# 4 Facts: Savior

*Jesus died for our sins, so we can have a close relationship with God*

+Essentials

B

## Group Discussion Flow

### connect with needs

- Find out how they are doing. Ask also how their ***action to take*** and ***person to tell*** went last week.
- Pray for wisdom from God for the session.
- Start by stating: *"There are times when people need serious help to get out of bad situations."*

  Then, surface experiences:

  *"Let me tell you how I have experienced this."*

  *"Tell us how you have experienced this."*
- Transition to the Bible by saying, *"Human beings are in a very bad situation due to their sin, and Jesus came to give us some serious help."*

### hear what God says

- Read (or tell) a Bible story/passage related to the topic.

  Choices:

  **John 8:3–11 (story)**
  **Romans 5:8**
  **Ephesians 2:4–9**

  Two of these passages may be enough to cover in one session.

  Commentary:

  **John 8:3–11 —** The Pharisees (religious leaders) brought a woman caught in adultery to Jesus. According to the law, they said she should be stoned for her actions. Jesus pointed out that no person is without sin. Jesus challenged the Pharisees to kill the woman if they were without sin. No one could. Jesus did not condemn the woman, but challenged her to leave her life of sin.

  **Romans 5:8 —** Jesus died on the cross for us because we are sinners.

  **Ephesians 2:4–9 —** This passage shows us that, because of His love and mercy, God sent Jesus Christ to be our Savior. We are no longer dead in our sins, but have new life. This is an act of God's grace, not of our own merit or deeds.

- Discuss each passage using the following questions, or the alternate questions below:

  *What do you think this passage teaches us?*

  *What can we learn about God or our response to God?*

  *How do you think this passage relates to the statement we discussed earlier: "There are times when people need serious help to get out of bad situations"?*

### apply that to life

- State the main lesson: *"Jesus died for our sins, so we can have a close relationship with God."* Have them write the ***lesson learned*** on their Mini-Journal card.
- Discuss:
  *What are some things that prevent people from accepting Jesus as Savior?*

  *What is one action you can take this week to point a friend to Jesus as Savior (or) to accept Him as Savior yourself?*
- It may be appropriate to walk through the *Would You Like to Know God Personally?* or *Connecting With God* booklet at this point.
- Have them write down their specific ***action to take.*** Then in groups, have them share what action they plan to take. Finally, have them pray for one another.

### tell someone they know

- Ask whom they know who might be interested in hearing about what they are learning.
- Have them write the name after ***person to tell.*** Then, in groups of two or three, have them share whom they plan to tell. Finally, have them pray for one another.
- Encourage them to tell those people in the next few days.

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*notes and preparation checklist*

**pray**

- ☐ Pray for wisdom.
- ☐ Pray for group members.

**connect**

- ☐ Think of a good personal example to share.
- ☐ Decide when and how to transition from **connect** to **hear.**

*notes and preparation checklist*

**hear**

Alternate questions to ask:

- ☐ John 8:3–11

  Note: The woman did break the Jewish law and faced death as a result. Adultery was punishable by death in that culture at that time.

  *Since the woman was clearly guilty of adultery, why do you think Jesus didn't condemn her?* (There are a few different levels to this answer, but one of them is that He had compassion on her and wanted to save her.)

- ☐ Romans 5:8

  1. *Why did Christ have to die?* (You may need to add some understanding here that God's punishment for sin ultimately is death — eternal separation from Him. However, for those who receive Christ's forgiveness, Jesus' death takes the place of our own death for our sins.)
  2. *What was God's motive for providing a way for us to be rescued from the penalty of sin? How should our knowledge of the love of God affect our relationship with Him?*

- ☐ Ephesians 2:4–9

  Note: You may want to read this passage before discussing the 2nd question for Romans 5:8.

  *How does our salvation occur? What is God's part? What is our part? In other words, what must we do to apply that grace to ourselves?*

*notes and preparation checklist*

**apply**

- ☐ Decide when and how to transition from **hear** to **apply.**
- ☐ Be prepared to encourage people to a specific action step. Have an example in mind.
- ☐ Print Savior Mini Journal.

*notes and preparation checklist*

**tell**

- ☐ Encourage people to do this despite their natural tendency not to.
- ☐ Look for group members who **tell** easily. They may be good at leading their own group soon.