



This lesson affords you a tremendous opportunity to invite people to make a decision to accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour. It is of paramount importance that your students have an experience with Jesus Christ before they come to the more testing truths of Scripture.

This lesson is one of the most important in the entire series. The story of Nebuchadnezzar's acceptance of the God of heaven can be used to lead many individuals to give their lives in full commitment to Jesus Christ. At the close of this lesson you will need to make a very personal appeal for your students to accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour.

Note again the emphasis in the introduction on the need for a relationship with God. The only people who can make it in the last days are those who have this deep relationship. That relationship with Jesus begins by giving one's life to Him at the moment of conversion. Make certain that you continue to stress the need for a personal relationship with God.

#### Question 4

This is the second discrediting of the wise men. In Chapter 2, they could not remember the dream. Now they are unable to interpret the dream, even though the king tells them the dream. Question 8. Daniel obviously loved Nebuchadnezzar. When he realized what God was about to do to Nebuchadnezzar, it bothered him.

How do we react when our enemies say things about us or have done things to us. Do we still love them? Daniel gives a glowing example of what a true Christian is like. He is always concerned for other people, concerned that they, too, find the Saviour. When bad things happen, they don't rejoice but feel sorrowful, even as Daniel did.

#### Question 14

Stress the longsuffering and patience of God, not only with Nebuchadnezzar but with each of us. If it fits with your own life, share how perhaps you at times have drifted from the Lord and the Lord has

It would also be wise to visit those who checked Box 3, to talk about what keeps them from making a decision to accept Christ. It is extremely important that every one of your students have made a personal commitment to Christ at this point, because we're about to move into the more difficult sections of the book of Daniel where heavy doctrine will be given.

If a person does not have a relationship with Christ, the doctrines that they will be getting into will be meaningless to them. That's why this lesson is so critical and so important.

are. I'm a Christian because God promised to come into my heart when I accepted Him and invited Him in, and I accept His promise and believe He came in, not because I feel it, but because He promised it.

## Question 22

This is a golden opportunity for you to lead your people into a decision to accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord. Having explained what it means to come to Christ and have assurance in Him, then very carefully lead them through Question 22.

Pray the prayer of acceptance and invite Jesus to come into their lives. It would be well for you to suggest that if they have never accepted Jesus Christ as their Saviour before, or if they would like to renew their commitment to Christ, they bow their heads as you read the prayer of acceptance.

As soon as you finish the prayer of acceptance, immediately ask the response questions.

## RESPONSE QUESTIONS

1. If you have just prayed the prayer of acceptance for the first time, put a check in **Box 1**.
2. If you have just recommitted your life to Christ as we prayed the prayer of acceptance, put a check in **Box 2**.
3. If you're not yet quite ready to pray the prayer of acceptance but you want me to continue to pray for you that it won't be long before you, too, can pray the prayer of acceptance and invite Jesus into your heart, then put a check in **Box 3**.

It is strongly recommended that anybody who checked Box 1 be visited the next day in a personal home visit to reconfirm the decision they made in accepting Christ for the first time.

been patient with you. How thankful we can be for a God who is so patient. Throughout this entire lesson make the character of God shine forth in all its beauty. Let your students see the loving character of our God.

Make certain that you allow adequate time for the last section of the lesson. The story of Nebuchadnezzar's insanity, while interesting, is not meant for an exhaustive study of his insanity.

The main point of this lesson is to lead your students into a conversion experience with Jesus Christ, so be certain that you allow adequate time for dealing with the section on how God saves people today.

## Questions 17 and 18

These two questions need an exceedingly strong emphasis. Seventh-day Adventists have been accused many times of preaching works rather than grace. Your students need to hear from you very clearly that you believe in salvation by grace alone.

You might illustrate the relationship between grace and works by a tree. A tree is composed of roots, branches and fruit. When a tree is having problems producing good fruit, we don't work on the fruit, we work on the roots.

When there are healthy roots, there is good fruit. Likewise with the Christian. Grace is the roots, works are the fruit. Works are always the result of a solid relationship with God, not a means to obtaining the relationship. Therefore if one has problems with fruit, one needs to be working on the roots. When the roots are healthy, the fruit is going to be manifested.

Make certain that your students very clearly understand salvation by grace alone — that a person's works add nothing to what Jesus Christ has done for them.

A person is saved solely by the shed blood of Christ, and nothing they can do can add one thing to what Jesus Christ has already done for them. The

works that a person performs are the result of a loving relationship with Jesus, and never a means to obtaining that relationship.

### Question 19

Most of the people who attend your seminar will have a faint understanding of what it means to believe. To many people belief is merely intellectual knowledge. But belief in Scripture is far more than that. The word “believe” means to have faith, to trust, and does not refer to intellectual assent alone. You might use a couple of illustrations to make it very clear to your students what it means to have faith in Jesus Christ, to believe on Him.

The first illustration could be that of a chair. When your students came in this evening, they didn't examine the structure of the chair to find out if it was going to hold them up. They were secure. They just plunked themselves down in the seat and trusted that the chair would hold them up. And so it is with Christ. Christ is so worth trusting that people do not have to examine the structure, but they can just put their full weight on Jesus and know that He will never let them down.

The story is told of a gymnast who was walking a tightrope across part of Niagara Falls. A crowd on the other side watched breathlessly as they saw him walk the tightrope across the height of the falls. When he finally made it to the other side, they let out a great big cheer that he had made it safely across the falls.

The gymnast responded by saying, “Do you believe I can do it again?” Of course, the people responded with a resounding cheer, “Sure, sure. We believe you can do it again.”

The gymnast then turned to them and said, “Do you believe it enough to get on my shoulders and go across with me?” That's faith. Willing to put one's full weight on Jesus and to trust Him implicitly over the dangerous precipices of earth.

### Question 20

These are the four simple steps of conversion. Take time to look up each of these texts and walk your students through each step so they clearly understand what it means to come to Jesus and to accept Him as Saviour.

### Question 21

This question deals with the whole question of Christian assurance. Please do not get side-tracked into a discussion of once saved always saved. Your students are not quite ready for that at this point, but they need to be given assurance concerning their relationship with Jesus.

Additional texts that could be used here are 1 John 5:11-13. God wants us to know that we can have eternal life, but our knowing is not based in ourselves, it is based in Jesus. The reason we can know we have eternal life is that He said we do when we trust Him. As long as we keep trusting Him we have that assurance of eternal life.

Your students should not leave with any doubt in their mind but that they can have the assurance of eternal life now — when they accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord.

This is also a time to discuss the issue of faith and feeling. Many people today have a religion based upon feeling. As a result, there are some days when their faith is strong, because they feel good. Other days when they don't feel like being a Christian. And so they think they're not a Christian.

But Bible religion is not based on feeling, it's based in faith on what God has said. Some people will pray the prayer of acceptance and say, “But I didn't feel a shock of electricity going through me letting me know that God had come in.”

You need to let your students clearly understand that God doesn't work that way. Some people, because of their emotional makeup, have more feeling than others. But just because I don't have the same sort of feelings that other people do does not mean that I'm a lesser Christian than they