

BIBLE ADVENTURE 1:
SALVATION - Why do I need Jesus?
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John 8:12 "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life"

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Discovery Treasures:

Sometimes we hear the term of being saved, or attaining salvation. We may know a little bit about the fact that salvation has something to do with a man named Jesus, a cross, and then something about going to Heaven. It can get jumbled up, but not to worry, salvation is simple. It's all about a change of heart.

In my Salvation Bible Adventure series, I am going to answer some of the most commonly asked questions regarding salvation. You'll discover treasures that will help you understand the simplicity and benefits of becoming a follower and believer of Jesus. It's not hard. . .it's life saving!

Let's get started by digging for treasures within this Adventure's scripture reference, John 8:12. Have you ever asked yourself, "Why do I need Jesus?" If so, you're not alone. The truth is, you need Jesus for so many reasons...good reasons! One of the most important reasons though, is for your eternal well being which is a major benefit. Salvation allows you to gain access to God, our Creator, who promises us the gift of eternal life, in Heaven, with Him.

The definition of salvation let's us in on a big secret regarding our future.

SALVATION: Preservation or deliverance from harm, ruin, and loss

What can fuel you to want salvation? A realization that you can't go it alone in this life is one of the hottest fuels that can drive you to want salvation. Another top fuel is realizing your ways are not working. And yet another fast burning fuel is trying to fill a void in your life that just doesn't seem to get filled with ANYTHING you try.

The scripture for this Adventure, John 8:12, talks in a parable referring to darkness as life without Jesus, and a life of light which is life with Jesus.

Let's break it down a bit farther. Are you afraid of the dark? If you answered yes, according to John 8:12, you don't have to be afraid if you have Jesus. Why? Because if you have Jesus in your life, He is light. And we all know that light douses darkness and instantly takes our fear of the darkness away.

Think about those times you've wakened up in the middle of the night and fear has tried to get the best of you. You call out for mom or dad, or an older brother or sister. They come "to your rescue" by, first thing, turning a light on. What happens when they turn that light on and you can see them and see that there is nothing out of the ordinary in your room? You instantly feel relieved. You instantly feel safe and realize that you don't have to be afraid.

Life with Jesus is just like that! When things get "dark" He's our light and takes our fear away. Fear is a major contender to steering us away from Jesus. Did you know that there are 365 days in a year? And did you know that "Fear *NOT*" is mentioned 365 times in the Bible? 1 Timothy 1:7 reads "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of love, power, and of a sound mind." It's so cool to know that God *did not give us a spirit of fear, AND that He has given us a scripture for every day to conquer fear!*

Here's another treasure. . .if you are living a life in the light with Jesus now on earth, imagine an eternity filled with life in the perfect light of Heaven, where there is no darkness, and no fear. Grab hold of this. . .darkness and fear do not exist in Heaven - WOOHOO!

I want to encourage you by telling you that because of Jesus, my fear of being in the dark here on earth has disappeared. Plus I find hope in God's promise of salvation bringing me an eternal life in Heaven, with Him, where there is no darkness!

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SALVATION ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES:

Memorize John 8:12

List below some of the fears you have.

Share below how you think having Jesus in your life would help you conquer those fears.

What are some of your favorite treasures regarding salvation? (i.e. Someday when my work for Jesus is done here on earth I will get to live in Heaven, building a relationship with Jesus,

there will be no more fear, etc.)

FAMILY & FRIENDS ACTIVITY:

Gather the whole family together. Have mom and/or dad get each of you a flashlight (including ones for them). Everyone head into a closet and shut the door. Turn the closet light off so it becomes dark. Without turning them on, each of you put a flashlight under your shirt where your heart is. Now take turns asking Jesus to come into your heart. When you say that, turn your flashlight on, then the next person do the same. Do this until all of you have turned on your flashlights. Watch the light grow and feel the fear of the darkness dwindle with each "heart that is changed" from darkness to light.

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TIME TO TALK TO GOD:

As a family, or with your friends, join hands and say the following prayer out loud to God. He will listen...I guarantee!

PRAYER: Dear God, I want to sincerely ask Jesus to come into my heart. I want to change my state of darkness to light. I want to leave the sin of darkness and come into the forgiven light of Jesus. I believe with all my heart that Jesus is Your Son. I believe He died for me on the cross, bearing all of my sins, conquering death, and rising from the grave. I believe that He is alive in Heaven. Please forgive me for my sins. I promise to turn from the darkness and do better. Thank you for your gift of salvation, God. Amen!