Week Five – God saves sinners – Overview

Passage	Big Idea
SS) Genesis 12	God saves sinners
FBT1) Romans 3:23	God saves sinners - All are sinners
FBT2) Luke 5:29-32	God saves sinners - Jesus came for sinners
FBT3) Romans 5:6-11	God saves sinners - Jesus died for sinners
FBT4) Romans 4:1-8	God saves sinners – therefore we can't boast
FBT5) Luke 17:11-19	Praise God that he saves sinners

Family Bible Time (Day 1) – Romans 3:23

BIG IDEA	God saves sinners – All are sinners
Bible Passage	Romans 3:23
Getting Started	Talk about examples of someone setting a standard but us failing to reach that
	standard. Try to come up with examples relevant to the children (e.g. a pass mark in an
	exam, a height tester for a roller-coaster, colouring inside the lines).
Finding Out	Read Romans 3:23
1. All have sinned	• Q: Who does this verse say has sinned?
(v.23)	Talk about who that includes (you, me, family, friends).
	• Q: Is there anyone in the whole world who can say they haven't sinned (apart from Jesus)?
	This doesn't mean that everyone has been as bad as they possibly can be. It means
	everyone has sinned because everyone "falls short of the glory of God".
	• Q: What does it mean to "fall short"?
	Explain that this means that someone has set a standard to be reached, and you
	have failed to reach that standard (refer back to the "Getting Started" activity).
	• Q: What is God's standard that he has set for our lives?
	Read Matthew 22:37-39
	No one has ever perfectly loved God all the time with everything in them. And no one
	has ever loved other people as much they love themselves. This is the standard God has
	set, which means everyone has fallen short of it. We have all sinned.
2. All who believe	Just as everyone has sinned, everyone who trusts in Jesus can be forgiven.
are freely justified	Read Romans 3:22
(v.22&24)	This verse says that every single person who believes in Jesus will be given a gift from
	him. They will be given "righteousness". That means, God will take away their sin, and
	instead, God will treat them as if they had lived a perfect life, just like Jesus. Jesus is the
	only one who was ever able to reach God's standard. He can give you his perfect life,
	instead of your sinful one.
	• Q: Who does this verse say that God will give the gift of righteousness to?

	All who believe in Jesus will be given this gift. It doesn't matter how old you are, or where you are from, or how bad you have been. If you believe and trust in Jesus, you
	will be given this gift.
So What?	I am a sinner, and so are you. We will never be able to reach God's standard. We will
	always fall short of it. But Jesus saves sinners. All sinners who trust in him will be saved.
	Your only hope is to trust in Jesus.
Memory Verse	PSALM 145:2
	Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever.

Family Bible Time (Day 2) – Luke 5:27-32

BIG IDEA	God saves sinners – Jesus came for sinners
Bible Passage	Luke 5:27-32
Getting Started	Have you been to the doctor before? What was wrong with you? Did the doctor help you? What about if there was something really wrong with you, but you didn't know, would you go to the doctor? <i>Talk about the fact that even though a doctor could help you, if you don't know you are sick, you won't go to him for help.</i> Jesus describes himself as being like a doctor. We are going to read about some people who didn't realise they needed his help, so never asked him to help them.
Finding Out	Read Luke 5:27-32
1. Jesus saves those	Levi was a tax collector. He was probably not very nice, and stole money from people.
who know they are sinners (v.27-29)	 But Jesus chose him to be his friend. He spoke to him and told Levi to follow him. <i>Q: Did Levi obey Jesus?</i>
	Just like Abram, Levi immediately obeyed Jesus and followed him. Levi knew he didn't deserve to be friends with Jesus, because he had been an enemy of Jesus. He was so thankful and happy that Jesus had chosen him to be his friend that he threw a big party. • <i>Q: Who did he invite to his party (v.29-30)?</i> Levi didn't invite rich people, or people that went to church, or people that were following Jesus. Instead he invited people who were exactly like he had been. People who had done bad things. But they all came to Levi's party. They wanted to meet Jesus. They wanted to meet the one who could save them and was willing to be friends with them, even though they didn't deserve it.
2. Jesus doesn't save those who don't	There were some other people who heard about this party, and were not happy. Read v.30 again
think they need him (v.30-32)	 Explain that the Pharisees and teachers of the law were the leaders in the church Q: Why do you think the church leaders were unhappy with Jesus for eating with the tax collectors and sinners? They thought Jesus should think he was too important to eat with people who had done bad things. He should keep himself separate from them. But instead, Jesus said that these people were exactly the ones he had come to earth for! He explained that he was like a doctor. Anyone who was sick could come to him, and he would help them.

	knew they needed Jesus, they realised they needed him to deal with their sin, so they
	were very glad to see him. The sad thing is, not everyone realises they are sick with sin,
	so they don't think they need Jesus . (Refer back to the "Getting Started" discussion and
	compare this to not visiting the doctor because you don't know you are sick).
	• Q: What about the Pharisees and teachers of the law? Were they sinners?
	The Pharisees and teachers of the law also needed Jesus to help them. But because
	they didn't admit that they were sinners too, they didn't come to Jesus for help, so they
	missed out on Jesus helping them. Just like someone who doesn't realise they need a
	doctor because they don't think they are sick.
So What?	Jesus can help us with our biggest problem – our sin. We all need his help, because
	everyone in the whole world is a sinner and falls short of God's standard. But he only
	helps those who know they need him and come to him asking for help. Do you know
	that your sin is a big problem? If you come to Doctor Jesus and ask for his help, he will
	help you. Pray that God would reveal the true state of our hearts to us, and that this
	would drive us to Jesus to plead for mercy and help.
Memory Verse	PSALM 145:2
	Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever.

Family Bible Time (Day 3) – Romans 5:6-11

BIG IDEA	God saves sinners – Jesus died for sinners
Bible Passage	Romans 5:6-11
Getting Started	Ask the children to stand on one leg while you count to a suitable number (make sure it is achievable!). Ask them if someone is able to stand on one leg, is it likely they will be able to stand on two legs? Talk about the fact that because they have shown you something hard, you can believe they are able to do the easier thing. Repeat the process with something else (e.g. writing their name backwards, and therefore it is easy to believe they could write forwards). If you see evidence of being able to do something difficult, it is easy to believe they could do the easier thing.
Finding Out	> Ask the children to name some people they love and who are important to them.
1. Christ died for the ungodly (v.6-8)	 Would you be willing to give up something precious to you for them? Maybe a toy you really like? Or your favourite necklace, or something you've been collecting? What about if you had to give up your life, would you consider doing this for someone you loved? It would be hard thing to do, even if it was for someone you loved! In the book of Romans, we can read about Jesus dying for someone else. Read Romans 5:6-8 <i>Q: Who does this verse say Jesus died for?</i> Jesus died for the ungodly, for sinners; which is us! Remember all of us are sinners because we fall short of God's standard. In fact, later on it says, he died for his enemies. Jesus didn't die for us because he thought we were good. In fact, the opposite! He died for us even though we were on the side of his enemy. Sometimes people are willing to die for their family or close friends, but people don't normally die for their enemies. But that is exactly what Jesus did.

2. This guarantees	That means, if we are trusting in Jesus, he died for us, even though we don't deserve it.
our ultimate	It also means something else as well
salvation (v.9-11)	Read Romans 5:10
	• Q: Were we God's friends or his enemies when Jesus died for us?
	• Q: After Jesus died for us, and if we trust him, are we then his friends or his enemies?
	• Q: If Jesus was willing to die for those who were his enemies, do you think he would be willing to share life together with those who are now his friends?
	This verse is telling us that we can be confident that Jesus will never now give up on us,
	and will one day take us to be with him in heaven. We can be sure of this because he
	was willing to die for us even when we were his enemies. If we have trusted Jesus to
	save us, then we are now his friends. If he loves his enemies so much that he will die for
	them, of course he will love and care for those who are now his friends!
	Relate this back to the "Getting Started" activity – Jesus showed evidence of doing
	the harder thing, so we can believe he is able to do the relatively easier thing.
So What?	If you are trusting in Jesus, he is now your friend. You never need to worry about
	whether he loves you, he showed that by dying for you when you were his enemy. You
	never need to worry about whether he will look after you and get you safely to heaven,
	he was willing to die for you, even when you were his enemy! You can trust him.
Memory Verse	PSALM 145:2
	Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever.

Family Bible Time (Day 4) – Romans 4:1-8

BIG IDEA	God saves sinners – Therefore we can't boast
Bible Passage	Romans 4:1-8
Getting Started	 Talk about a time when the children have earned something special (e.g. a prize for doing well at something, practicing their instrument, coming first in a race, etc.). Were you proud of what you had done? Did you show others what you were given as a result and tell them what you had done to earn it? What about if your parents gave you a gift just because they wanted to show you that they loved you. What if you had been very bad that week, but your parents gave you a gift anyway because they love you. (Maybe come up with an example of a gift). Would it be right to go around saying to everyone "Look what I got. I got this because I was really good"? Sometimes, that is exactly what people say about God's gift of salvation.
Finding Out	Read Romans 4:3
1. Salvation is a gift,	• Q: Remember Sunday School - what was Abram like before God spoke to him?
not earned by us	Abram had worshipped false gods. He had been on the side of God's enemy. But God
(v.1-5)	 chose to be friends with him anyway. This verse says that Abraham was then "credited with righteousness". <i>Q: What does "credited" mean?</i> If you credit someone's bank account, it means you put money into it. To credit someone, is to give them something
	• Q: What was Abraham given?

	Abraham was given "righteousness". Remember we previously talked about the fact
	that everyone has sinned. We have all sinned because we have not lived up to God's
	standard. We have not loved God perfectly all of the time. And we haven't loved
	everyone around us. Abram hadn't lived up to Gods' standard either.
	• Q: But who is the one person who has lived up a perfect life without sin?
	Because Jesus lived a perfect life that was up to God's standard, he is able to swap our
	life for his. He can take away our sinful life, and give us his perfect life instead. That's
	what it means when God gives the gift of "righteousness". That is exactly what he gave
	to Abram as a gift.
2. Therefore we	Imagine if Abram had then gone back to his friends and said, "God has given me
can't boast (v.2)	righteousness because I have been really good". Would that be right?
	Abram had not earned this gift from God. It had been given to him by God as a gift,
	because God loved him and chose him. In fact, Abram had been ignoring God, and
	worshipping false gods instead. But God chose to give him this gift anyway. It's exactly
	the same with everyone that God saves. Whenever he saves someone, this is a gift from
	God. It is never something that we have earned, so it is never something that we can
	boast about.
So What?	Has God given you his gift of salvation? If he has, it's not because you are better than
	anyone else. You are just like Abram - a sinner whom God has chosen to love.
	Remember to thank God for his amazing gift.
Memory Verse	PSALM 145:2
	Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever.
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Family Bible Time (Day 5) – Luke 17:11-19

BIG IDEA	Praise God that he saves sinners
Bible Passage	Luke 17:11-19
Getting Started	What's the best present you have ever been given? Did you enjoy getting this present? What did you say to the person who gave you the present (if you remember)! Imagine if you had been given this present, and you just walked away and never said thank you, would that be right? How would it make the person who gave you the present feel? Sometimes, people treat God that way.
Finding Out 1. Jesus heals (v.11- 14)	 Read Luke 17:11-14 One day, as Jesus was walking into a village, some men called out to him. <i>Q: What was wrong with the men?</i> They had leprosy, which was a terrible disease. At that time, no one knew how to cure it, so instead, they would get sicker and sicker until they died. <i>Q: What did the men say to Jesus?</i> They asked Jesus to have pity on them (<i>or mercy in some translations</i>). <i>Q: What does it mean to ask someone to have pity on you?</i> It means you don't deserve them to help you, but you want them to help anyway. The 10 men who were sick with leprosy needed Jesus to have pity on them.

	• Q: Did Jesus help them?
	He told them what they needed to do. They had to go and see a priest. As the men
	were on their way to see the priest, all of them were completely healed!
2. Only one says	• Q: What would you want to say to Jesus if you were one of these 10 men?
thank you (v.15-19)	Read Luke 17:15
	• Q: How many men came back to say thank you to Jesus?
	Only one of the ten came back to say thank you.
	• Q: So how many did not say thank you to Jesus?
	Jesus asked the man where the other nine men were. "Why have the others not come
	back to give praise to God?" he asked. Jesus expected that they would say thank you.
	All ten of the men had asked Jesus to show them pity. They had all known they didn't
	deserve to be helped by Jesus. All ten of them had been healed by Jesus, but nine of
	them didn't say thank you.
	• Q: How would you feel if you had helped these men and they didn't say thank you?
So What?	If you are trusting in Jesus, then he has done something even more amazing for you
	than he did for those ten men. He has dealt with your biggest problem of all, your sin.
	Sometimes, we forget to praise and thank God for doing this for us. Praise God that he
	saves people that don't deserve to be saved!
Memory Verse	PSALM 145:2
	Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever.

Recap Week 5

God saves people who don't deserve to be saved. He chose Abram, even though he was on the side of God's enemy. He can save us too, even though we don't deserve it. Why don't we deserve God to choose us? (*Because we don't live up to his standard*). Remember to praise and thank God if he has already saved you. If you are not yet saved, ask God for mercy. He loves to save sinners.