

Week 31

Day 1



Jehovah Rocks:

Help the poor and helpless to praise You. Please find a way to rescue Your children who are suffering.
(Psalm 74:21)

See It:

'Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from Your presence or take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will turn back to You.' (Psalm 51:10–13)

On It:

'To evangelize is to spread the Good News that Jesus Christ died for our sins and was raised from the dead according to the Scriptures, and that as the reigning Lord He now offers the forgiveness of sins and the liberating gift of the Holy Spirit to all who repent and believe... Evangelism itself is the proclamation of the historical, biblical Christ as Saviour and Lord, with a view to persuading people to come to Him personally and so be reconciled to God.' (SALVATION STORY: Salvationist Handbook of Doctrine, 1998, p136,137) When you are evangelizing, or spreading the good news of Jesus you need to be experiencing what we are telling others about, or else it is not witnessing, it is only teaching. So, if you are telling people Jesus can make people happy, He has to be making 'you' happy. Or if you say that He forgives people, you have to know that 'you' have been forgiven. David wrote this Psalm after sinning. He repented. He wanted God to forgive him and restore his joy. He knew then that he would be able to teach other sinners to repent. That is the example for us to follow. Teach about the things that God has done in YOUR life.

Live It:

One way to help you stay close to Jesus is to ask yourself some questions from time to time. The next few days, there will be some rewritten questions from the Test for Self-Examination that many soldiers use. Pray after each answer.

Do It:

This week we are making a book that explains the story of Jesus. Today get some paper ready and start thinking about how you would tell the story of Jesus.



In It:

Please help me to know three people You would like me to talk to this month about You. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit so that I will have the power to convince them of Your love.

Eat It:

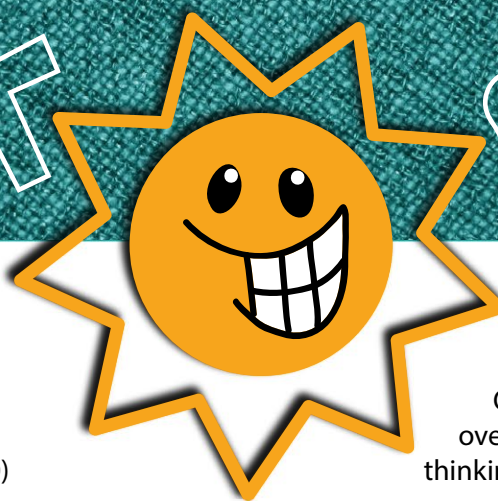
'And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.' (1 John 5:11-12)

Read It:

One-year Bible Plan: Read Isaiah 60-62 & John 1

Week 31

Day 2



Jehovah Rocks:

I love that You are not just a warm fuzzy God and that You get angry at injustice and sin. I love even more that You help us avoid doing the wrong things. (Psalm 76:10)

See It:

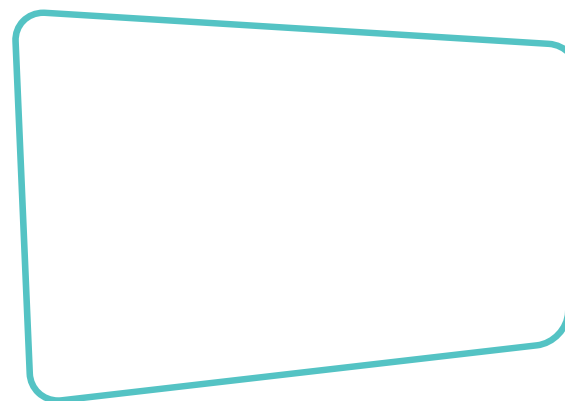
'If anyone is ashamed of Me and My words in this cheating and sinful generation, the Human Son will be ashamed of him when He comes with the holy angels in His Father's glory.' (Mark 8:38)

On It:

The Salvation Army way of doing evangelism comes from what we think we are good at. General William Booth said it in a really good way when he said: 'We are a salvation people - this is our specialty- getting saved, keeping saved, and then getting somebody else saved.' This is what we are all about. When we try to get people saved, we know we are doing it for a very good reason, and so we get very excited about evangelizing. We know that the gospel is true and so we want to make sure we stop anyone from heading to hell. William Booth said it like this: 'There are many ways to damnation but only one to salvation.' So, we don't stumble around and make excuses when we tell others about Jesus. We don't get all embarrassed and say, 'yeah, you could maybe believe in Jesus, if you sort of want to, but if not, that's cool because we could just play basketball, instead.' No! We are not embarrassed or sorry about Jesus or about His salvation or His rule that everyone needs to repent and believe. We are not ashamed of His cross or His instructions to love and forgive and show mercy. No! We are proud of Jesus and all He did for us and we want the entire world to share in the same good stuff that we have!

Live It: Test for Self-Examination

Q1: Is there one particular sin that I keep doing over and over again? Are there mean things that I have been saying or thinking about someone?



Do It:

Write about the first part of Jesus' life and put in some drawings.

In It:

Thank You, Jesus, that we are able to be forgiven because of You!

Eat It: 1 John 5:11-12.

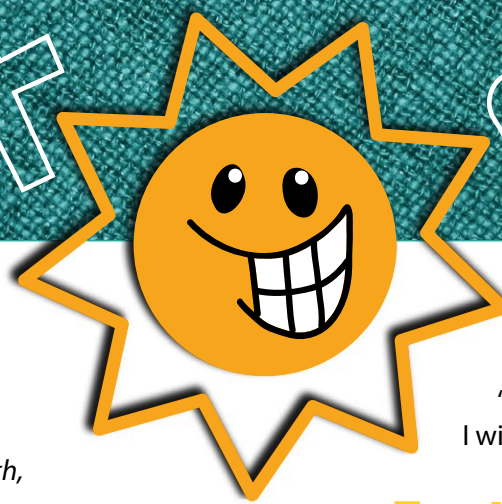
'God has given us eternal life.' Eternal life comes from God. It is not a matter of what we have done or may do in the future. We cannot buy it, or earn it, or scam our way into eternal life. God gives eternal life. Memorize this verse.

Read It:

One-year Bible Plan: Read Isaiah 63-64, Psalm 102, & John 2

Week 31

Day 3



Jehovah Rocks:

I will praise You, not just today, but tomorrow, not just tomorrow, but for the week, not just for the week but for the month, and the year, and the rest of my days on earth, and all of my days in Heaven! (Psalm 75:9)

See It:

'Salvation cannot be found in anyone else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among people by which we must be saved.' (Acts 4:12)

On It:

The name is JESUS! Hallelujah! Thank You, Jesus, for dying on the cross for our sins! We are not confused about who goes to Heaven and who doesn't. We know what we believe and know that it is the only way. Jesus is the only name. We are telling you this because probably in your class and possibly even in your kitchen there are people who think that they can get into Heaven by being a good person or by giving money to charity or by helping old people across the street or by staying out of prison or by following some false god. That does not work. Only Jesus can save. If we are to be true evangelists, we must be really sure about this fact.

Live It: Test for Self-Examination

Q2: Do I spend too much time doing things that don't really help me like watching too much TV or playing video games too long?

Do It:

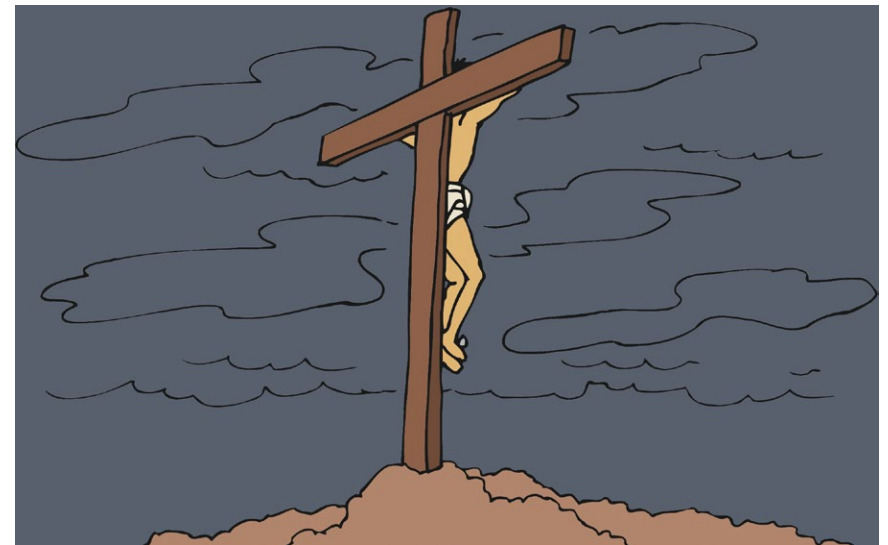
Write about some of Jesus' friends, and how they chose to follow Jesus.

In It:

'The world for God! The world for God! I give my heart! I will do my part!' (From the Songbook)

Eat It: 1 John 5:11-12.

'This life is in His Son.' God didn't just make up eternal life. He arranged for it by the crucifixion – Jesus died on the cross for our sins. Jesus made eternal life possible. There is not way to get saved apart from Jesus – no possible way. Is that starting to be clear to you now?

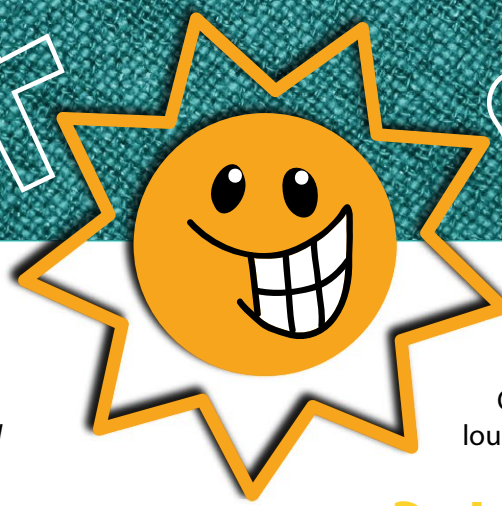


Read It:

One-year Bible Plan: Read Isaiah 65-66, Psalm 62, & John 3

Week 31

Day 4



Jehovah Rocks:

I am Your child! I thank You so much for helping me to know that You are my Shepherd. I will follow You and praise You forever. (Psalm 79:13)

See It:

'To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I know that I am not really under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those who are not Jews, and don't have the law, I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Jesus' law), so that I can win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.' (1 Corinthians 9:20)

On It:

The Salvation Army uses different weapons for the evangelistic war. Proclamation Evangelism - that's when you proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ (basically that God loves us; that we are sinners; that our sin separates us from God; that Jesus died on the cross for our sins; that we need to repent and believe to receive forgiveness and eternal life; that we follow Him); Presence Evangelism - some people figure that this is when we are around as Christians - salt and light - waving our fragrant aroma around (see 1 Corinthians 2 on that). Sure. But it is also when we call on God to show up with HIS presence in our midst and blow everyone away; Prayer Evangelism - that is when we pray that Holy Spirit convicts sinners of their guilt (John 16:8) and ask Jesus, in their presence, to show that He exists, that He cares, and that He has the power to help in their lives (for example, by healing them); Power Evangelism - This is an aggressive form of evangelism that calls on God to show His power in the lives of people who do not yet depend on Jesus by showing them prophecy, healing, signs and wonders, miracles... and more!

Live It: Test for Self-Examination

Q3: Do I think and feel things that I would NEVER say out loud to God?

Do It:

Write about some of the miracles that Jesus performed.



In It:

Holy Spirit inspire me to write the story of Jesus in a powerful way.

Eat It: 1 John 5:11-12

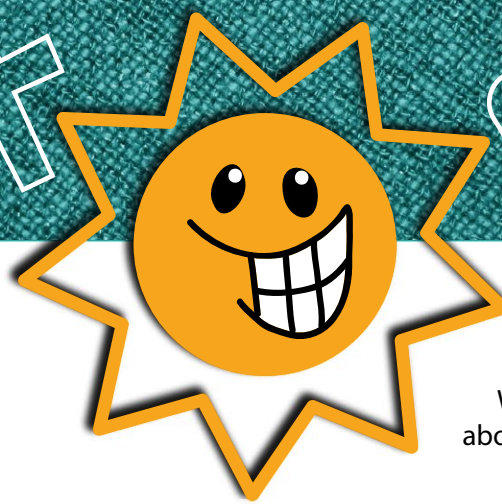
'He who has the Son has life.' Whoever has Jesus has eternal life. It is not a matter of Jesus PLUS anything. You don't need Jesus plus Junior Soldiers (though they help you fight for Jesus) or Jesus plus rules-following, or Jesus plus a certain education. It is Jesus. And everyone who has Jesus has eternal life.

Read It:

One-year Bible Plan: Read 2 Kings 21, 2 Chronicles 33, & John 4

Week 31

Day 5



Jehovah Rocks:

*Your plans are perfect and Your ways are the best.
Our plans will fall apart and not work eventually but
Your plans will last forever. (Psalm 33:11)*

See It:

'Preach the word. Be ready to serve God in good times and bad. Correct people's mistakes. Warn them. Cheer them up with words of hope. Be very patient as you do these things. Teach them carefully.' (2 Timothy 4:2)

On It:

'Oh, people say, you must be very careful, very judicious. You must not thrust religion down people's throats. Then, I say, you will never get it down. What! Am I to wait till the unconverted, godless man wants to be saved before I try to save him? He will never want to be saved till the death-rattle is in his throat.' (Catherine Booth, 1891, PAPERS ON AGGRESSIVE CHRISTIANITY. p13) As Salvationists we only preach the word - evangelize - twice a year. Well that doesn't seem like much! What are the two times? Easter and Christmas? No! They are when it is in season and when it is out of season (that means, all the time!). So, preach to people when they want to hear AND when they don't want to hear it. Catherine Booth tells us to evangelize hardcore all the time. Jesus is worth it. Now, it doesn't mean you don't treat people nicely, or talk to them respectfully. You might ask if you could just have three minutes to tell them the Gospel. But the important thing is, that you get a chance to speak about Jesus. People don't always want what they need. Just remember how much you used to refuse to wear a coat when you were little! It got cold, didn't it?!

Live It: Test for Self-Examination

Q4: Do I do and say (or even think) mean things about others with friends just so I can look cooler and fit in with them?

Do It:

Write about Jesus' death, and why He had to die, and write about Jesus' resurrection and what it means for us.



In It:

Lord, please anoint the story of Jesus I am writing so that all who read it are able to hear directly from You and will answer when You call.

Eat It: 1 John 5:11-12.

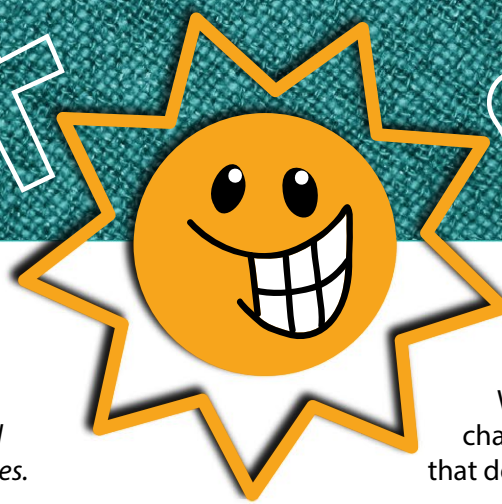
'He who does not have the Son of God does not have life! So, it doesn't matter what you DO have if you don't have Jesus. You might be rich or have a huge house or go on fantastic vacations or have a brilliant job or a super car or a wonderful family or an amazing set of friends. If you have ALL of these things but don't have Jesus, you don't have eternal life. Memorize this verse.

Read It:

One-year Bible Plan: Read Nahum 1-3 & John 5

Week 31

Day 6



Jehovah Rocks:

*I will tell my children about how wonderful You are.
I will teach them how to sing praises to Your name. I will
teach them about Your power and Your amazing miracles.
(Psalm 78:4)*

Do It:

Write about what Jesus means to you and how He has changed your life. On the final page, choose a memory verse that describes how you can be saved by Jesus.

See It:

'Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leads no regrets.' (2 Corinthians 7:10)

On It:

When it comes to evangelizing, The Salvation Army has never been good at staying quiet. General William Booth provides a reason for such aggressive evangelizing: 'Shake them up. Startle them with apparitions of death, and judgements, and devils, and hell. What matters taste and propriety to you? The man, the crowd you speak to are GOING TO HELL - they are almost there already!' We've not been afraid to preach hell either. Sometimes people start to think about God when they begin to regret sin, or start to think about loving God, or they get scared about hell! The important thing is that people understand how dangerous it is to NOT have Jesus in their life. 'Nothing moves the people like the terrific. They must have hell-fire, or they will not move.' (William Booth, in Norman Murdoch, ORIGINS OF THE SALVATION ARMY, p29) Basically, William is saying that if people realized they were going to have a really bad eternity without Jesus, they might realize why you are wanting to talk to them about Him. It's like when someone accidentally leaves their zipper down on their pants. It's kind of embarrassing to tell them, but they would rather you did that, then, than spending the whole day showing their underpants to every classmate and her dog!

Live It: Test for Self-Examination

Q5: Do I get so angry that I say or do things that would make Jesus sad?



In It:

Thank You, Yahweh, that I will not ever be an orphan as I know that You are my Father in Heaven.

Eat It: 1 John 5:11-12

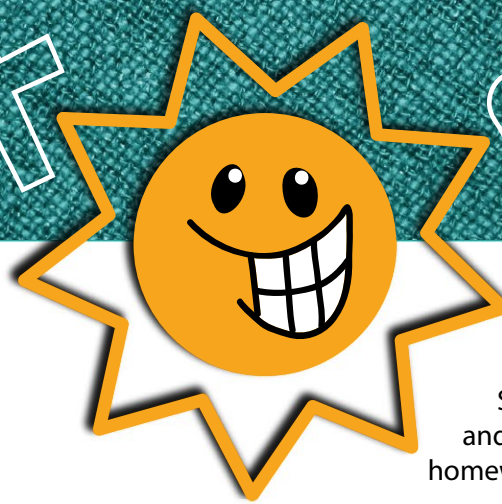
This is a great verse because it sums everything up very clearly. It draws a line down the middle of the paper so that people can see what side they are on – the side without Jesus and without eternal life, or the side with Jesus and with eternal life. Then you can tell them how to get from the 'without' side to the 'with' side.

Read It:

One-year Bible Plan: Read 2 Kings 22, 2 Chronicles 34, & John 6

Week 31

Day 7



Jehovah Rocks:

It is right for people to worship and respect You. You are worthy of everyone's obedience and faith. (Psalm 19:9)

See It:

'We plead with you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled with God.'
(2 Corinthians 5:21)

On It:

The bottom line is that Salvationists have always been ready and willing to convince people to follow Jesus. This sometimes offends people. No one likes to be told they are going to hell. However, we join Paul in being labelled 'a real bad apple', 'a pest', or 'a troublemaker' (see Acts 24:5). It is the only good reason for getting into trouble! So, it turns out that Salvationists are troublemakers... and that's okay! "While we have been standing UPON OUR DIGNITY- WHOLE GENERATIONS HAVE GONE TO HELL." (Catherine Booth) Just think if you compare going to hell for eternity versus a few minutes of being a little bit offensive, you are doing okay. As the Salvation Story definition describes, evangelism is, by nature, persuasive. That means that we are trying to get people from other there, to over here. We are trying to change their mind about something, and that is not that easy to do. Now remember, we don't have to be rude for the sake of it! You should always try to convince somebody of Jesus in the most loving way possible. But if that doesn't work and they won't listen to you lovingly, then we 'plead' which means beg them to come to be 'reconciled with God'.

Live It: Test for Self-Examination

Q6: Am I doing enough to help others get saved?

Do It:

Show someone who doesn't know Jesus your book, and then maybe hand it into your teacher as some extra homework you would like them to look at.

In It:

Lord, please direct my steps so that I show this book to the right person today.



Eat It:

'And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.' (1 John 5:11-12) Memorize this verse and tell five friends.

Read It:

One-year Bible Plan: Read 2 Kings 23, 2 Chronicles 35, & John 7