



SESSION 1

Salvation Review

Part 1

- Introductions – everyone introduces themselves to the group, perhaps indicating when they made a commitment to follow Jesus
- Explain the key objective of the sessions:
 - To explore together what it means to follow Jesus as Lord and Saviour
- Explain the structure of the sessions, the 3 thirds format. See the notes at the end for an explanation
- Talk about the expectations of the group session, including:
 - Confidentiality of any personal issues discussed in the group
 - Encouragement to tell the stories to others, especially non-believers
 - Growth as believers – this is the expected outcome of the series. There will be opportunities to pray and worship together and encourage one another during each session i.e. practically living out what they will be learning.

Part 2 (review of Salvation)

identity

mission

To start with, review the basics of salvation using the '3 circles' explanation of the gospel

See <https://vimeo.com/140957422> for an illustration of the '3 circles' explanation. **Practise** telling the gospel using this illustration in advance, ensuring you are comfortable with it.

Ask the standard questions below – refer to the notes on the 'three thirds' format for how to ask these questions and how to follow up responses.

Questions for discussion

1. What do you like about this story?
2. What bothered you about this story?
3. What does this story show you about God?
4. What does this story show you about people?

If, in the course of the discussions, it turns out that any of the participants has not yet made a commitment to follow Jesus or is more of a 'seeker', then signpost a more appropriate group e.g. Alpha, Science&Faith.

Part 3 (practice)

community

mission

Ask the remaining questions:

5. What does this story mean for your life? How will you live your life differently having learned this story?
6. How will you remember this story?
7. Is there anyone you would like to tell this story to?

Encourage each participant to tell the story to someone, especially using the '3 circles' method

Encourage participants to pray for each other, that the truth of the gospel will continue to take root in their lives, that they will grow in their faith following these sessions

Encourage participants to meditate on and memorise key scriptures such as John 3:16



CHRIST CENTRAL

“Three Thirds” Format

The session is divided into three sections:

- fellowship/worship/accountability
- review and new information
- practice and vision-casting

If one of the thirds is omitted, something is lost.

Fellowship/Worship/Accountability

This is the time to take care of each other. Spend some time fellowshiping and worshipping together in whatever way is natural for your group. Ask each other how the week went, and if there is anything to pray about. The most important question to ask each other is “What happened when you shared the story/information from last week?” or “What did God do when you applied his truths in your life last week?” We tend to find that each person may assume that the other is there to learn to go out to share it with someone during the week, and/or implement what they’ve learned in their own lives. Instead, the question is asked with the assumption that the person has done this. If good things happened, rejoice together. If things didn’t go as planned, talk about why that might be. Was someone afraid to share? Was it difficult to obey the truths from the last session? Pray for these things and offer to help each other through whatever is happening in their lives.

Review and New Information

This time begins with reviewing last week’s session. Ask someone else to retell the story or summarise the teaching. Then, move into the new story or content. If it’s a story, most of the time you will need to tell the story at least twice. Sometimes you can vary the second telling by having people act it out or draw it out as you narrate it again. If the story includes different scenes, walk around the room as you tell it so that the audience has a visual representation for each scene. Whatever “package” (whether story, bible reading, teaching from a book of the bible, etc) the content comes in, be sure that you’re only going over one main point in a session. The bible should be the source of the information. You can go through a book about the bible, but be sure that the center of the information is directly from the bible.

Ask the first four questions: Each question is a “category,” so below are several examples for each question. You may ask the question in whatever way works best for your audience. You may vary the wording of the questions from time to time. Do not accept “surface-level” answers. Expect the participants to be transparent, and be sure that everyone feels like the environment is safe enough to do so. Do not be afraid to ask follow-up “why” or “how” questions after someone answers. These questions can be used for any story or Bible passage.

1. *What did you like about this story/Bible passage? What struck you about this story/Bible passage? What was your favourite part about this story/Bible passage?*
2. *What bothered you about this story/Bible passage? Is there anything you didn’t understand in this story/Bible passage?*
3. *What does this story/Bible passage show you about God/Jesus?*
4. *What does this story/Bible passage show you about people?*



CHRIST CENTRAL

Practice and Vision casting

The last three questions flow into this time.

5. *How does this story/Bible passage change your life this week? What does this story/Bible passage show you about yourself? What is there to obey in this story/Bible passage? How does this story/Bible passage apply to your life?*
6. *How will you remember this story/Bible passage? (The answer is always the same—share it! However, ask it every time.)*
7. *Who is God telling you to tell this story to?*

Ask the participants to state a name of someone when appropriate. When we state names, we are more likely to actually tell the story and remember to ask someone else if they told the story. At the end of the time, pray for the people who will be hearing and telling this story this week.

Encourage the participants to tell the story to others and to actually go through the same process with them that they have gone through in the story session. They can ask the person to retell the story and ask them the questions. They can also try to form a group of people with whom they can go through the stories. In this way, groups multiply exponentially!