Busting Myths

Lesson 4: I'm Fine Just the Way I Am

**Lessons in this series:** [1](http://www.teensundayschool.com/342/lesson/i-must-be-perfect-to-come-to-church.php) [2](http://www.teensundayschool.com/344/lesson/all-christians-are-hypocrites.php) [3](http://www.teensundayschool.com/350/lesson/there-is-more-than-one-way-to-heaven.php) **4**

LESSON OBJECTIVES

Goals

1. To help students realize that it is not "good" people who go to Heaven, but "forgiven" people  
2. For students to understand that except for Jesus, we can never be good enough  
3. To motivate students to examine their own lives and compare them to being truly alive in Christ

Topics

Forgiveness, Idols, Rewards, Salvation

Scripture Memeorization

Matthew 19:21, Acts 4:12

OPENING PRAYER (5 to 10 minutes)

GROUP BUILDING (10 minutes)

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| Workbook Activity  (Allow the students a few minutes to answer the first two questions. If not using the workbook, have the students write both questions down on a piece of paper first. Do not go on to the discussion portion of the activity until everyone has finished.)  **Question 1:  If God appeared to you right now and asked, "Why should I let you into                       Heaven?" How would you answer?**  **Question 2:  Why did you choose what you did for an answer to the first question?**  **~ ~ ~**  **General Discussion:** Would anyone like to share their answers to both questions with the class?  *(Give the students time to respond, even if they may be silent at first.)* If you are like most people, your answer to the first question may start something like this:    "I've always tried to..."    "I never..."    "I do my best..."    "I go to church..."    "I generously give my money or time..."   No matter who you are, the answer usually ends up concerning living a good life and doing good deeds in order to enter into Heaven. But, here is the next question. Why?  The answer is because most people believe that "good" people are the ones who go to Heaven. |

GETTING STARTED (5 minutes)

Last week we cracked the myth "That all ways lead to Heaven." We found out that only ONE way leads there and that is through Jesus Christ Himself. This week's myth is "I Am Fine Just the Way that I Am." As Jesus gets closer to the cross--the higher the stakes are raised for following Jesus. Today we hear what Jesus has to say about getting to Heaven from the book of Matthew. We will discover that eternal life cannot be earned; it is a gift of God through grace by faith.

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| **Facts about Matthew** • He was also called Levi (Mark 2:14) • He was a disciple of Jesus  • Before becoming a disciple, he was a tax collector for the Romans, although he was Jewish. • He wrote his gospel with the purpose of proving Jesus is King by using Old Testament prophesies and first hand eye witnesses, including himself. |

   
DIGGING IN (35 minutes)

Being rewarded for our efforts is part of how we function as people. We also expect to be rewarded for the "good" things we do. For example, if you do well in school, you get to move ahead to the next grade, or if you do well in tryouts, you make the cut for the team. If you clean your room, you get an allowance. You get the picture. So in life, if we are "good people" or if we do "good works," then we receive eternal life. That seems fair, right?  
  
 **Read Matthew 19:16-17**

**Discussion Questions:**1. What comes to mind when you think of the word "good"?  
2. What was this young man seeking? *(Assurance of Eternal Life.)*3. Why did the man ask Jesus "what is good?" *(Because he wanted to be seen as great in God's Kingdom and also seen as a good man for following all the commandments while being rich.)*Check out this statistic. About 90% of Americans say they believe in Heaven, while only about 30% believe Hell is a real place. Out of those 30%, not one of those people believed they were going to Hell. So, good people must go to Heaven, right? Consider these questions.   
  
**General Discussion:**• What "good" things have you done that make you seem like a good person?  
• Do you ever seek assurance of anything? Why?  
• Have you ever felt like you were a good enough Christian? Why?  
  
  
**Read Matthew 19:21-22  
  
Discussion Questions:**1. Why is Jesus telling this man to sell everything he has? *(Money and possessions are his idols. To get close to God and let Him be Lord means to have no idols and let God have control.)*   
2. What did Jesus mean when He said, "sell all you have and you will be perfect"? *(Jesus was explaining how to be justified and made whole or complete in God's eyes.)*3. Why did this young man leave sad? *(He couldn't let go of his idols--they held him back from God's great rewards.)*  
**General Discussion:**• Is there anything that you need to change or let go? What?

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| **Follow Who? (Illustration)** Ask for three volunteers. Have two of the volunteers stand side by side, and have the third face them. The third person is the follower. Explain that when you say, "walk," you want the person standing on to the right to walk towards the right away from the other person. At the same time, the person on the left is to walk towards the left away from the other person. The "follower" in the middle must try to follow both of the other people at the same time, even though they are going opposite directions.  ***The Point:*** The person in the middle cannot follow both people--meaning you cannot follow both God and Satan, idols, distractions, etc. |

• What keeps you from getting rid of your idols?  
• Do you feel like you are fine just the way you are?  
  
  
**Read Matthew 19:23-25  
  
Discussion Questions:**1. After hearing what Jesus said, the disciples were still amazed and wondered who could be saved. Why did it seem to them impossible to be saved?   
  
Do you feel rich? If you live in the United States, you may not feel rich, but you should. Many missionary organizations support the poor by supplying or distributing food. Statistics show that in some third world countries, it only takes about 30 cents to feed a person for an entire day.  
  
2. Can rich people enter Heaven? *(Yes.)*3. Do you think it would be difficult for a rich person to enter Heaven? Why or why not?  
  
The Jewish people believed God blessed the rich, and that they would most likely be saved. Now you can partially understand why this culture was shocked when they learned that money does not save anyone, God does.  
  
   
**Read Matthew 19:26  
  
Discussion Questions:**  
1. Does it sometimes feel like God is calling you to be perfect? When?  
2. What is "impossible" according to this verse? *(That man can do anything to save himself.)*3. So, is it impossible to be saved? Why? *(No, because Jesus is the one who saves us.)*4. Who then can be saved? *(Only those who accept Christ as Lord and Savior and receive His forgiveness.)*5. What does Jesus promise in verse 26?*(That God has everything under control and wants imperfect people to seek a perfect God. The promise is eternal life.)*  
  
**Read Acts 4:12**As we learned last week, the only way to Heaven is through Jesus. We are saved through Christ's sacrifice. But just because you say you are a Christian doesn't mean you're saved. I can say I'm a basketball player, but that alone doesn't make me one. The way you can tell that I'm a basketball player is by the way I live. I will practice basketball, wear the right clothing, show up for the games and support my team. Likewise, you will know I'm a Christian not because I say so, but because it will show that Jesus is Lord of my life. I will wear the clothing of humility and love, I will practice what I believe, and I will defend my faith.   
  
So, here again is the question you all need to consider.   
• Are you really fine just the way you are, or is there something you need to let go now to allow God to mold you into His original masterpiece? Remember, Forgiven people go to Heaven--not good people.   
  
**Read Matthew 19:27-30  
  
Discussion Questions:**1. Would it be hard to live without being rewarded for all the good things you did in your life? Why or why not?  
2. What is the reward promised in these verses? *(The assurance that whoever gives up everything for Christ's sake is repaid many times over in this life and in eternity.)*3. Why should we get rid of any idols in our lives right now?*(The longer one is worshipping an idol, the harder it is to turn away from it.)*Take a tree for an example. When it is a young sapling, a small child can uproot it as easy as pie. But a team of men can't uproot a full-grown tree.

MAKING IT REAL (10 minutes)

No matter where we are, God wants us to be authentic Christians. He may want us to live our faith in our own hometown, or He may be calling us to go to another country. However, our true reward comes only when we are willing to give up anything that is keeping us from following Jesus with all our lives.

What I want you to do now is consider what you can take away from this lesson and apply to your own life.

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| Workbook Activity  **Personal Challenges:**  In today's lesson we learned that being good and nice is not good and nice enough. Salvation comes only through Jesus. He is the only one who can save and forgive us. So, with that in mind, here are a few personal challenges.    **Challenge 1:** List two or three "idols" in your life that keep you from growing into spiritual maturity.  1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **Challenge 2:** Pray for three people who do not know Jesus as Savior, and ask for opportunities to share your faith with them.  1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  **Challenge 3:** Invite three people to be your guest next week through Facebook, Twitter, texting, calling, or in person.  1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

CLOSING PRAYER (2 minutes)

Father, we learned today that no one is good enough, except for You alone. We have so many idols holding us back. We pray now that You help us uproot our idols and sell them so You can use us in mighty ways. You promise faithfulness and life when we follow in Your ways. God, please grow us, guide us, and mold us into Your wonderful masterpiece--Your Poeima. In Jesus' name, Amen.