**HOPE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

**COURSE:** Relational Evangelism

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**THE SHIP WRECK**

A father and a son lived on a treacherous sea coast. While it was ruggedly beautiful, it was dangerous to any ships that risked sailing through its rocky coastline. It was not uncommon for ships to go down as they would hit one of the outcroppings of jagged rocky islands.

It happened again.

The wild waves had driven a ship to its death on a pile of rocks.

Just as it crashed and men started jumping into the wild waters, the father from afar saw their predicament and had compassion on them. He called his son and told him to go get the large rowboat and go out and try to save as many men as possible.

The son obeyed his father.

He got into the boat

He rowed out to the men.

He shouted out to them to grab onto an oar.

He held out an oar when he got close to anyone.

They grasped onto the oar.

The son pulled them into the boat.

He filled the boat and then rowed back to the shore, unloaded them and headed out to get more.

He made several trips and finally he had rescued them.

Now the question becomes what saved the men?

Was it the father’s compassion in seeing their dangerous situation?

Was it his command to his son to go?

Was it his son’s willingness to go?

Was it his shouts to the men to grab on to the oar?

Was it their grabbing on?

Was it his pulling them into the boat?

Was it the boat?

Was it the oars?

Was it the son’s struggling to row back to the shore?

Which of those items would you like to leave out of the process?

Just pick one.

Well, it becomes obvious that it was all those things working together.

It is the same with Jesus.

When some chose to pick out their favorites from all the things the New Testament says saves us, we are missing it. The New Testament says we are saved by God’s mercy and grace, by Jesus’ obedience, by the cross, by His blood, by faith, repentance, confession and baptism.

Which of those things would you like to leave out?

We can’t, don’t and shouldn’t. They are all part of the process.