicated lines cut, 1 for each child
- 11 ½ x 1 inch (28cm x 2.5 cm.) strips of colored paper, about 8 for each child
- Scissors (only if the children are cutting out the strips - optional)

Directions:

- Give each child a net template and strips of colored paper.
- Starting on one side of the paper, weave a strip of colored paper up and down through the cut lines of the net template.
- Repeat with the other paper strips.

GROUP 3 AND 4 ACTIVITY

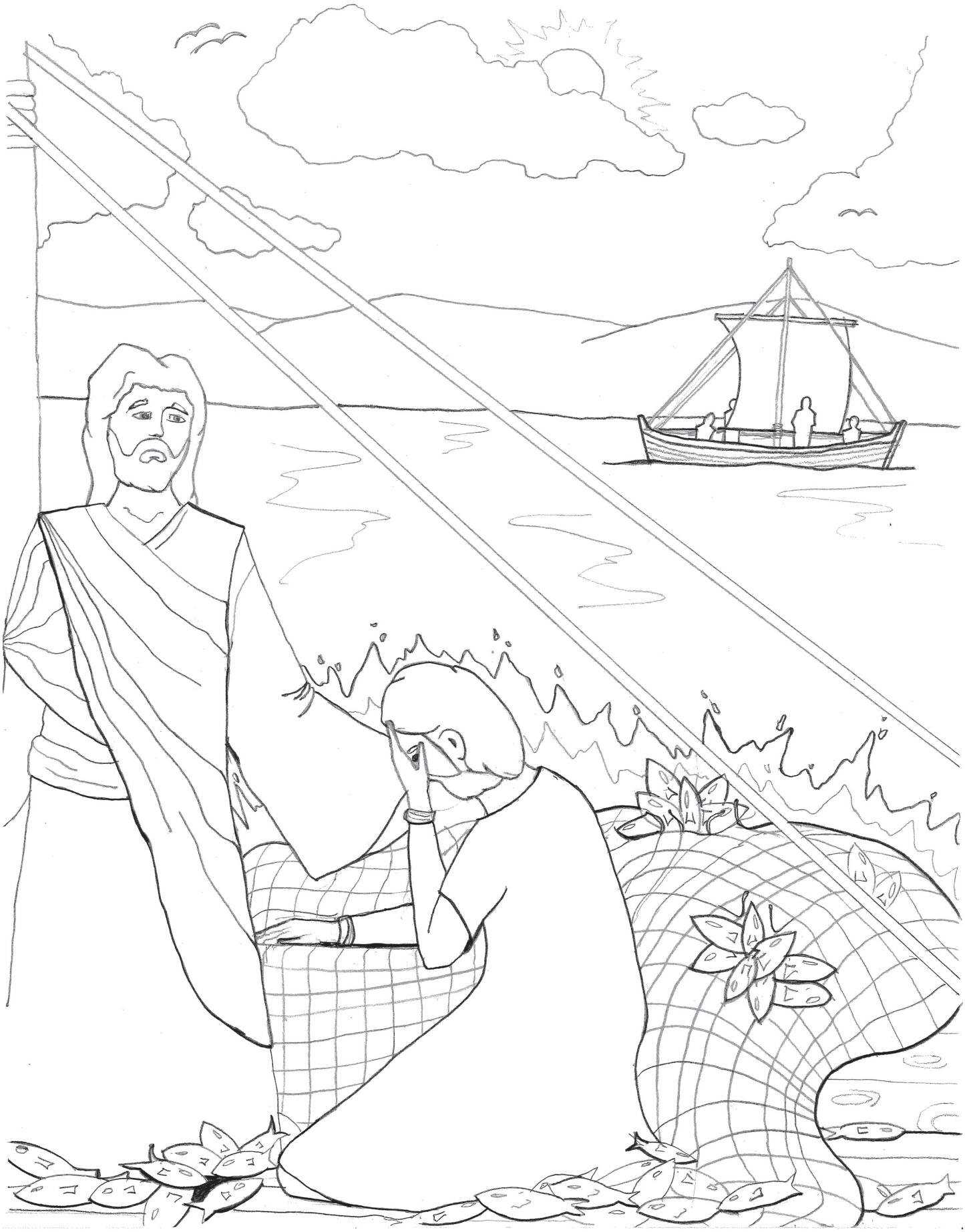
Intercession Focus — The Maldives

Supplies and Preparation:

- The Maldives map (in the Heroes at Home student workbook)
- Glue
- Print and cut prayer pictures.

Directions:

- Let the children glue the prayer picture to their map.
- Write the Scripture reference that goes with the prayer point next to the picture.
- Pray that the few Maldivian Christians would be brave and courageous and rejoice in persecution. (Philippians 1:20)



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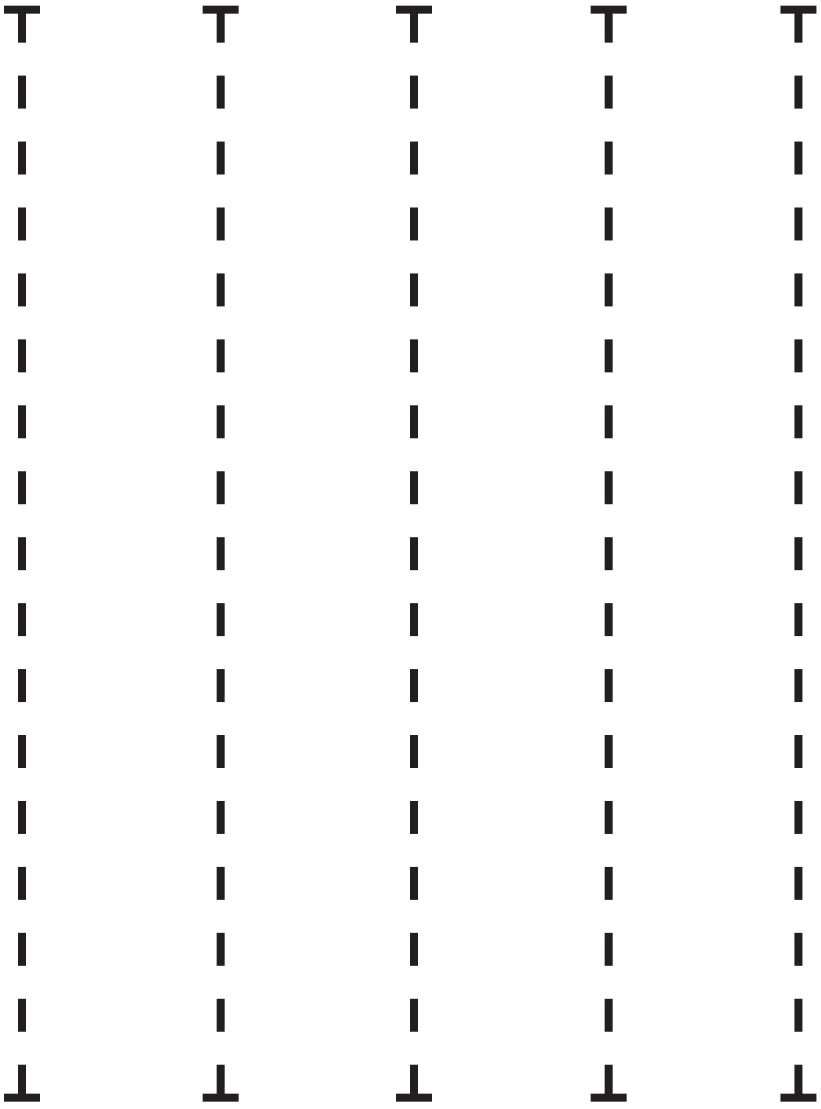

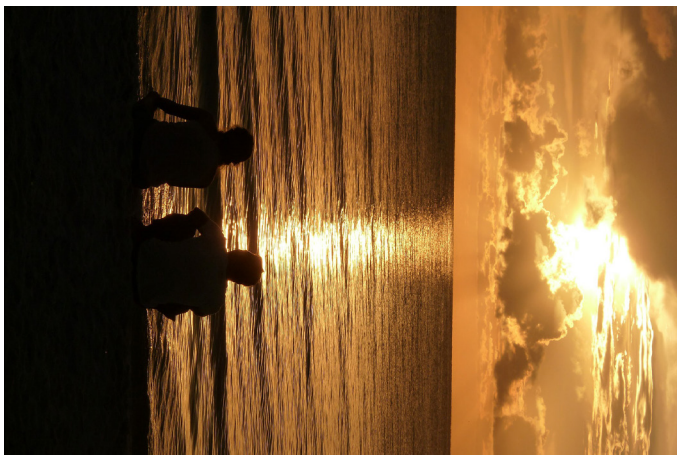
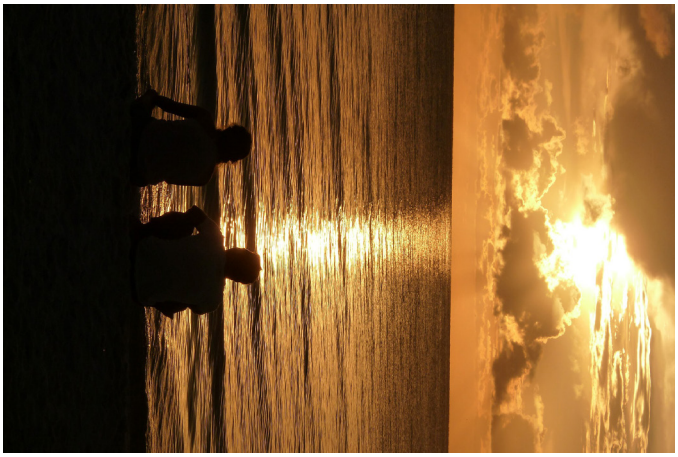
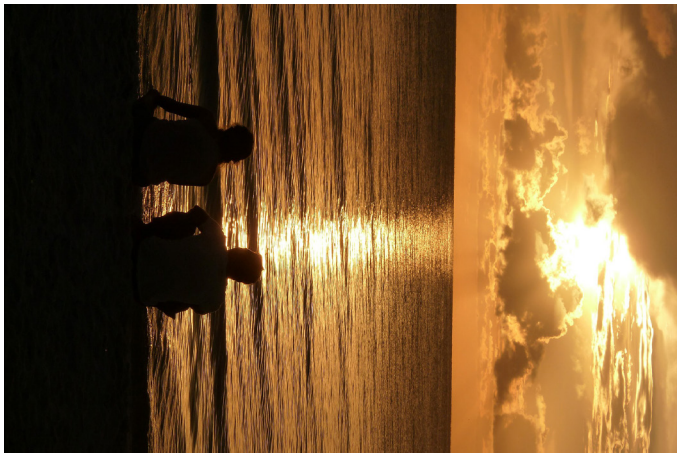
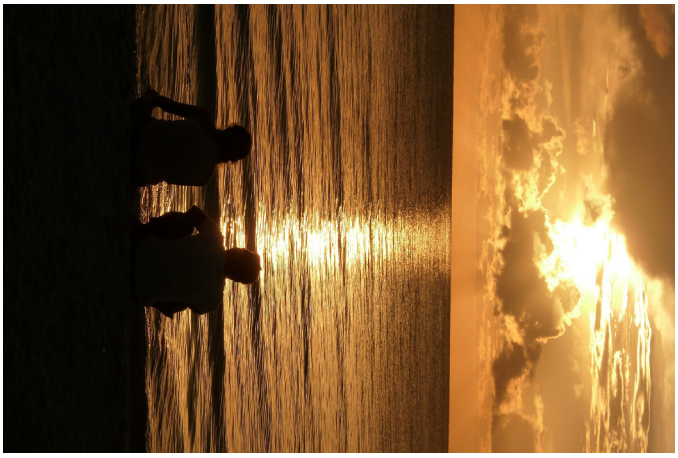
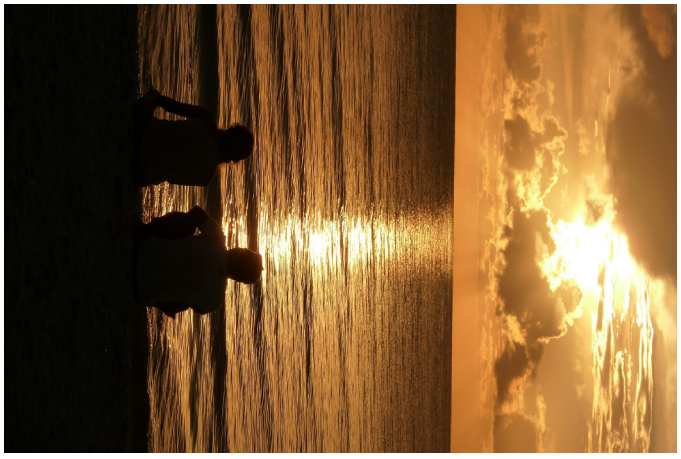
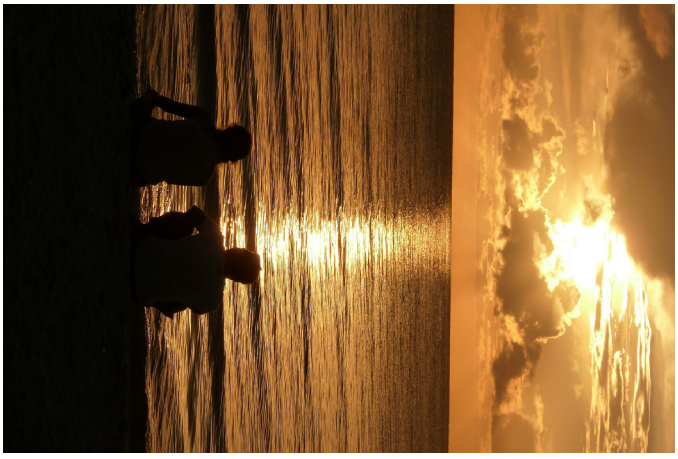
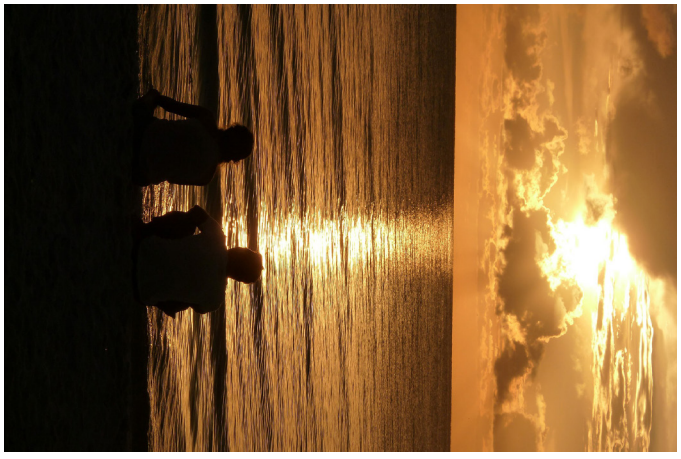
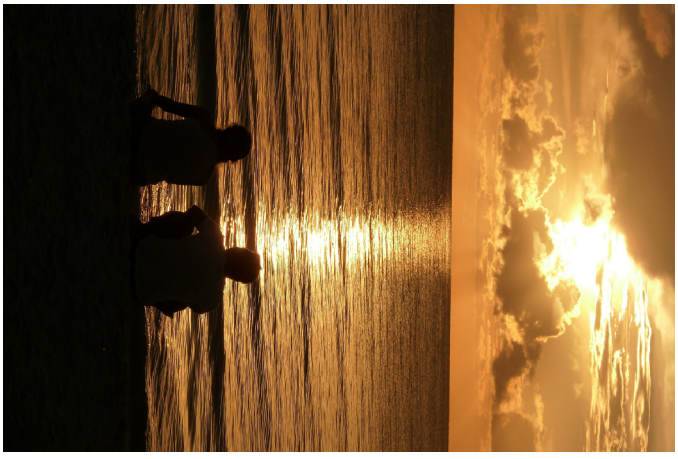

Groups: 3&4

heroes at home

SEMESTER 7

Our Sure Salvation

This workbook belongs to:

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Semester 7: Our Sure Salvation — Heroes at Home, Groups 3&4

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First Edition.

Fisher of Men

REMEMBERING

So you shall remember and do all My commandments, and be holy to your God. (Numbers 15:40)

Bible Story Passage

Luke 5:1-11

Lesson Summary

When Jesus called His disciples and when He calls us, He asks us to give Him every part of our lives. He is a Good Shepherd and we can completely trust Him. He gives us all that He is—His abundant life—and there truly is nothing better or more full of joy.

Lesson Takeaway

Will you give your whole life to follow God?

Memory Verse

To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.
(John 10:3-4)

ACTIVITIES

...Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10:31)

Our Sure Salvation

Find the hidden words.

Abundant
Boats
Call
Cost
Everything
Fishermen
Follow
Give
Good
Jesus
Joy
Life
Sheep
Shepherd
Simon

U Z E G E Z X D D E T T J O W
C X V S H Q J R V K H S S O D
E R I N E M R E H S I F L O Y
C T G Q P D R H S T V L O X C
W V N Y J Y D P I U O G W W I
Y W P A T X Y E R F S L I F E
Y X G H D D O H H Q P V Z E E
N W I E S N S S O Z B M J K P
P N A V Q I U G B P O R J J P
G V E H M Y U B Q C F D I B J
R S B O A T S F A L O H S X P
K H N F K G B P K E Z E Y U G
V E L L A C N T U K P F M J Z
U E D P W L I S R W R G T W D
L P L H Y D J W J T E P Y X F

PRAYER

...Pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. (Matthew 6:6b)

For God's Kingdom to come in the Maldives

Pray that the few Madivian Christians would be brave and courageous and rejoice in persecution. *(Philippians 1:20)*

For...

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HEROISM

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. (1 Corinthians 9:24)

John G. Paton

John Paton was happy to return to the Hebrides Islands. This time he went to a different island called Aniwa. He understood a lot of the people's ways there because he had lived on Tanna. As he lived with the Aniwans and continued to look for ways to share with them, God did an amazing thing through something that seemed simple. When John helped them dig a well for fresh water, the Aniwans said his Jehovah God made rain come out of the ground. This showed how John Paton's God was greater than any of their idols. Many people on the island of Aniwa gave up their gods and followed the true God. Since Jesus now controlled their lives, they didn't steal and kill. They prayed to God and helped each other. They sent missionaries to other islands and preached about Jesus. As the people on Aniwa became stronger and kept following Jesus, John decided it was time to travel again to tell what God had done on the island of Aniwa. He visited the islands from time to time to check on them and praised God that they were continuing to love and serve God and not go back to their old, sinful ways. Before he died, John Paton was blessed to see the Tannese and hundreds of other people on the Hebrides Islands become new people: Jesus people.

What do you think?

- God used a well to help the Aniwans come to know and trust Him. What is something simple and unexpected that you have seen God use to change people's lives?
- John was thankful that the islanders turned away from their old ways and followed God. Are there any "old" ways you have returned to? Talk to God about these things and ask Him to help you live only in His ways.
- The way the Aniwans lived showed that God had worked in their hearts. Does your life show that Jesus is in control of it?

What do you think we'll learn about next time?

READING

South Sea Island Rescue, Kay Walsh

Chapter 9: I Am Not Afraid!
Chapter 10: Wood Does Not Speak!

KNOWING

And this is eternal life, that they know You the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. (John 17:3)

Reading Questions

In coming before the Word of God, we must be fully surrendered to Him (John 7:17). We must be obedient to what God shows us as soon as we see it (James 1:22). We must be humble and bent before it (James 4:7). And we must go to it with much prayer (Psalms 119:36; 119:18; 86:11; 90:14).

As you do your assigned reading, be carefully considering these questions:

- What truths, examples, or warnings can be applied to my life?
- Does my life show these things?
- If not, what parts of my life need to change?
- What specific action will I take?

Day 1 – Mark 10:17-27

What did a man ask Jesus? (v. 17)
What commandments had this man kept? (vv. 19-20)
What might we learn about the man from the fact that he had obeyed the commandments?
Could obedience to these commandments give this man eternal life? (v. 21)

Day 2 – Mark 10:17-27

Jesus looked at the man and loved him.
What might this tell us about Jesus?
What did Jesus say the man needed to do? (v. 21)
What would the man have in heaven if he gave away his riches? (v. 21)
What did Jesus invite the man to do? (v. 21)

Day 3 – Mark 10:17-27

Was this man willing to give his whole life in order to follow God? (v. 22)
Did the man follow Jesus? (v. 22)
The story says the man went away. How did he feel when he left Jesus? (v. 22)
What did this man have? (v. 22)
What does it seem the man loved most?

Day 4 - Mark 10:28-31

What did Peter say he and the other disciples had left to follow Jesus? (v. 28)
In order to know and obey God, Jesus asks us to give Him our whole lives. Sometimes that means leaving things behind.
What might you be asked to leave for Jesus' sake and for the sake of the gospel? (v. 29)
Jesus loved the rich man. Do you realize that Jesus wants you to follow Him because He loves you?

Day 5 - Mark 10:28-31

Remember that Jesus loved the rich man. What did the man love most?
What do you love most?
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Are you willing to give your whole life to know and obey the One who loves you, or will you walk away from Jesus like the rich man?

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To receive a hundredfold means to receive one hundred times as much.
What is the reward for those who give up their lives to follow Jesus? (vv. 29-30)
The words "in this time" means in this life. What will you receive in this life if you give up these things to follow Jesus? (vv. 29-30)
The words "age to come" mean life after death.
In the age to come, what did Jesus promise for those who give their lives to follow Him? (v. 30)

Heroic *life*
Discipleship

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Groups: 1&2

heroes at home

SEMESTER 7

Our Sure Salvation

This workbook belongs to:

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Semester 7: Our Sure Salvation — Heroes at Home, Groups 1&2

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First Edition.

Fisher of Men

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...Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10:31)

Our Sure Salvation

Circle the ✓ if the statement is true. Circle the ✗ if the statement is not true.

✓ ✗ The fishermen had caught lots and lots of fish because they fished all night.

✓ ✗ Jesus did not tell Simon Peter and the other fishermen to throw the nets out and try again.

✓ ✗ When they obeyed Jesus, the fishermen caught so many fish that their boats started to sink.

✓ ✗ Simon Peter was full of pride and thought he was good enough all on his own to be with Jesus.

✓ ✗ Jesus told Simon Peter to not be afraid, to come be with Him and follow Him, and that He would make Simon Peter a fisher of men.

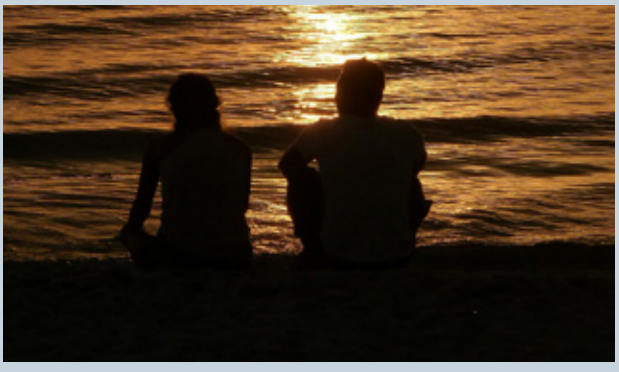
✓ ✗ Simon Peter and the other fishermen left everything to follow Jesus.

PRAYER

...Pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. (Matthew 6:6b)

For God's Kingdom to come in the Maldives

Pray that the few Maldivian Christians would be brave and courageous and rejoice in persecution. *(Philippians 1:20)*



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Color the picture of John Paton digging a well.

KNOWING

And this is eternal life, that they know You the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. (John 17:3)

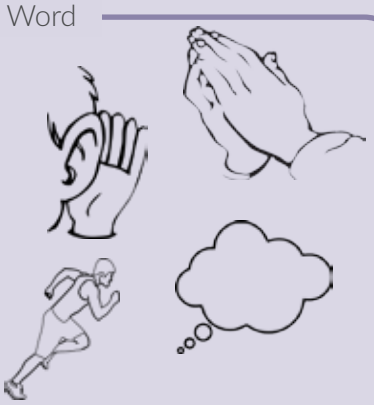
When you come to God's Word

Pray: Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law. (Psalm 119:18)

Listen: My son, give attention to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. (Proverbs 4:20)

Think: I will meditate on Your precepts, and contemplate Your ways. (Psalm 119:15)

Obey: But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. (James 1:22)



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