Have you heard the sad story of the famous ship called Titanic? On its very first voyage in 1912, the luxury liner struck an iceberg and sank. Amazingly, even though they had enough lifeboats for about half of the people on board, many refused to get into them, hoping the giant ship would stay afloat.

Did you know that the largest lifeboat ever built took 120 years to construct? It was three stories high and had as much space as about 520 railroad cars! What's even more amazing is that only eight people chose to get on this lifeboat to save their lives — just eight people, along with thousands of animals! That lifeboat, of course, was Noah’s Ark.

Can you imagine what it must have been like on Noah’s Ark? Lightning flashing … loud peels of thunder … wind howling … volcanoes exploding … rain pouring! And a violent flood raging all around, crashing uprooted trees into the sides of the ark — tossing you this way and that. It must have been a very scary experience; yet it was the safest place to be.

Noah warned all the people that the flood was coming. He begged them to enter the ark, but most just laughed at him and said he was out of his mind. Only his own family listened and got on board.

Everything Noah preached came true. The lifeboat he built was the only way to be saved. Everyone else and everything else was destroyed. God made a way of salvation for His people, and His angels protected the ark.

The Bible says that in the last days, the world will be destroyed again — this time by a flood of fire (2 Peter 3:6, 7). But it also tells us how we can be safe.

Does God have another lifeboat that can protect us like the ark? Yes. But it’s not a real boat — because this lifeboat will need to carry us out of this world!

Let’s go on another amazing adventure through God’s Word — to discover the only lifeboat that can save us from the storm of destruction that’s coming soon to this world.
First, let’s say a prayer asking God to teach us and help us understand His Word. You might say,

“Dear God, Thank you for providing a lifeboat to save people from the flood. Please help me to find out what will keep me safe the next time you cleanse the world from sin. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.”

What has God done to make a lifeboat for us?

**Answer:** “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

What will keep us from perishing or dying forever?

B_________ in God’s Son, Jesus.

So what or who is the lifeboat?

J________

Jesus is not only our lifeboat, He is our “life preserver” too!

The Bible says we are “preserved in Jesus Christ” (Jude 1:1).

Each letter of “everlasting” starts another word that describes God’s love. Draw a line from the first letter to the rest of the word. The first one is done for you.

E = everlasting
V = immeasurable
E = bounding
R = ast
L = ast
A = st
S = ing
T = everlasting
I = ente
G = elsewhere

This is like the sacrifice God made for you! The Bible says, “The Father Himself loves you” (John 16:27). He gave His Son, Jesus, to die for your sins so that you can be forgiven and saved. And Jesus willingly offered Himself in death so that we could live (Matthew 20:28). You are that special to God! He wants you to be with Him forever in heaven. Think about it … WOW! God’s love is amazing.
How could Jesus love us that much? Does He really love me?

Answer: “God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

Jesus answers, “Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love” (Jeremiah 31:3). “You were precious in My sight” (Isaiah 43:4).

Jesus does love you. The Bible says He has an everlasting love for you and that you are very precious to Him!

Sometimes friends don’t always get along. They might be nice to each other one day, but mean the very next day. But that is not the way it is with Jesus; He is always kind and true. He loves you when you are good and when you are bad — even though it makes Him sad. Jesus died for you so that you can be forgiven and have a home in heaven.

Here’s a question for you: Who knew about you a few months before you were born? Your parents, of course — and just maybe your grandparents and a few family friends too.

Okay. Now, who knew you more than 100 years before you were born? In the Bible, God says, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you” (Jeremiah 1:5, emphasis added).

“Thus says the Lord, who created you ... ‘Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are mine’ ” (Isaiah 43:1, emphasis added).

Emperor penguins are the tallest and heaviest of all penguin species. But they are best known for their amazing sacrificial devotion to their young. After the female lays a single egg, the father keeps it warm and protected while “mom” walks as much as 75 miles to the sea for food. During the coldest Antarctic months, the “dads” endure bitter storms and great hardships (without eating!) to protect the egg. When the mother finally returns, both parents take turns tenderly caring for their chick until the young penguin is strong enough to make the long journey to the sea.

Have you ever done something that you don’t want anyone else to know about? Perhaps you feel that if your friends knew, they might not like you anymore. The good news is that Jesus knows everything about you, good and bad, and He still loves you. He knew your name even before you were born, and He has a special place in His heart just for you. Jesus wants you to choose to be His — called by His name — “Christian,” a follower of Christ. He wants you to be redeemed (saved from sin).

What do you want to be when you grow up? A doctor, teacher, farmer, or firefighter? Maybe you don’t know yet. But Jesus knows, and He has a special work for you that will be a blessing not only to yourself — but to others as well.

What else does Jesus know about you? The Bible says God knows you so well that He even knows the number of hairs on your head (Matthew 10:30)! He also knows your address: “I know your dwelling place, Your your going out and your coming in” (Isaiah 37:28).

Jesus really does know everything about us, doesn’t He? How many ________ we have on our head ... and when we _______ out and ________ in. Wow!

(Do you know the number of hairs on your head?)

A best friend is someone who knows everything about you and still loves you. Well, Jesus wants to be your best friend! He knows you better than you know yourself — and He won’t stop loving you.

Fill in the missing words in this little poem.

Whether it’s blond, red, brown or black Curly or straight, spiked up, tied ________
God has the scoop of what’s on top Your shiny mane, your curly ________

How do we know that God knows us? How do we know if we can ________?

Yes, Jesus sees us, and He cares For, lovingly, He counts our ________.
What did Jesus come to do for me?

Answer #1: “God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation [atonning sacrifice] for our sins” (1 John 4:9, 10). “The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

Jesus gave His life so “we might ________ through Him.” We have sinned, and the results are that we will die and never live again. But God is offering the gift of eternal _______. Jesus was the sacrifice for our sins that makes this all possible.

Suppose one day you were throwing a baseball — and you broke a very expensive store window! You’re in really big trouble, because it costs a lot to fix it and you don’t have enough money. The store owners decide to take your parents to court … but then a good friend, who heard about your problem, gives all the money he has to pay for a new window. How would you feel about a friend like that? Would you keep on throwing the baseball so carelessly? Or would you show your appreciation to your friend by never being careless again?

The truth is that we all owe a big debt, which is impossible for us to pay. We have all sinned; we are all guilty of breaking God’s law, the Ten Commandments. The penalty for this is not simply paying a fine or going to bed without supper — it’s much more than that! The punishment is death! If it wasn’t for Jesus’ willingness to accept our punishment, we would all be doomed to die.

“He [Jesus] was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities [sins]” (Isaiah 53:5). “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). Jesus took upon Himself the punishment we all deserve — but we must accept His gift!

Answer #2: Let’s look at another wonderful thing Jesus has done for us: “You shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21).

Jesus saves us from our ________! We don’t have to be stuck in our bad habits. He will help us to overcome them.

Answer #3: And here’s another thing Jesus does that is even more wonderful — if that’s possible! “Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!” (1 John 3:1). “As many as received Him [Jesus], to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name” (John 1:12).

If we believe in Jesus, He calls us His ______________.

A small boy kept coming late to the dinner table. One day, his parents carefully warned him to be on time. But he arrived later than ever! He found his parents already seated at the table, about to start eating. Very hungry, he quickly sat at his place. But he noticed what was set before him — a slice of bread and a glass of water.

There was a long, sad silence as the boy sat staring at his plate. Then his father reached over, picked up his plate, and set it before himself. Then his dad put his own plate full of food in front of his son, smiling warmly as he made the trade.

Jesus is like that small boy’s father. He is willing to exchange our sins for His perfect obedience. That boy was never late for dinner again!

Jesus came to make us a part of the family of God above!

Wow! Jesus wants to do a lot for us! He came to give you life, to save you from sin, and to make you God’s child — all of this, if you believe in Him and ask Him.

There are many different kinds of boats in the world — all of which will save us from drowning! Look in this word search and find the words in the list below by going down, sideways, or diagonally.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Raft</th>
<th>Submarine</th>
<th>Yacht</th>
<th>Catamaran</th>
<th>Houseboat</th>
<th>Rowboat</th>
<th>Canoe</th>
<th>Kayak</th>
<th>Ship</th>
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There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents” (Luke 15:10).

How do I accept Jesus and truly show that I believe in Him?

**Answer:** “We love Him because He first loved us” (1 John 4:19). “The goodness of God leads you to repentance” (Romans 2:4). “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins” (1 John 1:9).

We can get in the salvation lifeboat by believing in Jesus. “From childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus” (2 Timothy 3:15).

Jesus loves you and has promised to forgive you if you confess your sins (1 John 1:9). **Why not go to Jesus now and ask Him to forgive you?** You can have peace in your heart today — knowing that everything is right between you and God.

You will have sorrow, and will mourn with despair as your life overflows with turmoil and sadness. Your heart will be empty and your soul will be full of weakness!

There are many happy words from the Bible on this page. Unscramble these letters to make the words. Below the words, you will find a message from Satan. His sad words are pale, though, and you can write the happy words of Jesus over them.

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yoj jecoire gilthde
cepae reech luf thnegrts
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**Answer:** You will have joy, and will rejoice with delight as your life overflows with peace and cheer. Your heart will be full and your soul will be full of strength!

Will my life change when I give it to Jesus and join His family? What does Jesus help me do?

**Answer:** “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away … all things have become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17). “If you love Me, keep My commandments” (John 14:15).

Just as a fat caterpillar can change into a beautiful new butterfly, God’s love can change us into beautiful new people. His love casts away our old desires and gives us new ones. We want to give love back to Jesus by not doing selfish, sinful things. We want to keep God’s commandments, which show love to God and other people, who are His children too. We can ask Jesus now to change our lives and help us to live like He does. That is what will really make Him happy now!

“**There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents**” (Luke 15:10).

Did you know that a caterpillar grows to about 27,000 times the size it was when it first emerged from its egg? If a human baby weighed 9 pounds at birth and grew at the same rate as a caterpillar, it would weigh 243,000 pounds when fully grown!

**How many butterflies can you find?**

_______

**Answer:** 21 butterflies

**Fast Fact**

How many butterflies can you find?
There was once a boy named Johnny whose little sister needed a blood transfusion to save her life. The doctor explained that her only chance for recovery was a transfusion from her brother ... who had the same rare blood type. Johnny was the ideal donor!

"Would you give your blood to Mary?" the doctor asked. Johnny hesitated — his lower lip started to tremble.

Finally, he nodded and said, "Sure, for my sister."

Soon the two children were wheeled into the hospital room: Mary, thin and pale; Johnny, robust and healthy. Neither spoke, but when their eyes met, Johnny smiled.

As the nurse inserted the needle into his arm, Johnny became very serious. He watched the blood flow through the tube.

With the ordeal almost over, his shaky voice broke the silence. "Doctor, when do I die?"

Only then did the doctor realize why Johnny had hesitated when he had agreed to donate his blood. He thought he was giving all his blood away to his sister and that he would die. In that brief moment, he’d made his great decision.

Johnny, fortunately, didn’t have to die to save his sister. Each one of us, however, has a condition far more serious than Mary’s illness — and it required Jesus to give not just His blood but His life too.

Will I be happier when I accept Jesus?

Answer: Jesus says, “These things I have spoken to you ...that your joy may be full” (John 15:11). “I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation” (Habakkuk 3:18). “I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law is within my heart” (Psalm 40:8).

Jesus comes to bring us true joy. And these Bible writers sound happy, don’t they? Some people think it is hard to be a Christian because there are so many things you can’t do anymore. Let’s see — we can’t swear, steal, be mean to others, or be selfish! Do we really want to do those kinds of things if we love Jesus? No, even though Satan might tempt us — either through peer pressure or our own desires — to do those things again. Jesus’ way gives us peace in our hearts and a clear, happy conscience with no regrets.

"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13).

To find a message from Jesus, take a crayon and color in all the squares that have the following letters:

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C F H J K N P Q R S T U W X Z
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Do you see how much Jesus loves you?

Do you want to accept Jesus and start living a new life with Him? _________
How can I always remember how much Jesus loves me?

1. **Talk to Him every day in prayer.**
   When you’re happy or sad, when you need something, or when you want someone to talk to — send a little thought to Jesus. Since He knows everything about you, Jesus can even hear your thoughts! Isn’t that awesome?!

2. **Read your Bible.**
   Be like those who “searched the Scriptures daily” (Acts 17:11). Read about Jesus in the four Gospels. “Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith” (Hebrews 12:2). Jesus writes His love in our hearts — and if we keep looking at His love, we get a perfect faith in Him. Then we’re ready to live with Him.

3. **Tell someone else.**
   “If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart, … you will be saved” (Romans 10:9). Sharing your love for Jesus and the things He has done for you actually makes your decision and your love for Him stronger! It makes Jesus happy when you share Him with others. Then He can see that you really do love Him.

_Did you enjoy this exciting lesson?_ We surely hope so! Now do the questions on the **SUMMARY SHEET**.
YOUR COMMENTS:

6. What new things have you discovered in this lesson?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

7. Do you want to tell Jesus that you love Him and give Him your life right now? _____________

8. Do you want to live for Him and tell others how much He loves them too? ________________

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