

BIBLE ADVENTURE 6:

SALVATION - Even with All I've Done, Will God Still Forgive Me?

created by: Lady Violet



Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

1 John 2:2 He [*Jesus*] is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

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Discovery Treasures:

Have you ever thought to yourself, “Will God still forgive me, even with all that I've done wrong?” This is a fantastic and very credible question. And the good news is, the answer is a resounding YES. . .if you have repented, asked forgiveness of your sins and accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, if you love God with all your heart, and if you forgive those who you believe have wronged you in any way, just as Jesus forgave you.

It tells us in Matthew 22:37-38 that God wants us to (agape) love Him with all our heart, soul, and mind. And it also tells us that this is the great and first commandment. Matthew 22:37-38 reads, *Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment.”*

There are two words in this scripture that stick out: LOVE and THE

The first word is **(agape) LOVE**. (Agape) LOVE is a biggie in salvation because it is both the great and first commandment, AND it covers a multitude of sins. We've learned that love is a very important part of our salvation as the Bible asks us to love God first, then love our neighbor as we love ourselves. Love also covers a multitude of sins which you will find in your Bible in both the old and new testaments. In the old testament you'll find it in Proverbs 10:12, and in the new testament you'll find it in 1 Peter 4:8.

AGAPE LOVE: Agape is an ancient Greek word meaning the highest form of love, not to be confused with self-love or emotional love.

The second word is **THE**. Take a close look at “this is THE great and first commandment.” Notice it doesn't say “a” but rather “THE” meaning the single most love, not just one bit of love placed anywhere in a bunch.

THE: used to mark a noun as indicating the best-known, most approved, most important, most satisfying.

Now let's tie Matthew 22:37-38, Proverbs 10:12, and 1 Peter 4:8 in with the first of your memorization scriptures, Romans 5:8 which says, *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* That is the ultimate love - giving a blameless life so that those you love will be saved. Jesus loves us all, it's up to us as to whether we want to love him in return, and except His gifts of forgiveness of our sins, and eternal life.

Once you've honestly and openly accepted Jesus as your Lord and savior, you are definitely forgiven of all the wrongs you've done. But now that you are living for Jesus, you'll need to practice doing what God asks you to do. It tells us in both Matthew 7:12 and Luke 6:31 that God wants us to treat others like we would want to be treated. That means if you don't like others being mean to you, you need to not be mean to others. This also includes forgiveness on our part. If you want to be forgiven, you need to forgive others. This isn't always easy, but it IS possible!

And one more thing regarding being forgiven, you must keep repentance in your heart.

REPENTANCE: to turn from sin

It tells us in Acts 3:19 *Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.* Even though Jesus has forgiven you for your past wrong doings when you accept Him as your Lord and Savior, you will find that you will still make mistakes and do wrong things. But the good news is, because of God's grace, you have the right to ask Jesus to forgive you again and repent for the wrong doing. Repentance keeps our hearts pure and helps us build and grow in our relationship with Jesus.

You may be asking, "But how many chances do I get to be forgiven for the same sin that I keep doing? And how many times do I have to forgive someone who continues to be mean to me?" The Bible says in Matthew 18:21-22 *Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven."* This is a fantastic eye opener to God's grace and love for us. And since we are created in His image, we should be examples of Him each and every day, forgiving those who do us wrong. (Matthew 7:1-5)

When you realize every person on this earth - past, present, and in the future - is a creation of God, you'll begin to see passed their sins, and will want to help them come to know Jesus the way you do: as a loving and forgiving friend, and the only giver of eternal life.

SALVATION ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES:

Memorize Romans 5:8, 1 John 2:2

*For this activity you will need to find some smooth rocks, water soluble paints and Dixie cups to hold the paints, paint brushes, rubber gloves, a table covering that can get dirty, and one large clear glass bowl full of water with a few drops of red food coloring added (this represents Jesus's blood). With Mom or Dad supervising, have the kiddos paint things on the rocks that they see as wrong or sin. It can be words or pictures. When they're done painting the rocks have them lay them out in a row. Then share 1 John 1:7 *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.* After you share the scripture, have them put their rocks in the red water. Explain that the red water represents Jesus's blood, and watch the water soluble paint (wrongs/sins) be washed away. (HINT: Mom or Dad may need to scrub a bit on the rocks to get the words or pictures off). Pull the rocks from the red water and lay them back down in a row. Ask the kiddos what they believe washed away the wrongs/sins.

FAMILY & FRIENDS ACTIVITY:

*Mom - Dad: grab some paper and markers. Sit down with your kiddo(s) and ask them to write down three things they see as wrong or sin. For example the list could include: bullying, drawing on the walls, and throwing things. (However, Lady Violet encourages the kiddos to make up their own lists). Have the kiddos give the list(s) to Mom or Dad as they say, "Please cross out (forgive) all of these sins."

*Mom or Dad: mark off just ONE thing on your kiddo's list(s), and hand the paper(s) back to your kiddo(s). When they ask why you didn't cross off all of them, ask them if they think Jesus would have crossed off or forgiven all of the wrongs/sins? Then have a discussion with them regarding full forgiveness.

*Below are some quick scripture references you can read and discuss together to help them understand the concept of Jesus giving himself up for them on the cross, even though they weren't born yet when He did that.

- **Romans 3:22-24** This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

- **1 Peter 2:12** Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day He visits us.

- **Ephesians 1:7-8** In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that He lavished on us.

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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, Please help me to become more aware of seeing people as Your creations. As I see them through Your eyes may my heart change and become aware of my own wrongs. May You guide me to see my own shortcomings, wrongs, and sins and be quick to remember I am forgiven if I ask Jesus and repent. Amen.