

# DISCUSSION GUIDE

Understanding Salvation — Part 1  
Titus—Week 10

**ICEBREAKER:** What is your favorite style of music, and how often do you listen to it?

**OVERVIEW:** The Bible is all about salvation. It's the main point of the Bible. The Bible is all about Jesus, and Jesus said in Luke 19:10 that the reason He came to earth was to "to seek and to save the lost." The very name of "Jesus" means "The Lord Saves," or "The Lord is Salvation." In Matthew 1:21 the angel of the Lord said to Joseph, "She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Throughout the New Testament Jesus is called "Savior." The story of the Bible is about salvation; it tells us why we need salvation; it tells us who the Savior is; it tells us what He did to save us; and it tells us what we need to do to receive salvation. This week and next we are going deeper with soteriology, or the study of salvation.

1. **Read Titus 3:3-7.** What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. Titus 3:3 indicates that salvation means deliverance from sinful living. The verse lists seven vices that God saves us from. Which of these vices best describes you before your salvation? Explain. Describe how God changed you and delivered you from sinful living since your salvation?
3. If salvation means deliverance from sinful living, then why do Christians still sin?

4. Titus 3:4-5 says, "4 But when the kindness of God our Savior and his love for mankind appeared, 5 he saved us." This means that our salvation was accomplished by the appearing, or the coming of Jesus Christ to die for our sins. How did Christ's death accomplish our salvation?
5. Read Colossians 3:5-6. What is God's wrath, and who deserves it?
6. Read 1 John 2:2. What does it mean that Jesus is the "atoning sacrifice," or "propitiation" for our sins?
7. Titus 3:4-5 says, "4 But when the kindness of God our Savior and his love for mankind appeared, 5 he saved us." Salvation is the result of God's love for mankind. How is salvation the ultimate demonstration of God's love?
8. How should we live as recipients of God's love?
9. Titus 3:4 says, "He saved us—not by works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy." What does it mean that salvation is not by works?
10. What does it mean that salvation is according to God's mercy?
11. If salvation is not by works, but according to God's mercy, are all saved? Explain.

**The Last Word:** "The measure of God's love for us is shown by two things. One is the degree of his sacrifice in saving us from the penalty of our sin. The other is the degree of unworthiness that we had when he saved us." — John Piper