



Blueprints: *Articulations*

The Weekly HouseNet Bible Study

What Does it Mean to be Saved?

Intro: In North American Christianity, there is probably no other issue that raises more hackles among the unchurched and irreligious (and sometimes even members of the church) than the issue of salvation. The exclusivity of Christianity, that is the "stumbling block" of Jesus Christ, is just that - the chief stumbling block to the faith. And yet.... The real question before us is what does the Bible say about salvation and whether we believe what the Bible says. Once we've answered those questions, then we can decide how best to articulate what we believe in a way that is faithful. When you finish this study, you should be able to do just that.

What the Bible Teaches: Break into Groups of Four, read the following Bible verses, and discuss the questions. You may want to jot down notes and thoughts on the back of this page.

What do these passages say are we saved from (or saved for)?

Luke 4:18-21; Matthew 1:21; Romans 5:9-10; Acts 2:40-47;

What are we *not* saved from?

Matthew 10:21-39

What does the Bible teach about what it takes to be saved?

Romans 10:13; Acts 4:12; 1 Peter 4:17-18; John 3:16-21

What I Believe: Take ten minutes for silent reflection and thought. Ask yourself what you believe about what it means to be saved. Use the back of this page to formulate a response to the question:

“What Does it Mean to be Saved?”

Write your final response here: _____

Articulations: Pair up with one other person and share your response with one another. Take five minutes each. Try to *not* look at your written statement; instead, try to tell your beliefs from your heart. This will prepare you to share whenever you are asked about what you believe.

Therefore: Jesus said His followers should Go and make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20). One of the first steps in making disciples is being ready and able to share the reason for the hope we have (1 Peter 3:15), in other words, knowing what we believe, why, and then being able to share it. Sharing your faith is important. This week, find someone—it can be *anyone*—and articulate your belief about this issue. If you have an unchurched/unreached friend whom you can share with, all the better (you can always say you have a homework assignment from church and you'd like to share it with them). Be ready to talk about your experience next week over the meal at your House Church.

A Closing Parable: Once upon a time there was a man who was out in his sailboat and got caught in a squall that blew him far out into the sea, tore his sails, and capsized his boat. As he clung to the barely floating hull in the shark-infested waters, he prayed for rescue. By and by, Jesus in a small boat rowed up to the man and offered to pick him up. However, the man didn't believe in Jesus and chose to wait for another way to be rescued. Jesus wouldn't force himself onto the man, even though there was no other rescue available, and so he rowed away.

Two closing questions: Who's at fault if the man drowns? What other responsibility does God have?