

# "That You May Believe"

## Gospel of John

### Week 8

**Main Idea – The world needs a Savior. Jesus is the Savior of the world.**

The goal of this week's lesson is to help the children understand that the world needs a Savior. We begin with Psalm 67, where the psalmist desires to see the whole world come to know the personal, saving power of the Lord. But this isn't just the desire of the psalmist, it is also a promise — people all over the world will fear the Lord. In order for that to happen, the world needs a Savior. This week's lesson culminates in the Person of the Lord Jesus, who is the Savior of the world. Though Jesus was sent to the Jews, He first announces Himself as the Messiah to a Samaritan woman. Even though the Samaritans were enemies of the Jews, in her joy, the woman runs to tell the whole town about who Jesus was and they come to believe by faith that He is indeed the Savior of the world.

*Sunday school* teachers should emphasize the first half of the main idea in an interactive way for **20 minutes**, and explain the second half clearly without much interaction as a conclusion for **5 minutes**. *Children's church* teachers should explain the first half without much interaction for **5 minutes** as an introduction and emphasize the second half in an interactive way for **20 minutes**.

## Sunday School — Psalm 67

### Preparation

Materials:

- "What does it need?"
- Two levels of word searches to emphasize main point.
- Psalm 67 coloring page

Set-up:

- Print out the answers for "What does it need?" and use magnets to have them on the whiteboard face down so that they cannot be read by the children.

### Bible Verse (5-10 minutes)

John 3:16 (ESV) – "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

Memorization — Have the students repeat the Bible verse with hand motions 2-3 times.

Song — Have the students sing “For God So Loved The World” (SFW, ESV) at least once.

NOTE — Start the Bible Verse section at the beginning without waiting for students who may arrive late. This will preserve the allotted times for other sections.

## Lesson (20-25 minutes)

Main Idea – The world needs a Savior.

Pray

### Introduction (5 minutes)

Today, we are going to begin with a game — “What’s it need?” In this game, I will show you pictures, and by raising your hand, you will tell me what you think the item in the picture needs most.

Pictured Item	What it needs:	What happens if it doesn’t get what it needs
Baby	Milk!	It can die!
Dog	Help!	It won’t be able to get the ball
Cookie Monster	Cookies!	He will go crazy!
House on Fire	Extinguished!	It will burn to the ground!
Person having trouble swimming	Lifeguard!	They will drown!
Man running from a bull	To run!	He will get injured or killed!
Nations of the world	Just show the picture, don’t say immediately what it needs or what will happen if it doesn’t get what it needs. Come back to it at the end.	

What do all of these items have in common? They are in big trouble if their needs are not met. Today, we are going to consider another picture (show them the nations of the world) and learn from Psalm 67 to see what their greatest need is.

### Body (15 minutes)

Main Point — The world needs a Savior. In the same way that a baby needs milk, and a drowning person needs a lifeguard, people all over the world are in need of salvation.

**Why are people all over the world in need of salvation?** They have sin! Illustration — You can draw a black heart on the board, or print one out to give the children a picture of the effects of sin in the lives of people.

**What are some of the sins that you struggle with (write on board)?** Because mankind is sinful, they struggle with these same sins.

The first Psalm opens up with a warning about what happens to those who walk sinfully before God — “The Lord watches over the path of the godly, but the path of the wicked leads to destruction (Psalm 1:6, NLT).” People who remain in their sin will be destroyed by the Lord. **What are we to do?**

This brings us to Psalm 67. NOTE — For more engagement, you can show this video on youtube (Psalm 67) to the kids and have them follow along as they read the Scripture. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=paNle0EsCYQ>

1. The problem — Read Psalm 67:1-2

**What does the Psalmist pray would happen for the world?** That God’s saving power would be known among people everywhere! This reveals to us that there are people everywhere who don’t know God’s saving ways, they don’t know His saving power. And if you don’t know God’s saving power, that is a huge problem! Which leads us to the second part of Psalm 67

2. The prayer — In response to the reality that there are people everywhere who don’t know God’s saving power, the psalmist prays to God

Read Psalm 67:3-6 — Why does the psalmist pray that people would come to know God’s saving power?

- First, when people know God’s saving power, they are able to praise God! — As a person who loves God, the psalmist prays that everyone would come to know God’s power so that they could praise God! To worship Him for who He is!
- Second, when people know God’s saving power, they experience His goodness — When the world comes to know God, they will sing for joy because of the Lord’s justice as He rules over the world. In the world, people have terrible rulers. They oppress people, take advantage of people, wage war against people, and they do it all with sin living in their hearts. But the Lord is holy, without sin, and therefore He is able to rule the world with perfect justice, protecting all who belong to Him.
- Third, when people know God’s saving power, He blesses their labors — In the garden, the Lord commanded Adam and Eve to have dominion over the earth. After they sinned, God cursed the earth and work became challenging because of sin. But the good news is that even in a sinful world, God is able to bless the work of His people’s hands, because He is the ruler over the creation.

These are amazing benefits. The people around the world could never do these things without knowing God’s saving power. But that leaves us with a question. Will God answer the psalmist’s prayer? Will His saving power one day be known among all peoples? That brings us to the final point of our lesson.

3. The promise — The psalmist, writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, makes a bold claim!

Read Psalm 67:7 — The psalmist reveals that God will indeed cause people all over the world to fear Him: He will cause them to know His saving power, He will cause those people to praise Him, and He will bless them in their labors. Praise God for His great mercy! Except there is one final question that needs to be answered.

How is this going to happen? How will God cause people from all over the world to fear Him and know His saving power?

### **Conclusion (5 minutes)**

Psalm 67 teaches us that the world needs a Savior. Someone who can rescue them from sin and cause them to know the saving power of God. Today, we know that the Savior has a name — Jesus. God’s promise to make His saving power known throughout the world is accomplished through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ — who came as the Savior of the world.

Come to the Savior of the world — Only through Jesus can you know God’s saving power. Remember our Scripture verse (John 3:16). If you believe in the Savior, you will be blessed by Him, and He will watch over your way. If you refuse to come to the Savior of the world, you will not come to know God’s saving power and you will be destined to perish.

Pray

### **Lesson Activities (20-25 minutes)**

## **Children’s Church — John 4:1-42**

### **Preparation**

Materials:

- What’s it need?
- Two levels of word searches to emphasize main point.
- Woman at the well coloring page

Set-up:

- Print out the answers for “What does it need?” and use magnets to have them on the whiteboard face down so that they cannot be read by the children.

### **Bible Verse (5-10 minutes)**

John 3:16 (ESV) – “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

Memorization — Have the students repeat the Bible verse with hand motions 2-3 times.

Song — Have the students sing “For God So Loved The World” (SFW, ESV) at least once.

NOTE — Start the Bible Verse section at the beginning without waiting for students who may arrive late. This will preserve the allotted times for other sections.

### **Lesson (20-25 minutes)**

## Main Idea – Jesus is the **Savior** of the **world**.

Pray

### Introduction (5 minutes)

This morning in Sunday school, we learned from Psalm 67 that the world is in need of a Savior. We saw that there is bad news for the world — they have sinned against God and need to know His saving power in order to live! And while the world’s rebellion against God is abundant, the psalmist has hope in the grace of God. One day, God will cause His saving power to be known throughout the world, and many will come to fear the Lord and worship Him! But before God’s saving power could be known throughout the world, something else needed to happen. That’s what we’ll be studying today.

But first, we will begin with a game (some of you might be familiar with it from SS) — “What’s It Need?” In this game, I will show you pictures, and by standing up quietly, I will call on someone to tell me what you think the item in the picture needs most.

Pictured Item	What it needs:	What happens if it doesn’t get what it needs
Empty gas tank	Gas!	Car won’t run
Dying plant	Water!	Plant will die
Dead iPad	Power!	Can’t use it
Overflowing dumpster	Emptied!	It will cause more pollution
Overflowing dishes	Cleaned!	There will be no dishes left to use
Dirty laundry	Washed!	There will be no clothes left to wear
Samaritan woman	Don’t immediately reveal what the woman needs (living water and a Savior who can provide it) or what will happen if she doesn’t get it (spiritual death).	

Today, we are going to learn from John 4 about people who had a great need. Let’s take a look at the passage now.

### Body (15 minutes)

In order for God’s saving power to be known throughout the world, the nations needed a Savior to bring it to them. Thankfully, God’s promise to make His saving power known included sending a Savior to the world!

Main Point — Jesus is the Savior of the world.

Let’s look to the passage to see how Jesus would bring good news of eternal life to a world that was lost in darkness. And we’ll start with the setting of today’s passage:

NOTE — If you want more engagement, here is a video that you can show that illustrates the Bible passage for today — <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QszHeIUsbTQ>

1. Samaria — Read John 4:1-10

Our story begins in Samaria. Who were the Samaritans? They were enemies of the Jews. The Jews hated Samaritans because they worshipped God but also worshipped false gods. They were a polluted people, considered to be half-breeds, dirty, and less than human.

The reality that this story begins in Samaria is very interesting. Jesus was the Messiah of the Jews, and He was sent to the Jews first. If Jesus had told the Jews that He wasn't just the Messiah of Israel, but of all the world — including Samaritans — they would have freaked out! Their hatred of Samaritans — men and women made in the image of God — shows they do not understand fully what it means that Jesus is the Messiah, the Savior of the world.

Now, while the disciples are getting food, Jesus has a conversation with a Samaritan woman. In this time, because of the sin of humanity, women were not treated well. So the fact that she is a Samaritan and a woman means she is considered the lowest type of human that you could be. If there was ever someone who was in need of salvation, it was her. In fact, it surprises her when a Jewish man speaks to her.

What does Jesus say to the woman? He asks her for a drink! This surprises the woman, for a Jewish man would never ask a Samaritan woman for anything. “Why are you asking me for a drink?”

After the woman's question, Jesus reveals that it is actually the woman who has a great need that only Jesus can offer. What does the woman need? She needs living water! Water that gives true life, spiritual life. Which brings us to our next point.

## 2. Spirit — Read John 4:19-26

After a conversation about water, and the woman's past relationships, she asks Jesus a question about worship. “Where should we worship?” Often times people thought worship was more about the *place* of worship and less about the *person* being worshipped. But Jesus is here to change those perceptions.

Where does Jesus say that a person should worship? In spirit and truth. Now that Jesus has arrived, it is not the physical buildings that are most important for worship, but the heart of the person who is worshipping.

Illustration — It's like when your parents ask you to share with your sibling. When you share with your sibling with a bad attitude, does that make your parents happy? No! It isn't the external action that is most important, but the attitude of the heart that makes them happy.

What do we learn about God the Father that helps us understand why the heart is most important in our worship? The Father is Spirit! Therefore, you must worship with a heart that is pleasing in His sight, not just by doing religious things.

After hearing more about the Father, the woman says that she is going to wait for the Messiah to come and explain to her more about how to worship. And it is at this point that Jesus reveals for the first time in John's gospel that He is the Messiah. The One that this woman was waiting for, the One who could truly give her life, was standing before her.

In her joy, she runs and tells everyone in the town about what just happened to her. Come see this man, it is possible that He is the Messiah? The Savior?

### 3. Savior — Read John 4:39-42

What happened after the woman told the people about Jesus? It says they believed her word. But after spending two more days with Jesus — seeing Him with their own eyes, hearing Him with their own ears — something changes. They no longer believe only because of what the woman had said, but what they themselves had experienced by being around Jesus. As a result, many of them believed that Jesus was the Messiah — the Savior of the world.

#### **Conclusion (5 minutes)**

Jesus came as the Jewish Messiah, but that did not mean that He came only to save the Jews. Jesus came to be the Savior of the world. This is great news! The Samaritans who believed in Jesus were unlikely candidates for salvation — their worship was polluted, they were enemies of God's chosen people — and yet, in God's great mercy, He saves the Samaritans from their sin by recognizing their need for a Savior and that Jesus is that Savior.

We need to hear this as well. Most, if not all of us, are not Jews — we are Gentiles. We are not members of God's chosen nation Israel. But because God is gracious, Jesus came to be the Savior of the world! That is why people like us — who are unlikely candidates for salvation — can be saved from our sins by believing in Jesus.

Believe in Jesus, the Savior of the world. There is salvation in no one else. If you believe in Jesus, you will be saved — just as it says in our Bible verse for the month (you can repeat here if needed). But if you don't believe in Jesus, you will perish!

Pray

#### **Lesson Activities (20-25 minutes)**