

The Election of Grace



Collegiate Quarterly

Teacher's Guide

Materials

none required

Surveying the Source

Romans 10, 11.

Plotting the Course

The students will:

- ▶ Determine methods of spreading the gospel to “all the world,” therefore fulfilling God’s mission.
- ▶ Identify obstacles to salvation and

realize that God is still “working on us.”

- ▶ Learn the lessons of history with respect to grace, soul winning, and salvation.

Preparing to Lead

After Paul introduced the plan of salvation in Asia and Greece, he planned to travel to Spain to continue his work there as well as in Italy.* He wanted the cooperation and assistance of the brethren in

Rome, so he wrote a letter to the Christians there. After evangelizing a sector of our society, how can we cooperate with others as we go to new territory after beginning at “home”?

Getting Started

A. *Say:* “In Bible times, the Jewish Christians presumed they were the only ones who should be saved and did not wish to share the knowledge of Jesus with the Gentiles. Do we also presume that Jesus came to save only us and therefore others are too sinful to be introduced to Him and the grace He offers freely?”

Take time to discuss this question. Then discuss soul-winning methods which may be applicable to reaching various types of individuals in your city or town such as business persons, people of other faiths, drug addicts, street persons,

co-workers, et cetera.

B. Choose two food crops grown in your area. Google the growing methods of your chosen plant. Share this information with the class. *Ask:* •“Is there perfection at each stage?” •“Does grafting take place in the crops?” •“How can crop growth be equated with Christian growth?” •“How can we nurture Christian ‘seedlings’ through to harvest?” •“Each plant is different, but what similarities exist in growth patterns and methods of cultivation to ensure a better harvest?”

Delving Into the Word

A. Divide the class into groups of three or four people. Give each person in all the groups a copy of the reproducible activity on page 41. After each group has finished the activity, reconvene as a class to discuss their findings. Also consider

asking the following questions: •“Is salvation only for those who seek for themselves?” •“Are there possibilities that persons in elevated positions in government and society might think salvation is not for them?” •“How similar or different

is soul winning now?” •“How about in countries where there is freedom of speech and religion versus countries where there are restrictions?” •“Is there a right or wrong way, time, or place to worship God?” •“What role should ceremony and customs play in worship?” •“What does Jesus mean when in John 14:6, He says, ‘I am the way.’ ” •“Why or why not is there hope for persons who once believed in Christ but became discouraged and turned away?” •“Are we deserving of salvation (Ezek. 18:4)?” •“Is salvation for all people (Rom. 11:23)?” •“What role does the law have in our salvation?” •“Does God give second chances if someone turns down salvation the first time? Support your answer from the Bible.”

B. Have class members in groups of two take turns giving a Bible study with the aim of convincing the other person that salvation is available to everyone

Discussing the Ideas

1. Use Romans 12 as a basis to discuss how we can serve others and encourage them to have a new life in Christ.
2. What methods would you suggest to fellow believers to use in soul-winning endeavors to reach persons who do not profess Christianity?
3. How can we use our different spiritual gifts, or the fruit of the Spirit, in soul-winning activities?
4. What is the task given by God to each Christian in the area of evangelism? How can we accomplish the mission of

Closing the Activity

Ask: “If you were to lose your most precious possession because of harsh economics, poor management, natural disasters, war, oppression, et cetera, how would it affect your salvation?” Then discuss the story of Job. Ask your class if they could be like Job, who in the end remained true to God. *Ask:* “What

despite background, gender, ethnicity, et cetera. Use the conversion of Paul, the request of the Ethiopian eunuch for baptism, Nicodemus’ enquiry about salvation as examples. Have the students find the relevant texts to support their argument. Discuss various methods Jesus used to encourage people to accept salvation. Discuss how these methods can be used today to encourage people you know to accept Jesus Christ.

Ask: •“What role can television, the Internet, social networks such as Facebook, Twitter, My Space, or blogs, play in taking the gospel around the world?” •“How could you use books and tracts in soul-winning endeavors?” •“What role does prayer have in the salvation of souls?”

Use concordances to find texts that show what methods can be used to determine the validity of those who claim to speak for God (1 John 4:1–3).

preaching to the entire world?

5. What is the relationship between preparing to share the message and willingness and zeal? (See Romans 1:16, 17.) What role does prayer have in our ministry to those who are not Christian?

6. After having received the grace and forgiveness of God, how eager should we be to share the good news with everyone?

7. Do God’s chosen people have a greater right to salvation than anyone else?

opportunity can you create that will allow you to tell the ‘good news’ to others, even to casual acquaintances (1 John 4:7–11, 15–17).”

Ask: “Like Paul, we have received salvation. What responsibility does this place on us to share this information with others?”

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**The SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 6, p. 468.*

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Directions: Based on the texts in the chart below, identify examples and methods of soul winning and of persons making decisions to follow Jesus. What motivated these people and why? Not all texts necessarily involve a specific individual.

Text	Soul Winning Example	Person and Motivation	Method Used
Luke 15:1–7			
Luke 15:8–10			
Luke 15:11–32			
John 3:1–21; 7:44–53; 19:38–40			
John 4:1–42			