

# catcher of my soul

## introduction

Have a student stand in front of the group, eyes closed, with a strong person standing behind the student. Ask the student with the eyes closed to fall backward, totally dependent upon the catcher. Ask several in the group to do the same thing. Use this illustration to explain how we depend on someone to catch us.

## message

All of us depend upon the Lord Jesus Christ. We may not know it, but we are all falling because of sin. Jesus is there to catch us. Just look at what the Bible says about it. Let's read Ephesians 2:1-10. (Encourage the students to read along with you, or have someone read the text for you.)

1. When Paul addressed the church at Ephesus, he dealt with this very subject. In Ephesians 2:1-2, Paul says we were doomed forever because of our many sins and that we, like the rest of the world, obeyed Satan. Verse 3 describes our condition, following the passions and desires of our evil natures. You and me, without Christ, are like people falling with no one to catch us. Sin and the sinful nature are like that.
2. But, thank God, we have someone who will catch us. Ephesians 2:4-7 says that while we were falling, Christ came to rescue us. Christ came, sent by His Father. He died on a cross for our sins. On the third day He rose from the dead. We became "alive with Him" because of the Resurrection. The Bible says He "caught" us because of His grace, which is to be given something great even though we don't deserve it. We did not deserve His gift. Because of His great love, He extended himself to us in the form of His Son Jesus.
3. There is nothing we can do to receive the gift. We can't work for it. Ephesians 2:8-9 is amazing! Just think about it! No one can take credit for the free gift of salvation. If we are falling, God is there to catch us.
4. We can do good things. God created us and gave us the gift of salvation so that, as His workmanship, we can do good works that are pleasing to Him (Ephesians 2:10). We do good works to give Him glory, not to earn salvation. God has something for us to do while here on earth. He has a plan for each of us. It begins by accepting the gift of salvation that He offers. After we accept that free gift, we should see what we can do to please Him.

## salvation appeal

God sent His son Jesus to be the catcher of our souls. Without Christ in your life, you are falling in sin and need a savior. Look to God and His son Jesus. He is here to catch you. If you have not accepted Christ as Savior, do so today. Trust in God. He will catch you.

## challenge

Ephesians 2 makes the plan of salvation clear to us. Make it a priority to share this message to as many people as possible.

