

(Teacher Helps)

INTRODUCTORY MATERIAL (the first lesson is usually taught during Promotional Sunday week when there is only about ½ hour of class time. Thus in this lesson we will deal only with the Title page ("ASSURANCE OF SALVATION") and with the opening page ("I HOPE I'M SAVED!" "I FEEL LIKE I'M SAVED!" and "WE KNOW WE ARE SAVED!"). These two pages can be passed out to the students at the beginning of the half hour so that they have them before them.

Note to Teacher: This set of notes is different than most in that many of the pages are designed to be used during the classroom time as in-class worksheets (see for example pages 4 and 5 which contain in-class exercises and illustrations). Thus, in general these worksheets will be done by the students in class, not done in home. Perhaps the teacher will want the students papers to remain in class each week (collected by the teacher at the end of class) to make sure that they do not get lost and will be available on the following week.

Title Page: ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

What does the word ASSURANCE mean? Do any of you know?
What does it mean to have assurance of salvation?

Here's something that might help you. When you think of the word ASSURANCE just think of the word SURE! The person who has assurance of salvation is the person who says, "I AM SURE that I am saved!" When you say the word ASSURANCE it sounds like the word SURE is right in the middle of this word. I AM SURE THAT I AM SAVED! I KNOW THAT I AM SAVED! I DON'T HAVE ANY DOUBTS! I AM POSITIVE THAT GOD HAS SAVED ME! I KNOW IT FOR SURE!

Assurance = KNOW FOR SURE!

Page with picture of four young people (HOPE, FEEL, KNOW):

When you think of the word ASSURANCE, what other word should you think of? (SURE)

Look at the four young people on this page. Which of these

young people have assurance of their salvation? Which do not? Which two are really sure? (If you want, the class can give names to these four children. This might make it easier in referring to them. Have the class decide on four names and have all the students put the right name next to each child)

Think of the girl in the middle (Sally, or whoever). Why is it not good enough just to feel that you are saved? Can feelings sometimes trick us? What happens when this girl feels differently? What happens if tomorrow she feels like she is not saved? Is it possible for a person to feel like he is saved but not really be saved? (Matthew 7:21-23) Is it possible for a person to feel like he is not saved even though he really is? Can a person feel like it's going to be a nice sunny day, and could it end up raining? Could a person feel like it is going to be a rainy day, and have it end up sunny? Feelings don't always go along with fact! If a person is saved, then he is saved whether he feels like it or not! If a person is unsaved, then he is unsaved whether he feels like it or not!

Think of the boy at the top of the page. Does he have assurance? Is he SURE of his salvation? He hopes so but does he know so? Why is it not good enough just to hope that you are saved? Many people hope that they will go to heaven, but does hoping so get them there? Also, hoping involves UNCERTAINTY. (in the way we usually use the word, not in the way that the N.T. uses the word "hope". The New Testament word hope involves a confident and sure expectancy) Is there a difference between saying, "I hope I will get a new bicycle" and saying, "I KNOW I will get a new bicycle." Which would you rather be able to say?

Can a person really KNOW FOR SURE (have assurance) about salvation and heaven and eternal life? There are many people today who do not think this is possible. (If the teacher is from a Catholic background he/she can share about how he/she never used to have assurance) There are many people who say that you can never be sure in this life whether or not you will go to heaven. They say that you will never know until you die. Then you will find out. Problem: Then it will be too late! A person needs to make sure of heaven in this life!

Does the Bible say that we can know for sure about salvation and eternal life?

The teacher should take the students to 1 John 5:13. Read or have the students read the first part of verse. Who was John writing to--believers or unbelievers? Why did he write to these people? Did these people hope that they had eternal life? Did these people FEEL like they had eternal life? Did these people KNOW that they had eternal life? Did they know for sure? Is this word (KNOW) a word of assurance? Does God want every believer to know this? This is why we are studying assurance of salvation this quarter. We want each of you to KNOW FOR SURE that you have eternal life ^{RIGHT NOW} and that when you die you will be with the Lord and spend eternity with Him. 1 John 5:13 reminds you of which of the pictures on the sheet (the bottom picture of the two young people who know that they are saved).

How can a person know? HOW CAN A PERSON BE SURE and KNOW FOR SURE? How can a person have ASSURANCE? See 1 John 5:13 again. Notice the first part: THESE THINGS ARE WRITTEN...so that YOU MIGHT KNOW. Where are these things written? IN THE BIBLE These things are written in the Bible SO THAT WE MIGHT KNOW FOR SURE? How can a person know for sure? Because it is written in the Bible. In other words, WE KNOW SO BECAUSE GOD SAID SO!

(Note to teacher: There are two simple things to drill into the students' heads on this first week and then to keep on reviewing in following weeks: 1) ASSURANCE means to KNOW FOR SURE. Remind them that the word SURE is heard when you say the word ASSURANCE. 2) WE KNOW SO BECAUSE GOD SAID SO!!!

Let's illustrate this second truth with the thief (robber) on the cross found in Luke 23 especially verse 43. Was this man soon to die? Why? (he was on a cross!) Was it possible for this man to have assurance? Was it possible for this man to know for sure that when he died he would be with the Lord? Could he really know this or would he just have to HOPE SO? How could he know for sure?

He could know for sure because Jesus Christ gave him a very real promise and the Lord never breaks His promises! What promise did Jesus give to this man? See Luke 23:43 (stress the important

words: TODAY THOU SHALT (a sure promise)! WITH ME
PARADISE etc.

Did this man have to wonder about his future? Did he have to say, "I don't know where I'm going to spend eternity but I hope I spend it with the Lord in paradise." Did he have to be uncertain or could he be sure? Why could he be so sure?

This man could say, I KNOW SO BECAUSE CHRIST SAID SO!
I KNOW I'LL BE WITH THE LORD JESUS IN PARADISE BECAUSE GOD SAID
SO! God must keep His Word!

What about you? Can you be SURE like that robber? Can you have assurance like he did? Has Christ given a promise to you? Of course, the Lord Jesus Christ never actually appeared to you and spoke to you and said, "You will be with me in heaven.", but has Christ given you a promise in His Word so that you can know for sure where you will spend eternity?

If the students cannot think of a verse (they might think of John 3:16 which is OK), you could take them to the very simple promise found in John 6:47--"HE THAT BELIEVETH ON ME HATH EVERLASTING LIFE" Is this a promise? Is this promise for you? Have you done your part? Will God do His part? What is your part? What is God's part? What does it mean to believe? How can a person know for sure about eternal life? (I CAN KNOW SO BECAUSE _____)

God wants you to be a KNOW SO person!

God wants you to be a KNOW FOR SURE person!

God wants you to KNOW FOR SURE that you KNOW HIM AS YOUR SAVIOUR!

(At this point the teacher can develop salvation as needed, explaining the gospel, etc.)

Review: What does assurance mean? (to know for sure)

Why can a person have assurance? (a person can know so because God said so)