

# Rooted

## SMALL GROUP GUIDE: SALVATION



### SMALL GROUP LEADER (5-10 minutes)

- **SHARE**
  - Members in your youth group just experienced salvation! It would be a good time to briefly share with them about your salvation experience, questions you had about salvation, thoughts or misconceptions you might have had. This will help students relate and put it on a personal level.
- **END**
  - When you finish your opening statements, end by saying, "Now we're going to break in to small groups and talk about some truths and misconceptions about salvation."

### SMALL GROUP LEADER (30 minutes)

- The truths and misconceptions about salvation will be in Q&A Form instead of small group leader teaching.

### QUESTIONS TO ASK (SCRIPTURE INCLUDED)

#### **SAY**

"If you have experienced salvation, do you know that you can fall away from God and that you must go back and rededicate you life to Him?"

- Allow for discussion.

#### **Scripture, James 5:19-20**

"My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and will cover over a multitude of sins."

#### **Bring It Home**

Scripture is clear that people can fall away from their relationship with Jesus Christ and must rededicate their lives. At the same time, be sure to let your students know that they will make a mistake (we all fall short), but every time they fall short it doesn't mean that they've lost their salvation.

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SMALL GROUP GUIDE: FILLED



## SCRIPTURES TO USE (CONT'D)

- **SAY**
  - "Now that I am saved, will I still struggle with temptation?" -Allow for Discussion
- **Scripture, Luke 9:23**
  - "Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me."
- **Bring It Home**
  - Just because you experienced salvation, does not mean you escape the struggles. Temptations will come, mistakes will happen, but the more you chase after Jesus, the more power He gives you to overcome the sins of this world.
  
- **SAY**
  - "Some of you believe that you're too messed up to be saved, that God would never save someone like you, which leads me to ask this questions: Can anyone be saved?" - Allow for discussion
- **Scripture, Romans 3:23**
  - "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."
- **Bring It Home**
  - I'm not perfect, you're not perfect, the speaker at Winterfest tonight is not perfect. Salvation does not deliver us into perfection, but progression. Progression is growing. When you experience salvation, you begin a growing process! It does not matter who you, where you are, or what you've done, salvation is available to you!
  
- **SAY**
  - "I'm saved, what now?" - Allow for discussion
- **Scripture, Matthew 28:19**
  - "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- **Bring It Home**
  - Salvation is not the stopping point, but the starting line! Your next monumental step is waterbaptism! And... taking what you have experienced and sharing it with others!

*Before rejoining your group, sincerely ask God to help your small group grow in relationship with each other and to serve.*

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## SMALL GROUP GUIDE: SERVING



### SMALL GROUP LEADER (5-10 minutes)

- **SHARE**
  - Share a person story about Serving
- **END**
  - When you finish your opening statements, end by saying, “Now we’re going to break in to small groups and talk about serving”

### SMALL GROUP LEADER (30 minutes)

- The truths and misconceptions about salvation will be in Q&A Form instead of small group leader teaching.

### QUESTIONS TO ASK (SCRIPTURE INCLUDED)

#### **SAY**

"If you have experienced salvation, do you know that you can fall away from God and that you must go back and rededicate you life to Him?"

- Allow for discussion.

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## SMALL GROUP LEADER (30 MINUTES)

- Tip #1: Lead by example. If you share, they will share. If you get personal, they will get personal. If you just read off a piece of paper, they will check out.
- Tip #2: Talk less. If you find yourself doing more than about 25% of the talking, it's probably too much. You're not teaching a lesson, but guiding a discussion.
- Tip #3: Allow silence. It's awkward, but good. Don't answer questions too quickly...or, in some cases, at all. Sometimes the best answer is no answer.

**"The passages that we're going to discuss help us realize the need to BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT. Jesus spells out the purpose of being filled with the Spirit. The purpose of being filled with the Holy Spirit, or "the baptism of the Spirit" is so that we can be empowered for service to God and to be witnesses of Jesus to the world around us. It is a second work that God performs in us, after salvation. I like to think of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit in this way:"**

- When we are saved, the Holy Spirit comes and dwells within us.
- When we are baptized in the Holy Spirit, His presence and power rise up from within and manifest outwardly to the world.

## SCRIPTURES TO USE

**ACTS 1:8** "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

**ACTS 2:1-4** "On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. 2 Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. 3 Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. 4 And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability."

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## SCRIPTURES TO USE (CONT'D)

**ACTS 4:31** “And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

### ADDITIONAL NOTE:

Consider reading through the entirety of 1 Corinthians 14 with your group for even more information and teaching on the gifts of prophecy and speaking in tongues.

## QUESTIONS TO ASK

1. What do you think about speaking in tongues and prophecy?
2. Do you clearly understand the person of the Holy Spirit and His purpose in our lives?
3. The Bible talks a lot about how we should strive to be more like Jesus. If that's our goal, how Does being filled with the Spirit fit into that?
4. What's the hardest thing about understanding what it means to be filled with the Holy Spirit For you?
5. What's the hardest part of seeking the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

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## SMALL GROUP GUIDE: TAKE IT HOME



### SMALL GROUP LEADER (5-10 minutes)

- **SHARE**
- **We have all had a “prodigal experience”. Meaning, we have all been lost at some point or another and through the love of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit we came home. And more often than not God may have used someone along the path to help you find your way to Christ. The beautiful thing about Christianity is that we truly are never alone. God, who is always with us, is faithful to place the right people in our lives at the right moments when we need them. (Leader can share personal testimony of how God used someone to build them up/bring them in or how they have been used personally to do so). The Kingdom of God is all about community in and outside of the church, and this comes through winning souls to Christ. Let’s talk about it.**
- **END WITH**
  - **“NOW WE ARE GOING TO SEPARATE INTO SMALL GROUPS AND TALK MORE ABOUT (how we can BUILD THE KINGDOM through WINNING SOULS FOR CHRIST)**

### SMALL GROUP LEADER (30 minutes)

We are going to talk about the story of the prodigal son. (Luke 15:11-32 - leader can read the whole passage or summarize. **\*DEFINITELY\*** summarize, if nothing else, due to some possibly not knowing the story).

Most of us know the story of the prodigal; a sinner lost, got to the bottom of the road, found Christ, and came home. But I want to focus on 2 people within this story, the father and the older brother. As we talk, I want you to place yourself within the story. When it comes to building the Kingdom and winning souls to Christ, are you in the mindset of the older brother or the Father?

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## SMALL GROUP GUIDE: TAKE IT HOME



- The Father
  - Luke 15:20-24 (have a student read these)

### SAY

- So we see here the perfect example of what showing the soul winning love of Christ looks like. The Father SAW him from a long way off, he was watching and waiting for the lost son to come home. The Scripture says he told his servant “Go and get the robe and the ring and sandals for his feet”.
- What does this tell us? The father had everything ready! He had it all prepared! He believed that the lost was coming home, he no doubt prayed every day with faith, he probably walked down the road looking, he probably made sure the robe was wrinkle free and the ring was clean from dust, and he did all of this because he was ready for his lost son to come home! He had the party ready to go!
- *He could have already killed the fattened calf and used everything but he knew the lost was coming home so he stayed ready and was filled with faith.*
- The Older Brother
  - Luke 15:25-30 \*have a student read these\* Scripture, Romans 3:23
  - SAY : It hurts to say but a lot of us find ourselves in the mindset of the older brother rather than the father. The older brother was doing all the “good things”. He stayed, he didn't wander off and squander all that he had in sin and wrong-doing. He did his father's work...but he had one problem...he thought that was enough. So many times we think if we go to church, attend youth camps and Winterfest that we are doing enough. We aren't out there sinning, we aren't doing bad things, we stayed and are doing the Father's work. But there is one issue here, the older brother didn't see and based on Scripture, wasn't looking for his younger brother to come home. He was so consumed with his own “good work” that he wasn't ready for the lost and he wasn't expecting him to come home!
- Don't be like the brother and get so consumed with doing your “good thing” that you are missing the prodigals! If we do all the “good things” but we don't have love for everyone around us, are “good things” amount to nothing in God's eyes (1 Corinthians 13:1-3).
- We walk by people every day in our schools/jobs that are prodigals. However, we are wrapped up in our own minds that we do the good thing and we go to youth groups, we are GOOD. But the reality is we pass prodigals every day who are dying and on their way to Hell. Don't be like the brother and neglect the prodigals coming home and hold their past over them when they do!



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## PERSONAL APPLICATION

### How This Applies To Me

- We have two choices:
  - (1) We can be like the brother, consumed with our own life so much to the point that we neglect the prodigals. Until we have LOVE for the lost and we start watching, and waiting for the opportunity to share Christ with them, we will be like the Older Brother in the story, working in vain. We MUST get past our fear of rejection or persecution from our peers and really break into real, CHRIST-like love.
  - Have you ever thought that maybe the lost have stopped coming home because WE have stopped being prepared? Because we have stopped watching and waiting?
  - (2) Our second option is to be like the Father. The Father showed love, continual love. He never stopped praying, he never stopped looking, he KNEW the lost would come home. He didn't let the negativity of the world depict his faith or how he lived his life, he lived his life in a way that affected the outcome of this story! We can be like the Father! We can love without condition, no matter the sin or the story, we can run to meet the lost and bring them home! Sometimes, just showing the love of Christ is the best witnessing tool of all! Live your life in a way that Jesus shines through you to the lost around you!

Start asking the Holy Spirit to change your mindset from that of the Brother, consumed with self and missing the lost, to that of the Father, loving continually and constantly searching and watching for an opportunity to share Christ with the lost! He will do it!

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## QUESTIONS TO ASK

*What would you say is the hardest part about sharing the love of Christ with others?*

*What do you think would have happened had the Father had the mindset of the Older Brother? Does it matter how you act, talk, what you listen to, around people who don't know Christ?*

*How you live your life at school or your job...does it reflect Christ, or are you just mirroring their lives?*

*Are one of "those Christians" or are you living your life in a way that people aren't used to and they see Jesus in you?*

*What is a way God has helped you break out of fear, and share Christ's love to the people around you?*

*Before rejoining your group, sincerely ask God to help your small group grow in relationship with each other and to **SHARE THE LOVE OF CHRIST.***