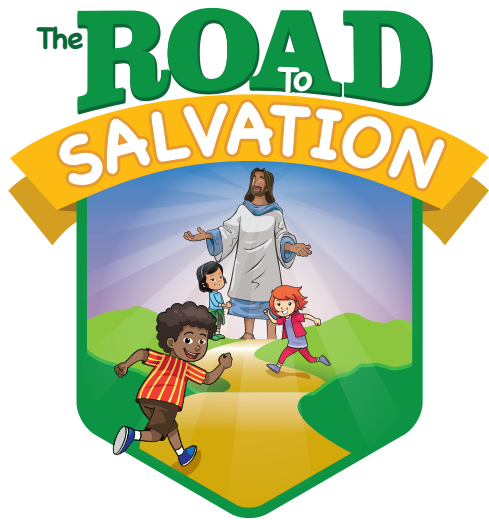




Children's Sabbath Program



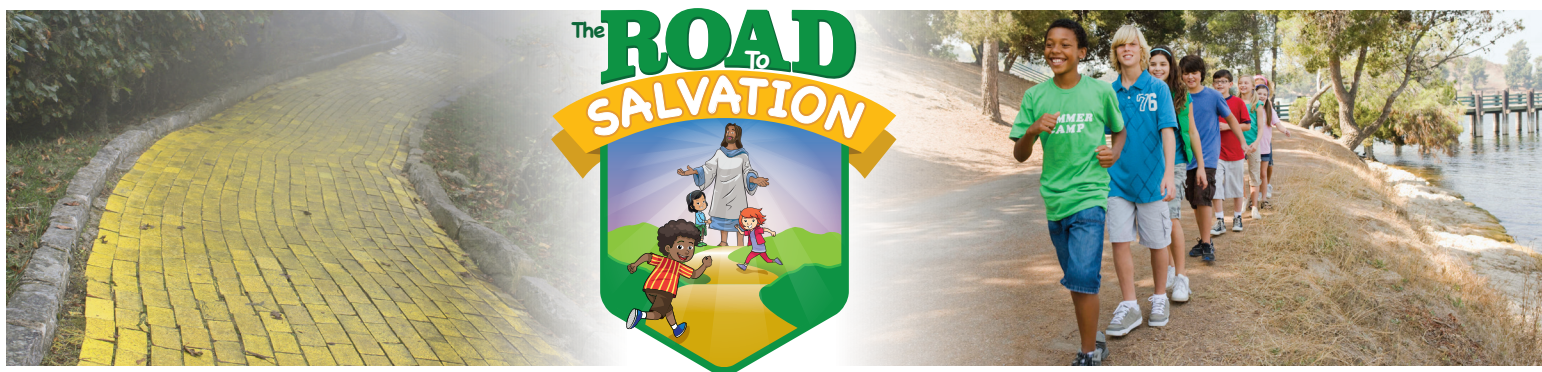
Introduction

Salvation is a topic that many children and adults think about often. Sometimes we ask ourselves if we are really saved, and if not, what we have to do to be saved. Knowing the answers to these questions can truly be life changing! The Road to Salvation Children's Sabbath Program will address that we can be saved by:

- ① Repenting—asking for forgiveness for our sins and wrong doings
- ② Believing—accepting Jesus' sacrifice and gift of eternal life
- ③ Living—living in God, living for others, and then living forever

Program Contents

- I. Welcome
- II. Praise
- III. Opening Prayer
- IV. Scripture
- V. Offertory
- VI. Special Feature
- VII. Skit: "Road to Salvation"
- VIII. Praise
- IX. Closing Prayer



Needed Volunteers

Greeters
Ushers
Praise Leaders
Prayer Leaders
Drama Participants

Downloadable Songs

Before I Had a Name
Everlasting Life
God's Got a Plan

Extra Songs

I Love to Tell the Story
Jesus Paid It All
Jesus Saves
Mighty to Save

Downloadable Materials

Invitations
Poster boards
Letter to the Pastor
Lyrics to downloadable songs
Discussion questions
"Road Stops to Salvation" guide/ form
Sharing Cards
Decision Cards

Extra Activities

- Provide a potluck after church.
- Outreach at the park or other public place where children can share the stops on the road to salvation (using Sharing Cards).
- Share with a family member or neighbor.
- For small group or family worship, use the discussion questions to dig deeper.

Program Order

I. Welcome:

Good morning, everyone! We would like to welcome you to The Road to Salvation Children's Sabbath Program. We will experience many wonderful things on our road trip this morning. On this journey we will learn the three stops on the road to salvation. Before we begin we would like everyone to feel right at home. Please stand next to someone, preferably someone you don't know very well or at all. Now let's imagine we are the animals on Noah's ark. Share with your partner what animal you would like to be and why. (Allow a minute or two for sharing.) Now, on the count of three, everyone make the sound of your animal. (Allow a few moments for the animal noises.) Today is Children's Sabbath and as you can see, things might be done a bit differently today. We will lead reverently, but we will have fun doing it because when things are creative and interactive, we learn better. OK, now that we have our sillies out, let's continue with our worship service.

II. Praise:

God's word says "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord" (Psalm 150:6). Let's see... (Breathe in and out loudly.) Yep, I'm alive and well! Are you all breathing this morning? Let's do the breath test. (Have everyone breathe in and out deeply.) Yes, this is wonderful news; we are all alive and well today! Let us make a joyful noise this morning while we worship our Lord, Savior, and King! (Choose a few songs from the list or other songs that fit the theme of the program.)

III. Scripture:

Today's scripture is found in Luke 19:10 (NIV). We'll



need the help of everyone here today. Let's divide everyone into four different groups. Each group will have a section of the verse to repeat.

Section 1—For the Son of Man

Section 2—came to seek

Section 3—and to save

Section 4—the lost.

Everyone—Luke 19:10

When we point to your section, please repeat your phrase with your group. Ready? Let's start off slow and give it a try! (Repeat a few times until verse is spoken smoothly, and then have everyone repeat the entire verse together.)

IV. Offertory:

Material needed: Duct tape cut into long strips the length of the rows. Two ushers per strip will be needed; special music can be played during the offering.

Say: "We are in a really sticky situation this morning. We have run out of offering plates and all we have are these rolls of duct tape. I know! We can try a fun and new way of collecting the offering this morning. When the strips of tape are placed in front of you, please stick your offering onto the piece of duct tape. Will the junior ushers please come forward?" (Offering is collected on the long strips and then taken out through the back. The offering should be peeled off the duct tape very carefully.)

V. Prayer:

Dear gracious Father in Heaven. We thank you for being our Creator and the giver of all good things. Most of all, we thank you for Jesus, who is the greatest gift of all to us. He is our Savior. Please use us to help others in need through a kind word or deed and through our offering as well. In the name of Jesus we pray, amen.

VI. Special Features:

Special features can be done throughout the program as needed. The performances can include participants sharing talents such as singing, playing a musical instrument, saying a poem, creative arts, a personal testimony, and so on.

VII. Skit:

The Road to Salvation

Characters

Dorothy

The Hopeless People:

Lame,
Orphan,
Hungry,
and Thirsty

Helper

Tabitha

The Tempter

The Voice of God

Props Check List

- A Bible
- Three signs distributed across the stage that read the following (download available):
 - Stop #1 Repent—Romans 3:23
 - Stop #2 Believe—John 3:16
 - Stop #3 Live—John 15:4; Psalm 82:3; John 14:1-3
- A walking stick
- Dorothy has two coins to pay for the dinner
- Cafe scene: a small table, cup of water, a quarter of a sandwich
- A rainbow

Story Line

Dorothy is lost and afraid and is searching for the way to Salvation. A Helper comes along and shows her where to begin her journey. The Helper also shares what to look for and what to avoid. On the way, she meets new friends: Lame, Orphan, Hungry, and Thirsty. She invites them to join her on her quest. There is a Tempter who will try to take her another route, but Dorothy and her friends stay the course and together they discover the three stops on the road to finding Salvation: Repent, Believe, and Live.

Dorothy: (Looks sad and worried) I feel so lost. I want to find the road to Salvation, but I don't even know where to begin. What should I do? How do I get there? (Begins to cry)

Helper: My dear child, why are you crying?

Dorothy: Because I'm lost and can't find the way to Salvation. (Continues crying)

Helper: Oh, there, there, child, you mustn't cry. It will be all right. I can help you.

Dorothy: (Looks up and whimpers) You can?

Helper: (Uses a caring but firm tone) Yes, I can. Sit up now, child, and dry your tears. (Helper puts on glasses, takes out Bible, and flips through pages.) What is your name?

Dorothy: (Dries her tears and looks up) Dorothy.

Helper: Let's see now, Dorothy . . . (while flipping through the pages) Yep, it's all right here in this book. This book is called the Bible—the best guide ever!

Dorothy: (Sits up and shows more interest) It is?

Helper: Most definitely! God has sent special messages of love through this book. In here you can find the

answers to any question you might have about life. It also tells us how we can find Salvation.

Dorothy: (Becomes really excited) Really? I want to know more of God's love and how to be saved.

Helper: (Points to a sign and reads it) Road to Salvation/Stop #1. ● **REPENT.** Romans 3:23.

OK, go down this road and do NOT take a detour! There will be three stops. Your first stop is right here at "Repent."

Dorothy: Repent? Repent what? What is that?

Helper: (Opens the Bible) Well, here is your answer in Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Looks up) We all have done bad things and when we do, it hurts God. Repenting is letting God know that we are sorry and asking Him for forgiveness.

Dorothy: I know I have done some pretty awful things—that's why I feel so lost. I want to repent right now. (Kneels) Dear God, I realize that I am a sinner. I want to ask for Your forgiveness. Please lead me on this journey to find Salvation and help me to make wise choices.

Helper: (Hands Dorothy the Bible) Take this special book to guide you, and beware of the Tempter. He will try to discourage your search.

Dorothy: The who?

Helper: (Pushes Dorothy along) Hurry along now, child! Oh, and uh . . . take this walking stick in case you get tired.

Dorothy: (Skips and sings with the walking stick in one hand and the Bible in the other) I'm off to find salvation. I'm off to find salvation. I'm off to find . . . (Repeats several times until she comes across Lame,

who is sitting on the ground)

Dorothy: Oh! Well, hello . . . are you all right?

Lame: Not really. I've been hurting like this all of my life. I'm Lame. (Painfully stretches his arm up to shake hands)

Dorothy: I'm Dorothy, and don't you worry a bit. You can have my walking stick to lean on. (Helps Lame to his feet and gives him the walking stick) Are you OK? I'm looking for Salvation. You can come with me and help me look if you like. Salvation is for everyone!

Lame: I don't mind if I do.

Dorothy: God's Word says that the first thing we need to do is repent. Romans 3:23 says "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." That means we all have done bad things and when we do, it hurts God. And 1 John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." We need to tell God we are wrong and ask God to forgive us for all of our sins.

Lame: Oh, I didn't know that. I don't want to hurt Him. I'll repent right now. (Closes his eyes and prays silently while Dorothy looks on, smiling)

(When Lame is finished praying, Dorothy and Lame walk along to the next stop. Lame continues to limp with his walking stick.)

Dorothy: (Looks around) I wonder where we are now.

Lame: I'm not sure, but let's ask that kid over there. Maybe he [she] will know something.

Dorothy: I sure hope so!

(Orphan is standing alone in front of the Stop #2 sign, looking sad.)

Lame: Hi there, I'm Lame, and this is Dorothy. Who are you?

Orphan: Hello, I'm Orphan.

Dorothy: Where are your mother and father, Orphan?

Orphan: I don't have any parents. I'm here in the world all by myself.

Dorothy: Not anymore, you're not. We'll be your family, and most important, you have a Father in heaven who loves you very much.

Orphan: Wow! Thank you so much. I've always dreamed of a day like this.

Lame: That's not all, Orphan. You can come with us to find Salvation so that we can be with God the Father forever. First we need to . . . um . . . um . . . (Forgets the first stop)

Dorothy: You need to repent. That means you say sorry to God for doing wrong things and ask Him to forgive you.

Orphan: I'd like to do that now. (Orphan prays silently; Dorothy and Lame look at each other triumphantly and give each other high fives; Orphan finishes, relieved and happy)

Lame: Now we are looking for Stop #2. Have you seen it around here somewhere?

Orphan: (Moves away from the front of the sign and points to it) Oh, wait a minute, is this it?

Dorothy and Lame: YES!

Lame: (Reads the sign) Road to Salvation/Stop #2. ●
BELIEVE. John 3:16.

Orphan: I wonder what this means?

Dorothy: Well, we have our special travel guide—the Bible—right here! (Opens the Bible and reads) John 3:16 says, “For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

Lame: I believe and accept what Jesus has done for me (Looks up toward the sky)

Dorothy: I believe. (Stretches her arms toward the sky)

Orphan: (Kneels) I, too, believe and accept that Jesus died for me so that I can live with Him forever.

Lame: Dorothy, is this the end of the road?

Dorothy: (Opens her Bible) Well, according to this guide, we have one more stop.

Orphan: Well, what are we waiting for? Let’s go!

(The three characters walk together. Lame continues to limp along and need help from Dorothy and Orphan. They soon come to a place where they bump into Thirsty and Hungry. Hungry is rubbing his stomach and Thirsty is clutching her throat. Thirsty and Hungry are so thirsty and hungry that they don’t watch where they are going or what they are doing.)

Lame: Whoa! Careful! (Almost falls)

Hungry: Oh, please excuse me; it’s just that I’m so hungry.

Thirsty: And I’m so thirsty that . . .

Hungry and Thirsty: We didn’t see you.

Dorothy: Oh, my . . . we must do something about that! (Starts thinking)

Orphan: (Looks around and squints to see something in the distance) Dorothy, I think I see what looks like a small town diner up ahead.

Dorothy: Let’s go!

(The four of them walk toward the diner: Lame limping with the walking stick, Hunger rubbing his stomach, and Thirsty clutching her throat.)

(They arrive at Life Café.)

Tabitha: (Greets them warmly) Well, hello, everybody! Welcome to Life Café. What can I do for you?

Dorothy: I’m Dorothy, and this is Lame. I also have two new friends here. This is Hungry and this is Thirsty and . . .

Tabitha: Don’t tell me! Let me guess. (Points to each character in turn) Hungry, you need a bite to eat, and Thirsty, you need a tall glass of cool water.

(The group looks at each other in disbelief.)
(Dorothy hands two coins to Tabitha to pay for the meal.)

Lame: Wow! How’d you guess?

Tabitha: I’ve been doing this for years, honey. I know my customers. (Hands a glass of water to Thirsty, who drinks it desperately; hands a quarter of a sandwich to Hungry, who gobbles it up quickly)

Tabitha: (Waits until they are finished eating and drinking and then starts speaking mysteriously) I know my customers well enough to know that you all are looking for more than just a quick bite to eat and drink. I can offer you something that will last so much longer than earthly food and water.

The Group: REALLY? (They press in closer to listen to Tabitha)

Tabitha: Listen up, here. Come closer. God's Word says that it is a blessing to be hungry and thirsty . . .

Hungry and Thirsty: (Look at each other, confused) Huh?

Tabitha: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for RIGHTEOUSNESS . . . for they will be full.

Hungry and Thirsty: (Hungry rubs stomach and Thirsty clenches throat) Really?

Tabitha: Why, yes, you will be full spiritually, which is so much better than anything else. You see Jesus is the LIVING WATER and the BREAD OF LIFE!

Dorothy: (Looks at Hungry and Thirsty) Oh, yes, we have been searching for Salvation through Jesus. It's been quite a journey! On Stop #1 we repent of our sins. On Stop #2 we believe that Jesus died to save us from our sins and give us eternal life.

Hungry and Thirsty: (Look at each other) We want to repent and believe! (They pray a silent prayer and then hug each other)

Orphan: And now we are ready for the final stop, but we are not quite sure where or what it is.

Tabitha: Well, my new friends, you have come to the right place. I can show you the way. Just go out from here and make a right [or left, depending on your stage]. Stay on this road! There are no short cuts to Salvation, but it won't be much longer. If you should ever run into trouble, remember that Jesus is the living water and the bread of life. Jesus is the answer to all of life's problems. His name is powerful. Be safe! Goodbye! (Waves good bye to everyone)

(The group begins the journey and is happily talking with each other until they are stopped by the Tempter.)

Tempter: Well, hello! What do we have here?

Lame: We are looking for Salvation. Can you tell us how to get there?

Tempter: Why, yes, of course, you are on the road now—a very long road that is. (Looks at Dorothy) Hey, listen! If you follow me, I can get you to Salvation much faster. I know a short cut. This way is too hard and bumpy. My way is smooth and easy.

Orphan: Dorothy, remember what Tabitha from Life Café said. She said not to get off this road.
(Everyone else chimes in to remind and encourage Dorothy)

Tempter: (Laughs and points to each one) You're lame, and you're an orphan. You twins, Hungry and Thirsty, what are you two doing here anyway? You don't deserve to be on this road. You all are sick, poor, and alone.

(Lame, Orphan, Hungry, and Thirsty turn away sadly.)

Dorothy: (Remembers the advice from the helper and Tabitha) Hey, you can't talk to my friends that way. None of us have the right to be here because we are all sinners. But we have repented. Jesus has paid the price, and we believe and accept His invitation to Salvation.

Tempter: Nonsense, you're all coming with me. (Proceeds to herd them together)

The Group: (Drops to their knees and begins to pray) Jesus, save us! Jesus, help us! Jesus, please . . .

(The Tempter covers his face and runs off the stage.)

Hungry and Thirsty: (Look around) He's gone.

Lame: Whew! That was a close call.

Dorothy: That must have been the Tempter someone told me about.

Hungry: He really looked like a bad guy.

(They begin their journey once more.)

Orphan: Look! Just over the horizon—it looks like a rainbow!

Thirsty: Let's go; it might be our final stop.

(Everyone rushes over to the sign.)

Dorothy: (Reads the sign) Road to Salvation/Stop #3.

● **LIVE.** John 15:4; Psalm 82:3; John 14:1-3.

Yes! Yes, this is it!

The Group: (Hug each other excitedly and give each other high fives) HURRAY! YES! I can't believe it; we're finally here!

Dorothy: (Tries to settle the group down after a few moments) OK, everyone, we've found the last stop. But I'm not sure I get it what it means. I mean, aren't we living already?

Lame: I think we should ask God in prayer just how we should live.

The Group: (Kneel and close their eyes to pray silently)

God's Voice: I'm so glad you are here. I want you to know that I've been with you on this journey all along. I will never leave you or forsake you. I'm happy you have chosen to repent from being sinful. I love you so

much that I gave my only Son, Jesus, to die for you. Thank you for believing and accepting His sacrifice. Now you must live. Live in Me, live for others, and you will live forever.

(Everyone looks confused.)

Hungry and Thirsty: LIVE in you?

God's Voice: Live in Me: "Live in me, and I will live in you. A branch cannot produce any fruit by itself. It has to stay attached to the vine. In the same way, you cannot produce fruit unless you live in me" (John 15:4, GOD'S WORD Translation). Living in me means that we will do everything together. You will get to know me very well and love me like I love you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. I am your Father, Your heavenly Father.

Orphan: I am so glad to know that I have a Father who cares and who will walk with me through life's journey.

God's Voice: Live for others: When you live for others, you are living for me. "Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy" (Psalm 82:3, King James Version). Feed the hungry and give water to the thirsty. Give clothes to the poor, visit the sick and lonely, and most important, let them know how much I love them and that Jesus died for them too.

Lame, Orphan, Hungry, and Thirsty: (Look at each other in surprise) Dorothy, that's what you did for us!

Dorothy: (Hugs the ones closest to her and smiles, then becomes sad) But if we stay here helping and living for others, when will we get to be with you, my Lord?

God's Voice: Don't be sad. Trust me! Right now I am preparing a special place with many rooms for you in heaven. It won't be long now, my children. I'll be here

before you know it! I am coming to take you with me so that we can live together forever. [See John 14:1-3.]

The Group: (Look around at each other excitedly)

God's Voice: Share this good news with everyone you know: Live in Me, live for others, and you will live forever. (Repeats 2 or 3 times and fades out)

Lame: (Struggles to remember and then points up) Live in Me!

Orphan: (Holds hands with Dorothy and Lame) Live for Others!

Hungry and Thirsty: (Stretch arms wide) Live forever!

Group: (Repeat two times together while doing motions) Live in me! (Point up) Live for Others! (Hold hands) Live Forever! (Stretch arms wide)

Dorothy: Well . . . I guess we've come to the end of our road on our search for Salvation. This has been such an exciting journey!

Orphan: Don't forget; it's not quite over.

Lame: That's right; we must share the good news of Salvation with others.

Hungry: (Looks at Dorothy) You seein' what I'm seein'? Don't look now, but there is a large gathering of people in front of us.

Thirsty: Oh, joy! We must tell them! Remember the stops: Stop #1 ● **REPENT**, Stop #2 ● **BELIEVE**, and Stop #3 ● **LIVE**. (Nudges Dorothy) Go on . . . tell them.

Dorothy: (Coughs nervously and looks at audience) Oh, hello. Do you know the Road to Salvation? It has three stops. Can you stand and say them with me? ● Stop #1 is **REPENT**: That's when you say sorry to

Jesus for being a sinner. You can do that right now if you like. (Gives the audience time to say a silent prayer) ● Stop #2 is **BELIEVE**: We don't have to worry because God's plan to save us as sinners was sending His very own Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for us. Do you believe and accept this free gift of Salvation? (Gives audience time to respond) This is wonderful! Now all you have to do is ● **LIVE**. Live in Me, (Points up) Live for others, (Holds hands) and Live Forever (Repeats last phrase twice). Yes, that's right! You got it! (Gives thumbs up)

Now it's your turn to go and share the good news of the Road to Salvation. Goodbye now!

(All characters exit the stage.)

VIII. Praise:

What a wonderful message that was! The road to salvation is absolutely free. We must share this good news with others: Jesus has paid the price for our sins. Our final song will be "Jesus Paid it All" [or any other song of choice]. Let us stand as we sing. If there is someone who would like to say to Jesus, "I love you; thank You for giving Your life for me. I want everyone to know my life is yours through baptism," please come to the front as we sing this song. The ushers will be standing here to receive you. (Ushers should wait up front, ready to embrace the people who come forward and to give them a decision card to fill out.) Let us stand!

IX. Closing Prayer:

Dear Father, we have been truly blessed today. Please help us to remember to REPENT, BELIEVE, and LIVE! We can be with You eternally. Continue to guide us as we help others know You. In the name of Jesus we pray, amen!

(Ushers stand at the door to distribute take-home materials.)