

DOCTRINE 8

We believe that we are justified by grace through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and that he that believeth hath the witness in himself.

Lesson Aim:

To show that, when we believe in Jesus, our sins are wiped away, and we start over again with a clean heart and a new attitude, and that the Holy Spirit lets us know we are saved.

Objectives:

1. The learner will understand the concepts and biblical basis of Doctrine #8.
2. The learner will memorize Doctrine #8.

Lesson Overview:

Doctrine Sing-Along
Opening Prayer
Review Activity
 Doctrine 7 Word Search
Junior Soldier Promise
The Lesson
 Let's Do It! #1: Doctrine Matching Game
Reinforcement Activities
 Snack
 Voice and Volume Game
Optional Activities
 Object Lesson: The Cassette and Compact Disc
 Craft: Texture Pictures
Closing Prayer

Background Information:

The eighth doctrine of The Salvation Army focuses on justification, which, according to the dictionary, is "the exemption of guilt or the showing of the properness of something

You'll Need:

- ✓ Doctrine CD
- ✓ CD Player
- ✓ Copy of Doctrine Song: "Justified By Grace"
- ✓ Review Activity: Doctrine 7 Word Search
- ✓ Pencils
- ✓ Bibles
- ✓ Grapes
- ✓ Small paper cups
- ✓ Large paper cups
- ✓ Let's Do It! #1

The following items will be needed if you do the craft listed under Optional Activities:

- ✓ Drinking straws (straight, not bendable)
- ✓ Posterboard
- ✓ White or tacky glue
- ✓ Scissors
- ✓ Soda top pull tabs
- ✓ Tape



Notes:

Background Information: (continued)

that is done or said.” That is what God’s forgiveness of our sins means. All our sins are wiped away completely, as if nothing bad or sinful had ever happened. Another way to explain justification is that it is “just as if” it didn’t happen!

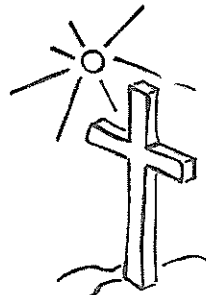
The change is so great that anyone who experiences it is visibly and spiritually changed, inside and out. It is this concept of total freedom from sin that Junior Soldiers will learn during this study. By the end of class, they should be convinced of their own salvation and of the changes Jesus has brought into their lives.

The eighth doctrine of The Salvation Army also deals with three basic Christian beliefs: God’s grace, which declares us innocent, our faith in Jesus, by which we claim salvation, and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, which gives us the assurance of our salvation.

As Captain Lesa Salyer states in the June 8, 1991 issue of *The War Cry*, “One way of understanding grace is to contrast it with justice and mercy. ‘Justice’ is getting exactly what you deserve. The term comes from the legal world, and indicates a cause-and-effect relationship. If a crime is committed, a penalty is demanded. Prosecution to the fullest extent of the law fulfills the demand for justice.

“Mercy, on the other hand, is getting less than one deserves. Imagine that the same crime is committed, but a lesser penalty is received. That would be mercy.

“Grace, in contrast to both justice and mercy, is getting what you don’t deserve at all. Take the same crime, for instance. Imagine that the judge declares the full penalty must be paid.



DOCTRINE 8

Background Information: (continued)

“Then imagine, if you can, that he volunteers to take the punishment himself. That would extend far beyond justice or mercy. That could only be called grace.”

It is only by the grace of God that we are justified. Even though each of us is guilty of sin, God acquits us. He does this because of our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. In the Christian walk, faith is an important cornerstone. Many people fail to ever know the salvation God freely offers simply because they do not have faith in God and in His Word. We commonly use the word faith to mean “believe in or to trust.” Saving faith is the act of personal trust by which a person commits himself to God and accepts God’s gift of salvation through Jesus Christ.

The last section of this doctrine refers to the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The Bible clearly tells us that our bodies are the temple of God the Holy Spirit, that God’s Spirit within us gives us the assurance of salvation. (See *1 Corinthians 3:16, Romans 8:16, Galatians 4:6, 1 John 4:13.*)

William Booth used to say that some Christians were “think-so” Christians, some Christians were “hope-so” Christians, but Salvationists were “KNOW-SO” Christians. This assurance is a direct result of the Holy Spirit at work within the believer.

Resources Used:

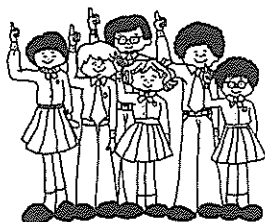
Salyer, Captain M. Lesa.
“Faith Alone, Grace Along, Christ Alone”.
The War Cry, June 8, 1991.

Hitzka, Major Dorothy.
The Salvation Army. Leadership Development Track for Corps Cadets Independent Study Manual.
Alexandria, VA: The Salvation Army, 1997.

Notes:

Reminder:

If you are planning to use questions for review games, take a few minutes at the end of the lesson and have each junior soldier write three (3) questions and answers based on this week’s lesson.



Notes:

*Story-telling tip:
Practice the story ahead
of time, so you will be
familiar with it.*

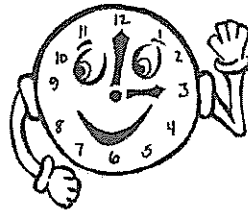
The Lesson:

I want to tell you a story about a newsroom:



Newsroom News

I don't know if you realize it or not, but a newspaper office is a very busy place. Usually, there are people running up and down the walkways talking to each other or to themselves about the important stories they are working on. If the people aren't walking around, they are sitting diligently at tiny desks, staring at their computer screens, writing on their notepads, or looking anxiously up at me. My name's Marty and I am the newsroom wall clock.



Most of the people who work here are real nice. They pay attention to their work and have polite voices. The objects who work here are nice too. At least they are nowadays, but it hasn't always been that way.

One of the objects used to be very cranky. His name is Sidney, and he's the computer mouse used by Max the sports columnist. He used to have trouble sometimes with his roller ball sticking. It really made him mad, and when he got mad you could hear him and Max yelling about it. Some days it got down right nerve-racking.

The people and objects around Max and Sidney didn't like to sit by them when they were angry. When the yelling started, people would leave the area and the objects would shut down. But me, I liked to watch Dana, the lady who writes the paper's garden column.



DOCTRINE 8

The Lesson: (continued)

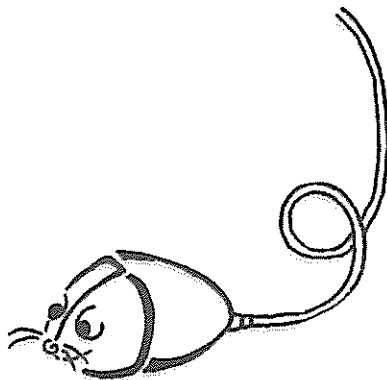
When the yelling started, Dana would just sit quietly at her desk and continue working. She worked very hard, but every once in awhile she took the time to look up at Max and Sidney with caring eyes. It was clear to me that she wanted to help them, if they would have only stopped yelling long enough to ask her.

One day, Sidney's roller ball stopped moving altogether. He squealed, and beeped and hollered until the rest of us were almost deaf. Max was so mad that he slammed Sidney down on the mouse pad and began pacing up and down in front of the computer, yelling at the top of his lungs about the newsroom never having decent equipment. It was at this moment that Dana stepped in.

"I can help you fix your mouse if you want me to, Max," Dana said in a friendly voice. "All you have to do is ask me and then trust me to do it."

"I'm willing to try anything," Max yelled, "I just need to be able to work again."

Dana smiled at him gently, and reached in her desk drawer for a bottle of computer cleaning solution. She picked up Sidney and very gently pulled the two pieces of his main casing apart. She removed his roller ball and cleaned it thoroughly. Then, she gently cleaned the inside of his casing. Placing the clean roller ball back in the casing she snapped Sidney back together and rolled him slowly and smoothly back across the mouse pad. Max could not believe his eyes and just stood there staring at her.



Notes:



Notes:

The Lesson: (continued)

"There," Dana said, "your mouse is as good as new. I just wish you had asked me to help you sooner. That way, all your frustration might have been avoided."

Max was stunned. He thanked her in a weak voice and returned to his work. For the rest of that day, there was no more yelling from Sidney or Max. In fact, there hasn't been any yelling from either of them since. When Sidney's roller ball gets stuck, Max turns to Dana and asks her for help. It is a lot better than yelling and screaming, and a lot nicer too.

The story of Max and Sidney is a very common one. How many times do we complain and gripe about a problem, rather than asking for help? Sometimes, we even act that way with Jesus.

We try anything and everything to get rid of the sin in our lives. We try being nicer to our parents, going to Sunday school or being kind to animals. But nothing seems to work. We still end up doing things we're not supposed to do. And instead of going to God for help, we give up or yell and scream and blame other people just like Max and Sidney did.

Jesus is the only One who can help us with our sin, and yet He is often the last One we go to for help. Sometimes, He even has to come to us and ask us to ask Him, much like Dana asked Max to ask her. *(Have Junior Soldiers look up Romans 5:1 and read together.)*

Jesus won't force us to take His help; we have to ask Him for it and then He will help us. His blood will wash away our sins and make us brand new people. The only catch is that we must trust Him to do it. And any time we need His help we need to ask Him for it.

Jesus will never let us down. He will always be there when we need Him. Rather than complaining, we can just go to Him and find out what to do. If we do this, people will notice the change in us, and they will be blessed. With Jesus in our hearts, being around us is a happier place to be.



DOCTRINE 8

The Lesson: (continued)

Notes:

This story illustrates Doctrine #8. Let's see what it says. (*Hand out Let's Do It! #1 and read through the doctrine together.*) We are going to learn about this doctrine phrase by phrase.

We believe that we are justified by grace. Does anybody know what justified by grace means? (*Allow time for answers.*)

Guide the discussion, being sure that the concepts of being declared just or righteous, and grace are fully understood.)



Through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. What is another word for faith? (*Trust or believe*) Why does our faith have to be in Jesus Christ? (*He is God's Son, and it is by His death that God provided for our salvation.*)

And that he that believeth hath the witness in himself. What does that mean...has the witness in himself? (*Allow response.*) What does it mean to be a witness? Who is the witness that is within every Christian, and what is He a witness to? (*Allow response.*)

Get with a partner and look up the Bible verses on your worksheet. Write the Bible verse out, then write the number of the portion of the doctrine to which it refers.

Doctrine song, "Justified by Grace"



Reinforcement Activities:

• Snack – Grapes

Each child should be given a small paper cup containing five grapes. As we all know, they will quickly eat the grapes and complain loudly because they didn't get enough. When this happens, require each child to ask politely for another



Notes:

Do Ahead:
Write out the words of
Doctrine #8 on a piece of
posterboard.

You'll Need:

- ✓ Cassette tape
- ✓ Compact disc



Reinforcement Activities: (continued)

portion, then provide them with a larger cup, filled all the way to the top. Asking for more grapes is much like asking for God to wash away our sins. Before we ask Him, we have just a few blessings. But, when we take the time to trust Him, and ask Him to take away our sins, our cup of blessings will be filled to the top. That's just the way God is.

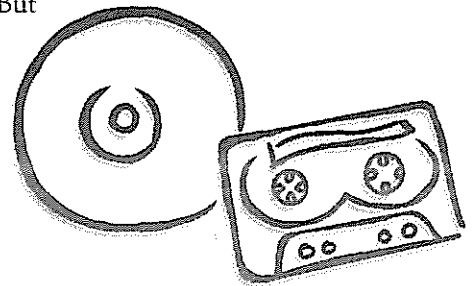
• Voice & Volume Game

In this game, Doctrine #8 is placed on a large posterboard in front of everyone. The children are split into two groups, and the leader chooses a captain for each group and invites them to come forward. The team captain from the first team leads the team in reading the doctrine out loud together. When they finish the doctrine, the captain gives the next team an instruction on how to say the doctrine. For instance the captain might say, "Now say it in a whisper" (or speaking voice, holler, opera voice). The next team then says the doctrine in the requested style and gives the first team its next assignment. Play continues until one of the teams can no longer think of a new style, or the doctrine is said incorrectly. To make things harder, the poster should be removed after about the fifth or sixth round. Leaders will be surprised how well the children will do, even without the posterboard.

Optional Activities:

• Object Lesson: "The Cassette and Compact Disc"

(Show the Junior Soldiers a cassette tape, then a compact disc of any type.) This is a cassette tape and this is a compact disc. Each is used to record and play back music, but which is better? (The kids will quickly answer the CD.) But why is the CD better? That's right, because it is computerized so it plays with better sound. The cassette works fine, but the CD is much better. This is like life without Jesus and life with Jesus.



DOCTRINE 8

Optional Activities: (continued)

Before Jesus came to earth, the only way you could know how much God loved you was by reading and obeying the Bible, called the Law. This was fine, just like a cassette, but it was really hard because there was no one to help the people understand God. After Jesus came, things were different. The people suddenly had someone who would show them God's love in simple ways. They still had to obey the Bible, but with Jesus to wash away their sins and help them understand, they didn't have to worry about not doing things the way God wanted them to. All they had to do was trust Jesus to show them what to do. Like the CD, everything was clearer.

And all we have to do is trust Jesus to show us, too. This is why life with God after Jesus came to earth is so much easier than before Jesus was here.

- **Craft – Texture Pictures**

Have each child design the word "PEACE" and sketch it onto the pre-cut posterboard. Then cut straws and glue them onto the design, over the word "PEACE." Glue more straws around your picture for a frame. Use a soda top pull tab on the back for a hanger.



Notes:

Suggestions:

You may want to use different colors of straws or add other textures with feathers, sandpaper, macaroni, etc.

You may also want to cover the posterboard with fabric or wallpaper before gluing on the straws.

Doctrine 8 Honor Junior Soldier Lesson submitted by Captain Harryette Raihl and Lieutenant Denice Gass
San Diego, CA Corps ~ Western Territory



WORD SEARCH

Write Doctrine 7 on the lines provided. Then find and circle each word in the puzzle. Be sure to look forwards, backwards and diagonally! *(If a word appears more than once in the doctrine, you only need to find it one time.)*

R S P E N W O R S N E P E R E J E T S
 R G D J Y **D** R O M P A V L A S N R A E
 B O V R R G O W J Z N E C T S I R H C
 G Z W P A V X C V **H** Z O G P P C H T E
 A W A K S W G W T W G L I S X E D Q N
 V B R R S R O N W R O R X T J N U E E
 L X H W E R E T Z R I J L I A H C J G
 A J C J C V J P D T X N Y A F V O O E
 S H E J E B C H T J Y Z **E** F S W L U R
 R H N **S** N R E G E N E R A T I O N A J
 T H P B U B N J S R T I F U N T G E S
 Q I C E N S Z B Y P H A T V Q E R H C
 R G P H P P X G L W I C N H L I P S H
 N E C I R I R U I T Z R B C C A C E N
 R A V L A S B R H E V E I L E B S D R



MATCHING GAME

Look up each of the following verses in the Bible. Write out the verse, then write the number of the part of the doctrine to which it refers. Some verses may go to more than one part.

- 1 We believe that we are justified by grace
- 2 through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ
- 3 and that he that believeth hath the witness in himself.

Scripture Verse:

Answer(s):

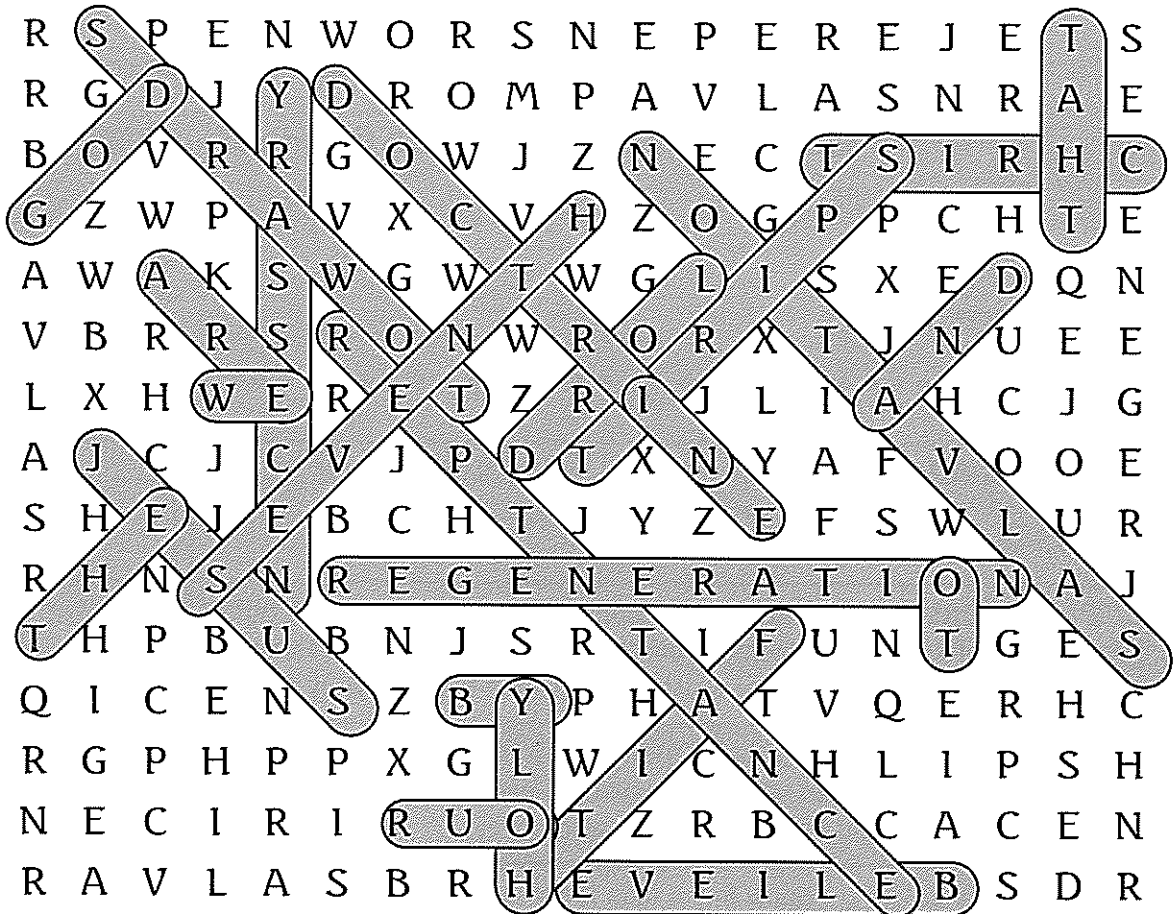


Romans 8:16	
Philippians 3:9	
Galatians 3:22	
Galatians 2:16	
Romans 3:23-24	
Romans 3:22	
1 Corinthians 6:19	



WORD SEARCH

Write Doctrine 7 on the lines provided. Then find and circle each word in the puzzle. Be sure to look forwards, backwards and diagonally! *(If a word appears more than once in the doctrine, you only need to find it one time.)*



We believe that repentance towards God, faith in
 our Lord Jesus Christ, and regeneration by the
 Holy Spirit, are necessary to salvation.



MATCHING GAME

Look up each of the following verses in the Bible. Write out the verse, then write the number of the part of the doctrine to which it refers. Some verses may go to more than one part.

- 1 We believe that we are justified by grace
- 2 through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ
- 3 and that he that believeth hath the witness in himself.

Scripture Verse:

Answer(s):



Romans 8:16 "The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children."	3
Philippians 3:9 "and be found in him (Christ) , not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ - the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith."	1, 2
Galatians 3:22 "But the Scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe."	2
Galatians 2:16 "Know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified."	1, 2
Romans 3:23-24 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus."	1
Romans 3:22 "This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe."	2
1 Corinthians 6:19 "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own."	3

