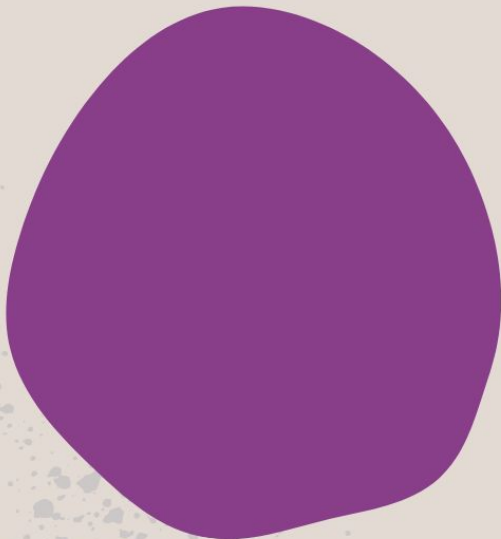




STEPPING STONES

Milestone 4

Baptism - Kid's Guide





Thank you for coming! I'm so glad you're here. I am so excited for you. You've trusted in Jesus to be your Savior.

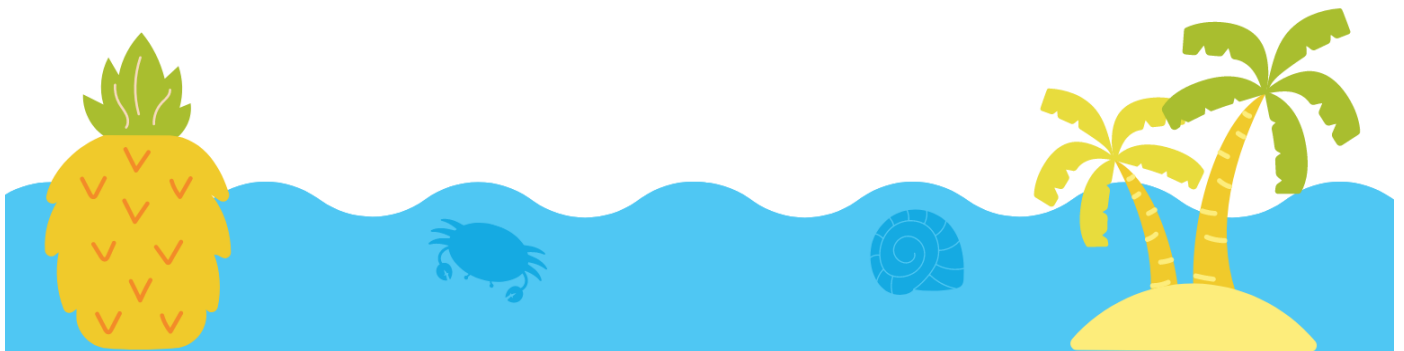
Today, we will talk about your first big step after trusting Jesus - Baptism.

The first thing we will discuss is how we can know for sure that we are saved.

During the class, we will answer these questions:

- How can we be saved?
- Can I be sure of my salvation?
- What is baptism?
- Why should I be baptized?
- When should I be baptized?
- What happens during a baptism?

Let's pray, and then we'll begin.





We are going to begin by reviewing the good news about Jesus.
But first comes the Bad News!



BAD NEWS

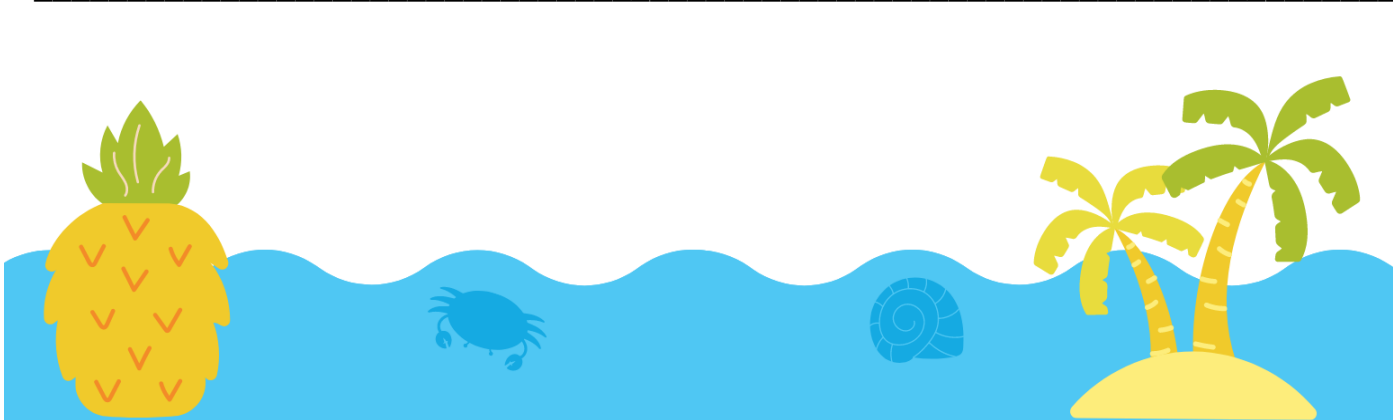
1. I Am a Sinner.

The Bible tells us that we have all sinned.

*"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."
Romans 3:23 [NIV].*



What is "sin?" _____



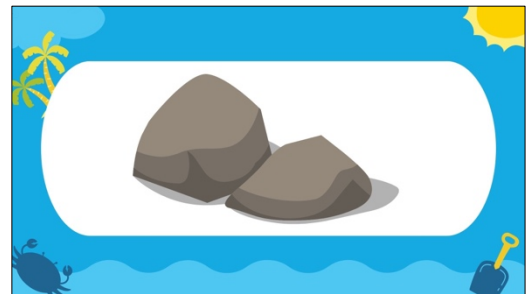


“Sin” means to M _____ the M _____.

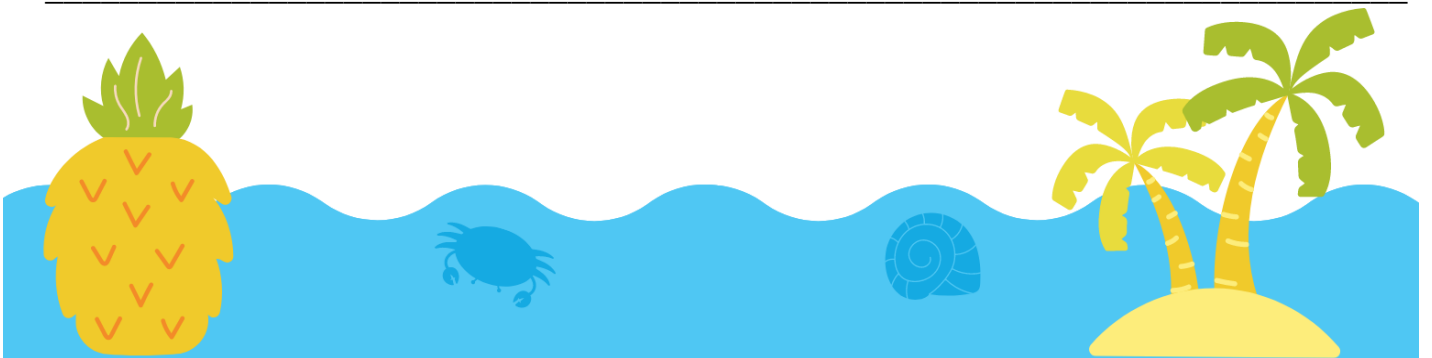
Whenever we lie, hate, lust, gossip, or do anything wrong, we have missed the standard God has set.

Illustration:

Suppose you and I were to throw a rock as far as possible to try to hit the North Pole. You might throw farther than me, but neither would reach it. It’s an impossible goal.



What does it mean when it says that we “fall short”? _____





When the Bible says, "All have sinned and fall short," it means that we have all come short of God's standard of perfection. We have not been perfect in our thoughts, words, and actions.



Have you ever done anything wrong? (Circle one). YES

NO

Are you a sinner?

YES

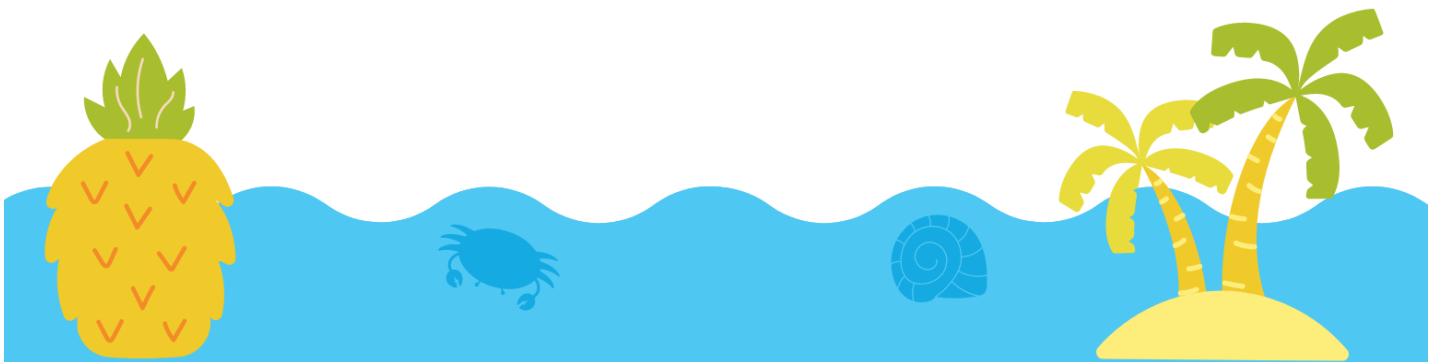
NO

The Bible tells us that we are ALL sinners.

BAD NEWS

2. The Penalty for Sin Is Death.

The Bible says that the wages of sin is death.





Let's read this verse together.

*"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life,
in Christ Jesus our Lord."
Romans 6:23 (NIV).*

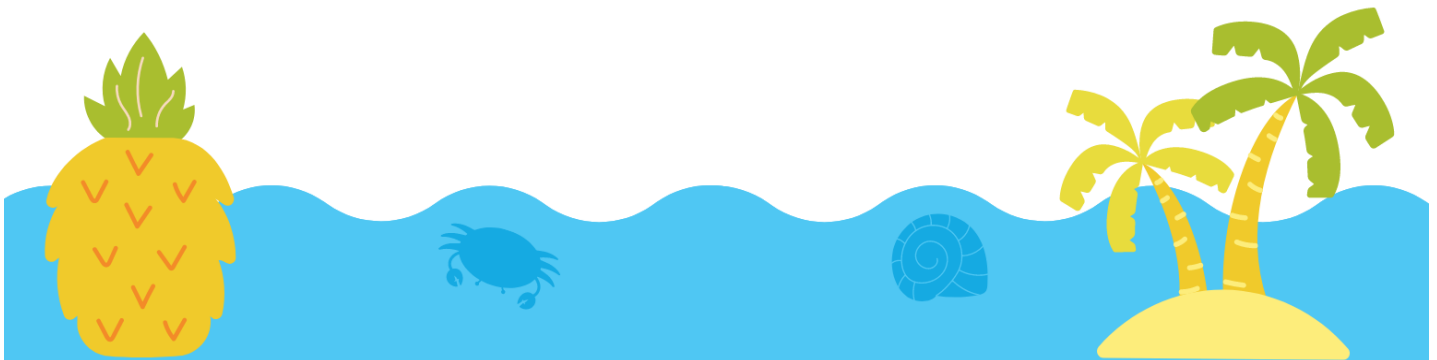
What is the penalty for our sin? D _____. _____.



Death is another way of saying that we are separated from God.
God is Holy (Perfect), so our sin separates us from Him.

Illustration:

Suppose you worked for me for a day, and I paid you \$50.





Questions:

What is a "wage"? _____

Is that \$50 a gift or a payment? (Circle One). GIFT PAYMENT

Why isn't it a gift? _____

Is it a gift if you have to pay for it? (Circle One). YES NO

The Bible says that by sinning, we have earned death. That means we deserve to die and be separated from God forever.

That's BAD news!

Thankfully, there is also some good news.

Since there was no way that we could get to God, the Bible says that God came to us!





1. Jesus Died to Pay My Penalty.

The verse that we just read also had some good news at the end.

*"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life,
in Christ Jesus our Lord."
Romans 6:23 (NIV).*

What is the "good news" in this verse?

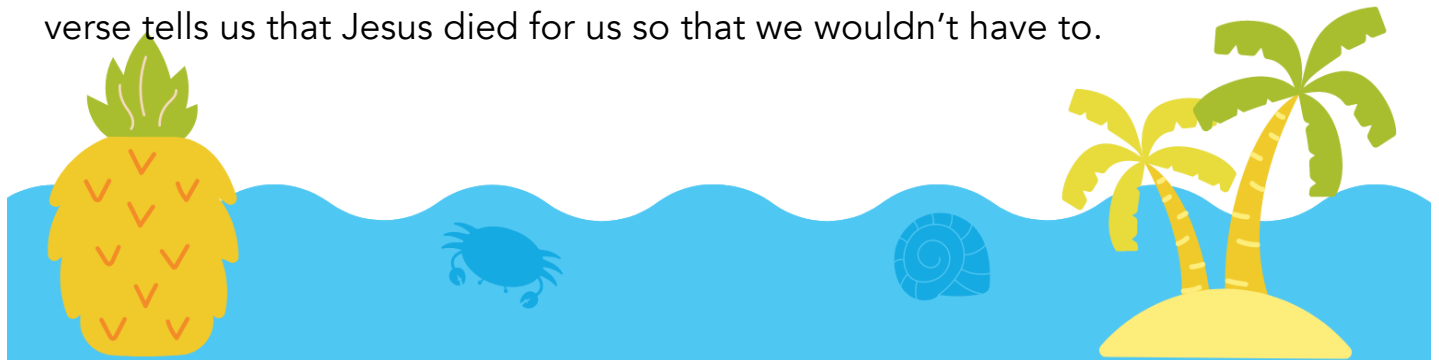
E _____ L _____.



But how do we get this gift? Here is another verse.

*"God demonstrates his own love for us in this:
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us"
Romans 5:8 (NIV).*

Since the penalty for sin is death, someone must die and pay this penalty. This verse tells us that Jesus died for us so that we wouldn't have to.



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Illustration:

Suppose you are in a hospital dying of cancer.

I come to visit and say, "Let me take all of the cancer cells out of your body and put them into my body."

If that were possible, what would happen to me?

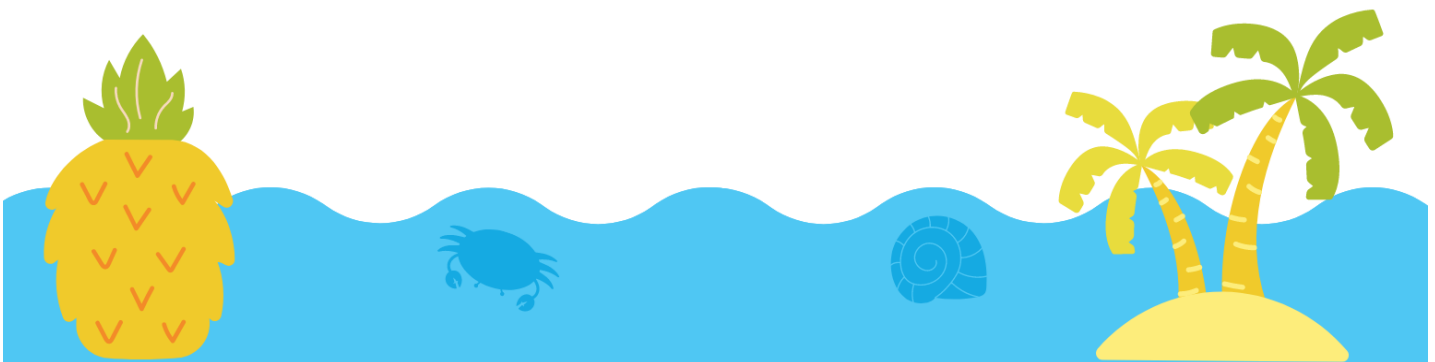


What would happen to you? _____

Read this verse again:

*"God demonstrates His own love for us in this:
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*

Romans 5:8





What did God demonstrate? His L _____.



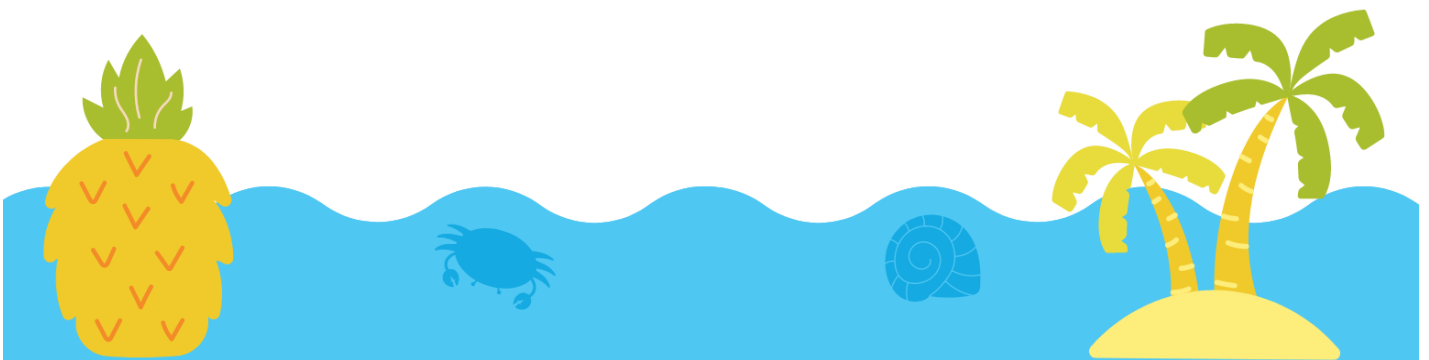
What did Jesus do for us? _____

When did Jesus die for us? While we were still S _____.

The Bible says that Jesus took our place. He paid the penalty that we deserved [because of our sin], placed it on Himself, and died in our place. He paid our sin penalty.

Three days later, Jesus came back to life to prove that sin and death had been defeated and that His claims to be God were true.

He has provided a way for us to be with Him forever.





2. I Can Be Saved Through Faith.

Read this verse together:

*"God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son.
Anyone who believes in Him will not die but will have eternal life."
John 3:16*

Who loves the world and everyone in it? G ____ .



What did God do? Gave His S ____ .

What do we need to do? B _____ .

What will we get when we believe?

E _____ L _____ .





The Bible tells us that whoever BELIEVES in Jesus will be saved. People sometimes are confused by what it means to believe.



What is the object in this picture? _____

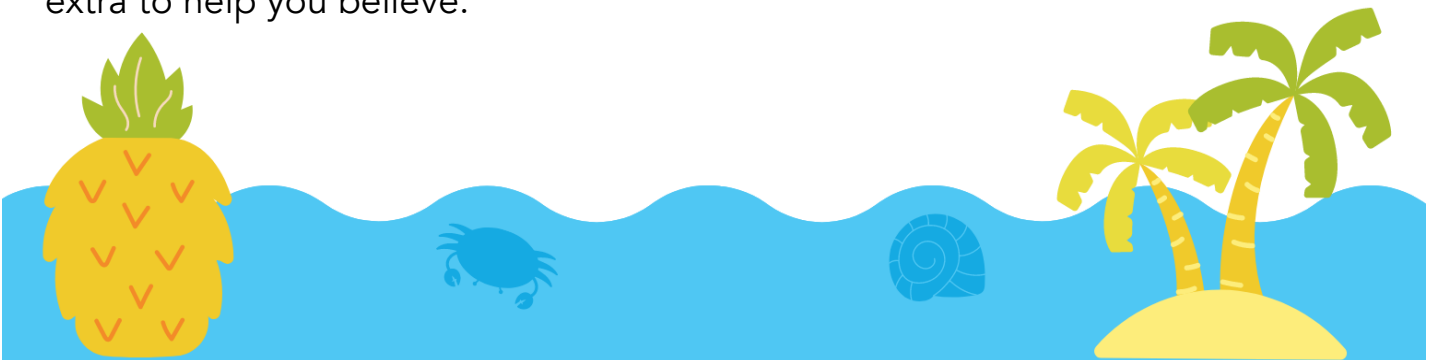
Do you believe it is a pen? (Circle One) YES NO

Are you sure that is a pen? YES NO

Do I need to convince you more? YES NO

So, you believe that is a pen? YES NO

If you believe it is a pen, you don't need to believe "harder" or do something extra to help you believe.





If you are convinced that it is a pen, then you believe.

Believing in Jesus is the same.



When you sat down today, did you check the chair? (Circle One) YES NO

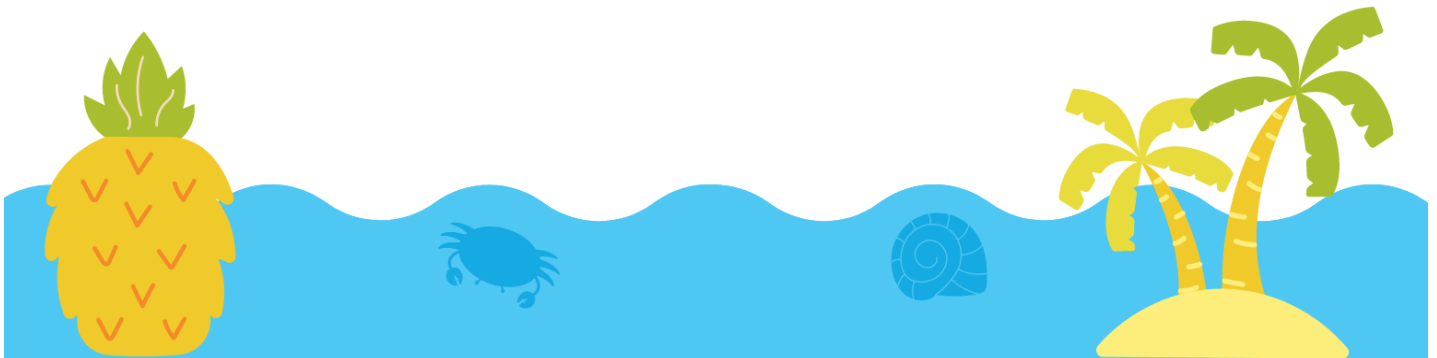
Did you make sure that all of the screws were tight? YES NO

Did you make sure the legs weren't broken? YES NO

You trusted [or believed] that the chair would hold you up.
You didn't DO anything. You just sat down.

It's the same with Jesus. We must trust in Jesus to get us to heaven through no effort of our own.

We cannot work our way to heaven. If we could, Jesus wouldn't have had to die.





We must believe that when Jesus died on the cross for our sins, He paid our FULL sin penalty - 100% of the cost.

God doesn't want our good works.

Going to church won't help pay the cost.

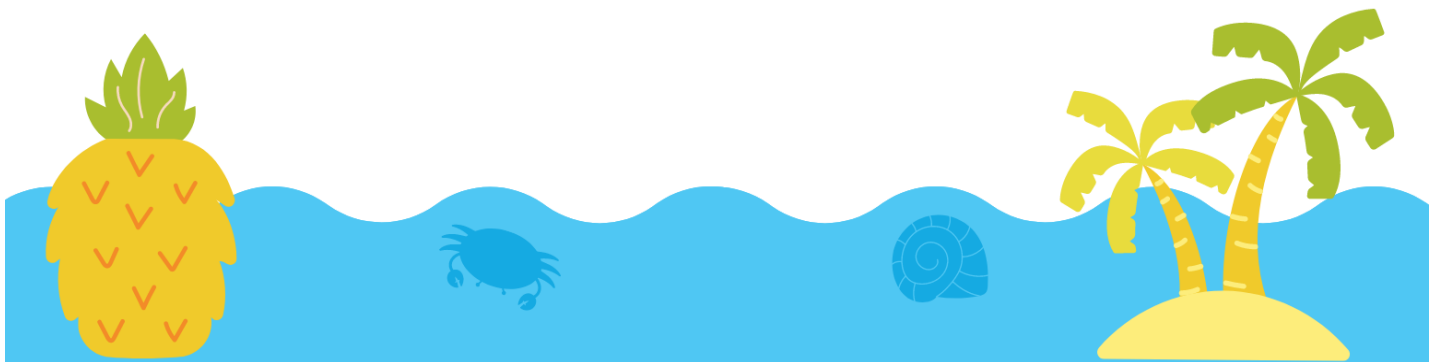
Being good won't pay the penalty.

"All of us have become like someone who is "unclean."
All the good things we do are like dirty rags to You."
Isaiah 64:6



What does God think of our good works? _____

Dirty rags are smelly and full of grime and bacteria. God doesn't want our works. We might think that they are "good," but in comparison to God's holiness, they are like dirt.





Remember that God's standard is 100% PERFECTION.

Since we cannot reach that standard, we need a different way.

The penalty is death, and the only way to pay the penalty is by dying. Jesus did that for us. We can't pay the penalty with good work.

Read this verse together:

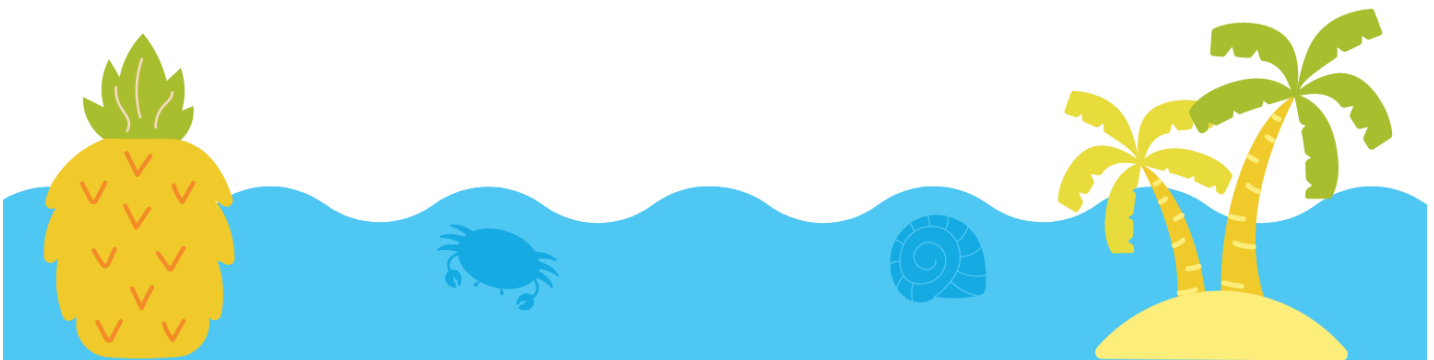
*"But things are different with God.
He makes ungodly people right with Himself.
If people trust in Him, their faith is accepted even though they
do not work. Their faith makes them right with God."*

Romans 4:5



What does God do for us? Makes us R _____ with God.

When people trust in Jesus, their faith (belief) is accepted.





Faith is just another word for "Believe."

The Bible says FAITH is accepted

"even though they do N _____ W _____."



Can you work your way to heaven by doing good things?

For example:

- Going to Church?
- Being kind to a sibling?
- Telling the truth?

(Circle One) YES NO



How do we know that we will go to heaven when we die?

What makes us right with God? _____

We cannot work our way to heaven. We must trust in Jesus Christ ALONE, and God will give US eternal life as a FREE gift! If we try to pay for it, it is no longer a gift.



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION



Why do we need Jesus? _____

Why did Jesus die on the cross? _____

What happens when you trust in Jesus to save you?

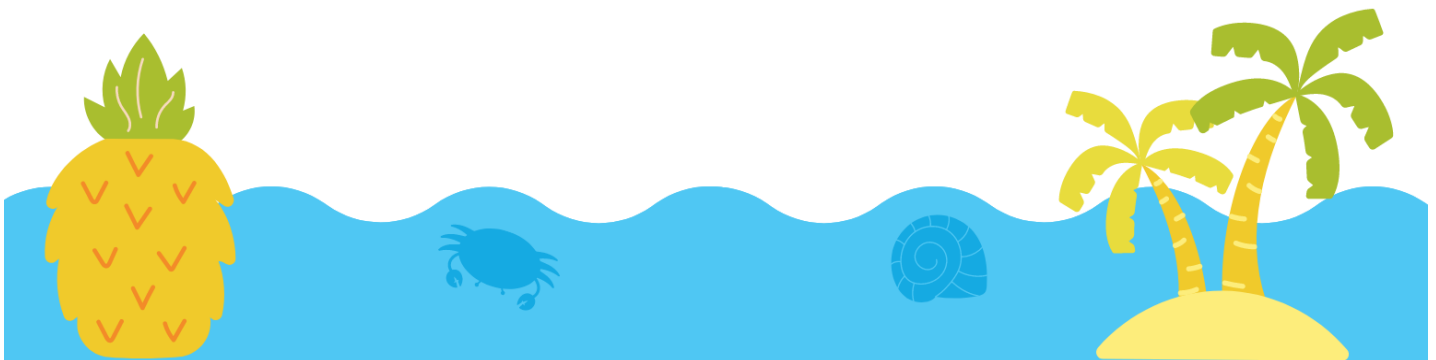
Do you believe that Jesus died for you and paid for all of your sins?

Circle One

YES

NO

Praying a special prayer doesn't save you any more than going to church or being a good person. Praying is just talking to God. But if you trust in Jesus to save you, you might like to tell Him by praying.





You could pray something like this.

Dear God,
I know that I am a sinner, and I am separated from You because of my sin.
I believe that Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for my sins.
Thank you for your promise of salvation.
Help me to live in a way that pleases You until I go to live with you
forever in heaven.
In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Is praying to God a "good work"? YES NO NOT SURE

Will praying a prayer save you? YES NO NOT SURE



Praying a prayer isn't what saves you. So it doesn't matter if you pray or if you pray and mess up the words. You don't have to pray the prayer over and over.

All God asks of us is to BELIEVE. If you believe, then you are saved!!





ACTIVITY: AIRPLANE GOSPEL



Where does God live? H _____.

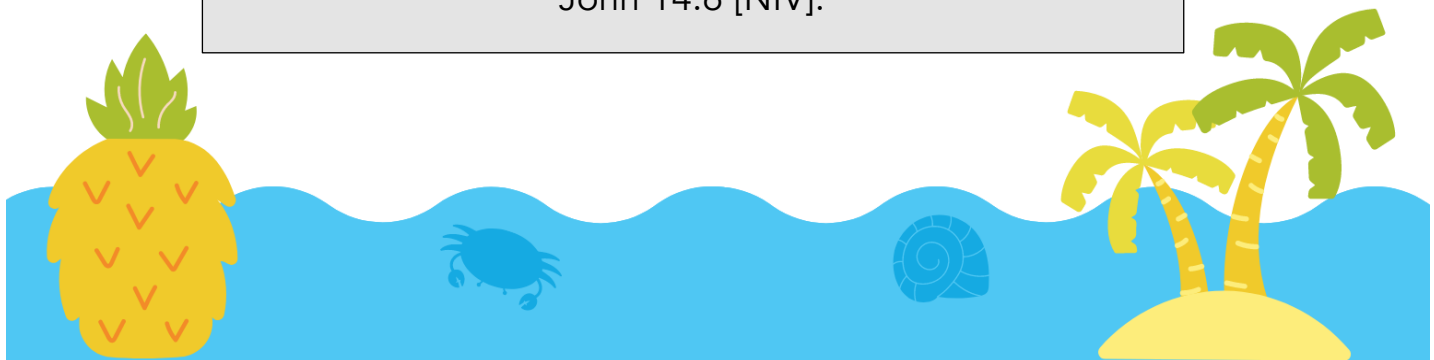
*"My Father's house has many rooms...
I am going there to prepare a place for you."
John 14:2 [NIV].*

Heaven sounds like a nice place to go, but how can we be sure we will get there?

Can we get to heaven by plane? (Circle One). YES NO

Can we get to heaven by rocket ship? (Circle One). YES NO

*"Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.
No one comes to the Father except through Me"."
John 14:6 [NIV].*





The Bible says:

*"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son,
that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

John 3:16 [NIV].

The ONLY way we get to heaven is by believing in Jesus and what He did for us on the cross.

Now go and fly your plane, and tell your friends about the good news of Jesus!

MEMORY VERSE

*"For it is by GRACE you have been saved, through faith,
and this is not from yourselves; it is the gift of God."*

Ephesians 2:8 [NIV].

