

# Assurance

## KEY VERSES

John 10:28-29, Romans 8:31-39

## KEY THEMES

Our eternity is secure  
Salvation based on faith alone in  
Christ's work

## TEACHING NOTES

### Assurance

*"Assurance of one's salvation always rests fundamentally and sufficiently on the direct promises that God makes to that believer. In other words, one's assurance rests on the testimony of God." – John Darby*

Do we trust Him?

**The opposite of security and assurance is fear**

**What are the 'symptoms' of insecurity?**

Striving for acceptance

INTRODUCTION INNOCECE CONSCIENCE HUMAN GOVT. PROMISE LAW GRACE

Hypocrisy

Withdrawal

**What is the root cause of insecurity?**

**Why are the secure in Christ insecure in their walk?**

Dependency is the key

**Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ (Romans 8:31-39)**

**Lesson objective:** *To grow in our understanding of our security, assurance, and position so that we grow from a place of love and acceptance, not performance.*

**PERSONAL STUDY****Session 1****Prepare your heart and mind**

Take a few minutes to focus on God, putting the things that have been on your heart and mind today aside. Ask Him to help you be receptive to what He has for you in this time.

**The problem of immediacy**

Many of us go about life interpreting our relationship with God in light of our immediate circumstances. Rather than clinging to Christ and the security of our salvation, as described in God's Word, we use our experiences in life to measure whether or not we're in God's good graces. We're predisposed to this awful form of self-deception. When we experience hardships, we deceive ourselves into believing that the pain and suffering are an indication of the state of our relationship with God. Psychologist Martin Seligman describes our temptation to believe that pain and suffering are personal, pervasive, and permanent.

**The 3 P's of self-deception**

Personal – Believing whatever suffering we are experiencing is a punishment

Pervasive – Believing that the pain we experience will affect all of life and is an indication of God's overall feelings about us

Permanent – Believing that our present misfortunes will never end and there is no real hope

In a few sentences, describe a recent crisis or hardship you have experienced.

Now using each of the 3 P's, write out how you were tempted to believe that the problem was personal, pervasive, and permanent.

Personal –

Pervasive –

Permanent –

### **Clinging to our security in Christ**

God is good all of the time. And while we will experience suffering and temptation in this life, we should not allow it to shake our faith in Christ, His goodness, and the sure salvation we have in Him. To stand up against the 3 P's we need to feed on the truth in God's Word and allow the Holy Spirit to deepen our faith in the finality of what Christ has done for us. Through Christ's work, our situation has changed from life unto death to life until life.



### **Read Romans 8:1 and 31-39**

These verses are meant to rouse us awake and dispel any myths we have believed about our circumstances and our eternal security in Christ. We simply need to allow these truths to sink in. They speak to the challenges we have faced in the past, what we are facing presently, and whatever may come in this lifetime.

### **Because of Christ's work, our salvation is secure**

Considering these verses from Romans 8, go back through the 3 P's and reflect on how each of them applies to Christ's work for you.

How is Christ's death and resurrection...?

Personal –

Pervasive –

Permanent –

### **Key verse**

Put to memory Romans 8:38-39. Place the provided card somewhere you'll see it throughout the day so you can be frequently reminded of the truth of God's Word.

### **Prayer time**

Spend time in prayer sharing with the Lord your doubts and insecurities. Ask Him to help you to live from a place of security in Him.

## Session 2

### Prepare your heart and mind

Begin this time of study with prayer. Ask God to help you push away distractions and focus on Him. Ask Him to bless this time by providing clarity and revealing truth.



### Read Romans 8:38-39

What does this passage say about what can separate believers from the love of God?

We live in a world where very few things are 100% secure. Our finances, health, personal safety, jobs, and marriages all have an element of the unknown where things can change in an instant. This is not how it is with our salvation. In Christ, we have 100% security and confidence in our eternal relationship with God. We have unconditional love and acceptance from God, yet we often live in fear and uncertainty that God may reject us. As His children, we will never be rejected. His desire is for us to live in the fullness of our restored relationship with Him.

When we can rest in knowing the truth that our eternity is secure, it provides the basis for spiritual growth, maturity, and ministry. As we begin to understand the grace that has been given to us, our desire to nurture our relationship with the One who saved us is strengthened.

In this two-part personal study, we will look at 1) the indications of our own insecurities and 2) equipping ourselves with the truth of God's Word.

### Part 1 – Indications of our own insecurities

Below are questions to reflect on. The questions can help to identify potential struggles Christ-followers have regarding eternal security and the false concept that salvation is through works.

Is there a sin in your past that you have wondered if God could ever really forgive? Is there a sin so great that you feel it has put your relationship with God in jeopardy?

When you struggle with the flesh or fall into old habits that you thought were over, do you question your salvation? When you fall short, do you believe that God loves you a little less because you keep doing what you don't want to do?

Are there circumstances in your life that have created doubt in a loving God? Have you ever felt God was punishing you because you did not perform to His liking?

Do you continually strive for the acceptance of other people, worrying about whether they like you or not?

Do you withdraw from deep intimate relationships, avoiding the risk of being exposed for your true self?

Is there a whisper of a scripture, taken out of context, which causes you to doubt your security with God because you are not working hard enough, or you feel you are lukewarm?

More than likely, at some time or another you have answered “yes,” to one or more of these questions. When our understanding of how God is at work matures, our relationship grows deeper. It’s important to study the Word of God and impress upon our hearts the truths of our salvation.

### Pray

Pause for a moment and ask God to reveal where you might be struggling with insecurity. Ask Him to remind you that your security isn’t your responsibility, but His. Ask Him to help you rest in the truth that His free gift is not conditional and is never withdrawn.

## Part 2 – Equipping with the truth

### Claim the promises of God’s Word

When we live with the confidence of knowing our security in Christ, we have freedom, power, and strength.

Look up the following scriptures. In the space provided, write, in your own words, the truth of how God personally loves you and His promise of eternal security. The first one is done for you.

John 10:28

*God promises me eternal life. No one can EVER take me from God's strong and mighty grip.*

Ephesians 4:30

Ephesians 1:4

Ephesians 1:3, 2:6

Philippians 1:6

John 17:6-7

Hebrews 7:25

Romans 8:38-39

John 3:6-8

John 10:28

God wants you to live the abundant life He offers. John 10:10 says, *“the thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”* No one can take you from the Father’s mighty grip (John 10:28-30). The abundant life starts when you rest in knowing that you are eternally secure by the grace and love of Jesus.

**Key verse**

Continue working to memorize Romans 8:38-39. Attempt to write it out from memory:

**Prayer time**

Spend time acknowledging the love and grace God has given you. Ask that God would help you believe and apply the promises of being eternally secure because of Christ’s work on the cross. Take time to surrender any false hope you have in the things of this world or in your own power. Thank Him for being the Good Shepherd who will never let go.

## PARENT GUIDE

The biggest gift we can ever receive is eternal life. We are given this gift from God, through the sacrifice of Jesus, His Son. (Romans 6:23b) With that gift, comes a promise from God that it will never be taken away from us.

### Object Lesson

*Materials needed:* medium-sized glass vase or jar filled with water, red food coloring.

*Share the following with your kids:*

The vase (or jar) represents “you” – your heart and your mind. When we ask Jesus to forgive us and be our Forever Friend, He does and comes into our hearts and lives. (*Put several drops of food coloring into the water.*) As the food coloring changes the water, discuss how being a Forever Friend of Jesus affects and changes us.

*Read John 10:28:* “I give them eternal life, and they will never die. And no person can steal them out of my hand.” (*International Children’s Bible*)

*Ask:* why do you think we chose red food coloring to put in the vase?

The red food coloring represents Jesus’ love and His blood that was shed on the cross for us. Once we have chosen to be Forever Friends with Jesus, we know that when we die someday, we will go to Heaven and live forever with Him. Jesus is unlike any other friend because His love is bigger and more powerful than anyone’s.

Look at how a few drops completely turned the water red; the food coloring seems powerful and strong. This reminds us of how big and powerful God’s love is. The food coloring completely colors the water just like we are completely covered by God’s love and Jesus’ blood when we become Forever Friends with Jesus.

*Discuss and talk about how you know Jesus loves you. Ask:* what does the Bible tell us about Jesus’ love? Knowing that Jesus died for you, how does that make you feel?

*Read Romans 8:38-39:* “Yes I am sure that nothing can separate us from the love God has for us. Not death, not life, not angels, not ruling spirits, nothing now, nothing in the future, no powers, nothing above us, nothing below us, or anything else in the whole world will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (*International Children’s Bible*)

God’s love is a forever love that no one or nothing can take away from us. Forever Friends of Jesus cannot be separated from God or His amazing love. There is never a time or a situation when Jesus will take His friendship away from us.

The red water in the jar reminds us of this truth. Can we take away or separate the food coloring from the water? No, it’s impossible to separate them. When Jesus comes into our hearts and lives, He never leaves us. He is our Forever Friend, and He is forever with us when we’re on earth and later in Heaven. (Matthew 28:20b, John 14:2-3)

## ADDITIONAL STUDY

Too often we try to provide ourselves with a sense of security by our own efforts, but that only results in intensifying our insecurities. We need to understand that our security has already been provided in Christ. We can have assurance of our salvation and that our eternity is secure because it is based on His work. And then, once we understand this foundation, we can begin to grow from a place of acceptance and love, rather than performance.

Take some time to read and study 1 Peter 1:18-25. As you read, think about the assurance you have in Christ. Feel free to mark any words or phrases that stick out to you. Once you've read through the passage, go through it again using the observation, interpretation, and application study prompts below.



### **Read 1 Peter 1:18-25**

*<sup>18</sup>For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. <sup>19</sup>It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. <sup>20</sup>God chose him as your ransom long before the world began, but now in these last days he has been revealed for your sake.*

*<sup>21</sup>Through Christ you have come to trust in God. And you have placed your faith and hope in God because he raised Christ from the dead and gave him great glory.*

*<sup>22</sup>You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth, so now you must show sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters. Love each other deeply with all your heart.*

*<sup>23</sup>For you have been born again, but not to a life that will quickly end. Your new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God. <sup>24</sup>As the Scriptures say,*

*“People are like grass;  
their beauty is like a flower in the field.  
The grass withers and the flower fades.  
<sup>25</sup>But the word of the Lord remains forever.”*

*And that word is the Good News that was preached to you.*

### **Observation**

*(Who? When? Where? Why? What does it say? What do I notice?)*

**Interpretation**

*(What are the key themes or truths? What is the writer's intended meaning? What is the context? What questions do I have?)*

**Application**

*(How do I apply it? What does this mean for me?)*