

DOCTRINE 9

We believe that continuance in a state of salvation depends upon continued obedient faith in Christ.

Lesson Aim:

To show that when we believe in Jesus, our sins are wiped away. We remain in constant contact with Him as we learn how to become better children of God, unless we become disobedient to the laws of Christ and stop trusting Him.

Objectives:

1. The learner will understand the concepts contained within Doctrine #9.
2. The learner will memorize Doctrine #9.

Lesson Overview:

Doctrine Sing-Along
Opening Prayer
Review Activity
 Terminology Jeopardy® Game (See page 173)
Junior Soldier Pledge
Opening Activity
 Simon Says
The Lesson
Reinforcement Activities
 Hangman
 Snack
Optional Activities
 Object Lesson: The Wind-Up Toy
 Craft: Soapy Dough
Closing Prayer

You'll Need:

- ✓ Doctrine CD
- ✓ CD Player
- ✓ Copy of Doctrine Song: "Continued Obedient Faith"
- ✓ Review Activity: Questions from last week's Jeopardy® Game
- ✓ Pencils
- ✓ Bibles
- ✓ Paper or foil crowns for winners of Simon Says.
- ✓ Air-Head taffy bars (enough for each child to have one)

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

- ✓ 2 Cups of soap flakes (homemade soap flakes can be made by grating bar soap. Be sure the bars are absolutely dry. Sift the grated soap through a mesh sieve for a soft powder.)
- ✓ 1/2 Cup hot water
- ✓ Egg beater
- ✓ Pie plate
- ✓ Food coloring (optional)



Notes:

Background Information:

The ninth doctrine focuses on continuance, “the time during which the state of salvation exists and/or lasts in each individual human heart.” It answers questions like, “How long will my forgiveness from sin, through Jesus, last?” or “How do I know if my salvation will last?”

The answer to these questions in Salvation Army terms is quite simple. “The human individual remains in a state of salvation only when s/he continues to trust Christ and is obedient to Him. If this does not occur and there is distrust and/or disobedience, then the individual falls out of favor with Christ and loses her/his salvation.” That’s the easy part. The hard part is that many mainstream churches in the United States do not share this view.

Many believe that once you receive salvation you can never lose it, no matter what you do. In theological terms, we call this the difference between eternal security (the belief that you can’t fall away from God if you have been truly saved) and backsliding (the belief that you can fall away from God and lose out on eternal life if you don’t obey Christ). This is important for you to note. You can decide for yourself whether you wish to add a discussion of conflicting ideas to this lesson. Whatever you decide, explain things as simply as you can and don’t be afraid to let your Junior Soldiers think for themselves. Trust God to lead them to the right conclusions and to a greater knowledge of Him through this study.



Be sure to emphasize that it is one thing for a Christian to make mistakes or to give in to temptation, commit a sin, then ask God for forgiveness. It is a different matter when someone refuses to confess his/her sin to God or ask for



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Background Information: (continued)

His forgiveness. That is a rejection of God and His way in deliberate disobedience. It results in backsliding and ultimately can lead to the loss of eternal life through Christ.

Resources Used:



Salyer, Captain M. Lesa. "To Be Continued..."
The War Cry, June 22, 1991. The Salvation Army.

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

Opening Activity:

• Simon Says

Gather the Junior Soldiers together and announce that they are going to play a game of Simon Says. As you review the rules, emphasize that to keep playing, they have to be obedient to Simon's instructions when they are preceded by the words "Simon Says." Also emphasize that in order to keep on playing, they have to continue being obedient. Have crowns (from Burger King® or ones you have made from foil) for the winners.



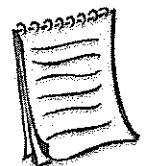
The Lesson:

You had to obey Simon's instructions in order to keep in the game. In the same way, as Christians we need to continue to trust Jesus and to do the things we know He wants us to do. What are some things Jesus wants us to do, and how do we know those are things He wants us to do? (Allow the Junior Soldiers to respond to both questions. This is a good opportunity to remind them about Doctrine #1 and the Scriptures giving us guidance for living, as well

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:

The Lesson: (continued)

as Doctrine #8 and the Holy Spirit within us.) In The Salvation Army, we believe that if a person stops trusting and obeying God, it is possible for that person to lose his/her salvation. We call it backsliding. It isn't that God takes away the person's salvation, because that's a gift from God, but God won't force that gift on anybody. We have to do our part, which is to continue to trust Him and obey Him.

The way we word that in our doctrine is "We believe that continuance in a state of salvation depends upon continued obedient faith in Christ."

Listen to this story about "Dalton's Down."

When Dalton was born, on a little farm in the country, he was one of the best looking ducks you ever saw. He was the first to hatch from his mother's clutch of twelve eggs, and he was very handsome. He was a beautiful dark yellow, as bright as the noonday sun, except for a little white patch on the top of his head. The farmer said that he was the best looking of all his five brothers and six sisters, and Dalton was very proud of that fact.



Out in the good country air and sunshine, Dalton and the other ducklings grew quickly. Their mother taught them to swim and fish, and they learned the importance of keeping their down, or feathers, clean. Dalton's mother said that keeping your down clean was one of the most important jobs for a duck, because if your down gets too dirty you can't move properly and you can get sick.

Dalton tried very hard to listen to what his mother said,

*story telling tip:
Practice telling the story
ahead of time, so you
can focus on the Junior
Soldiers.*



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The Lesson: (continued)

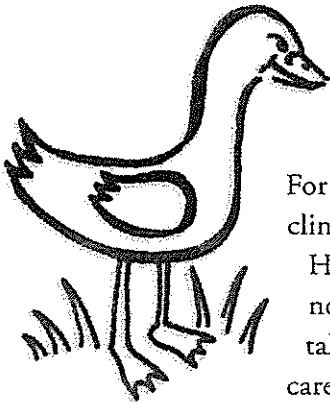
Notes:

but it was sometimes very difficult. There were so many things that could make you dirty. There wasn't time to stop after each activity and clean up before going to the next one. And clean-up could sometimes be very boring. So Dalton often neglected to clean himself.

One day, while Dalton was out playing, his mother saw him heading toward the meadow which was very wet after the rain. "Dalton," she said, "don't go too far into the meadow. It is wet and muddy and you are liable to get very dirty."

"Yes, Mama," he said, and ran on. Now, he didn't intend for it to happen. He didn't want to do what his mother told him not to do. But he did. Before he knew what was happening, he was wandering deep inside the tall grasses of the meadow. He was wet all over, and his whole body was covered in mud. By the time he noticed it and ran back out of the grass, it was far too late. He was dirty, and, rather than stopping to clean himself, he told himself he'd clean up before he went home and off he went to his next activity. After all, he was just going to get dirty again.

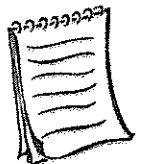
The farmer had just penned up a new pig in the barnyard and Dalton wanted to see her. So he crept up to the fence and climbed up carefully to the second rail. It was then that he heard his mother call him from the edge of the field.



"Dalton," his mother called, "if you're going to go see the new pig, be careful not to fall into the trough. A trough can be a very dirty place."

For a moment, Dalton looked around guiltily at the mud clinging to his down. It was very dry and caked now.

He checked to make sure that his mother hadn't noticed it, but she didn't seem to. He told himself he'd take a good bath before he got home and would be very careful to stay

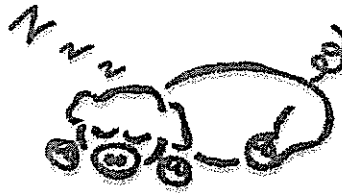


Notes:

The Lesson: (continued)

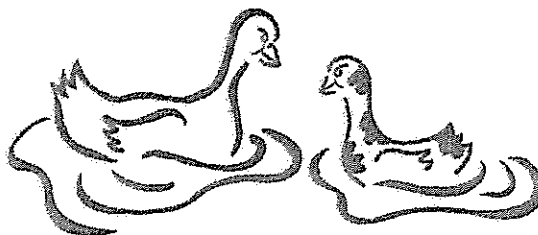
out of trouble from now on. So he turned to his mother and said, "Yes Mama; I'll be careful." Then he returned to his pig watching.

After about fifteen minutes of watching the pig sleep in the corner of her pen, Dalton got bored. (And Dalton hated to be bored.) He decided if this was all that the pig did, that he would leave and do something else. But, as he turned around to climb back down the fence, he lost his footing and tumbled head over heels straight into the trough.



Now he didn't intend for it to happen. He didn't want to do what his mother told him not to do. But he had. He was wet all over, swimming around, not in water, but in milk mixed with egg shells, potato peelings and apple cores. He swam over to the edge of the trough and climbed out, looking down at himself in dismay. "I am dirty," he thought, "very dirty, and I suppose now it is time for me to take my bath." So off he went to the pond.

It was rather a long walk to the pond, and by the time Dalton got there he was dry, but his down smelled very bad. He climbed into the water and began to scrub himself clean. But he wasn't coming clean. No matter how hard he tried, the mud and slop just would not come out of his down. Dalton soon began to cry.



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The Lesson: (continued)

Notes:

Just then, Dalton's mother came swimming around the corner. When she saw Dalton, she smiled at him with understanding and said, "Dalton, you went into the meadow too far and got muddy, didn't you?" Dalton nodded. "Then, instead of getting the mud off, you went to see the pig and fell in the trough, didn't you?" Dalton nodded again. "And none of this would have happened if you had listened to me, would it?"

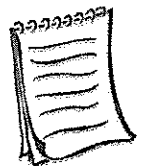
"No, Mama," Dalton said.

"Well, let's clean you up. I have some special scrub rocks at the nest that will take all that off. But the scrubbing may hurt a bit. Maybe next time you'll listen and obey me."

Dalton said nothing. He followed his mother home and after two hours of scrubbing his down, he became the beautiful yellow duck with the white spot once more! He looked up at his mother with love and said, "I'm sorry, Mama. I won't ever disobey you again." And you know what, most of the time he didn't!

The story of Dalton shows us how, by disobeying, we can fall out of Jesus' favor. Dalton's mother was not happy with him when he didn't listen. She had to work very hard to get him back to the way he had been, and where he needed to be. And that's the way it is with us and Jesus.

When we do things that we know Jesus does not want us to do, it separates us from Him and it makes Him sad. Just as Dalton couldn't be a proper duck with dirty down, we can't be good Christians with dirty lives. Oh, we can pretend to be Christians while disobeying Jesus, but we're not, because we're not living as He would have us live.



Notes:

The Lesson: (continued)

If we ask Jesus for forgiveness whenever we know we've disobeyed Him, that is like taking a daily shower to get the daily dirt off. This is what Jesus wants us to do. But, if we sin continually and then deliberately do what Jesus tells us not to do—that's disobedience. Jesus does not want us to do that because when we come back to Him after being disobedient for a long time, there is a cleaning process that He has to put us through. We have to turn our lives back over to Him and start all over. It may take a long time for Jesus to get us back to where we were, and there might even be pain involved.

It is much better if we do what Jesus tells us to do in the first place. If we follow His rules, read His book and learn to live as He wants us to live, we will be much better Christians. We won't have the dirt of sin filling our lives until we have to be completely cleansed again. When we reach that point, we have lost our relationship with Christ and we need to be saved all over again.

Jesus wants us to obey Him and to learn to live Godly lives. If we want to be near Him always, that is what we must do.

Doctrine song, "Continued, Obedient Faith"



"Now let's read Hebrews 5:7-9 together. (Note Jesus as our example of obedience and faith.)"

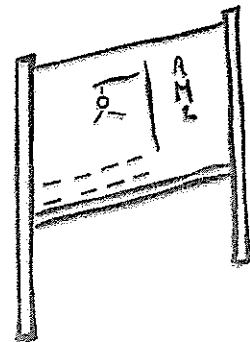
Do Ahead:

In this game the Doctrine is placed on a chalk board or on a large posterboard in the form of a classic "Hang Man" (one blank line for each letter in the ninth Doctrine, with dashes to divide each word.)

Reinforcement Activities:

- Hang Man

The leader may want to split the children into teams for large groups or just play with individual children. Play begins when the first team or child chooses a letter. If the letter is in



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Reinforcement Activities: (continued)

Notes:

the doctrine, then the leader writes the letter onto the board wherever it appears in the verse. If the letter does not appear, then the leader draws a gallows and places one body part, such as a head, on the gallows. The leader may also want to write the letter on the side of the board to help the children keep track of which letters have already been picked. Play continues until either the entire man is drawn on the gallows or one of the children or teams guesses what the doctrine is. After the doctrine is revealed, the leader should have the entire group recite the doctrine four or five times to make sure that the children know what it says and means.

- **Snack: Air-Heads® (flavored taffy)**

Each child should be given a small bar of Air-Head® taffy. The leader should wait to offer any explanation until the children begin opening and eating their taffy, because the children ARE the lesson. Most of them will open their package at the top and eat it with the paper covering the remainder of the candy. This is what you want to point out to them. For, just as the paper protects their fingers from getting sticky and gooey, so faith and obedience keep our lives clean and in touch with God.

Optional Activities:

- **Object Lesson: The Wind-Up Toy**

(Show the Junior Soldiers a wind-up toy of any kind. Hold the toy out in front of you and try to get it to go without winding it. The children will respond by telling you to wind it up.) What? Wind it up, but why? It's fun to play with it this way. I can pretend it's zooming along or flying through the sky, whatever I want. (They will argue that it does more and will beg you to let them show you how it works. Pick one to do so.) Wow, that's cool! You mean it will run all by itself if I wind it up? That's great, but it will only do it if I wind it, right?



You'll Need:

✓ Wind-up toy



Notes:

Well

Optional Activities: (continued)

You know, that's kind of the way it is with Jesus and us. He wants to teach us how to live clean lives and how to love Him. We read in the Bible that He loved and obeyed His Father while He was here on earth. And it is only when we trust Jesus and do what we know He wants us to do that we are happy with God and can be good Christians. Just as the toy won't go by itself unless you wind it, so Jesus can't live in us and teach us if we don't obey Him.

Well

Suggestions:

Add coffee grounds or hard textured kitchen spices for added texture. Then only enjoy it as sculpture; don't use it as soap.

• "Soapy Dough" Craft

Pour soap flakes and water into a bowl. Add a few drops of food coloring if you wish. Beat until evenly mixed. Gather the mixture in your hands. Press it into a firm glob. Place the glob on a pie plate. Shape in any way you like. Let your project dry for several days. Enjoy it as a sculpture or use it as SOAP!

Resource Ideas:

Shining Star Publications, NAVPRESS (from the Navigators)

