

BIBLE ADVENTURE 4:
SALVATION - If God Loves Us All, Why Aren't We Born Saved?
created by: Lady Violet



Romans 3:23 . . .for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Deuteronomy 6:5-6 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.

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Discovery Treasures:

The BIG question: So if God loves us, why aren't we born saved? Great question, and great news, the answer is simple! Two of our memory verses hold answers. Romans 3:23 holds one answer. And Hebrews 11:6 holds another.

It's obvious from these two scriptures that God wants no part of sin. But guess what. . .we all make mistakes, we all do and/or say wrong things. But the good news is, this doesn't have to separate us from God or send us to eternal torment. God has given us redemption through salvation; that's why your love for Jesus is so important.

REDEMPTION: The action of saving or being saved from sin, error, or evil.
The action of regaining or gaining possession of something
in exchange for payment, or clearing a debt.

Have you ever had that “warm feeling” of love in your heart, but maybe didn't understand why? If you've not experienced the love *of* and the love *for* God, you may not recognize it at first. But even if you have not accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior yet, that unexplained “warm feeling” of love in your heart is the God nudging you to come to Him. Why? Because you are His creation. And if you yield to that “warm feeling” of love for God, the next thing you know you'll be asking Jesus into your heart, to be your Lord and savior, and to forgive your sins. And guess what? When you say those things out loud in front of your family or friends. . .BOOM! You'll be saved - you will have believed, received, and achieved salvation!

Always remember; your love for God will lead you to salvation. And your love for God is at the mercy of your own free will. Galatians 5:13 *You, my brothers and sisters, were called*

to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.

We are born with free will. God gave us that, because He wants us to grow and come to Him on our own. In addition to God not digging sin in any way, there's another factor to consider. We know that God loves everyone, and wants everyone to be in Heaven for eternity. But He doesn't want to *make* anyone be in Heaven against their will. Why? Because, just like you and me, we want our friends and family to genuinely love us. We don't want to spend time with friends and family who we force to love us. God wants those who truly love Him on their own accord. Check out 2 Peter 3:9 *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is long-suffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

One thing to keep in mind is that God gives everyone a chance to come to Him. An example of this is found in the story of Noah's Ark, Genesis 6:5-14. God found favor with Noah because Noah walked faithfully with God. Other people had been given the same chance, but did not take it.

But what about people who might pass away who have truly never heard the gospel? Let me say this, there's a big difference between never hearing the gospel, and rejecting it.

Salvation is a gift. Salvation is open for all. Salvation is filled with love.

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SALVATION ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES:

Memorize Romans 3:23, Hebrews 11:6, and Deuteronomy 6:5-6

If you've experienced God's love in any way write about it below.

If you don't think you've experienced God's love, it's nothing to feel ashamed about or afraid. But if you'd like to feel it here's something you can do. Write below how you would like for God to show you His love, then read it out loud starting with, "Dear God, Please show me how You love me by ____"

FAMILY & FRIENDS ACTIVITY:

Have mom or dad grab 2 sheets of red construction paper, scissors, and a marker. Fold the construction paper in half and along the fold cut out the shape of half a heart. Unfold the paper cutouts and you should have 2 full size hearts. Using the marker, at the top on the first heart write the words "I LOVE. . ." Then beneath those words write the names of the people that YOU love. On the second heart, at the top, write the words "WHO LOVES ME?" Then write the names of the people you know that love you. Be sure to include JESUS on this heart! When you're done, put them in a place that you see many times a day to remind you just how much YOU love, and how much you ARE loved!

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TIME TO TALK TO GOD:

Say the following prayer out loud to God. He will listen...I guarantee!

PRAYER: Dear God, Thank You for loving me even before I knew You did. I now understand better why you gave us free will. I now understand why you want us to love you by our own choice. Help me to see more and more, everyday, just how much You love me. Lead me to people who need to hear the gospel, so that I may love them and share salvation with them. Father forgive me as I forgive others. I love your Son Jesus, and I am thankful that He loves me, and that through Him, You have forgiven me. In Jesus's name, Amen.