

Series: Born for More

Lesson 4: Once for All

Lesson Objectives:

As a result of this lesson, students will be able to...

- Identify that Jesus died once for all.
- Symbolically accept the free gift of God (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Materials Needed:

- ☐ DVD copy of *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe*
- ☐ Copies of page A-19
- ☐ Pens
- ☐ Little gifts with Ephesians 2:8-9

Part One: Narnia

Ask the students if they remember where they left the Narnia story at the end of the last lesson. The answer is that the White Witch and Aslan had made a deal to satisfy the Deep Magic. Edmund deserved to die, but the Witch renounced her claim on him. Today the audience is going to find out why.

Tell the students that you are going to play two long parts of the movie and that they should work with a partner to complete Task One on the handout. Give each pair a copy of page A-19 and a pen. Have them read the instructions before playing chapter 17 and chapter 20, the death and the resurrection of Aslan. Play the clips and let students fill in the table.

Again, there are no exact answers here, but here are some suggested answers from us. Solicit answers and give feedback.

Scripture	Movie
Jesus was not guilty of sin or evil; people were!	<i>Example. Aslan didn't betray the forces of good; Edmund did!</i>
Jesus gave himself willingly to die.	<i>Aslan made a willing deal with the Witch to offer his life for Edmund's.</i>
Jesus really suffered.	<i>The movie shows that the lion really suffered and was humiliated. The Witch cut off his beautiful mane.</i>
Jesus died to save others.	<i>Aslan dies for Edmund, so that he doesn't have to.</i>
Jesus was stronger than death.	<i>Notice the image of the strong lion, snapping the chords that hold him. It's a metaphor for Jesus' victory over death.</i>
Jesus can not die any more.	<i>Once Aslan comes back to life, he remains in Narnia with the children.</i>

Fill the students in on how the movie ends. The forces of good and evil fight a war in which Aslan kills the White Witch. The people that the Witch had turned into stone come back to life. Spring returns to the frozen land of Narnia. The children stay to rule together in Narnia. Narnia is restored to the way it was meant to be.

Ask the students to identify which character in the movie they identify with most. Have them share these with their partner and listen for common elements. Have some students share their replies and common elements. Some might identify with Edmund who had to change allegiances and repent of his mistakes. Some others might identify more with the other children who despite being fallible people chose to be aligned with Aslan from the beginning. Maybe you identify with the Beavers who try to help the children know the truth. Guide some discussion on these identifications.

Part Two: Scripture

Continue by summarizing the series to date. Say something like, *For the last three weeks we have been looking at the ways in which people get stuck in evil problems. In the first lesson we looked at the things that entice us, like sex, candy, and money. We agreed that those things aren't necessarily bad. In the second week we looked at some of the consequences of pursuing our enticements in negative ways. Last week we talked about how difficult it is to get out of evil once we are in it, not just as individuals but as the whole human race! Basically, we have been looking at the problems of sin and evil. Christians believe that there is sin and evil in the world, that the world is not the way it was meant to be. But Christians also believe that Jesus provided a solution for our terrible problems. That is the story of the movie that we have been watching, which is a retelling of what Christians believe. Substitute lion for Jesus and children for humans. We are also going to look at the way that Scripture tells the story that we have just seen in the movie. You can now move on to Task Two on your handout.*

When they are finished this task, solicit the answers. The key phrase is “once for all”. It appears frequently in Scripture because it is like a formula, or an easy way to remember the meaning of Jesus’ death. Jesus died only one time (once), in contrast to animal sacrifices which had to be made over and over again. And Jesus died for all, not just Jewish people, not just religious people, not just good people, or rich people, or powerful people, but for all people. This was and is the basic message of the death of Jesus. Lead some discussion around this issue of Jesus’ substitutionary death (i.e. he didn’t deserve to die but he did out of love for us).

Part Three: The Perfect Gift

Prepare ahead of time a table with little gifts on it (or something similar). The gifts could be little wrapped boxes, bags, jewellery boxes or anything else. Have about one per student. Place the Scripture verse inside each gift. You could write it out on a tiny slip of paper like in a fortune cookie. Make the area a special one; maybe have some candles or a little cross. Use your creativity here.

Continue along the lines of, *Today we have looked at the death and the resurrection of Jesus. Christians believe that Jesus died once for all people, to overcome sin and judgement. Christians believe that Jesus died so that people could be forgiven of sin and evil, so that they could join the forces of good, and so that they could live eternal life as it was meant to be.*

In Ephesians 2:8-9 we read the following: “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.” Salvation is a gift from God. You don’t have to earn it. It’s here ready for you. It was accomplished once for all!

Inside each of these boxes, you will find the words of this verse printed on a little piece of paper. This is to remind us that Jesus has given us a gift, a free gift. Jesus offers this gift to all, even those who are like Edmund who have made mistakes. Just like Edmund

changed sides, so can we change sides, so can we fight with Jesus, and receive the gift of eternal life.

Some of you have already accepted the gift of Jesus. Some of you have never done that. All of you can accept that right now if you are willing and ready to make that decision. There is no pressure to make that decision, but if you would like to accept Jesus' gift of salvation come and take one of these presents and open it as a reminder that you are saved by what Jesus did for you. Sit where you are for a moment. Wait and pray. And only when and if you are ready, come and take and unwrap one of these gifts. After you are done, I will pray for all of us to close.

Allow time for students to take a gift.

Closing:

End the lesson with prayer and be prepared to follow up with any students who need pastoral guidance after this lesson. Remind them that you are available for them, for their questions, concerns, and excitement.