Victory in Christ (The Amazing Race)

Lesson 5: The Ultimate Prize

**Lessons in this series:** [1](http://www.teensundayschool.com/156/lesson/christian-partnership.php) [2](http://www.teensundayschool.com/163/lesson/having-the-right-attitude.php) [3](http://www.teensundayschool.com/165/lesson/finding-true-confidence.php) [4](http://www.teensundayschool.com/169/lesson/pressing-on.php) **5**

LESSON OBJECTIVES

Goals

1. To understand that the race most run has nothing at the finish line
2. To understand that The Amazing Race God has given us has Him at the finish line
3. To give the students an opportunity for salvation should they choose it

Topics

Born Again, Christianity, Eternal Life, Faith, Grace, Repentance, Salvation, Saved

Scripture Memorization

Philippians 3:20

OPENING PRAYER (5 to 10 minutes)

GROUP BUILDING (20 minutes)

**Whose Voice Will You Follow? (Game)**

Whose Voice Will You Follow?

In this unforgettable game, following the wrong voice can lead to a place you don't want to be. It is important to listen for and follow the voice of the one who leads to salvation.

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| Topics:Demons, Choices, Deception, Discernment, Eternal Life, Evil, Heaven, Listening, SalvationMaterials:Blindfolds for everyone in the classA large roomTwo smaller nearby rooms or enclosed areasWhistle or loud buzzerDuration:Approximately 20 minutes |  open door |

What you will do:

In this game, “demons” will try to lead students to “hell”, while “angels” will try to lead them to "Heaven.” Students must choose which voice to follow without knowing the voice’s real identity.

First, find about six helpers, adults or trusted members of your class. You need fewer helpers for a small class, more for a large class. Ratio should be about one helper for every four or five students. The helpers will play the roles of either “angels” or “demons”, and informed of their role without the other students knowing.

Arrange the larger room by moving chairs and tables against the walls so you have plenty of room in the middle. If possible, choose a room where turning off the lights will create near total darkness.

Designate two smaller rooms or sectioned off areas to be either “Heaven” or “hell”.

Helpers who are “angels” will try to lead students to “Heaven”, and those who are “demons” will try to lead students to “hell”. After leading someone, helpers should go back to the large room and try to lead anyone else who may be still there until hearing the signal marking the end of the game.

Demons can lie all they want, even make themselves sound like angels from God, anything to entice the students to go with them. They can even pull or take the students hand to guide them to “hell”. Once in hell, students must keep their blindfold on, and kneel down like in a tornado drill.

Angels are only allowed to say “come with me, I am from Heaven”, or “Jesus loves you”. They cannot touch the students or say any lie. They can only guide the students by voice to “Heaven.” Once in Heaven, students can take off their blindfold, and mingle with each other.

The Game:

When everyone has arrived, blindfold each student, except the “angels” and “demons” and lead them to the center of the room.

Explain that everyone is playing their own human self, but also around them are some “demons” and some “angels”. The “demons” and “angels” will approach them, and try to get them to follow. Students must use their own instincts to decide to follow or not.

Everyone can wander around, stand, or sit, but must be careful not to stumble or get hurt. Also, everyone must not say anything. (Make sure you have ample supervision.)

When ready, turn off the lights and blow the whistle to signal the start of the game. After about ten minutes, blow the whistle again to signal the end. At this time, any student who refused to go, and is still in the middle of the large room is escorted to hell.

 **Discussion Questions:**1. How many of you ended up in Heaven? How many in hell?
2. What emotions did you feel when you found out where you ended up?
3. What happened that caused you to end up where you did?
4. We are involved in a very real struggle, what can we do to avoid following the wrong voice?

GETTING STARTED (2 minutes)

The game we just experienced shows us how we are involved in a very real struggle. The Amazing Race will end someday, and you will live eternally in one of two places. The purpose is not to scare you or to be too sensational. It is just a fact. Today, we want to understand where the Bible says you belong: in Heaven. But there is a hell for people who don’t embrace Jesus as their Savior.

DIGGING IN (25 minutes)

**Read Philippians 3:17-21**

**Discussion Questions:**1. Paul lays out two different types of people. Do you recognize them?

(The class may describe them in different ways, and that's fine. After a few responses, share the following: Those whose **Destiny is Destruction** and those whose **Citizenship is in Heaven**

Here is the bottom line. If you live for this world (selfishly, seeking after power and money, instant gratification, etc.) your end will be in destruction. Every day people die and go to hell. They die without knowing about Jesus, or if they do know about Him, they ignore Him. Instead, they live with their own wants as their goal. As Paul writes, their glory winds up being their shame. However, then Paul shares some good news. He says that our citizenship (the place we belong) is in Heaven, and we await a Savior from there.

2. Knowing our citizenship is in Heaven, how should we live out our life on earth? *(Allow for discussion.)*
3. What does the Scripture say will happen to us if we know Jesus when He returns (see verse 21)?

We just played a mock salvation game, and some of you ended up in hell. Today, we want to see what the Bible says about how to know Jesus so that in the real life Amazing Race that we are all running, no one wanders in darkness.  We will look at four facts.

**FACT #1: You Need Help!**
**Read Romans 3:23** (Have everyone locate this verse in their Bibles and read together.)

**Discussion Questions:**1. What does this verse tell us about our relationship with God? *(We are separated from Him.)*
2. What does falling short of the Glory of God mean? *(From our own effort, we have failed.)*

When the Bible says we’ve sinned, it means that we have separation between us and God. Without being close to God, we can’t be saved. We need help! Without a way to God, we will always be separated from Him, even eternally in hell.

**FACT #2: It’s Not What You Know, It’s Whom You Know**
**Read Ephesians 2:8, John 3:16** (Again have everyone locate these verses and read together.)

**Discussion Questions:**
1. What gift is mentioned here? *(Salvation.)*
2. How is a person saved? *(Allow for discussion.)*

You don’t have to have the Bible memorized to get to God. All you have to do is be willing to get to know Jesus. Salvation is a gift from God that He offers to us no matter who we are. Know that today God is saying to you, “I love you. I want you to be close to Me.”

**FACT #3: Salvation Is A Gift, But You Have To Open It**

**Read Acts 2:38; Romans 6: 3,4**(Have everyone locate these verses and read together.)

**Discussion Questions?**1. What two things does Peter say we must do to get God's free gift? *(Repent and be baptized in Jesus' name.)*2. Why is that important?

You wouldn’t receive a Christmas gift on Christmas morning and leave it wrapped under the tree for months and months. You open it! Gifts are an expression of love to us, and we gladly receive them. God’s gift of salvation needs to be opened, and the Bible tells us how.

**FACT #4: Jesus Takes You As You Are; Then He Takes You Where You’ve Never Been**

**Read Acts 3:19; Luke 5:10b-11)**(Have everyone locate these verses and read together.)

**Discussion Questions:**1. Besides the Gift offered by God, what else does repentance produce? *(A new start.)*
2. What does it mean to leave everything to follow Jesus?*(Allow for discussion.)*

God loves you as you are, but He also wants you to become more and more like His Son, Jesus. That means change. That means repentance. Repentance means allowing God to change the way you are; to decide to follow Him every single day and obey what He says. It also means that the Christian life is, indeed, an Amazing Race. It’s an adventure, lived day in and day out with Jesus leading the way. Who knows where you’ll end up?

MAKING IT REAL (15 minutes)

Today’s challenge is simple. The questions are not difficult to understand, but are very important.
• Do you accept Jesus for who He is?
• Are you willing to change your life?
• Are you willing to surrender to Him and accept His gift of eternal life?

These questions cannot be answered for you. Your parents can’t answer them and neither can your friends. But I believe through prayer and seeking God’s Word, you can be convinced of the Truth.

I want you to pray about this, and ask God to make His wishes known to you. Consider how close you are to Jesus, and whether or not you have a decision to make.

Be available and let the students know that if they have any questions about anything discussed during the past few weeks, especially about what it means to follow Jesus, to come and talk further with you. You may also want to have other mature Christians available to answer the questions the students might have about salvation.

CLOSING PRAYER (2 minutes)