

Can a Person Who Commits Suicide Go to Heaven?

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 3: 20-24 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we come conscious of sin. But now a righteousness from God, apart from the law, has been made known, to which the law and the prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is not difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Jesus Christ

1 John 1:8-9 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Exodus 20:13 **You shall not murder.**

Sometimes the pain of dealing with life is so great that suicide seems like the only option. This is Satan's lie. However, someone you know may be tempted to end their life, and they may ask you if they would go to heaven or hell. Even adults argue over the answer to this question. Let's examine what the Bible has to say.

Read Romans 5:8. Jesus died for us. When was that? _____

Read Romans 3:20-24. Paul stresses that your right standing before God does not depend on: _____

Being right in God's eyes (righteousness) comes from: _____

Read 1 John 1:8-9. Verse nine is often misinterpreted to say that we must tell someone each sin in order to be forgiven.

However, when read together with verse eight, it is clear that John is talking about our view of ourselves as sinners, not just individual sins.

A Christian is a sinner who admits he is a sinner and believes that Jesus' death was the payment for his sins.

Conclusion: Once you believe in Jesus all of your sins, past, present, and future, are of no consequence to your entry into heaven. However, the "second judgment" determining your "rewards" is based on your works.

Suicide is a sin. It is a self-centered solution to ending your pain without regard to the pain your death would cause those around you.

Suicide is an irreversible step.

—Problems have solutions. Suicide is never one of them.

Hurting people have a right to ask for help, and expect to be helped by others in “The body of Christ”. You are not alone!

Because we are all part of “The body of Christ” we should:

1 Thessalonians 5:11-22 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone. Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else. Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Jesus Christ. Do not put out the Spirit’s fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good.. Avoid every kind of evil.

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are God’s workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared in advance for us to do.

(1 Thessalonians 5:11)

Things you can do if you feel this way:



Talk to a trusted friend our grownup.
Do not isolate. Never think you are alone in your trouble.

If you’re too ashamed to tell remember: _____

Tell someone!

(Romans 3:23)

Sometimes kids blame themselves for their parent’s troubled relationships. They think things would be better if they weren’t there. That is not true.

Sometime kids are so embarrassed by something that happened (like being molested) they are too ashamed to tell. Please tell. There is help. We’ll still love you.

If you know of someone thinking about suicide:



Be a friend. Encourage your friend to talk about it.
Enlist others to help. You may break a confidence to get help from a trusted adult.

Note:

God planned _____ for us to do.

(Ephesians 2:10)

If we cut our lives short we end our chance of the joy we’d get from doing these “good works.”

LEADERS GUIDE

Can a Person Who Commits Suicide Go to Heaven?

The Goal: The goal of this lesson is to assure the kids of their salvation by grace. In addition, just by bringing up the subject, we create a point of contact with kids who might be considering suicide. This will get them talking. If they have friends who may be considering suicide, we offer some tools and direction for handling it. Allow thirty minutes to an hour.

Preparation: Spend some time in prayer the day before, going over the verses and questions in your mind.
Write possible answers on your copy of the worksheet along with additional notes of things you'd like to bring up.

Notify your volunteers and perhaps the parents ahead of time that you will be teaching this lesson. Allow parents and concerned church leaders to be present but ask them not to interrupt the lesson. Give them a handout with resources for preventing and spotting suicide from: **HelpGuide.org**: http://www.helpguide.org/mental/suicide_prevention.htm. Leave plenty of time after the lesson to talk to concerned parents and kids. Give priority to the kids. Prepare volunteers to give personal attention to teens if they react strongly.

Leading the Lesson: Have a kid read the first set of verses and then go through the questions of the matching color. Give them time to answer. Listen to what they say and lead the discussion with additional questions of your own to lead them to the correct answers.

A common answer for this question is “NO, because the person has no opportunity to confess this sin once they’re dead. Therefore they can’t be forgiven.” Many possibilities exist for this line of reasoning, but we must focus on the three-prong message of this lesson: That suicide is a dreadful and final solution to a temporary problem; The consequences of a person’s death fall not only on that person, but on their family and friends; That believers are saved by grace, not by works. Romans 8:35-39 promises that nothing can separate us from the love of God.

The kids will accept this with happiness. The adults may have the problem. The fear is that you are opening the door for kids to commit suicide without the consequence of hell deterring them. Discuss the real consequences of a person’s death not only on them but on their friends and family members. Stress the fact that they are members of “the body of Christ” and are entitled to loving help. Talk about getting help.

Summary:

Make sure the kids understand that all of us are sinners. We’re all in the same boat. We all have things to be ashamed about, but you and the people surrounding them are a safe way to seek help. Encourage them with the hope that God has good things in store for them. Follow-up this lesson with “Sin Nature & Sins” found on the web at this link:
http://sundayschoollessonconnection.com/youth_group_lessons_p4.html#sinnature

Take Prayer Requests:

Always ask the kids for prayer request for the next week. Ask them about they’re concerns from the previous week. Write down specific concerns so you can follow up with them.