

DMJ 101 – Lesson 5: Jesus: The Way Opened by the Cross

Small Group Bible Discussion Guide (SALT Method)

Objective: To understand that Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation and eternal life, and that salvation is received by grace through faith—not by good works, religious activities, or personal effort.

Main Scriptures: Galatians 1:6–9, 1 Corinthians 15:1–5, John 14:6

Big Idea: There is only one Gospel and only one way to heaven—Jesus Christ. Salvation is God's gift, received through faith alone in Christ alone.

S — START

Icebreaker

Ask the group: "If you were lost in an unfamiliar city and needed to reach a destination urgently, how would you know which direction to take?"

Follow-up: "Would you trust every direction given to you, or would you look for the most reliable source?"
Allow participants to share.

Introduction

In today's world, people have many opinions about how to get to heaven:

- Be a good person
- Follow religious traditions
- Keep the Ten Commandments
- Do more good than bad
- Attend church regularly

Many roads are suggested, but can they all be correct?

Since eternity is at stake, we must look to God's Word for the answer. The Bible teaches that there is only one true Gospel and one way of salvation.

Illustration: The Correct Bridge

Imagine there is a deep canyon separating you from safety. Many people offer different suggestions on how to cross it. Some tell you to jump. Others suggest building your own bridge. But there is only one completed bridge that safely reaches the other side.

You can sincerely believe in another way, but sincerity cannot replace truth.

Similarly, God has provided only one bridge between sinful humanity and a holy God—Jesus Christ.

Opening Discussion

1. What are common beliefs people have about getting to heaven?
2. Why do people often trust their own efforts for salvation?
3. Why is it important to know the truth about salvation?

A — ALIGN

1. There Is Only One True Gospel

Read: Galatians 1:6–9

Paul expressed concern because believers were turning to a different gospel.

Discussion Questions

1. Why was Paul shocked by what was happening?
2. What danger comes from changing the Gospel?
3. Why is God's message not open to human modification?

Key Principle: The Gospel is God's truth and cannot be altered, improved, or replaced.

2. The Gospel Is About What Jesus Has Done

Read: 1 Corinthians 15:1–5

Paul summarizes the Gospel:

- Christ died for our sins.
- He was buried.
- He rose again on the third day.
- Many witnesses confirmed His resurrection.

Discussion Questions

1. What makes the Gospel "good news"?
2. Why is Jesus' resurrection essential?
3. What does Christ's death accomplish for us?

Key Principle: Salvation is based on Christ's finished work, not our personal efforts.

3. Salvation Is Received Through Faith

Read: Ephesians 2:8–9

The Bible teaches:

- Salvation is by grace.
- It is received through faith.
- It is God's gift.
- It is not earned through works.

Discussion Questions

1. What is the difference between earning a reward and receiving a gift?
2. Why can no one boast about salvation?
3. How does understanding grace impact our relationship with God?

Key Principle: Faith receives what God's grace freely offers.

4. Jesus Is the Only Way

Read: John 14:6

Jesus declared: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

Notice Jesus did not say He was "a" way but "the" way.

Discussion Questions

1. What makes Jesus' claim unique?
2. Why is His statement exclusive?
3. How should believers respond to this truth?

Key Principle: Jesus is not one option among many; He is God's only provision for salvation.

L — LIVE

Illustration: The Mirror

Imagine standing before a mirror and noticing dirt on your face.

The mirror reveals the problem but cannot cleanse you.

In the same way, God's Law and the Ten Commandments reveal our sin, but they cannot save us. Only Jesus can cleanse us and restore us to God. Romans 3:20 explains that the Law helps us recognize our sin.

Life Reflection

Ask:

1. What are some things people trust in besides Jesus?
 - Good works
 - Religion
 - Church membership
 - Family background
 - Moral behavior
 - Personal achievements
2. Why do people find it difficult to accept salvation as a free gift?
3. Have you ever tried to earn God's acceptance?
4. How does knowing that Jesus paid the full price for salvation affect your confidence before God?

Comparison Exercise

Ask the group which formula is biblical:

- ✗ Faith + Good Works = Salvation
- ✗ Faith + Keeping the Ten Commandments = Salvation
- ✓ Faith in Jesus + Nothing = Salvation → Results in Good Works

Discuss: Why do good works follow salvation instead of produce it?

Personal Reflection

Invite participants to consider:

- Am I depending entirely on Jesus for salvation?
- Am I trusting in religion, traditions, or personal righteousness?
- Have I personally received God's gift of eternal life?

T — TRANSFER

Personal Application

Ask:

1. What truth challenged or encouraged you most today?
2. How has today's lesson changed your understanding of salvation?
3. What areas of self-reliance do you need to surrender to God?
4. How can you grow in faith and dependence on Jesus this week?

Gospel Response

Review the Gospel:

- We are sinners (Romans 3:23).
- Sin brings death (Romans 6:23).
- Jesus died and rose again for our salvation.
- Eternal life is a gift received through faith.
- Jesus invites us into a personal relationship with Him (Revelation 3:20). ☐ cite ☐ turn5search1 ☐

Weekly Challenge

This week:

- ✓ Read Galatians 1 and John 14.
- ✓ Thank God daily for His gift of salvation.
- ✓ Write down one way you have been relying on yourself instead of Christ.
- ✓ Memorize John 14:6.
- ✓ Share the Gospel with one friend or family member.
- ✓ Pray daily for someone who needs to know Jesus.

Accountability Question for Next Meeting

Ask: "How did you intentionally depend on Jesus this week, and who did you have an opportunity to share the Gospel with?"

Wrap-Up Summary

Four Key Truths About the Only Way

1. **There is only one true Gospel.**
2. **Jesus' death and resurrection are the heart of the Gospel.**
3. **Salvation is received by grace through faith, not by works.**
4. **Jesus Christ is the only way to the Father.**

Memory Verses

John 14:6 - "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the l..."