

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ



SABBATH—JUNE 25

READ FOR THIS WEEK'S STUDY: Romans 3:9-26; Luke 1:26-38; John 1:1-18; Acts 9:1-19.

MEMORY VERSE: “But the angel said to them [the shepherds], ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy. It is for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord’ ” (Luke 2:10, 11, NlrV).

IMPORTANT THOUGHT: The New Testament encourages us to receive Jesus both as Savior and as Lord.

SAVIOR AND LORD. Many Christians today are looking for a Savior who does not require obedience. They want salvation without rules. They say they are Christians. But they have their own kind of savior.

An angel told Joseph to call the Miracle Child “ ‘Jesus, for [because] He will save His people from their sins’ ” (Matthew 1:21, NKJV). An angel also announced to the shepherds that “ ‘there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord’ ” (Luke 2:11, NKJV).

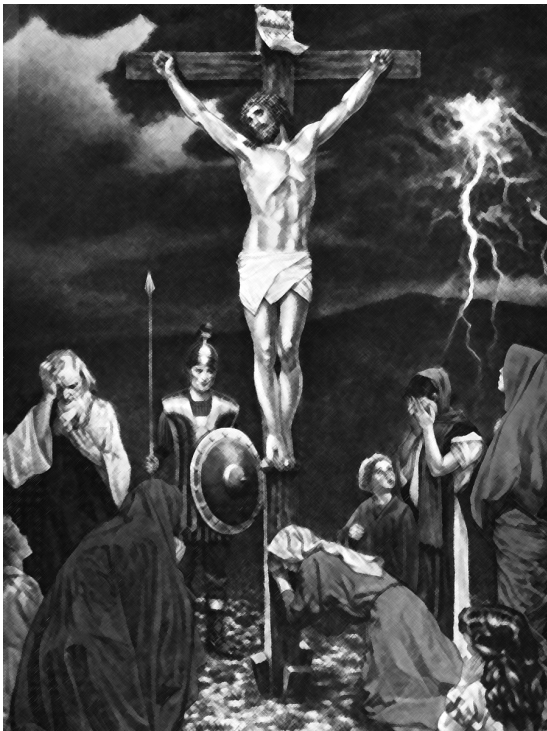
More New Testament verses speak of Jesus as Lord than as Savior. If Jesus is your Savior, He must be your Lord. Peter called Jesus “our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 1:11, NKJV). Paul encourages us to look for “the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ” (Philippians 3:20, NKJV). In this week’s lesson, we will study both the importance and the results of the question: Have you received Jesus both as Savior and as Lord?

Study this week’s lesson to prepare for Sabbath, July 2.

SUNDAY—JUNE 26**OUR NEED FOR A SAVIOR
(Romans 3:9-26).**

Paul warned the Romans that “God shows his anger from heaven. It [God’s anger] is against all the godless and evil things people do. They are so evil that they say no to the truth” (Romans 1:18, NIV). Rebellion against God’s will and the Bible has bad results. “When you sin, the pay you get is death” (Romans 6:23, NIV).

What important point does Paul make in Romans 3:9-26?



**“Jesus paid the price to set us free. God gave him as a sacrifice to pay for our sins”
(Romans 3:25, NIV).**

¹compare—show how things are the same.

We like to compare¹ ourselves with other people to make ourselves look good. We point to people who are worse sinners than ourselves. But we forget we also are guilty. We try to make ourselves right with God. This is proof of our fallen condition. Paul says we cannot make excuses. All people have sinned and fallen short of God’s glory. We all are guilty before God. We can look at the world around us and see so many examples of sin.

What are some of the examples you see of sin? How far do you have to look to see these examples?

Do you see anything within yourself that can make you look good to God? Why is looking at yourself the best way to understand that the only hope we have comes from a forgiving God?

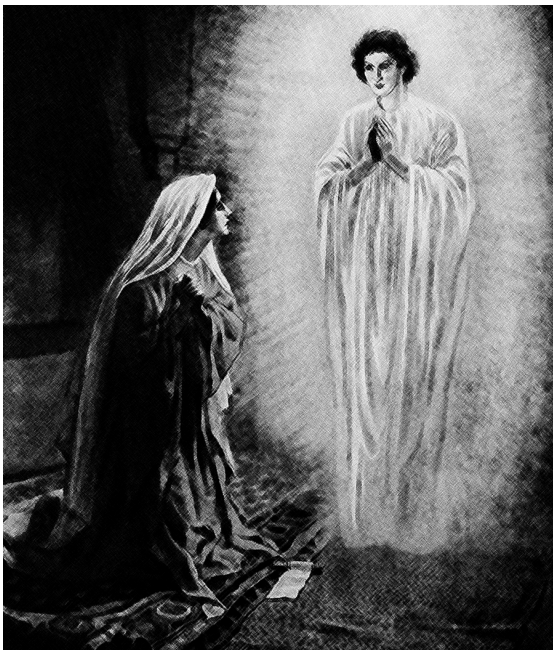
MONDAY—JUNE 27**HEAVEN’S GREATEST GIFT
(Luke 1:26-38; John 1:1-18).**

Sunday’s lesson taught us that, if God had not acted for our good, we would have no hope. But the good news is that God did act for our good through Jesus.

Many people who follow other religions admire Jesus as a holy prophet or a great teacher. But few of these

people accept how Jesus came to this world.

What message did the angel Gabriel give to Mary, Jesus' mother? Luke 1:26-38.



“ ‘You will . . . give birth to a son. . . . He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God’ ” (Luke 1:31, 32, Nlrv).

The New Testament writers boldly announced that Jesus was created by the Holy Spirit. “ ‘The Holy Spirit will come to you [Mary]. The power [Holy Spirit] of the Most High God will cover you. So the holy one that is born will be called the Son of God’ ” (Luke 1:35, Nlrv). Born of a human mother, Jesus could call only God His real Father. Jesus is the Son of God and the Son of man.

²eternity—life without end.

What important message does John give about Jesus? John 1:1-18.

Jesus is more than a holy prophet. He is more than a great teacher. He is the Word made human. He is God's thoughts made seeable and hearable. Jesus was one with the Father from eternity² past. The Son of God became human in the person of Jesus. He is Immanuel (God with us). But He was “with us”—not in the thunder, lightning, and clouds of Sinai—but as one of us. He was as fully human as we are. That the Son of God was willing to come down to our level is amazing (wonderful)!

Sin required God to become a human and then die to save us from sin. What does this tell us about how bad sin really is? How does God dying to save you help you to trust Him?

TUESDAY—JUNE 28

GOD'S PERFECT PLAN (Isaiah 53:3-7).

Jesus came to the river Jordan to be baptized. John the Baptist announced, “ ‘Look! The Lamb of God [Jesus]! He takes away the sin of the world!’ ” (John 1:29, Nlrv). In this short announcement, John the Baptist gave a summary of God's salvation.

How do the following verses help you understand God's salvation?

Genesis 22:6-14 _____

Isaiah 53:3-7 _____

Revelation 5:1-14 _____

We have all sinned and fallen short of God's glory. The price of that sin is death. We all deserve to die. But Jesus, the Son of God, took our punishment upon Himself. "The servant [Jesus] was pierced [nailed] because we had sinned. He was crushed because we had done what was evil. He was punished to make us whole [well] again. His wounds have healed us" (Isaiah 53:5, NIV).

When Jesus died on the cross, He was putting down His life as the Lamb of God. He was fulfilling God's plan of salvation in every way. "Christ died for our sins, just as Scripture [the Bible] said he would" (1 Corinthians 15:3, NIV). "Christ didn't [did not] have any sin. But God made him become sin for us. So we can be made right with God because of what Christ has done for us" (2 Corinthians 5:21, NIV).

"Christ was treated as we deserve. Now we might be treated as He deserves. He was punished

for our sins, which He had not done. Now we might be made right with God through His righteousness (holiness), which we did not have. He suffered the death which was ours. Now we might receive the life which was His. 'His wounds have healed us' " (Isaiah 53:5, NIV). —Adapted from Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 25. Read this quote again, putting yourself in it: "Christ was treated as I deserve. Now I might be treated as He deserves. . . ." Read it again and again until you understand what Christ has done for you.

WEDNESDAY—JUNE 29

ACCEPTING GOD'S GRACE (1 Corinthians 1:18-31).

Our kind heavenly Father has made a plan for everyone to be saved. We are dead in our sins. But we can be made alive in Jesus. Paul preached the good news: "Say with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord.' Believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead. Then you will be saved" (Romans 10:9, NIV). The jailer asked Paul and Silas what he needed to do to be saved. They answered: " 'Believe in the Lord Jesus. Then you and your family will be saved' " (Acts 16:31, NIV). Salvation is for all people who accept it. When we believe in Jesus, we will be saved.

But not everyone wants to accept God's salvation. Some people see the message of the Cross and blood sacrifice as very old-fashioned. Other

people want to trust their own wisdom rather than God's wisdom.

How does Paul describe the different answers to God's perfect plan of salvation? 1 Corinthians 1:18-31. How do some people today show these same answers?

During the time of the apostles,³ some people looked upon Jesus' death as a scandal.⁴ How could Someone who died as a criminal be the Messiah? Other people saw the Cross as something foolish. How could one Man's death influence the future end of the human race? Both groups of people refused to accept God's salvation. They laughed at His grace. Some people laughed because God's grace went against their own religious views. Other people laughed because God's salvation did not seem reasonable and "scientific." But some people accepted the good news of salvation through Jesus. They saw that Jesus' death for their sins was the power and wisdom of God. God's salvation had many enemies. But Paul announced, "I am not ashamed of the good news [God's salvation]. It is God's power. And it will save everyone who believes" (Romans 1:16, NIV).

Think about your own answer to Jesus' saving grace. What helped you accept His salvation? Or have you not yet accepted His salvation?

³apostles—the disciples of Jesus whom He chose to preach the gospel after He returned to heaven.

⁴scandal—something that people are ashamed of.

THURSDAY—JUNE 30

SAYING THAT JESUS IS LORD (Acts 9:1-19).

John wrote the news that Jesus "came to what was his own. But his own people did not accept him" (John 1:11, NIV). The people wanted a Messiah who would save them from their Roman rulers. For this reason, many refuse to accept God's plan for their salvation. But John also wrote, "Some people did accept him [Jesus]. They believed in his name. He gave them the right to become children of God" (John 1:12, NIV). Many people fail to understand John 1:12. When we accept God's perfect plan of salvation through Jesus, we receive Jesus as our Savior and our Lord.

Study the story about how Saul (Paul) accepted Jesus. Acts 9:1-19. What does it mean to your own life when you receive Jesus as Savior and Lord?



Saul realized (understood) he was facing the risen Jesus. He did not say, “Lord, what do You want me to believe?” or “Lord, what do You want me to say?” Instead, he asked, “Lord, who are you?” (see Acts 9:6). By calling Jesus “Lord,” Saul recognized who Jesus really was. For this reason, Saul needed to obey Him. So when the Lord said, “‘Arise [get up] and go,’ ” Saul arose (got up) and went. Ananias gave the same answer. At first, Ananias argued with Jesus. He questioned Jesus’ judgment. But when Jesus said, “‘Go,’ ” Ananias went. The message is clear: When we say that Jesus is Lord, we recognize His full authority⁵ over our lives.

What did Jesus say to people who said they believed in Him but did not obey Him? Luke 6:46-49.

When we receive Jesus as Savior and Lord, we will obey Him. As a result, our lives will be greatly changed.

Suppose Jesus were to suddenly appear to you, as He did to Saul. And you say, “Lord, what do You want me to do?” What do you think He would say to you? Why?

FRIDAY—JULY 1

ADDITIONAL STUDY: Read 2 Peter. Notice all he says about Jesus.

Second Peter begins and ends with Jesus as our Savior and Lord.

Read about the people below who struggled with accepting Jesus as Savior and Lord.

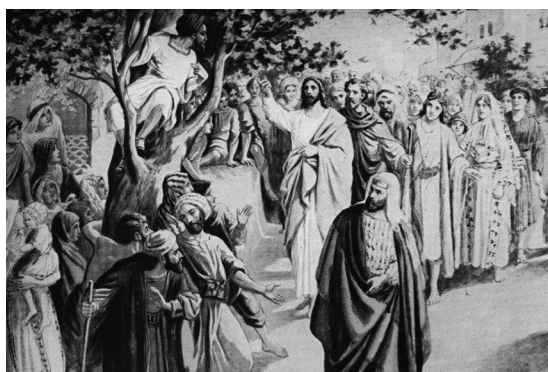
Nicodemus—John 3:1-21; John 7:50-53; John 19:39-42.

The rich young ruler—Matthew 19:16-26.

Zacchaeus—Luke 19:1-10.

Thomas—John 20:19-29.

Why did they struggle?



“‘The Son of Man [Jesus] came to look for the lost and save them’ ”
(Luke 19:9, NlrV).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How can we encourage one another to accept Jesus Christ as Lord in every part of our lives without becoming legalistic⁶ or judgmental?⁷ How can we avoid legalism⁸ when we ask Jesus to rule in every area (part) of our lives? Why is a proper understanding of righteousness (holiness) by faith⁹ the

⁵authority—the skill to make someone obey; influence that creates respect and trust; power.

⁶legalistic—believing that obeying the law will save you.

⁷judgmental—finding fault with people; pointing out to people the wrong things they have done.

⁸legalism—obeying the law to earn salvation; keeping the Ten Commandments to be saved.

⁹righteousness by faith—God saves us when we have faith in Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

- only way to protect yourself against legalism?
2. As a class, what could you do to help members in your local church understand the importance of letting Jesus be Lord of their lives? What could you do to encourage members to obey Jesus faithfully?
 3. What encouragement would you give to a friend who wants to experience salvation but who is afraid to surrender to Jesus Christ as Lord?
 4. Ask each class member to answer the following question, "What is salvation?" Discuss the answers.