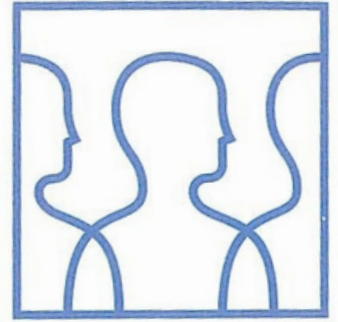


Question 27

Are all people,
just as they were
lost through Adam,
saved through Christ?



Answer

No, only those who are elected by
God and united to Christ by faith.

Big Idea

Only those who are united to Christ, having been elected by God before the creation of the world, will be saved.

Aim

To help the children understand that God chooses those whom he will save.

Bible Passage

Ephesians 1:5–12

Memory Verse

“For if, because of one man’s trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.” (Rom. 5:17)

Virtue

Gratitude





Notes

Leader's Notes

Universalism is the belief that everyone will be reckoned righteous on the day of judgment and therefore be admitted to heaven. While this may hold emotional appeal for us, it is not what the Bible teaches. The Scriptures clearly differentiate between those who are in Adam and those who are in Christ. It is those who are in Christ who will be saved and will be granted eternal life to enjoy forever in God's presence. This lesson will consider the doctrines of election and saving grace. Most significantly, this lesson aims to show the children that the doctrine of election is a beautiful thing and something to rejoice in.

Things to remember when planning and teaching:

- This question may be emotional for children who have non-Christian family members.
- The children might be tempted to consider God unkind as they encounter the doctrine of election. Ensure that the emphasis is on the grace and goodness of God throughout the lesson.
- Some children will be anxious about their own salvation; be prepared to support and encourage them by pointing them to Jesus.
- Remember to mix and match the activities in the lesson to fit your time frame (see p. 12 for some sample outlines). You won't have time to do them all. Feel free to adapt each activity based on your class's strengths and weaknesses.

Leader's Prayer

Gracious God, thank you for predestining me to be part of your family and redeeming me through the precious blood of Jesus. I praise you for your saving grace. Grant understanding to the children who will

hear this lesson. May they know you as a kind, loving, and gracious God. May they be encouraged by your sovereign grace in the world. In Jesus's name. Amen.

Leader's Tool Kit

- Paper
- Markers
- Balloons
- Q27 Catechism Recap (DL)
- Picture of a sports team
- Video clips of adoptive parents meeting their child for the first time
- Q27 Illustrations A, B, and C (RB)

**10 Catechism Recap**

Print out and cut up Q27 Catechism Recap (DL). Fold the slips of paper up very small and place them inside individual balloons. Inflate and tie the balloons.

Tell the children that the aim of the game is to burst the balloons and locate the pieces of papers enclosed within the balloons.

Once they have a piece of paper, they should work together to form a group that contains the questions, answer, and memory verse for Questions 21–26. A small group should form as the various elements of each question are brought together. Ask each group to read out their question, answer, and memory verse.

5 Introduction to Question 27

You will need a picture of a sports team.

Show the children a picture of a sports team. Ask the children if they've ever played a sport or a game in which the team captains chose the team members. Ask them what kind of things make a team captain want to choose a player for his or her team.

Agree with the children that captains usually want the most athletic, coordinated players on their teams. They want the quickest and the strongest—those who will be able to score points!

Ask the children how God picks the members of his family. Does he do it the way that a team captain chooses team

members? Help them to see that, according to the Bible, God *does* choose the members of his family, but he does not choose us based on our ability, intelligence, beauty, or goodness. When we talk about God's choosing, we call it *election*. It is done purely by his own will, not because of anything in us.

Introduce the children to Question 27: "Are all people, just as they were lost through Adam, saved through Christ?" Explain to the children that this question will help them to understand that not everyone is redeemed through Jesus's death and resurrection. Only those God elects will be saved, but our election is not based on our own worth.

10 Activity

Find one or more video clips of families meeting an adopted child for the first time (thousands are available on the Internet). If there happens to be

a family in your church who has adopted a child, ask if they would be willing to let you use a video or photo of their adoption.



Notes

Ask the children if they know what adoption is. Ask them how parents decide what child they will adopt. Do they choose the baby whom they think will be the smartest or the prettiest or the fastest? How could you even tell what people will be like when they are only a baby or young child?

Explain to the children that they are going to learn from today's Bible passage that all who trust Christ for salvation have been adopted by God. They were chosen to be in Christ

before the world was even made! We are not chosen based on anything special about us, but because God freely decides to bestow his love on us.

Ask the children if the parents in the video adopted all of the children from the country where they got their child (for example, "Did the Browns adopt all of the children in China?"). Help them see the parallel that God does not adopt every person in the world; he adopts only those he has chosen.

15 Teaching Outline

Begin the teaching time by asking for God's help. Ask that the lesson would be taught faithfully and that the children might listen well.

Explain to the children that some people in the world believe in something called universalism. Ask if anyone knows what that is. Tell the children that universalists believe that God will save everybody, regardless of whether people have sought forgiveness from God through the blood of Christ.

Acknowledge that it might be more comfortable to believe in universal salvation, but that it's not what the Bible teaches. Remind the children that everyone is either in Adam's sin or in Christ's righteousness. Whether you are in Christ or in Adam determines your eternal destiny.

Remind the children that God didn't need anyone, but in his grace and kindness he

chose to save some people and make them his sons and daughters.

Explain to the children that God does not save everyone, but that he elects that only some will be saved. Everyone will be born in Adam, but then some will be born again in Christ. Reiterate that this isn't like picking a sports team! The men and women who play on sports teams are chosen because of their athletic ability. God chooses those whom he will save even before they're born, so being chosen by God to be in Christ has nothing to do with how good you are or how nice you are. Rather it has everything to do with how good God is and how kind God is.

Read Ephesians 1:3–12. Provide Bibles for the children to read along with you.

Ask the children what the word *predestine* means. Explain to them that it means to determine something beforehand. In this



passage, we learn that God predetermined whom he would adopt, even before he created the world.

Ask the children to look at verse 6 and see if they can tell you why God chose to predestine his children before they were even born, rather than waiting to see who would be the best. Draw out the meaning of the phrase “to the praise of his glorious grace.” Grace means “unmerited favor.” If God had chosen to favor those who deserved it, we would not be the recipients of grace.

Remind the children that Ephesians is actually a letter written to people in the city of Ephesus. Paul seems to assume everyone he is writing to has been chosen by God.

Ask the children why he assumes this. Help them see it is not because every person has been chosen by God. Paul knows that he is writing to those who have trusted Christ for salvation. Anyone who has done this can know that he or she has been elected by God to be adopted as his child.

Conclude the teaching time by helping the children commit **Question 27** and the answer to memory.

(These notes are just for guidance. Please expand or amend them to suit your own children and context. Write out your talk in your own words and include illustrations and applications that you know will connect with your children.)

10 Activity



Print out Illustrations A, B, and C (RB).

Introduce the children to the Reformer John Calvin (1509–1564) but begin by simply showing the children the picture and inviting them to try to guess who is in the picture.

A few facts about Calvin:

- He was born in France in 1509.
- He was a lawyer.
- He later became a theologian, pastor, and Reformer

Tell the children (if they’ve not guessed) that this is John Calvin and that he is an

important historical figure for Christian history. Explain that he is known as a Reformer. Reformers were concerned to make sure the churches actually taught what was in the Bible. Tell the children that Calvin was one of the men who studied the Bible and explained the idea of people being chosen or elected by God.

Now ask the children whether they think Calvin was the first person to teach that God chooses people. Show them the picture of Augustine, and tell them that this is someone who lived earlier than John Calvin. His name was Augustine of Hippo.

A few facts about Augustine:



Notes

- He was not a hippo, but he lived in Hippo, a region of North Africa.
- He was born in 354—just three centuries after Jesus lived!
- For many years he did not believe in God. Then, when he was in his thirties, he became a Christian and a pastor. He wrote many books, including his own autobiography.

Tell the children that just three centuries after Jesus, long before John Calvin, Augustine taught that God elects those that he will save. Ask the children if they think he was the first person to teach this.

Show the children the picture of the apostle Paul. Confess that we do not really know what Paul looked like. But he lived during the time of Jesus, long before Augustine and John Calvin! Tell the children that the apostle Paul taught that God chooses those who will be saved; remind them of the passage that you studied in today's lesson. These are just a few of the many people throughout history who have taught about God's election.

Ask the children if they think Paul was the first person to teach about election. The answer is that election is taught throughout the Bible, from the very beginning of the Old Testament when God chose Abraham.

5 Discussion and Question Time

Some questions that might arise include:

? What happens to those who aren't saved through Christ?

Explain to the children that Question 28 will answer the question more fully, but that those who are not saved through Christ will be removed from God's holy presence forever because of their sin.

? How do I know if I'm one of the elect?

Reassure the children that if they believe in God and trust in Jesus for redemption, they can be confident that they are elect. Read John 6:37: "All that

the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out." All who believe in Jesus and put their trust in him can know that they've been chosen by God.

? Why do we need to bother telling people about Jesus if God has already chosen the elect?

People need to hear about Jesus in order to respond to the gospel. God uses those who already know him as his messengers to get the good news to others so that all who are elect will come to him. The Bible commands believers to spread the good news, and we should joyfully obey that command.



Also use this opportunity to help the children to think about their own lives and how this question and answer affects them personally.

- Ask the children if they can think of why it is actually comforting to know that God elects some people for salvation.

- Ask the children whether this motivates them to tell others about Jesus.
- Ask the children if knowing that God graciously saves people causes them to praise him.

10 Virtue Vision



You will need pens and paper for the children.

Gratitude

Ask the children if there is anything about this lesson that makes them feel gratitude. Why should knowing we were not chosen

because there was anything special about us make us even more grateful?

Encourage the children to write a letter of thanks to God for choosing to adopt them into his family.

10 Memory Activity

Print out the memory verse or catechism question and answer and cut it up so that every word is on a separate piece of paper. Hide the individual words around the room.

Ask the children to find the words and lay them out in the correct order. Read the memory verse through with the children several times.

5 Closing Prayer Time

Invite the children to read some of their letters of gratitude to God aloud.