

Lesson 1

Jesus Christ, True God

Bible Lesson: Matthew 8:5-13

Memory Verse: By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. *1 John 4:9*

Enrichment Memory Verse: And behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." *Matthew 3:17*

Catechism Memory Work: And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, . . .

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach:

- ✚ See the power and authority of Jesus as revealed in the Bible text, and will worship Jesus as his God and Lord.
- ✚ Be reverent in his attitude to Jesus, to God the Father, His Word, His messengers and His house.
- ✚ Recognize his own need for the work of God and recognize the power of Jesus to work in his own life. He will allow Christ to work faith and holiness in his life.

Prepare Materials:

Along with the regular materials needed for class, you will need the following items for this lesson:

- ◆ Pictures illustrating some of Jesus' miracles
- ◆ pictures of the symbol representing Jesus, God's Son, our Redeemer from student book cover

Prayer Preparation

1. Pray that, during this study of the Second Article, you will be led to a deeper knowledge of Jesus Christ your Savior in His Godhood and also in His Manhood.
2. Pray that this personal knowledge and trust will enable you to share Jesus with your pupils and lead them to faith.
3. Pray for your pupils as they study this Second Article. Pray that they may see Him as He is and yield their hearts in living faith and trust.

BIBLE BACKGROUND

A. Bible Study

The Old Testament is filled with promises of the One who was to come and "bruise" the head of Satan. These promises begin immediately after sin has entered the world in Genesis 3. The first is given in Genesis 3:15, "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise Him on the heel." God's promises are repeated through the prophets who make clear that God Himself will be the Savior and Redeemer (eg. Isaiah 41:14, 43:1, 45:21).

History records fight after fight over teachings about Christ's nature. How can it be that God is Father and Son at the same time? How is it that Jesus is the Son of God and God at the same time? Conceived by the Holy Spirit?

When we turn to the New Testament we see that Jesus Christ is the Promised Messiah. The Incarnation of Jesus Christ answers the question of how the Savior can be God and also the descendant of Eve who crushes the serpent's head.

The 2nd Article describes Jesus' work of redemption. Jesus is the Only Begotten Son of God. These words "only begotten" or "only son" remind us of the picture of Gen. 22 in which God sends Abraham to sacrifice his Son Isaac. Jesus, the Son of God is sacrificed though. Ezekiel 34 makes clear that God cares for His people and

is personally at work in seeking out and saving His people. God is the Rescuer, the Savior. Jesus, true God, has redeemed us. The price has been paid by God Himself.

In the Creed, this description of Christ's activity begins by describing how he took on flesh. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit. This does not mean that God the Father had some physical relationship with Mary as the Mormons teach. The Savior began His life in the womb of Mary just as each of us began our lives. He was, thereby, giving dignity to life, even at the earliest stages of development; at the beginning. Being conceived by the Holy Spirit means that His human nature was not corrupted by original sin. The Apostle Paul is careful in Romans to communicate that Jesus came in the likeness of sinful flesh. In this way Paul makes clear that Jesus was not sinful (Heb. 4:15) but it was flesh that Jesus took on (John 1:1, 14).

Jesus Christ, true God, did this as a payment for our sins. The sinless died for the sinful as Paul says, "For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God *did*: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and *as an offering* for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh" (Romans 8:3). He who is true God humbled Himself "by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross" (Philippians 2:7). For us.

The early Christian church formulated the Second Article of the Creed for the purpose of confessing the truth about the Savior Jesus Christ. Luther's explanation provides for us a tool in passing down to later generations the Biblical truth and teaching about Jesus Christ the Only Begotten Son of God conceived by the Holy Spirit.

B. Creed Study

A creed is a statement of what Christians believe. In the First Article of the Apostles' Creed we say we "believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth." Not everyone who says he believes in God is a Christian, however. A Christian also believes that God has come to earth in the flesh as a man (John 1:14; I John 4:2). This "God-Man" was Jesus, the Son of God. The Second Article of the Creed goes on to say "I believe in Jesus Christ." To say "I believe" in Jesus Christ should also mean that "Trusting in Jesus Christ with all my heart, I surrender myself to Him as my only Savior from sin, and death, and the power of Satan." (Catechism #149)

The Person of Christ--Who He Is

"I believe in Jesus" means there was such a man who lived on earth about 2,000 years ago. His mother's name was Mary, He grew up in Nazareth, etc. An angel told Joseph to call His name Jesus, "for it is He who will save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). Jesus is His given name, and it means "savior."

"I believe in Jesus Christ" increases the meaning of what we are saying. "Christ" means the anointed one, or "Messiah." It is more of a title, such as "Jesus, the Christ." Peter confessed Jesus as "the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16). It is this Jesus Christ upon Whom the Church is built (16:18), and Who went to the cross and Who died and rose again (16:21).

Believing in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, means that we believe He is also the Savior of the world. It was Athanasius (b. 296 AD) who saw the crucial link between the incarnate Son of God and the redemption and salvation of man. Athanasius participated in the Council of Nicea in 325, which was called to refute the teachings of Arius who denied the deity of Jesus, arguing that He was only a created being. This teaching is similar to that of the modern Jehovah's Witnesses. The Council of Nicea declared Jesus to be "very God of very God, begotten not made, being of one substance (essence) with the Father." (see Nicene Creed)

Athanasius also taught that the members of the Trinity are coequal and coeternal, thus linking the doctrine of the Trinity and salvation. He taught from Scripture that man was created in the image of God but fell in sin and lost that image. A new creation was necessary and only God could be the Savior. The deity of Jesus Christ and the salvation of fallen man are two truths that cannot be separated. It is equally important in our day to clearly teach the deity of Christ if we are to understand the nature of man's sin and of God's saving grace in Christ.

The Power of Christ--What He Can Do

The life of Christ as recorded in Scripture sets Him apart from all other men. He is like us, yet He is different. He lived a perfect life, and no one could convict Him of sin (I John 3:5; John 8:46). He also did mighty works (miracles, signs) which were demonstrations of the power of God at work. No man is perfect (Romans 3:10,23) and no one can do these signs unless His is of God (John 3:2).

The gospel of Matthew is the gospel of the king; the miracles of Jesus demonstrate the power of the king. Why did Jesus perform miracles? One reason is that He wanted to show His compassion and concern for human suffering; He wants to show us that God has power to meet our needs even today. The miracles also are

a fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy (Isaiah 29:18-10; 35:4-6). Matthew mentions this specifically in the healing of Peter's mother-in-law (Matthew 8:14-17), with reference to Isaiah 53:4.

The main reason for the miracles, however, is that they were Jesus' credentials showing that He is the Christ, the Messiah, whom God has sent to deliver His people. Of course, even Satan can perform "miracles" (II Thessalonians 2:9). But the miracles of Jesus show Him to be the Christ. And furthermore, they were not done merely to entertain people. Jesus performed these signs "that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:31).

The miracle of the centurion's servant (Matthew 8:5-13) demonstrates the power of Jesus and the power of the Word of God. The request: A centurion contacts Jesus, asking Him to heal his servant who is paralyzed and in great pain (8:6). It is interesting that all the centurions mentioned in the New Testament act in an honorable way, in contrast to Jesus' own people, the Jews. The centurions were men of high moral character, possessing a deep sense of duty and a concern for others. This centurion is concerned about a lowly servant and seeks out the best help he can find.

Jesus wants us to know that He is approachable and is our friend, and He wants us, even welcomes us, to come to Him at all times. At the same time, we realize that we are unworthy to come to Him. The centurion humbles himself before Jesus; he does not make any claims based on his military rank or personal merit. He simply lays his trouble before Jesus and leaves it there. In doing so, he acknowledges his own unworthiness, and submits to the power of Jesus' word.

The replies: The conversation between the centurion and Jesus is interesting. Jesus says simply, "I will come and heal him" (8:7). That not only shows His willingness to help in time of need, but that Jesus is willing to go into a Gentile's home and subject Himself to ceremonial uncleanness, a situation similar to God coming to earth to be with sinners.

The centurion had not asked Jesus to come to his home, or even expected it. He has great respect for the authority and power of the word of Christ. He says, "I'm not qualified for you to come into my house; but just say the word and my servant will be healed" (8:8). Such humility removes all barriers for the word of God to work. The centurion was a man of faith, particularly faith in the word of Jesus. It shows how we ought to be men and women of faith, faith in and created by the Word of God. This is seen in his understanding of authority (8:9). He is confident that Jesus need "just say the word" (8:8). This, too, separates Jesus from all other men. He alone has the words of eternal life (John 6:68). The results: One result was a commendation of faith (8:10). Twice in the gospels Jesus marveled at faith. He marveled at the great faith of the Gentiles (the centurion here, 8:10; and the Canaanite woman, Matthew 15:28), and at the great unbelief of the Jews (Mark 6:6).

What makes this faith great? The greatness of his faith is seen---in his humility; he considers himself unworthy. God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble (James 4:6).

2. in his trust in the word of Jesus; this was the very thing Jesus had so much trouble achieving among the Jews, His own people.

3. in his proper view of the exalted person of Jesus; he believes that the word Jesus speaks has power to save his servant from death. That is exactly the kind of faith Jesus wanted to find in the Jews; it is what He wants to find in all of us. Faith in His word is a faith that will save from death; and it is a faith that is itself created by the hearing of His Word (Romans 10:17).

The other result was the obvious one: the servant was healed as Jesus sends the centurion away with great encouragement (8:13). The centurion's faith was in perfect harmony with Jesus' will, and that is why Jesus met that trust as He did. Such faith is a trust that relies on the truth of who Jesus is, not on something we imagine or wish Him to be.

"Let it be done to you as you believed" (8:13), Jesus says. We should not take that to mean that whatever we believe He will automatically grant us, or that the degree or strength of our faith ensures the gift we desire. We must not make "faith" into something in and of itself. It is always a response of trust created by God's word. A wrong faith may be quite strong in expecting a wrong gift. Jesus will not meet that faith simply because it is strong, or seems so to us. He will first correct a wrong faith. And often He will do wonderful things where there is no faith present so that He might produce faith. There is power in the word of God. Jesus does do great and powerful things. But He will not allow us to "use" Him or His power for selfish purposes (Matthew 4:7).

The Personal Christ--What Jesus Means to Me

It is good to learn about Christ, to study His teachings, life and miracles, to hear of His "innocent sufferings and death," etc. But the catechism asks (#198) "Is it sufficient that you know all these things about Christ and

hold them to be true?" The answer: "No; the Holy Spirit must teach me to know Christ in a true and living faith." What is that true and living faith? See question #212.

In studying about Jesus' life and work, remember this: "Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am foremost of all" (I Timothy 1:15). There is a warning in this story of power (Matthew 8:11-12). It is given specifically to the unbelieving Jews who were descendants of Abraham and rightful heirs to the kingdom of God. Many of them failed to inherit it because of stubborn unbelief (John 8:37-47), so they were "thrown out" and cast into outer darkness (Matthew 8:12). While the kingdom is still open today to all who will come, let us be sure we do not lose out or are not thrown out because we do not have a true and living faith.

Do we know all these things only? Or do we lay hold of Christ as our only savior from sin and death?

The power and wonder of the miracles must show us the power and wonder of the savior, the Son of the living God, who "by His word" can deliver us from sin and death and gives us eternal life (Romans 6:23; I John 5:11,12).

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome

Talk with students as they arrive. Ask about special things that have happened during the week. Enlist their help in readying the room for class.

Open with Prayer

Thank God for His love and care shown in creating and keeping each one through his life up to now.

Thank God for sending His only Son to be our Savior.

Pray that God will help you and your students to see Jesus as true God and to confess your need and sin and trust in Him as Savior, and to obey Him.

Recite Memory Work

Listen to students recite their memory work:

From the Bible: I John 4:19

And

From the Catechism: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean? I believe that God has created me and all that exists; that He has given and still preserves to me my body and soul, my eyes and ears, and all my members, my reason and all the powers of my soul together with food and clothing, home and family, and all my property; that He daily provides abundantly for all the needs of my life, protects me from all danger, and guards and keeps me from all evil; and that He does this purely out of fatherly and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me; for all of which I am in duty bound to thank, praise, serve, and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

Review

SAY Today we begin a new book. In this book we will learn about the second Person of the triune

God. Who remembers what we mean by "triune God?" Yes, God is one God, but we know Him as three Persons.

ASK Who are the three Persons of the Triune God? (*Yes, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.*) In the last book we learned about God, the Father. What word tells of the work of God, the Father? (*Yes, He is the Creator.*) As Creator, what else does the Father do for us? (*He keeps us and everyone and everything in the world, so we can go on living. He protects our souls from sin and death.*)

ASK What is the soul? (*The part of you that will live forever.*)

ASK Why did God create us and take care of us? (*He wants us to have fellowship with Him.*) What is fellowship with God? (*Knowing Him as our Savior, trusting in Him, confessing our sins every day, learning His Word and talking to Him in prayer, letting Him live in our heart and give us power to do His will, etc.*)

SAY Let's recite the First Article together...(Recite.)

Introduce Wall Words

Yahweh—
attributes—
authority—
centurion—
paralyzed—

Introduce the Lesson

Distribute Quarter II student books to the class. Ask the students to look at the cover of the book.

ASK What do you think we will learn about this quarter? (*The Son, our Redeemer*) Does the symbol on the cover tell you anything about the Son? Who is the Son? Whose Son is He? (*God's Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Another name He is called is Redeemer. Later on in this book we will learn more about why He is called the Redeemer.*)

For now, we will say that He paid a great price to pay for our sins and bring us back to God.) Why do you think there is a cross in the symbol? (Jesus died on the cross to take away the sin of the world. Whenever we see a cross it reminds us of Jesus bleeding and dying on the cross. The cross is the most well-known symbol of Christianity. There are hundreds of forms of the cross, and the Latin Cross is the form printed on your books.) What does the triangle mean? (God is triune. The Heavenly Father, the Creator; His Son Jesus Christ, our Redeemer; and the Holy Spirit, are the three Persons in the triune God.) Display pictures depicting some of Jesus' miracles.

ASK What is alike or the same about all these pictures? *(They all show some miracle that Jesus did. Name some of these miracles.)* How could Jesus do such wonderful things? How could He raise people from the dead and feed 5000 people with just a small lunch? *(He could do it because He was God's Son.)* Because Jesus is the Son of God, He is truly God, just as His Heavenly Father is God. We say that Jesus is true God.

Teach the Lesson

ASK the students to open their books to the beginning of the first lesson. Ask a student to read the title of the lesson. **SAY** Read the second sentence to find out what this lesson book is about.

ASK What is the book about? *(The Second Article of the Apostles Creed.)* What was the First Article about? *(God, the Father, our Creator.)*

SAY Read the second and third paragraphs to find out what the Second Article tells us. After the students have read the paragraphs, ask them to tell the things the Second Article teaches about Jesus Christ. *(He is God's only Son. He became a man. Mary was His mother. God is His Father. Jesus died on the cross to save us, He is our Redeemer, etc.)*

ASK the students to read and tell why Jesus is better than any hero. *(Allow the students to list their things.)* **ASK** What is the best thing Jesus did? *(He died on the cross and rose again. He forgave people their sins.)*

SAY All these great things that Jesus did showed how great He was. The next paragraph tells what these great works of Jesus proved to people. Read it and find out. **ASK** What did the miracles prove about Jesus? *(He was God. He did things only God*

could do, like healing sick people, bringing dead people back to life, etc.)

SAY The next three paragraphs tell about a soldier who bowed down before Jesus, and about what Jesus did for him. Let's read about it from the Bible. Help the students find Matthew 8:5-13.

SAY Listen and follow along in your Bibles as I read the story. **READ** Then **SAY** In verse 5 the soldier is called a centurion. A centurion was an officer in charge of 100 soldiers. He had the authority to give orders to 100 soldiers. What kind of orders did he believe Jesus could give? Verse 8 answers this question...*(Jesus could order the sickness to leave a sick man. That was a kind of authority and power much greater than the centurion had. The centurion knew Jesus was much more powerful than he was. The centurion was a Roman soldier but he had great faith in Jesus. Jesus said his faith was greater than He had found in any of the Israelites.)*

ASK Did the Roman soldier get what he asked Jesus for? Read the three paragraphs from your student book to find out more about what happened. When the students have read the paragraphs independently, **ASK** What was wrong with the soldier's servant? *(He was paralyzed. Because of a sickness he couldn't move at all. He also had pain.)* Why didn't the soldier want Jesus to come to his house and heal the servant? *(He knew he was a sinner and didn't deserve to have Jesus come to his house.)* How did he think Jesus could heal the servant? *(He could just give an order for the sickness to leave the servant. He could make the man well without even seeing him. He knew Jesus had that power because God had sent Jesus.)* Was the servant healed? *(Yes, he became well at the exact time when Jesus said the words, "Your servant is well.")*

SAY Let's read the last paragraph aloud together. Read together. **ASK** What question does the lesson ask us here? *(It asks if we believe Jesus is the Son of God. Like the Roman soldier, we must bow down before Jesus and tell Him we need Him to be our Savior and forgive our sins.)* When He is your Savior and lives in your heart, what will He give you power to do? *(He will give power to win over your sins and bad habits. He will help you to obey your parents and to love other people. He can help you in ways no one else can. He is God's Son. His power living in you can help you do what God wants you to do.)*

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Memory Work

BIBLE VERSE— I John 4:9

By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.

CATECHISM—READ the first part of the Second Article from the Student Book.

And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, . . .

Tell the students that the “And” at the beginning of the Article shows it is connected with the First Article, which begins, “I believe in.” “And” here stands for “And I believe in...” Read the section with “And I believe in” instead of “And” alone. This section tells us that Jesus is the only Son of God. He is our Lord who has the right to rule over us.

Activity Pages

Activity 1—The Verse That Tells
ANSWERS

1. 5
2. 6
3. 8
4. 8
5. 13

Activity 2—Jesus Is True God

ANSWERS

1. EARTH
2. BLIND
3. MIRACLES
4. DIED
5. ROSE
6. RESTORED
7. ALIVE

E D M E R E R E = REDEEMER

CLOSING THE LESSON

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank God that you sent Jesus, your only Son, to be our Savior. We need Jesus to forgive our sins. We believe He died to save us from sin. Live in our hearts and give us power to love You and serve You by loving others and by obeying our parents. Overcome our sins and help us to be holy. Amen.

Assignment

1. Challenge the students to take home their activity sheets and use them to tell someone about the lesson.
2. Remind the students to work on their memory verse and First and Second Articles.

Lesson 2

Jesus Christ, True Man

Bible Lesson: Luke 2:39-41, 51-52; John 4:3-29

Memory Verse: And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. *John 1:14*

Enrichment Memory Verse: But when the fullness of time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. *Galatians 4:4-5*

Catechism Memory Work: And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried; . . .

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach:

- ✚ The students will list some feelings Jesus had that show He was really human.
- ✚ The student will know that Jesus understands all our needs and problems and can help us. Because He was true Man, Jesus could take our place and die for our sins.
- ✚ The students will trust in Jesus as their Savior and Friend and seek His help in all their needs.

Prepare Materials:

Along with the regular materials needed for class, you will need the following items for this lesson:

- ◆ Large map of New Testament Holy Land showing route of Jesus from Judea to Galilee and major cities including Sychar. (There is a map in the student lesson book.)
- ◆ Quarter-long project materials (listed in Introductory section): for this, Lesson 2, have

the students add onto last week's message the following: "born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried"

Prayer Preparation

1. Pray for a deeper appreciation of the humanity of Jesus Christ. Thank God that His Son was willing to become man and share the weaknesses of our human nature, so that He might also take on infirmities and sins to save us.
2. Pray for each of your students throughout the week. Pray that they might be drawn by God's Spirit to His Word, that they might remember to study and share the lesson, and learn the catechism and Bible verse. As they study, pray that God may prepare their hearts for this week's lesson.

BIBLE BACKGROUND

A. Bible Study

Faithful Christians have been careful to confess that Jesus was fully and truly man. If Jesus was not like us, a man, how could He die? How could He be our substitute? But He was truly a man; He took on flesh, becoming like us (Rom. 8:3) and He humbled Himself to the point of death, even death on a cross (Phil. 2:7-8). He was born without sin and lived a sinless life as the spotless lamb who took away the sin of the world just as John the Baptist pronounced when he saw Him (John 1:29).

This is why Christmas is celebrated with such joy and excitement. The Messiah has come in the flesh, born of the Virgin Mary. He became a man to be our substitute. He came not to abolish the law but to fulfill it (Mt.

5:17) through His active obedience and submission to suffering and even death. We who live today are often obsessed with time. Are we going to be late? Did we come too early? What time is it? When we consider the incarnation we are told clearly that Jesus Christ came in the flesh exactly at the right time. As it says in Galatians 4:4-5,

"But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons."

As a man, the temptations and sufferings that Jesus endured were real (Heb. 2:14-18).

From the temptation in the desert to the suffering in the Garden of Gethsemane, Christ suffered for us. Hebrews 4:15 says, "For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are*, yet without sin." What great comfort this provides for each of us as we go through various struggles and times of suffering. Our Savior knows what it is like to suffer. He had a body that functioned as ours do now. We hear at different times the Savior being tired and sleeping (Matthew 8:24) and also eating and drinking as do each of us to strengthen and sustain our physical bodies. These things would not have happened if He had not taken on flesh but He endured these things in our place. As we will see later Christ is described both as the priest making the sacrifice and the actual sacrifice with His body. He became a man to be our atoning sacrifice (Romans 5:9, Col. 1:20).

He took on flesh in order to identify with all of Adam and Eve's descendants being a propitiation for the sins of the whole world (I John 2:1-2). We confess in the Creed that Jesus humbled Himself in order to raise us up. So God took on flesh as the memory verse (John 1:14) makes clear. And to this day the Savior has flesh. He is the God-Man Resurrected as the firstfruits (1 Corinthians 15:20-23). As man Jesus is our brother and substitute; God is the redeemer. Indeed all has been done for us.

B. Creed Study

In the meaning to the second article of the creed, Luther says that Jesus Christ is "true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary." When talking about the one man, Jesus Christ, it is important to keep His two natures (God and man) in perspective. He is Son of God and Son of Man, fully God and fully man, not more one than the other, but two natures in one.

The Bible texts today reveal Jesus' human nature and qualities. It is important that Jesus is "just like us," but we should also know why and what it means for us.

Once again, the catechism puts these Bible truths in perspective. Question 155 asks, "Why must the Son of God become true man?" He must be true man "in order that He might suffer and die for us." And question 156 asks, "Why must our Savior be true God?" Answer: "In order that His death and His blood might have everlasting power to atone for sin." It was necessary that Jesus be both God and man in order to save us from sin.

The Bible tells us that God "desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony borne at the proper time" (I Timothy 2:4-6). Jesus Himself made that clear, saying, "the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28).

And the psalmist says, "No man can by any means redeem his brother, or give to God a ransom for him--for the redemption of his soul is costly." (Psalm 49:7,8)

True Man--in Saving

While Jesus was true man and like us, He was also true God, and therefore different from us. For one thing, Jesus had no sin (John 8:46; I John 3:5). Adam and Eve sinned and brought sin into the world, and since then all have sinned (Romans 3:23; 5:12). Jesus was the "second Adam," the new and perfect man who did not sin. Whereas Adam disobeyed God and became a sinner, Jesus obeyed God and became our savior (Romans 5:19). Jesus became the perfect man that God intended Adam to be, and which we can now be "in Christ" (II Corinthians 5:17). Because Jesus was son of God and son of Man, He was in perfect communion with His Father in heaven. Jesus delighted in doing His Father's will; it was His food (John 4:32,34). His obedience shows us another difference between Jesus and sinful men. We are sinners, and we are born with rebellion in our hearts against God. Jesus was born without sin and there was no rebellion against God in Him. He was perfectly obedient, even unto death (Philippians 2:8). Another meaning for "true man" is "sinless man." A born-again child of God is "sinless" because he is "in Christ." That is justification--"the gracious act of God whereby He for Christ's sake acquits a repentant and believing sinner of his sin and guilt, and looks upon him, in Christ, as though he had never sinned." (catechism, #218) In Christ, true God and true man, we become what

God wanted us to be from the beginning. It was as a man that Jesus "suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried." Even though Jesus had done no wrong, committed no crime, and there was no sin in Him, He was also made the most guilty person that ever walked on earth. God made Him to be sin for us (II Corinthians 5:21). The guilt and punishment of all sin of all time was laid on Him (Isaiah 53:4-6). All the wrath of God against sin was thrown at Jesus on the cross, and He bore it all for us. So Jesus the man suffered and died. But because He was God, His death and His blood have power to atone for our sins.

True Man--in Living

The Bible texts give some details of the human experiences of Jesus. Luke describes the early childhood years, beginning with His circumcision and presentation in the temple (Luke 2:21ff). Jesus began life on earth as a helpless baby who had to be clothed and fed and watched by His parents, just like any other infant. The Scriptures give us only one brief glimpse into the early years of Jesus, when He goes with His parents to Jerusalem at age twelve (2:41-51). But in one brief verse (2:52) Luke summarizes what a "true man" ought to be. Jesus grew "mentally" (in wisdom). Jesus went to school just like any other child had to do. His early years were spent at home, but at age six he began his elementary education in the local synagogue where the rabbis taught the Jewish law and traditions. At age ten the male child would begin preparation for his "bar-mitzvah" at age 13, when he became a "son of the law." At that time he would have adult standing in home and community. Jesus had to study and develop His mind like any other child, and as we see in Scripture, God does not think much of ignorance, or laziness in learning. Jesus, as God, was all-knowing, but He laid aside those privileges when He became man (Philippians 2:7).

When Jesus visited Jerusalem at age 12 He had been a good student of the word of God. It isn't necessary to be the smartest person, but God wants us to use the minds He has given us to receive wisdom from Him and to grow and mature mentally.

Jesus grew "physically" (in stature). Stature means age, but that also takes into account physical growth. He worked with Joseph in the carpenter shop, learning a trade and developing His body as well as His mind. A Christian's body is a temple of the Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 6:19-20) and he ought to care for that body in respect for God. It is not good to ruin our bodies with late hours, lack of sleep, poor diet, bad habits, impure appetites or desires. The condition of the body affects the mind. We care for our body, and respect it, as we do all of God's gifts. Jesus grew "socially" (in favor with man). Luke tells us how Jesus obeyed His parents (2:51). Getting along with people begins at home where we learn to interact with family and obey authority. If we don't learn those skills there, we won't respect authority outside the home, and won't get along with people elsewhere. Because Jesus respected His parents, He knew how to behave in the temple, and to interact with the teachers there.

From His ministry, we know people were drawn to Him; He was a friend and had many friends. Jesus grew "spiritually" (favor with God). This is the key to a well-rounded life, to being a true man. Children should not "grow out of" Sunday School or church. They should "grow up in" the Lord, and mature in the fullness of Christ (Ephesians 4:13). Only there every man is "complete" (Colossians 1:28). We must avoid the impression that "religion" is for women and children, and that it is not for men and boys. A true man is a truly spiritual man, complete in Christ, well-developed and well-rounded in the social and spiritual qualities that make for success in life. Many of our perceptions of Jesus are too weak. He grew into a strong, impressive figure of a man. He was forceful, yet humble, gentle and meek. But meekness is merely strength under control.

True Man--in Serving

As we follow Jesus in His three years of ministry, we find it hard to keep up with Him. This was a tiring and grueling time of His life, while at the same time giving Him great joy. In John 4 we see Jesus in one of His many encounters in the course of His travels around the country. Now on His way through Samaria, He comes to Jacob's well near Sychar. It is noon, and He is hungry, tired and thirsty. The disciples go into town to buy food while Jesus waits at the well. Here is a man, tired and weary, with physical needs like any one of us. Some physical and emotional needs of Jesus are often mentioned: hunger (Matthew 4:2; John 4:8); thirst (John 4:7, 19:28); sleep (Mark 4:38); sorrow (John 11:35); temptation (Matthew 4:1ff; Hebrews 4:14-16). Again, He had a different "food" that satisfied Him (John 4:32-34).

We must keep the two natures of Christ in perspective so that the humanness of Jesus does not overshadow His deity. Jesus asked the woman for a drink (4:7). No doubt He was thirsty but He was leading her to spiritual truth, to living water. As man, Jesus understood her needs; as God, He knew she needed a savior. He tells the woman He can give her living water that will bring eternal life (4:13,14). This "man" is able to give eternal life to "men." Jesus shows us here that there is more to life than our physical needs. Hunger, thirst, food and

clothing are things that worry us most. Jesus said we shouldn't worry about these things (Matthew 6:25-34). Beneath those needs lies the basic need of the soul of man—a rebirth and reconciliation to God. There is a hunger and thirst in the soul of the sinner that only Jesus can satisfy. Jesus, true man, can sympathize with us. But Jesus, true God, can breathe into our dead souls once again the "breath of life." We are to receive that word that saves our souls (James 1:21) and then grow in it (I Peter 2:2). Then God brings into our parched and hungry and dead souls the living water of the Holy Spirit, and new life.

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome

Talk with students as they arrive. Ask about special things that have happened during the week. Enlist their help in readying the room for class.

Open with Prayer

As the students arrive, greet them and talk with individual students. (This is one of the best ways to learn to know your students and to discover their concerns and personal needs.)

Ask the students for ideas of things to thank God for, and for one or two things to pray for.

Encourage participation in sentence prayers.

Pray for open hearts to hear and believe God's Word in today's lesson.

Recite Memory Work

Listen to students recite their memory work:

From the Bible: 1 John 4:9

And

From the Catechism: And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,...

Review

Discuss the following questions:

What did last week's catechism teach us about who Jesus is? (*the only Son of God, who is truly God, just as His Father is.*) Recite the first part of the Second Article. What things could Jesus do that no ordinary man could? (*heal the sick, bring dead people to life, still storms, and many other miracles*) What special thing did Jesus do in last week's lesson that showed His power and authority? (*He said, "Your servant will be healed," and the servant, who was in another place, became well.*) Who had a special faith in Jesus' power as God's Son? (*a Roman soldier*) What can Jesus do for us if we trust Him as Savior? (*forgive our sins, take us to heaven, help us to obey our parents, to love other people and be kind*)

Introduce Wall Words

Historical—
historians—
public—
witness—
Samaritan—
Messiah—
Christ—
astonishing—

Introduce the Lesson

Bring to class objects or pictures that will remind the class of problems that Fourth graders might experience. (eg., a failed school test; picture of a child sitting alone; picture of a child in a hospital bed; pictures of starving children; etc.) **ASK** do you remember a time when you were afraid or very lonely because nobody wanted to be your friend? How did you feel? (Allow students to share briefly.) Did you want someone to talk to then? Someone who knew just how you felt? The Bible tells us that Jesus knows just how we feel, no matter what has happened to us. Jesus was a real person like you and me, with the same feelings as we have. He can be the Friend we need. Today's lesson will tell us about it.

Teach the Lesson

SAY Open your books to Lesson 2 and read the lesson title. What name does the title give to Jesus Christ? (*True Man*) That may seem like an unusual name to you—the Son of Man. It is a name Jesus liked to call Himself. It shows that He was glad to become a real human being like you and me. Read the third paragraph and be ready to tell us some things about Jesus' childhood. (Allow the students to read independently and share some ideas from the paragraph. He grew up the same as ordinary boys do; lived in Nazareth with mother, Mary and Joseph, His earthly father. He probably went to school, but he also learned a carpenter's work.) **SAY** The fourth paragraph tells us how Jesus was like us, and how He was different. Read the paragraph to find out. (Students read.) **ASK** Who can read three sentences that tell how Jesus was like

us? (Call on a student to read three sentences.) How was Jesus like us? (*He became hungry and thirsty and tired, knew about pain and suffering, and was tempted to sin.*) What do you think some other feelings were? (loneliness, hurt, etc.) How was Jesus different from us? (*He never sinned, kept all God's commandments perfectly*) How could He be so perfect? (He was a human being, but a sinless human being; He didn't have a sinful heart as you and I have; He was God's Son) **SAY** The next paragraph tells us about Jesus' ministry. **ASK** What is a ministry? (*A special job, a life's work God gave Him to do*) **ASK** Where did Jesus go on His ministry? (*Over rocky roads, to many towns*) What did He do in His ministry? (*He preached to people and healed them*) That was Jesus' life's work, preaching and healing. At the end He would die for everyone's sins. **SAY** Read on and see if you can find the name of a city where Jesus stopped, and what He did there. (*He stopped at Sychar and sat down by the city well*) **ASK** Who can find Sychar on the map? Who was traveling with Jesus? (*His disciples*) What did they do while He sat by the well? (*Went to buy some food*) **SAY** Something interesting happened while Jesus sat by the well. Read to find out. **ASK** Who came to the well to draw out water? (*A Samaritan woman*) What did Jesus say that surprised the woman? (*Will you give me a drink?*) Why did that surprise the woman? (*Jews wouldn't usually talk to Samaritans*) Jesus was a Jew, one of God's people who worshiped in the way God had taught them, at the temple in Jerusalem. The Samaritans didn't worship in Jerusalem. They weren't true to God's word, and so the Jewish people didn't like them. But Jesus loved them and wanted to bring them back to God's ways. **ASK** Who will read what Jesus said to the woman when He told her what He wanted to give her? Call on a student to read. **SAY** When we're really thirsty as Jesus was and the woman was, water is better than anything else to drink. We can't live very long without water. But Jesus had something to give the woman which would be more important to her than water. What would that be? (*Eternal Life*) **SAY** Follow along while I read the next paragraph. **READ** **SAY** This paragraph tells us that Jesus

wanted to help this woman. Why did He want to help her so much that He forgot He was thirsty and hungry? (*He knew all her problems and cared about her. He cared about her even though He knew about all her sins*) **ASK** Who can find two names in this paragraph that mean "the one God promised to send to save His people?" (*Messiah; Christ*) **SAY** Let's read the next paragraph together. **READ** **ASK** What did Jesus tell the woman about Himself? (*I am the Christ*) Jesus meant that He was the promised Savior who came to save her from her sins. **ASK** Did the woman believe Jesus was the Messiah? (*Yes*) Then what did she do? (*She went and told other people to come and see and hear Jesus.*) What did the crowd say after hearing Jesus speak? (*We have heard for ourselves and know this man is indeed the Savior of the world.*)

ASK What is the most important thing Jesus wants for you? (*To know that He is the promised Redeemer, to believe He is your Savior. He wants you to confess your sins and believe He died to be your Savior.*) **SAY** Some of you are trusting in Jesus as your Savior. You confess your sins every day and thank Him for dying on the cross to save you. **ASK** What does Jesus understand about us? (*He knows all about us. He knows our sins. He knows when we are lonely and afraid*) **SAY** Jesus cares about you, He will be with you and help you. Note to the Teacher... See the paragraphs inside the front cover of the book to help your students to assurance of salvation. Some may need to be helped to confess their sins and to trust Him as Savior for the first time. You will want to be sensitive to the spiritual needs of your students and to lead them. **SAY** The last paragraph says that Jesus had a special reason for becoming a man, living perfectly, and suffering on the cross. Let's read it aloud together. **READ** These sentences may be a little hard to understand. Because Jesus was a real human being like us, He could take our place and die on the cross to take the punishment for our sins. And because He didn't have any sins of His own, His suffering and death on the cross could pay for everyone's sins, and bring us back into a right relationship with God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Memory Work

BIBLE VERSE—John 1:14

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

CATECHISM—**READ**

...born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried;...

Explain that born of the Virgin Mary means that a pure young woman was the mother of God's Son when He became a man. Suffered under Pontius Pilate means that a Roman governor named Pontius Pilate caused Jesus' suffering and death. Under

Pilate's authority and orders, Jesus was whipped and sent to a hill outside Jerusalem to be killed by being nailed to the cross.

Activity Pages

Activity 1—It's Greek to Me!

ANSWERS

Word = Jesus
flesh = human
dwelt = lived
saw = beheld
glory = majesty
begotten = Son

Activity 2—Who Is Jesus?

ANSWERS

Z Y F X X F I Y
T Z I F B B T Y
Y R I Z X R F X
Z B U Y U I B F
Z F X E Z X B I
I B G X M Z B B
F O X I Z A Z F
D Y Y F X I N Z
Z I F X Z B X I

Jesus is **TRUE GOD**, and **TRUE MAN**.

CLOSING THE LESSON

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Jesus to become a real Person like us, so He could know all about us and take our place and die for our sins. We confess that we are sinful. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Thank you also that Jesus cares for us because He became a Person like us. Amen.

Assignment

1. Remind students to take activity pages home and complete any yet unfinished activity.
2. Remind students to share the lesson with family and friends, to share how Jesus cares for them and died to be their Savior.
3. Remind students to complete memorization of second portion of the Second Article and of John 1:14.

Lesson 3

Jesus Christ, The Greatest Prophet

Bible Lesson: Deuteronomy 18:15-19; Luke 4:14-30

Memory Verse: God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son. *Hebrews 1:1-2a*

Enrichment Memory Verse: The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed. *Luke 4:18*

Catechism Memory Work: And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; . . .

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach:

- ✦ The students will state what a prophet is and tell what the work of a prophet is.
- ✦ The student will know that Jesus is the great Prophet who teaches us God's will.
- ✦ The students' hearts will be prepared to listen to and believe God's message in the lessons they study

Prepare Materials:

Along with the regular materials needed for class, you will need the following items for this lesson:

- ◆ Scroll fashioned from paper glued to a dowel and rolled up. On the scroll should be written the verses Luke 4:18,19.
- ◆ Optional: Teaching pictures of one or more Old Testament prophets preaching to the people. Picture of Moses in the basket in the Nile River.

- ◆ Quarter-long project materials (listed in Introductory section)

Prayer Preparation

1. Pray that God's Spirit may prepare you to teach and share with your pupils the importance of listening to the message God has for them.
2. Pray that your pupils' hearts may be opened and prepared for the lesson during the week as they complete their assignments and learn the memory work.
3. Pray that through this lesson your pupils might be led to daily sorrow and repentance and assurance of salvation. Pray that those who are not now trusting in Jesus as Savior might be prepared in heart for the work God would do in them.

BIBLE BACKGROUND

A. Bible Study

The Old Testament is filled with the clear and consistent communication of God with people. Paging through the prophets we hear the phrase, "Thus says the Lord," repeated dozens and dozens of times. Each time it reminds us that without God's communication to us we would be in spiritual darkness without hope. As we consider the New Testament, we see very clearly that Jesus Christ is the Word of God. Jesus is God's message to us. John tells us that the Savior is the Word who took on flesh (John 1:1, 14). When someone asks about what God would have us know about Him and His disposition towards us we can point to Jesus Christ. As it says in Hebrews 1:1-2, "God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many

ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world."

In the Old Testament, prophets who claimed to speak for God had certain criteria to show that they indeed were speaking for God. Consequences were also given for those who were proved to be false prophets. Jesus was no false teacher or false prophet but the Son of God sent to proclaim that the Kingdom of God has come.

The prophet is given the job of "forthtelling" or speaking forth God's word. Jesus fulfilled this over and over again as He proclaimed God's Word of truth. We see this as Jesus extensively quotes from the writers of the Old Testament. We also see Jesus speaking of the future or "foretelling." Jesus said many things that if not true, were blasphemous and therefore deserving of punishment. For example, in John 14:6 Jesus said, "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life." He also spoke to His disciples before His death that He would be crucified and rise again on the third day (Matthew 26:2, Luke 9:41, 18:31-34). His Words were not blasphemy, they have been shown to be true as the Gospel accounts declare.

In the second article of the creed, we confess that Jesus our Savior descended into hell. We find this taught in 1 Peter 3:18-21. This was a time in which Christ continued to proclaim God's truth. This was the proclamation that the work of bringing about redemption was finished (John 19:30). In His descent into hell, He was not giving a second chance to those who were there but was making clear that His sacrifice was sufficient. He was not sent there to suffer further humiliation. It was the first stage of His exultation which would be followed by His resurrection, ascension, being seated at the right hand of God, and finally His awaited coming again. This descent was a proclamation of God's power, that death itself was no match for the Savior Jesus Christ. Indeed all will kneel before Jesus Christ as it says in Philippians 2:10, "at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth."

B. Creed Study

Jesus Christ, true God and true Man, is the one mediator between God and man, "who gave Himself as a ransom for all" (I Timothy 2:5,6). As the Son of God and Son of Man, Jesus had to accomplish three distinct works:

1. He had to *teach* men the way of salvation (Luke 4:18; John 1:18)
2. He had to *reconcile* the world to God (II Corinthians 5:18,19; Romans 5:10)
3. He had to *rule* over the Church as its Head and over all things as King of kings (Ephesians 1:20-23)

These three "works" describe the three offices of Christ: prophet, priest and king. The three offices were never divided, or separated, in Christ. The work of each overlaps the other. But by looking at each separately, we more clearly see the full ministry of Christ.

The Prophetic Office

Throughout the Old Testament, God spoke to His people through prophets. The prophet would reveal to the people the will of God by speaking the word that he received from God. Such knowledge of the will of God was always incomplete, however, for God could never make Himself fully known through sinful men. Only the Son could reveal the Father and the Father's will because He came from the Father and would have a Son's knowledge of the Father (John 1:18; Hebrews 1:2). Only Jesus could say, "he who has seen Me has seen the Father" (John 14:9).

What is Christ's work as prophet? The catechism says, "He teaches us the will of God concerning our salvation." (#163) As prophet, Jesus tells us about God the Father and God's way of salvation. The role of the prophet was to speak on behalf of God to the people, telling them the word of God which would lead to salvation. The prophet represents God before the people.

Jesus also pointed out how dependent we are upon Him for our knowledge of the Father. He said no one knows the Father, "except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him" (Matthew 11:27; 16:17). But Jesus furnished all the knowledge of God that any of us needs to know in our life. Now the revelation is complete in Christ (Hebrews 1:1-2). His words are the highest authority and settle all questions concerning what to believe and how to live in order to be saved.

The Old Testament Prophet (Deuteronomy 18:9-22)

Moses was considered the greatest prophet in the Old Testament, but here we read that God will raise up another prophet like him, and he will speak the word of God (18:18). It is helpful to understand this in the context in which it is spoken (18:9-22).

Forbidden practices (18:9-14)

These warnings can only remind us again how relevant Scripture is for our day, and that we need to pay attention to the "prophetic word" (I Peter 1:19-21). When Israel enters Canaan, God's people are to be sure not to listen to or adopt any of the heathen ways. These practices are detestable to God (18:9,12) and are forbidden by God to members of the covenant family. These evil practices were man's way of discerning the will of their gods. God has another way to make His will known to His people; He will speak through His prophets. In doing so, the initiative also remains with God rather than man, and God is able to communicate His word and will clearly do so.

Note that many of these forbidden practices are still with us today—witchcraft, omens, sorcery, mediums, spiritists. Many such practices have become "acceptable" even to the Christian community. The occult is featured prominently in TV shows, children's cartoons, video games, etc., that are popular with children (and adults). These things are not only detestable to God (and what God hates His people must hate), but they are also dangerous and deadly. Attention to these things robs us of the prophetic word of God that draws people to Christ—the only way to God.

The people of the land who practice such things will be driven out before Israel (18:12). But anyone today (and then) who practices such things is in danger of being "driven out," that is, losing the promised land and the inheritance in Christ.

God would raise up a prophet (18:15-18)

The will of God would be made clear through a prophet and not by divination, omens, sorcery, or by mediums or spiritists. God would raise up a prophet from among the people; He would not be a foreigner. He would be like Moses in the sense that He was God's spokesman and the people were to listen (18:15). The place of the prophet in Israel would be understood in terms of the experience at Sinai (18:16,17). At Sinai the people pleaded with Moses to meet God on their behalf and bring the word of God to them from the mountain (Deuteronomy 5:22-31; Exodus 20:18-21).

God's method with His prophet was to "put My words in his mouth" (18:18). It is God who commissions the prophet, and for that reason the prophet can say, "Thus says the Lord."

The test of the prophet (18:19-22)

Israel was obligated to listen to and obey the word of the prophet because his was the word of God. The prophet's word was reliable and powerful. In speaking of the future, God's word would come to pass because it was God's word. A prophet's word must also conform to previous prophetic revelations to show that it has been tested and proven by Scripture. False prophets and psychics today have a very low success rate, if any success at all, in predicting the future.

These words of Moses are clearly intended to be a promise of Christ, and they are expressly applied to Christ (Acts 3:22,23; 7:37). The people were aware of this when they said of Him, "This is the prophet..." (John 6:14)

Christ, the Prophet (Luke 4:14-30)

When Jesus preaches in the synagogue at Nazareth, He places Himself in the role of prophet as He reads and proclaims the word of God and the way of salvation, and states that this prophecy is now fulfilled in Him (4:21).

Jesus goes into the synagogue as was His custom (4:16). There He was asked to read a scripture text and make some brief comments on it, a customary part of the service. He read from Isaiah 61:1-2. This passage refers explicitly to the Messiah, and the people knew that. You can imagine how shocked they were when Jesus boldly said that it was written about Him and that He had come to usher in the "favorable year of the Lord." In doing so He was showing them the way of salvation and presenting Himself as that way.

The "favorable year" is a reference to the "year of jubilee" described in Leviticus 25. Every seventh year was a "sabbatical year" for the nation, in which the land was allowed to rest. Every fiftieth year (after seven sevens) was set aside as the year of jubilee. The main purpose of this special year was to balance the economic system: slaves were freed and returned to their families, property that had been sold was returned to the original owner, and all debts were cancelled. The land lay fallow and man and beast rested and rejoiced in the Lord.

Of course, God was teaching a greater truth, that of spiritual rest and freedom. And Jesus applies this "favor" of God not in a political or economic sense, but in a physical and spiritual sense. Jesus brought the good news of salvation to poor sinners, healing to brokenhearted and rejected people, deliverance from spiritual blindness and bondage to sin and death. The salvation of God is to be a spiritual "year of jubilee" for all people.

God expected people to listen to the prophet because he spoke the word of God which leads to salvation. Many of the listeners here would not listen or believe. One reason was that they knew Jesus only as the son of

Mary and Joseph, the hometown boy. They wanted Him to perform miracles in Nazareth as He had done in Capernaum, but He refused (4:23). Jesus acknowledges His role as prophet here (4:24), but is not welcome among His own people (John 1:11).

The people admired the way Jesus taught, but their admiration soon turned to antago-nism when Jesus began to remind them of God's goodness to the Gentiles (4:25-27). The prophet Elijah didn't help any widow in Israel but helped a Gentile widow. (I Kings 17:8-16). His successor Elisha healed a Gentile leper from Syria (II Kings 5:1-15). Jesus' message of grace was hard to take for the proud Jews, and they would not listen or repent. Their hometown boy was saying that Jews had to be saved by grace just like the pagan Gentiles.

The people were so angry they took action to kill Jesus. St. Augustine said, "They love truth when it enlightens them, but hate truth when it accuses them." That is true of many congregations and individuals today. They want "gracious words" (4:22) but don't want to face the truth (John 1:17) of sin and grace, the truth that works repentance.

Even now Jesus remains the true Prophet and Teacher of His Church (Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 4:10-12), so that His word alone should be preached to all men (John 8:31,32).

"All modern prophecy that is true is but the republication of Christ's message, the proclamation and expounding of truth already revealed in Scripture."

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome

Show acceptance and concern for each student by visiting informally with each one as they arrive. Enlist the help of early arrivers in preparing the room and materials. Make an attempt to get involvement of students who do not participate or who cause problems.

Open with Prayer

Ask students to pray and thank God for a Savior Who is a person like us, Who knows what we need and cares for us.

Pray for the students, that they may listen to Jesus as He speaks to them.

Recite Memory Work

Listen to students recite their memory work:

From the Bible: John 1:14

And

From the Catechism: And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead and buried;

Review

Ask the class to recite John 1:14 together. *And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.* Ask one or two students to recite it alone. Or have one student begin, and another continue at a signal from you. A third student could give the reference.

Have the class recite the Second Article through ...*was crucified, dead and buried...*

Review last week's lesson using the following or other questions: Who is the Son of Man? (*Jesus*) How did Jesus show He was a human person like us? (*He was hungry, thirsty, got tired, knew what pain was, became happy, sad, lonely, was hurt, died*) What does Jesus know about us? (*When we are sad, lonely; He knows our sins*) What does He want most for us? (*He wants us to confess our sins, trust Him as our Savior*) In last week's lesson, who came to know Jesus as Savior? (*Samaritan woman*) What did the Samaritan woman do then? (*Told other people about the Savior*)

Ask these questions quickly, one after the other. Give students a few moments to think of the answer, but then go quickly to the next question, with no time lost and no opportunity to lose control of the class.

Introduce Wall Words

Prophet—
synagogue—
Sabbath—
fulfilled—
rage—
mob—

Introduce the Lesson

SHOW the scroll. Ask if anyone knows what it is. **SAY** It's a book. When Jesus lived on earth and even before that, God's Word was written down on scrolls. Prophets sometimes wrote God's message on scrolls and then read it to the people. What if you had heard Him read this from the scroll? **READ**

Luke 4:18-19 from the scroll. Then what if you had heard Him say, "This word is about Me. I am the prophet you must listen to?" **ASK** What would you do if that happened? Would you sit up and listen up with both ears? Would you be sure to remember what you heard so you would know it and do what it said? Or would you be like one of the Old Testament kings who heard God's message? The prophet came to the king's house and read God's message. The king didn't like it because it told him about his sins and so he cut up the scroll and burned it in his stove. Today's lesson will tell us how well people listened to Jesus the greatest Prophet.

Teach the Lesson

SAY Open your books to Lesson 3. Let's read the lesson title together. **ASK** Who is the greatest Prophet? (*Jesus*) Let's read the lesson to learn what that means.

Display a picture of the baby Moses being taken from the river by Pharaoh's daughter. (If you don't have this picture, you could ask the students if they remember a story about Moses being put into a basket in the river to save him from being killed by the King of Egypt.)

SAY This picture reminds us of Moses, a special child. **READ** the first paragraph to see why God saved Moses from the Egyptians. (*God had chosen Moses to save His people from the Egyptians and lead them to the promised land.*) The next paragraph tells us what Moses became when he grew up. (*The leader of God's people, a great prophet*). **ASK** Who can read a sentence that tells what a prophet is? (Call on a student to read, "God spoke to him and gave him a message for the people.") Why couldn't the people read God's message in the Bible? (*They didn't have the Bible.*) Can you find part of a sentence that tells what the message of salvation means? (*God's way of saving them*) If you have a picture of Moses speaking to the people, display it.

SAY Moses taught the people about what God wanted them to think and say and do. He gave them two tablets of stone that God wrote for them. Who knows what was written on the stone tablets? (*The Ten Commandments*) **SAY** The people respected Moses as a great prophet. Maybe some thought he was the greatest prophet. But Moses told them something that might have surprised them. Read and learn what it was. (*God would send another prophet greater than Moses*) God wanted the people to listen to the greater prophet, because He would teach them all of God's message of salvation. □

ASK Who was the greatest prophet of all? (*Jesus*) What Moses taught them is written down in the Old

Testament part of the Bible. Find it in Deuteronomy 18:15. Lead the students in reading the verse. Moses told the people to listen to the Greatest Prophet.

SAY Today's New Testament lesson tells about when Jesus, the Greatest Prophet, stood up with an Old Testament scroll in His hands and read what another prophet had written about Him. Let's find that in Luke 4:18-19. Follow along while I read it. (Or ask a good reader to read the passage.) **SAY**

The next part of the lesson in our student book explains more about what that means. **TELL** or **READ** the story as told in paragraphs 3 and 4. Then **ASK** Where was Jesus in this lesson? (*In Nazareth, His hometown, in the synagogue*) What day was it? (*The Sabbath or seventh day when the people went to the synagogue, their house of worship*) The words written by the prophet Isaiah are what we read from Luke. What did Jesus mean when He said, "God sent Me to proclaim release to the captives." Who knows what that is? (*That He would set the people free from sin and bring God's grace to them*) That is really Good News. We call that the Gospel. Then Jesus sat down and said, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." He meant, "Today you have heard these verses come true."

SAY Let's read on and find out if the people listened to the message of salvation. (After the students have read silently) Did the people listen to the message of salvation? (*No, they became angry*) You see, Jesus went on to tell them about their sins. Jesus would set them free, but they must repent of their sins and believe that Jesus was their Savior. They didn't want to do that. And so what did they do? They took Jesus and tried to throw Him off the cliff. The people had given up their chance to repent of their sins and believe in Jesus as their Savior. Wasn't that sad? **ASK** Does Jesus, the Greatest Prophet, speak to us today? **ASK** When can we hear God's message of salvation? (*We can read it in the Bible anytime, hear and learn it in Sunday School and church worship services.*) **ASK** Do people become angry today just as the people in Nazareth did? (*Yes*) Why do they become angry? (*Because God's Word tells them they are sinners and they need to have Jesus save them*) When Jesus tells you about your sins, you should not be stubborn. **ASK** Have you heard Jesus talking to you today? When we study the lessons, does it seem as though the lesson is just for you? Are you like the angry and stubborn people? Do you say, "I don't want to listen to Jesus?" Maybe you love Jesus and trust in Him. Maybe you have loved Him all your life. God's Word teaches us that Jesus wants you to confess your sins every day and ask Him to help you turn away from sins. He wants you to tell Him

you need Him as your Savior now and every day. SAY Paragraph 5 asks you some very important questions. Read it again silently and carefully. Then answer those questions to yourselves. Allow enough

time for students to read, reflect, and respond. Teacher read the last sentence. *Invite the students to talk with you if they have any questions about asking Jesus to be their Savior.

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Memory Work

BIBLE VERSE—Hebrews 1:1-2a

God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son.

CATECHISM—READ

. . . He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; . . .

Introduce the word, “descended”. Descended means went down. After Jesus died, He went down to hell, the place where people who had lived and then died had gone. He went there to tell those people He had died for sins and had paid the price for everyone's sin. He had beaten Satan, and won the victory.

Activity Pages

Activity 1—Jesus Said

ANSWERS

1. Mark 5:19: "Go home to your people and report to them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He had mercy on you."

2. John 14:6: "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me."
3. Acts 1:8 "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."
4. Luke 15:10: "In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."
5. John 14:6

Activity 2—Important Words

ANSWERS

1. Prophet
2. Moses
3. Promise
4. Isaiah
5. Scripture
6. Jesus

CLOSING THE LESSON

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for being our Great Prophet. Thank you for teaching us that our Heavenly Father wants us to confess our sins and ask You, our Savior, to take them away. Thank you for your Name, Jesus, which means, Savior. Help us to confess and turn away from sin every day. Help those who do not yet believe in You to confess their sins and accept You as their Savior. Amen.

Assignment

1. Challenge your pupils to tell someone this week about the Greatest Prophet and about what He teaches us.
2. Remind your pupils to complete and review the lesson at home with their parents, and to finish memorizing Hebrews 1:1-2a and the Catechism portion.

3. Make sure pupils take the activity sheets home with them.

Lesson 4

Jesus Christ, The Great High Priest

Bible Lesson: Leviticus 16:1-17; Hebrews 7:26-28

Memory Verse: "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" *John 1:29*

Enrichment Memory Verse: We have such a high priest, who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens. *Hebrews 8:1b*

Catechism Memory Work: And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From where He shall come to judge the living and the dead."

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach:

- ✦ The student will understand that sin separates people from God and that they cannot face God until their sin is paid for and taken away.
- ✦ The student will understand the Old Testament priests' role of offering sacrifices to God for sins, and the special role of the high priest in offering the most important sacrifice on the Day of Atonement; the student will understand that these sacrifices pointed to the sacrifice of Christ.
- ✦ The student will understand that Jesus is our High Priest, Who made Himself the sacrifice to take away our sins when He died on the cross.
- ✦ The student will come to a knowledge of his/her own sin and will be brought to repentance and faith.

Prepare Materials:

Along with the regular materials needed for class, you will need the following items for this lesson:

- ◆ Drawings of the tabernacle or the temple showing the Holy Place and Most Holy Place as

well as the altar where the priests offered sacrifices, and a picture of priest offering a sacrifice.

- ◆ Quarter-long project materials (listed in Introductory section): for this, Lesson 4, have the students add onto last weeks message the following: "He ascended into heaven, and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From where He shall come to judge the living and the dead."

Prayer Preparation

1. Pray that your Bible study this week will bring you a deeper knowledge of Jesus as your High Priest, Who gave Himself for your sins and lives to pray for you.
2. Thank God for the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for each of your students.
3. Pray that your pupils will have Jesus revealed to them as the precious One Who gave Himself for them, that they may see Him and know Him and be led to assurance of their salvation.

BIBLE BACKGROUND

A. Bible Study

In today's age many would discourage talking about blood; especially blood sacrifices. But the Old Testament people would quickly connect the work of a priest with the shedding of blood. The task of these priests was to offer sacrifices to God on behalf of the people. It was a bloody and we might even say gruesome activity. But we cannot pass by the talk of blood being shed because of passages like Hebrews 9:22 which says,

"And according to the Law, *one may almost say*, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness."

The priest of the OT would offer sacrifices daily, on festival days, and even offer a sacrifice for themselves as they were offering one for the people. Our Savior Jesus did not need to make a sacrifice for Himself but made one sacrifice on our behalf and Jesus Christ made His sacrifice once for all. Hebrews shows this is superior in every way to the sacrifices made by the Levitical priesthood. He is the Great High Priest in the order of Melchizedek (Heb. 7) who made a once for all perfect sacrifice for all our sins (Heb. 2:17).

After His sacrifice was offered and accepted (as proved by the Resurrection) our High Priest ascended into heaven. His enemies have been defeated at the Cross (Ps. 110:1) and He ascended to heaven to prepare a place for us (John 14:1-3). In Christ's ascension we also have the declaration that He has entered the presence of His Father as our advocate (Heb. 7:25, I John 2:1). Because our Savior has ascended we also need not be focused only on the material world around us but have our hearts drawn upward to Christ Himself. As it says in Colossians 3:1, "If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God."

Jesus has finished His offering His sacrifice (although it has continuing consequences for all time) and has now been seated at the place of honor and authority, the right hand of God.

From there He continues to intercede for us as a priest according to Romans 8:34, "who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us."

We who confess the blood of Christ shed for our sins therefore have every assurance that we can approach God in prayer (Heb. 4:15-16). In prayer we have the privilege of thanking God that He has shed His holy and precious blood for us and each person that comes across our path. In song we also ask that God would continue to protect and intercede for us. The familiar Lenten hymn says, "Jesus, keep me near the Cross, There a precious fountain. Free to all—a healing stream, Flows from Calv'ry's mountain. In the Cross, in the Cross, Be my glory ever, Till my raptured soul shall find Rest beyond the river" (Ambassador Hymnal #71).

B. Creed Study

As prophet, Jesus came to teach us the will of God concerning salvation. As High Priest, He secures our salvation by making perfect satisfaction for all the sins of the world, paying the price with His own blood on the cross (I Peter 1:18,19; Hebrews 9:14; I John 1:7, 2:2). Luther says: "The blood which flowed from the side of our Lord Jesus Christ is the treasure of our redemption, the payment and atonement for our sins....The same blood of Christ intercedes for us before God and cries to God without ceasing: Grace! Grace! Forgive! Forgive! Thus the blood of Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate, cries forever and ever without ceasing so that God the Father regards such crying and interceding of His beloved Son and is gracious to us poor, miserable sinners, Zechariah 9:11."

The fact that Jesus paid for our sins is the very heart of Christian belief and the Biblical message of redemption. The catechism sums it up with the question, "What is Christ's work as High Priest? He offered up Himself a sacrifice for our sins, and ever prays for us." (#162)

Atonement

The High Priest was to make atonement for the sins of the people before God (Leviticus 16:1-22). As the Great High Priest, Jesus made atonement for us on the cross. Atonement means "to cover" a sin. The effect is to cancel or remove some obstacle that has broken a once healthy relationship. Something has to be done to appease the one who was wronged, and some conduct or course of action is required to restore the harmony that existed in a relationship before the break. It is our sin which has broken our once healthy relationship with God; we have sinned against Him. God requires blood (the life of the flesh) to cover, or atone, for sin and reconcile us to Himself (Leviticus 17:11). Jesus is the sinner's substitute, dying in our place on the cross (Isaiah 53:5ff). His blood covers our sin. This is called the "vicarious" or substitutionary atonement. As our substitute, Jesus made atonement for our sins by His suffering and death.

Reconciliation

By making atonement for sin, the High Priest brings about reconciliation between God and the sinner. Atonement makes reconciliation possible. God was in Christ reconciling us to Himself (II Corinthians 5:18,19), while we were still enemies (Romans 5:10). Reconciliation puts away the hostility that separates two parties by removing the source of the quarrel. Christ died to put away sin. His blood covers it, and God is satisfied, thus reconciling the sinner to God.

Objectively, God reconciled man to Himself almost 2,000 years ago when Christ died on the cross. There the blood sacrifice was offered and accepted by God.

Subjectively, sinners are reconciled to God when they accept the atoning work of Christ on the cross for themselves. Christ's death does not save anyone until it is accepted and appropriated personally by faith (John 3:14,15). We must repent of our sin and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 2:38; 16:31).

Intercession

Besides making atonement for sin and reconciling the sinner to God, the high priest is also to intercede for the people. A prophet speaks on behalf of God to men; a priest "speaks" or represents the people before God. Christ interceded for men while on earth (John 14:16, 17:9; Hebrews 5:6-10). However, Christ remains a priest forever, and now in heaven intercedes for the believer before God. He presents Himself to the Father on our behalf as one whose blood was shed for the sins of the world. He actually prays for us as one who sits at the right hand of God (Hebrews 7:25; Romans 8:34; I John 2:1). This constant intercession of the exalted Savior at the right hand of God gives the believer the most certain assurance of his final salvation (Romans 8:34-39). There is nothing we in our sin and weakness can do but look to Jesus, and that is enough.

The Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16:1-22)

This chapter describes the Day of Atonement when the high priest would make atonement for his own sins and for the sins of the people. He would do this by bringing the blood of the sacrifice into the Holy of Holies in the tabernacle, into the very presence of God. Just as Jesus' death on the cross is central to Christian theology and life, so the Day of Atonement was central to worship and the life of Israel. Here the high priest acts as mediator between the people and God and intercedes for them.

Priestly preparation (16:1-4)

Aaron was forbidden to enter the Holy of Holies "at any time" (16:2). It was not to be entered casually or at the will of man, but only at God's appointed time and in God's appointed way. In the Holy of Holies stood the most important sacred object in Hebrew worship, the ark of the covenant. The cover of the ark was the "mercy seat," or place of atonement. It was here that God's glory resided, it was here that atonement was made for sin. It was a place of meeting and communication with God (Exodus 25:22).

In preparation for his priestly work, Aaron was first of all to discard the priestly "dress clothes." The beautiful garments that reflected the dignity and honor of the office would not be seen at this time (16:4). Aaron himself was a sinful man and so clothes himself in white linen, a symbol of repentance for himself and the nation. He was also to bathe before putting them on. Such preparation, designating cleanliness and repentance, provides dramatic contrast between the holiness of God and the sinfulness of man, emphasizing the need for repentance and forgiveness through the blood atonement.

Selection of offerings (16:5-10)

The proper animals had to be assembled for the sin offering for Aaron and the people, and for the burnt offerings (16:3,5,6). The bull would be a sin offering for Aaron and his household (16:6). The goats would provide for both sin offering and sin removal for the people (16:9,10).

The sin offerings (16:9-22)

This section explains the detailed ritual which is mentioned in summary in the preceding verses. First Aaron leads the bull to the altar of burnt offering, confesses his sin over it and then slaughters it (16:11). The animal was a substitute for Aaron and its blood would make atonement for his sins. Aaron takes the blood of the bull with him in a bowl. He fills his censer with coals of fire from the bronze altar where the sacrifices had been burned (16:12), then washes his hands and feet at the bronze basin in the courtyard. Now he enters the first room in the tent, the Holy Place, gathers incense there (16:12) and goes behind the veil into the Holy of Holies, into the presence of the Lord.

His first task is to sprinkle the incense on the coals so the holy room is filled with a cloud of smoke, obscuring the mercy seat. This prevents him from "seeing the Lord," thus preserving his life (16:13). Then Aaron takes the blood and sprinkles it on the mercy seat or atonement cover. After this he sprinkles blood seven times on the floor in front of the ark (16:14). All of this was to atone for his sins and for the sins of his household.

Returning to the door of the tent he finds the goats which had already been selected, and repeats the same process with the goat of the sin offering, this time for the sins of the people (16:7,15). Again he goes in and sprinkles the blood on the mercy seat and on the floor (16:16-19).

Now Aaron returns to the doorway of the tent to the second goat, the goat of removal, or scapegoat (16:8,20). This goat would live, but Aaron laid his hands on this goat and confessed over it all the sins of the people, after which it was sent off into the desert (16:10,21). In this way, this goat became the substitute who would carry away the sins of the people (16:22). This is a vivid picture of sin being removed, never to be seen again. God delights in being able to cleanse the sinner (make atonement) and remove his sin (Psalm 103:12; I John 1:7,9; John 1:29).

Christ our High Priest (Hebrews 7:26-28)

The book of Hebrews presents Christ's high priestly work as no other book, with numerous references to the Old Testament levitical priesthood. Aaron and all the other priests were temporary (7:23), but Jesus is our perfect high priest who not only made satisfaction for our sins, but continues to serve (7:24,25).

Aaron and the priests were never holy in character; they were sinners like the rest of the people and needed to make atonement for their own sins first and then for the people (7:27; Leviticus 16:6). Jesus was holy, undefiled, innocent, separate from sinners and could offer up Himself once for all (7:27). While on earth, Jesus was a friend of publicans and sinners (Matthew 9:10; 11:19), but His contact with them did not defile Him. Today He is "separate from sinners" because of His position in heaven; but He is not "separate" from those to whom He ministers (7:25; 4:14-16).

This is the kind of High Priest we need. We are prone to sin daily, and always need to turn to Him for help. As High Priest, Jesus gives us the grace and mercy we need (Hebrews 4:14-16). He is our advocate at the throne of God (I John 2:1-2). If we confess our sins, He forgives and cleanses us and restores us to fellowship with Him (I John 1:7,9).

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome

Visit with students as they arrive. Involve students in preparing the room. Ask about special events of the week.

Open with Prayer

Call for ideas for prayers of thanks. Encourage students to pray sentence prayers related to these ideas. Ask for prayers of petition. Pray for the students' own attention and willingness to listen to Christ. Pray for friends and relatives with special needs; for missionaries.

Recite Memory Work

Listen to students recite their memory work:

From the Bible: Hebrews 1:1-2a

And

From the Catechism: And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; . . .

Review

Call for one or two students to recite Hebrews 1:1-2a together. Then call for the class to recite together. Ask for other favorite Bible verses. This recitation should be done rapidly so that student's attention and time is not lost.

Review Key Concepts of Lesson 3.

What was Jesus called in last week's lesson? (*The Greatest Prophet*) Why is He called a prophet? (*He brought us a message from God*) What is that message? (*The message of salvation: that Jesus died for our sins*) How can we listen to that message as God wants? (*By confessing our sins and trusting Jesus to take our sins away and make us God's children*) What happens if we're stubborn and refuse to listen? (*We miss God's gift of salvation; we are in danger of closing our hearts to Him so we will not hear Him speak to us.*)

Introduce Wall Words

intercessors—

sacrifices—

atone—

Day of Atonement—

high priest—

sacrifice—

Most Holy Place—
Lamb of God—
intercedes—

Introduce the Lesson

Direct the students to Lesson 4 in their books. Ask them to read the title of the lesson.

ASK What does this title tell us about Jesus? (*He is the Great High Priest*) Who knows what the priest did in Old Testament times and when Jesus was here on earth? (*They worked in the temple and offered sacrifices to God*) **SAY** Jesus didn't offer lambs and bulls on the Temple altars. He wasn't that kind of Priest. Our lesson will teach us what kind of Priest Jesus was and is.

Teach the Lesson

Peace offering—A peace offering is a gift you offer or give to a person to make him stop being angry with you. Maybe you have done something wrong and your dad is angry with you. You might do something nice for him or give him a present so that he will stop being angry. You offer that present or do a favor for him, like cleaning up the garage. What you do or give him is called an offering. Because you want to make peace with your dad, we might call it a peace offering.

SAY Think of a time when you had disobeyed your parents and felt guilty about what you had done. You knew you had done wrong. You were ashamed and maybe afraid. Can you remember a time like that? Did anybody here bring something or something as a "peace offering?" (Allow students to share what they did or brought.) **ASK** Did you clean the house? Bring a present? (Allow time for answers.) Did your "peace offering" make your parents forget you were guilty? (*Probably not, if you had really disobeyed. Your parents would probably rather have you just ask for forgiveness.*)

SAY Everyone is guilty before God. Everyone has sinned by doing, saying and thinking things that break God's laws, the Ten Commandments. We think we should bring an offering to God to make Him forget we are guilty. **SAY** The first three paragraphs of the lesson tells what people in Old Testament times offered to God for their sins. Read the paragraph to find out. (If you have pupils who don't read well enough to read the student materials, you may need to have the lesson read aloud. Read parts in unison, parts yourself, and have students read aloud. Be sure to include all students in this reading. Carefully select portions for students who don't read well.) **ASK** What did God's people offer as sacrifices for their sins? (*Perfect animals*) **SAY**

The third paragraph tells about the special work of the high priest. The high priest, as we learned, was the main priest. Let's see what the high priest did. **READ** as the students follow along. **ASK** When did the high priest go into the Most Holy Place? (*On the Day of Atonement*) Who can find the Most Holy Place on the drawing of the tabernacle? (Ask a student to point it out.) How was the high priest dressed? (*In clean, richly decorated robes.*) What did he do? (*He prepared the animal for the offering and made the sacrifice.*) What two things did the priest make sacrifice for? (*His own sins and the sins of the people.*) What did the priests have to do to have God accept the sacrifices and prayers? (*Follow the exact direction He gave them about how to offer the sacrifices.*) **SAY** Now we come to the part of the lesson that explains how Christ is our High Priest. He is different from the High Priest who worked in the temple and offered animal sacrifices to God for the people. Jesus didn't do that. But He did offer something to God. He offered Himself to die on the cross for all the people of the world. Only the perfect Son of God could take the punishment for our sins. Since He offered Himself to God to save us and take away our sins, He is the perfect High Priest. Let's read the next paragraph to find some ways Jesus was a better High Priest than any other high priest. **READ** in unison. **ASK** What are some ways Jesus was a better High Priest? (*He was perfectly holy; He was sinless.*) Jesus took the place of the other priests so they weren't needed anymore. We don't have them in our churches. We have Jesus, our perfect High Priest who lives now and forever. **SAY** But now we see something amazing! Jesus is not only the High Priest, but He is the High Priest *and* the sacrifice. He offers the sacrifice for sin and He is the sacrifice. He offers Himself. Let's read and see if we can find a sentence that tells what kind of sacrifice He was. **READ** in unison. **ASK** What did you find? (Call on a student to read the second sentence. Give help only if needed.) (*Yes, He is the Lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world.*) Remember that the Old Testament priests and high priests offered lambs as sacrifices for sin. **ASK** Could those lambs take away sins? (*No, only Jesus could.*) **SAY** But God paid attention to those sacrifices because the Savior, the real Lamb of God would die on the cross some day. When He died on the cross, His sacrifice took away the sins of all the people. **ASK** Did Jesus die for His own sin? (*No, He is holy. He had no sin to die for. He died for us.*) How do we know God accepted Jesus' sacrifice for sin? (*Because God raised Him from the dead.*) Jesus couldn't stay dead because He was perfect and holy and because He was eternal. Is Jesus still alive? (*Yes, He is in heaven where He*

will be forever and will pray for us.) Let's read from the Bible what God says about Jesus our High Priest. (Help the students to find Hebrews 7:26-28. **READ** verses 26-27 while they follow along.) Verse 27 says Jesus doesn't need to offer sacrifices for sins every day because He did that once for all when He offered Himself to die on the cross. Jesus gave Himself to die. He offered to do it. No one made Him die. **SAY** The last part of the lesson will help us know what good it does for us today that Jesus is our High Priest. **READ** the last paragraph for yourself to see if we can find how Jesus helps us. **ASK** What can you do when you have sinned and feel guilty? Do you have to make your own

peace offering? (*No. We can go to God in confession whenever we have sinned. We can ask Him to forgive us because He already offered Himself as the perfect offering for our sin.*) Will God forgive you if you tell God you are a sinner, but you know Jesus died for your sin and that you trust Him to forgive you? (*Yes, God will forgive you.*) **ASK** Then when God looks at you, will He see your sins? (*No, He will look at you and see you perfectly holy.*) Because He forgives you, He doesn't see your sins. He sees a perfectly holy heart. **ASK** When we pray, Who helps us? (*Jesus does. He is in heaven praying for us.*)

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Memory Work

BIBLE VERSE— John 1:29

“Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

Select a memorization technique to help the students memorize the verse. They should be able to recite it, without help, together with the reference, before they leave. They will still need to review it at home in order to retain it in their memory.

CATECHISM—**READ**

... He ascended into heaven, And is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From where He shall come to judge the living and the dead.”

ASK Where is Jesus now? (*Sitting on the right hand of God.*) What does that mean? (*He has all the power that God has.*) Where will Jesus come from some day? (*From His Father's right hand.*) Whom will He judge? (*The living people and the dead.*) He will bring those who have trusted Him to heaven. The ones who did not repent and believe will be separated from Him forever.

Activity Pages

Activity 1—Our Great High Priest

ANSWERS

- A. 1) breastpiece, 2) ephod, 3) robe, 4) tunic (of checkered work), 5) turban, 6) sash,
- B. 1) gold, 2) blue, 3) purple, 4) scarlet
- C. “Holy to the Lord”
- D. 1) holy, 2) innocent, 3) undefiled, 4) separated from sinners, 5) exalted above the heavens

Activity 2—Do You Remember?

ANSWERS

1. sacrifice (c)

2. priest (f)
3. high priest (b)
4. Most Holy Place (i)
5. intercessors (j)
6. Day of Atonement (g)
7. prophet (a)
8. Gospel (e)
9. fulfilled (d)
10. ascended (h)

Activity 3—Cut Out Activity

Color the garments according to the following instructions. Then, using rubber cement, glue the figure of the priest and the stand onto heavy paper or an 80 lb. cover weight paper. Cut all pieces out and assemble according to the Bible references on the tabs.

Coloring Instructions:

Students should find Bible References as they color each piece.

1. Exodus 28:39; Exodus 39:27

Tunic - All priests wore a tunic. The tunic (sometimes called a brodered coat) was a long skirt of white linen with a distinctive pattern or checkered appearance.

2. Exodus 28:31-35

Robe - All blue, worn immediately under the ephod. The robe was sleeveless and longer than the ephod. On the edge of the robe were pomegranates in blue, purple and red (scarlet, crimson) with gold bells between.

3. Exodus 28:6-14

Ephod - was worn over the robe. V.6 - the ephod was made with a front and back piece of material fastened together on the shoulders by (v. 9) two large onyx stones (white and light red alternating

stripes or layers. Onyx is one kind of chalcedony, a precious stone.)

The Bible tells us the names of the sons of Israel should be engraved on the two large onyx stones.

The ephod was of gold, blue, purple and scarlet material and fine twisted linen. There were also two gold chains over the girdle of white linen.

4. Exodus 28:15-29

Breastplate - also made of gold, blue, purple and scarlet material. It had four rows of precious stones according to the 12 names of the sons of Israel.

Row 1

Ruby - the real ruby is a red sapphire next in value to the diamond.

Topaz - Generally believed to be our modern chrysolite, a somewhat soft and translucent gem, usually of a pale green.

Emerald - Another precious stone of a pure green color.

Row 2

Turquoise - a sky-blue, greenish-blue, or greenish-gray semi precious stone.

Sapphire - of a blue color and transparent.

Diamond - white

Row 3

Jacinth - Red or more nearly orange variety of zircon.

Agate - a semi-precious kind of chalcedony with striped or clouded coloring.

Amethyst - precious stone of quartz of a blue-violet color

Row 4

Beryl - By the Hebrew word "tarshish", modern yellow topaz is meant. In Rev. 21:20 a different stone is probably referred to.

Onyx - One kind of chalcedony, a precious stone. It is in layers of different colors which alternate with each other, probably a light red and white. (for purposes here, students could color it red.)

Jasper - a variety of quartz and of transparent light and of different colors. The dark green kind of thought to be the variety of the Bible.

5. Exodus 28:36-38

Headdress, Turban or Mitre - Turban was of white linen and had a gold plate with the words, "Holy to the Lord" engraved on it. The gold plate was fastened on a blue or violet card. See Exodus 29:5. The plain turban of linen was worn by all the priests.

CLOSING THE LESSON

Closing Prayer

Thank You, Jesus, for coming to die for us. Thank You for offering Yourself as the perfect sacrifice for all our sins. Take away our sins and give us Your perfect holiness. Thank You that You are praying for us. Work in our hearts so that we do confess our sins and trust in You. Amen.

Assignment

1. Assign today's memory work and review past memory work.
2. Remind students to take activity sheets home to finish them, review and share with family members and friends.

Lesson 5

Behold, Christ Your King

Bible Lesson: II Samuel 5:17-25; Matthew 21:1-11

Memory Verse: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever." *Revelation 11:15b*

Enrichment Memory Verse: Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, humble, and mounted on a donkey, even on a colt, the foal of a donkey. *Zechariah 9:9b*

Catechism Memory Work: And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; . . .

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true Man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord; . . .

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach:

- ✦ The students will understand that as Old Testament kings were to lead the people to love and serve God and to protect them from their enemies, so Jesus as our King will protect us and lead us to righteousness and joy in Him.
- ✦ The students will understand what it means that Jesus is our King. They will know what God's righteous Kingdom is.
- ✦ The students will understand that Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey to show that He was the promised Savior-King.
- ✦ The students will by grace yield to Jesus as King and look forward in faith to His coming again to reign as King.

Prepare Materials:

Along with the regular materials needed for class, you will need the following items for this lesson:

- ◆ Scroll from Lesson 3, figure of priest from Lesson 4, crown made from gold paper, map of Palestine of Jesus' day.

- ◆ Quarter-long project materials (listed in Introductory section): for this, Lesson 5, have the students add onto last weeks message the following: "Meaning of the Second Article: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true Man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord"

Prayer Preparation

1. Pray for your own preparation through Bible study and lesson preparation, that your mind and heart may be filled with faith in Christ, your King, and dedication to Him. Thank God that you can be His subject in His Kingdom of righteousness, peace and joy.
2. Pray for your pupils, that their hearts may be prepared to learn what it means to have Christ as their Lord and King. Pray that they might be given the grace of repentance and faith.
3. Pray for the coming Sunday's session, that God's Holy Spirit may direct the class session and give you the words and wisdom needed to teach.

BIBLE BACKGROUND

A. Bible Study

The people of Israel wanted to be like the nations around them and they demanded a king. God warned them of the trouble that would come to them with a king in charge. Nevertheless, they asked for and received a king. In doing this, they were coveting and rejecting God and His Word.

A nineteenth century British historian named Lord Acton famously said, "Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely." Unfortunately, in this world we have often seen this to be accurate when men are given power and authority. The authority and power given to a man would always lead to power being abused to some extent because of our sinful nature. So how can having a king be seen as a good thing? When we recognize that the King that God promised to send would not be a man only; but the God-Man Jesus Christ. He was not to be an earthly king as He told Pilate, "My kingdom is not of this world" (John 18:36). If He had come to be an earthly king He would have "called thousand angels to destroy the world and set Him free (Ambassador Hymnal #553). His kingdom was and is bigger than the nation of Israel it encompasses all that exists. He is Lord of all creation.

Luther, especially in the Large Catechism, focuses on the title "Lord" which is given to Jesus Christ. This term "Lord" conveys the idea of authority. It used as a title for those who have legal authority over people. In nonreligious use it is used as a form of showing respect in religious use it is a title given to God. In the Old Testament the personal name by which God revealed Himself, (in Hebrew *hw"ëhy> o* or Yahweh) is translated in our English Bibles with the word LORD. When the Bible speaks of Jesus Christ in the New Testament we also see the name or title Lord applied to Him.

In our minds, we have a picture of a king who is to be served. But our king humbled Himself and served us. We are confessing that *the* King is our King. We are declaring that indeed the Cross was for all people; but specifically for "me." Again as Luther says in the Large Catechism, "For before I had no Lord nor King, but was captive under the power of the devil, condemned to death, enmeshed in sin and blindness." But our King has paid the ransom, obtained the pardon, and sets the captives free.

He is a king who has all authority but has not been corrupted in any way (Matt. 28:18-20, Heb. 4:15). He has and will always retain absolute power (Matt. 11:27; Luke 10:22). With this in mind, we recognize that a righteous and holy king must make right judgments. With His great power Jesus will make sure that the wicked are punished and that the righteous will be protected and go free. The unbeliever hearing this should tremble; He needs protection. Here again we have the great joy of proclaiming to the one broken by sin and fearful of punishment that our King is just and merciful. He has even lain down His life for us all. To have Jesus as Lord means to have one who will protect us, provide for us, and who loves us. His love has been expressed most clearly in His death on the Cross.

B. Creed Study

As Prophet, Jesus taught man the way of salvation; as High Priest He secured it by offering Himself as a ransom for sin. As King, Jesus rules over the Church as its Head, and over all things as King of Kings. Christ's work as king is to "govern and keep His children, and defend them against their enemies." (Catechism, #164)

According to Scripture, the universal rule of Christ (the Son of Man) extends:

1. to all nations and peoples (Daniel 7:13,14)
2. to all things on earth, in the air, and in the seas (Psalm 8:6-8)
3. to the enemies of Christ (Psalm 110:2)
4. to the Church (Ephesians 1:20-23)

Nothing is excluded from the reign of Christ except God Himself (I Corinthians 15:27).

The Kingdom

On the basis of Scripture we speak of the kingdoms of power, grace, and glory. These are not three separate kingdoms, for the dominion of Christ is one, but His authority is recognized in different ways according to the different character of those who are governed.⁸⁸

Kingdom of Power

In a general sense, all things belong to Christ's kingdom of power because He rules over nature and over all creatures. While on earth, Jesus was true king, possessing and exercising divine power over nature and people and demons (Matthew 8:5-13, 23-27, 28-32). In this kingdom all things must "obey" Him.

Kingdom of Grace

To this kingdom belong all those who have accepted Christ as Savior and Lord, who are justified by faith and are true members of the Christian church on earth. "Jesus is Lord" to His redeemed people; He is on the throne of their heart and asks for their obedience and loyalty. For the Christian, obedience is a joyful response to God's grace. In the kingdom of grace, Jesus leads and directs His people (the church) by the means of grace—the Word and sacraments.

Kingdom of Glory

All true believers of the kingdom of grace here on earth will one day forever be His subjects in the kingdom of glory, which is the continuation of the kingdom of grace in heaven (Acts 7:55,56; I Peter 5:4; I John 3:2). There all believers will be members of the Church Triumphant. The kingdom of glory will be revealed in God's appointed time (Acts 1:7), but Christians eagerly wait for its appearing.

David, King of Israel (II Samuel 5:17-25)

David was selected by God to be king over Israel, and served as such for 40 years (5:3-5; I Samuel 16:6-13). The king was responsible for governing the people and protecting them from their enemies. The king also gave spiritual and moral direction to the nation. The kings of Israel are often memorialized in Scripture as doing or not doing "what was right in the sight of the Lord" (I Kings 15:11; 25-26).

David was raised up as king to save Israel from the Philistines (3:18). It was his victories that restored respect for Israel and subdued its warring neighbors. Here he gains two victories over the Philistines:

Aggression

In both actions the Philistines were the aggressors. The first time they came up to seek David because they heard he had been anointed king (5:17), and they wanted to crush his government at its beginning before it became strong. They were defeated. They attacked again attempting to recover what they lost in the first battle. It was up to David to protect his people from the enemy as well as govern his people. In like manner, Jesus not only rules in the hearts of His people, but He protects and defends them against the enemies of sin, death, and the devil. Even though our enemies are defeated, their attacks continue (Ephesians 6:12ff; Romans 7:18-25; I Peter 5:8).

Assurance

In both actions, David consulted with the Lord (5:19,23). One question concerned his duty: "Shall I go up?" The Lord assured David it was his duty and that he would have success (5:19).

Attack

In the first battle David routed the army and put their gods to shame; they abandoned the idols which they had brought along to protect themselves (5:21). In the second battle, God gave David specific instructions on how to fight because the Lord was going to fight for them (5:23,24). David obeyed his King and was successful.

Christ, King of Kings (Matthew 21:1-11)

These verses show some of the kingly power of Jesus, and some of His divine personality, so fitting at this time in His ministry, the beginning of the end.

Arrangements (21:1-3).

The disciples are to find a donkey and her colt and bring them to Jesus. His arrangements here are in obedience to the Word of God and fulfillment of the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9, which speaks of the King coming on a donkey. If anyone questions the disciples, they are to say, "The Lord has need of them" (21:3). It is obvious that the owner was a friend of Jesus and the disciples, but the orders given here also reveal something of Jesus' divine knowledge, personality and power.

Arrival (21:4-8)

Zechariah's prophecy begins with "Rejoice greatly," but Matthew omits that and substitutes a more sober line: "Say to the daughter of Zion," taken from Isaiah 62:11. When the people are told who is coming, they will rejoice and certainly ought to rejoice. But they do not yet know who Jesus really is, or the joy that He brings.

The King "comes to you," and is "gentle, mounted on a donkey" (21:5). Luther writes of this unique King: "He is a peculiar King; thou dost not seek him, he seeks thee; thou dost not find him, he finds thee; for the preachers come from him not from thee; their preaching comes from him not from thee; thy faith comes from him not from thee; and all that thy faith works in thee comes from him not from thee."

So the King of kings arrives in Jerusalem, His beloved city. There is a welcome as the people spread branches and garments before Him (21:8).

Acclaim (21:9-11)

The people acclaim Jesus as king by their words and deeds. They cry "hosanna" which means "save now." Their words are taken from Psalm 118:25-26, a messianic psalm. Later that week, Jesus refers to this psalm and applies it to Himself (Matthew 21:42; Psalm 118:22-23).

A significant addition made by the crowd is "to the son of David" (21:9). This title is both royal and messianic. Here at last Jesus enters the great capital as the divinely prophesied Messiah-King, the son of David, and accepts the acclaim of the nation, as represented by the crowds.

When the city asks, "Who is this?" some of the multitude reply that this is Jesus, the well-known prophet from Galilee (21:11). The disciples themselves did not fully realize the impact of this event as seen in John 12:16. For the people in general, spiritual blindness prevents them from seeing their king. For one thing, their own religious leaders robbed them of the truth of God's Word and substituted man-made traditions (Luke 11:52). The leaders were not interested in the truth, but only in protecting their own interests (John 11:47-53). Their confession was, "We have no king but Caesar" (John 19:15). Even miracles did not convince them.

Whatever was unclear for the disciples and the crowds, one thing is clear: a holy enthusiasm caught their hearts that day, a real spiritual joy and hope was expressed.

Jesus accepted this welcome as He rode into the city as the King of Israel, and King of kings.

King of My Life

"I believe that Jesus Christ,...is my Lord." Lord means ruler. God has given Him a name that is above every name and placed Him above every other power (Philippians 2:9-11). He is the Lord of the Church and of the Christian's life; He is Lord of all. The Christian life cannot be lived apart from the lordship of Jesus.

When you say, "I believe that Jesus Christ is my Lord," you place yourself in faith under the lordship of Christ. It means trusting Him to conquer the enemies, to give you victory over sin, death and the devil. It means being obedient to His will. It means serving Him (II Corinthians 5:15).

Many people want Jesus to save them from sin, but they do not want Him to be Lord of their life or to tell them what to do. Jesus once said, "And why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?" (Luke 6:46)

When you in faith accept Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord, you are accepting His control over your life. You have no way of knowing what will happen as you obey His will. But you trust Him to do what is best, and His will for you is always best.

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome

As the pupils arrive, visit with them about their experiences in preparing for the day's lesson. If appropriate, help them review memory work. Share your own experiences of learning of God's care and His answers to prayer.

Open with Prayer

Ask for topics for thanksgiving and praise, and for prayer concerns. Call on students to participate in sentence prayers.

Recite Memory Work

Listen to students recite their memory work:

From the Bible: John 1:29

And

From the Catechism: And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From where He shall come to judge the living and the dead."

Review

ASK Do you remember the theme of this quarter's lessons? What is this book about? (*God's Son, our Redeemer*) What is the name we usually use for God's Son? What do we call Him? (*Jesus*) The Bible has many titles or names for Jesus, our Savior. Each name stands for something Jesus does for us.

DISPLAY the scroll. **ASK** What does this scroll make you think of? Think about something Jesus did with a scroll something like this. (*In Lesson 4 we learned that Jesus was a prophet.*) **ASK** Why was Jesus called a prophet? (*He taught us about God, His Father and about the way He would save those who trusted in Jesus who died on the cross for their sins.*)

DISPLAY the figure of the high priest. **SAY** Last week we learned about this man. Who was he and what does he teach us about Jesus? (*The high priest. The high priest reminded people that God would send the Great High Priest.*) **ASK** What did the Old Testament high priest do? (*He offered animal sacrifices to God for the sins of the people, to remind them that they needed someone who could really take away their sins.*) Why is Jesus called the Great High Priest? (*He offered Himself for the sins of all the people when He died on the cross.*)

SAY And so we say that Jesus is the Prophet who taught us what God wanted us to know. He is the Great High Priest Who offered Himself on the cross for our sins. God accepted His offering and raised Him from the dead. Do you remember the Bible verse that we learned about that? We find it in John 1:29. (Have the class recite the verse together and one or two students recite it independently. Be sure to check the reference.)

Introduce Wall Words

triumphant—
 oppression—
 rebellious—
 anointed—
 subjects—
 citizens—

Introduce the Lesson

DISPLAY the crown. **SAY** This crown reminds us of another title we use for Jesus. I'm sure you know what that would be. Call on a pupil to answer. (*Yes, Jesus is our King.*) **ASK** What is a King? (*A ruler who is in complete charge. His people must obey whatever the king commands.*) **SAY** We don't have kings like that to rule over our countries on earth now. When people were kings, they made too many mistakes. Some kings even were cruel and made people suffer while they themselves were rich and powerful. That's because people have sinful hearts. **ASK** Do you think Jesus would be a wise and good King? (*Yes, because He is good and because He loves us.*) **SAY** Jesus doesn't rule in our countries today. He rules in His Kingdom, the Church, made up of all people who love and trust Him as Savior. Today's lesson will teach us more about Jesus our King.

Teach the Lesson

Call on a student to read the title of Lesson 5. **ASK** Do you remember what the word *behold* means? We learned it in last week's lesson, and it was in the memory verse. (*It means "look." The lesson title tells us to look at Christ, the King.*) Whose King does the title say Christ is? (*Our King*) Christ wants to be King in your life. Let's see what the lesson will teach about that. **ASK** Has anyone here seen a king? **ASK** How are the kings of today different from kings in story books? (*Today's kings aren't as powerful.*) **SAY** I wonder if Old Testament kings were powerful. Let's read the lesson to see why it was difficult to be a king of Israel. (*Often the people*

didn't want to do things God's way. They rebelled.) How did the king know what to do? (*God told them how to rule the people.*) **SAY** Let's read about one of Israel's great kings. **ASK** Who was the great king? (*David*) What did King David do for God's people? (*He defeated their enemies.*) **ASK** Do you know anything else about David? (*He killed Goliath, helped King Saul, and wrote many Psalms in the Bible.*) **SAY** Look at paragraph seven. Can you find a long word that means "a person's children and grandchildren and their children and grandchildren?" (*descendants*) **SAY** Read this paragraph to find out what God promised King David about one of his descendants. **ASK** Who would David's special descendant be? (*Jesus Christ*) What did God promise about Jesus Christ? (*He would reign as King over God's people forever and ever. He would defeat the enemies of God's people and bring eternal peace to His subjects*) **SAY** God's Kingdom is made up of all the people who have true and living faith. All these people are members of God's true church. Jesus Christ is their Savior. He also is King over their lives. He will lead them and help them to follow and obey Him. He will protect them from the enemies of their souls, Satan, sin and death. **ASK** Wouldn't you want to serve a King who did all this for you? (Pause) **SAY** If Jesus is your Savior, He lives in your heart, and you will want to serve Him and obey Him. **SAY** Our New Testament Bible lesson describes a time when Jesus showed the people that He had come to be their King. Let's read it from the Bible. Find Matthew 21:1-11.

APPOINT pupils to read the various parts:

EXPLANATION: vs. 1-2a

JESUS: vs. 2b-3

EXPLANATION: vs. 4

PROPHET'S WORDS: vs. 5

EXPLANATION: vs. 6-9a

SONG OF THE MULTITUDES: vs. 9b

EXPLANATION: vs. 10-11a

SONG OF THE MULTITUDES: vs. 11b

ASK What did the crowds shout out about Jesus? What did they call Him? (*Son of David*) How did they praise and welcome Him? (*They said He was their King. They cried, "Hosanna to the Son of David." They cried out, "Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord."*) **SAY** Find the last paragraph of this lesson. It begins, "Jesus came to be your King..." Let's read it together. Lead pupils to read it in unison. **ASK** What did Jesus do for you as your King? (*Defeated sin and death and delivered you from these enemies.*) **SAY** The lesson closes by saying, "As citizens of His Kingdom, we love our King Jesus because He first loved us and gave His life for us."

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Memory Work

BIBLE VERSE— Revelation 11:15b

“The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever.”

CATECHISM—READ

The Second Article of Redemption

And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; . . .

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true Man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord; . . .

“begotten of the Father” - Jesus is the true Son of God, the Heavenly Father.

“from eternity” - From eternity means always. God's Son existed always, long before He became man and was born. He existed before the world was created. He is eternal. There never was a time when God's Son did not exist. He was God's Son from eternity and He always will exist and will be God's Son.

Activity Pages

Activity 1—An Exciting Day

ANSWERS

1. J(E)RUSALEM
2. (C)OMES
3. HIG(H)EST
4. PE(A)CE
5. K(I)NG
6. DE(A)TH
7. (H)IS
8. ZECHARIAH
9. No. Some had forgotten the prophecy and thought that He came to defeat the Romans.

Activity 2—Jesus Is My King

ANSWERS

Circle numbers 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10

CLOSING THE LESSON

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for sending Jesus to die on the cross for us in order to be our Savior. Thank you for making Jesus our King. Give us the faith to trust in Him. Forgive us all our sins. We have not loved Jesus the way we should. We have not put Him first in our lives. Help us to know how much you have done for us to save us. Live your life in us and help us to love and serve Jesus as our King. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Assignment

1. Remind students to complete any unfinished activities, to re-read the lesson at home and tell their families and friends about Jesus their King.
2. Enlist students' cooperation in memorizing and reviewing Bible verses and catechism.
3. Remind students to bring Bibles to class.

Lesson 6

Christ Redeemed Me

Bible Lesson: Hosea 3

Memory Verse: But now, thus says the LORD, your Creator, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine!" *Isaiah 43:1*

Enrichment Memory Verse: And He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed. *1 Peter 2:24*

Catechism Memory Work: And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; . . .

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true Man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord; who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, . . .

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach:

- ✦ The students will define the word redeemed; they will explain that we were bought back when we had gone away from God.
- ✦ The student will understand that Jesus is called our Redeemer because He bought us back by dying on the cross and rising from the dead.
- ✦ Pray that the students will thank Jesus for redeeming them and that as the Holy Spirit works through the Word, they will respond and will trust in Jesus as their own personal Redeemer.

Prepare Materials:

Along with the regular materials needed for class, you will need the following items for this lesson:

- ◆ Handful of silver coins, small food scale or postal scale, picture from Lesson 6 in the student book.

- ◆ Quarter-long project materials (listed in Introductory section): for this, Lesson 6, have the students add onto last week's message the following: "Who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature"

Prayer Preparation

1. Pray that your own heart and mind might be filled with a sense of what it means that Christ redeemed you. Pray that you may be able to convey that sense of having been redeemed and of gratitude to Christ your Redeemer.
2. Pray for your pupils, that God may work through His Word so that they may understand the concepts redeem and Redeemer, and that, understanding, they may put their faith in the Redeemer and be strengthened and fed.
3. Pray for preparation in your own heart and in the hearts of your pupils so that the coming Sunday's class session might bear fruit to eternity.

BIBLE BACKGROUND

A. Bible Study

As it is today most of us don't like admitting that we sometimes get lost. For one reason or another we get turned around, go down a road we are not familiar with, or miss a landmark that would have helped us and get lost. It can be embarrassing and can have various consequences large and small. In spiritual things it is also true that we don't like to admit how lost we truly are and our desperate need. In fact, without the work of the Holy Spirit convicting us of sin we would keep quiet and end up lost forever. But God graciously sent the Holy Spirit to lead us to repentance and faith in the work of Jesus Christ. We are lost and condemned creatures without Christ and as we often confess we have sinned against God "in thought, word, and deed."

Being lost can quickly remind us how helpless we truly are. As it says in Isaiah 53:6, "All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him." We are helpless to save ourselves and naturally rebel against God. What we have deserved because of this is the unrelenting wrath of a holy and just God. When we say we are condemned it means that we have recognized the sentence of God against our sin and the right punishment for this horrible rebellion.

In Romans 5 the Apostle Paul makes clear that our justification comes through Jesus Christ. Paul doesn't excuse sin, revel in it (Romans 6:1-4), or deny at any point how sinful and corrupt he is (Rom. 7:24). Instead he overflows with thanksgiving for Jesus Christ who has delivered him from the body of death (Rom. 7:24-25). In the next verse Paul makes the wonderful declaration, "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 8:1).

Our Redeemer has done what the law could never do. Our Redeemer has made clear that He has bought and paid for us. The world in which we live tends to think that everything can be bought and sold. It contends that if we do enough that we can even "buy off" God. But this article of the creed makes clear that we are utterly unable to do anything in ourselves to please God. As Hebrews 11:6 says, "Without faith it is impossible to please God." We cling to the redemption of Christ through faith.

This lesson speaks of the adulterous Gomer in Hosea. It is a shocking picture of God's activity of seeking and saving the lost (Luke 15). This shocking redemption is most clear to us when we see the depths of our own wickedness. But like Job's words in Job 19:25-27 we know that our Redeemer lives and that He continues to seek after the lost, to rescue those whom He paid for with His blood.

Jesus' activity as Redeemer has two aspects that shine forth. His work of redemption shows His power over all destructive powers (sin, death, and the devil). His work also pays the price, it is a propitiation for our sins. The helpless lost have been brought home and rescued by the Savior Jesus Christ. Through His redemption we are brought to safety in the arms of Jesus the Good Shepherd.

B. Creed Study

I believe that Jesus "has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature...." Redeem means to buy back, or regain what was once owned. Having lost our way in sin, God finds us and redeems us from sin, death and the devil, to be His own once again and enjoy fellowship with Him forever.

What is it like to be lost? When we are lost we don't see things as they really are. Life is distorted. Away from God we are anxious about life and don't seek Him (Matthew 6:31-33). Left to ourselves without God we are on a downward spiral toward destruction (Romans 1:18-32) that makes us less than human and more like the animals that do not hesitate to fight or kill for what they want. Lost man is not "true man."

When we are lost we can't see our condition or do anything about it. The Holy Spirit must call us through the gospel, enlighten us, and bring us to Jesus (3rd article). Lost, we can't redeem ourselves or buy ourselves out of the pit of hell into which we have sunk (Psalm 40:1-3; 49:7-8).

The worst thing about being lost is that we don't see how lost we are or that we are lost at all. We don't see how easily we are enslaved to our own sin, lusts and pleasures. We think we are free, but we are not. If we reject the grace of God that appeared in Jesus Christ (Titus 2:11), we go on to final destruction. If man is not saved, he is lost and condemned.

How did Jesus redeem us? He redeemed us not with silver and gold but with His holy and precious blood (I Peter 1:18,19). Our sin is a crime against God and carries the death sentence (Ezekiel 18:4c; Romans 6:23a). The gospel says Jesus came and took our sins upon Himself and died in our place. He became sin for us and took the full punishment for us. When you believe that Jesus has died for you, accept that, and repent of your sins, you receive the gift of eternal life (Romans 6:23b). Jesus bought back what was rightfully His. Christians are, in fact, twice owned (Psalm 100:3; I Corinthians 6:20, 7:23).

This redeeming love is beautifully illustrated in the Bible lesson from Hosea 3. The prophet becomes a living, literal example of God's love and faithfulness.

Hosea's World (Hosea 3:1-5)

Hosea (which means help or deliverance) served as prophet to the Northern Kingdom of Israel during the years of Jeroboam II, just before and up to the time the ten tribes of Israel were carried away into captivity in 722 B.C. For the previous 150 years the political and commercial strength of the two kingdoms had been sapped by warfare within and without, leaving the nation weak and poor. Now better times had dawned. It was now a time of almost unprecedented prosperity. Also a generation now lived that had grown up experiencing little, if any, warfare. Peace and prosperity ruled.

The rich amassed wealth by oppression and deceit. Some people were sold into slavery and did not have enough to ransom themselves (Amos 8:6). But along with material wealth came a poverty of soul and spirit. Religious conditions were deteriorating. Israel had been forbidden to worship idols, but worshipping the idols of surrounding nations was one of Israel's constant sins. The land was filled with idolatry. It was a land in which there was no truth or mercy or knowledge of God, a land filled with swearing, lying, killing, stealing, adultery and bloodshed (Hosea 4:1ff).

Such were the conditions when God called Hosea. While the nation was rushing headlong to ruin and destruction, God sent a prophet with a refreshing word of His redeeming love to a people He still loved so fervently.

Hosea's message

What does this tragedy of Hosea and Gomer tell us?

1. God's covenant of love (1:2ff). The story begins here with God commanding Hosea to go and take a wife of harlotry, to marry her and cherish her in faithful marital love. The reason is clearly stated: "for the land commits flagrant harlotry, forsaking the Lord" (1:2).

The relationship always begins with God and His gracious choice. We are chosen in Christ (Ephesians 1:3-6) to become His bride the Church (Ephesians 5:23-27). Israel was also a "chosen people" (Deuteronomy 7:6-8). The covenant relationship between God and Israel is often compared to that of husband and wife. It was to be a relationship of mutual love and respect. God promised His grace and every blessing to His people (Exodus 19:5,6; 20:6), and the nation (the wife) vowed allegiance, loyalty and obedience (Exodus 19:8; 20:19). But Israel had become a harlot, disloyal to her husband and lord (Hosea 1:2b). Hosea was to show Israel the terrible wickedness of her sin, and call her back to her true God.

2. Nature of sin (3:1). As Gomer had sinned against Hosea, so had Israel sinned against God. It was the sin of unfaithfulness, of adultery. But sin is more than just the outward act, it is a thing of the heart (Matthew 15:18,19). It is a perversion of the will. Gomer's sin, Israel's sin, our sin, is always a matter of the heart (Jeremiah 17:9).

What is it to sin against God? Is it to lie or steal or murder? These are only outward manifestations of sin, symptoms of the rottenness within. To sin against God is to refuse to fear, love and trust Him above all things. It is giving our love and allegiance and loyalty to other gods. It is to turn away from the One who loves us and try to find happiness somewhere else.

What did Hosea want of Gomer? He did not want only a housekeeper or servant, but a wife, one who would enter into a full and loving relationship with him. That is what God wants of us and that is why He asks first for our heart (love, loyalty), not service, money, etc.

3. Nature of God's love. God grieved over Israel just as He grieves over wayward sinners today. Sin always brings pain and grief—to the sinner, to those nearby, and to God. If God's love is so great, His grief is also great. He is a God of infinite love—and grief.

But God says to Hosea, "Go again, love a woman who is loved by her companion, an adulteress" (3:1). Hosea is to love Gomer even as the Lord loves Israel who has committed adultery by loving other gods. Hosea never ceased to love his unfaithful wife. She had despised him, wronged him in the worst possible way, scorned and rejected him—but he still loved her. He did not divorce her or put her away. God's love for the sinner is a love that will not let us go. But this love of God, as seen in Hosea, is not a love that simply overlooks sin. God's love is a faithful, cleansing and sanctifying love (Ephesians 5:26,27). Hosea continued to provide for his wife, just as God continues to provide for our needs even when we are unfaithful.

God's love is a redeeming love. Hosea one day has opportunity to buy Gomer back. He picks up this bit of human wreckage that sin has discarded. He buys her for fifteen pieces of silver and some grain and brings her home again. The covenant was renewed (3:3), each promising love and loyalty to each other. God does not give up; He will not throw us away. He has bought us back, not with silver or grain, but with His own blood.

4. The meaning for Israel (3:4-5). All idols and all comfortable forms of idolatry would be taken away from Israel. Deprived of her religious heritage, Israel would be exiled to foreign lands, ruled by foreign kings, surrounded by foreign worship. She would be like a lost sinner, dependent and enslaved to another power. Yet this severe punishment was intended for her greater good and welfare. God would lead her through this time, not to destroy her, but to woo and win her (2:16-23).

Israel will return and seek the Lord (3:5). She will come trembling because of sin, yet trusting in God's goodness and lovingkindness—a knowledge that overcomes fear. For Israel, as well as for us, this turning to God's goodness (conversion) is a work of God's grace alone. If His goodness did not awaken and create faith in

Him, our sorrow would be a sorrow unto death. By grace, it becomes a sorrow to life. God's kindness still leads to repentance (Romans 2:4).

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome

Be present and prepared to greet the students as they arrive. Share experiences of God's protection and care and of the joy of having Jesus as King. Be ready to listen to the students' statements of their needs and requests for prayer.

Open with Prayer

- ◆ Thank Jesus for coming to be the Prophet to teach us the way of salvation, the Priest Who offered Himself to God so we could be saved, and our King to rule over His Kingdom and keep us as His own.
- ◆ Thank God most of all that Jesus came to be our Redeemer.
- ◆ Ask for God's guidance and help as we listen and learn today. Pray that He will keep us from distractions and whatever would prevent us from paying attention to God's Word and allowing God's Word to work in our hearts.

Recite Memory Work

Listen to students recite their memory work:

From the Bible: Revelation 11:15b

And

From the Catechism: And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From where He shall come to judge the living and the dead."

Add: And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; . . . *What does this mean?*

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true Man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord;...

Review

ASK Who can recite Revelation 11:15b? Call on a volunteer, then lead the class in reciting the verse together. **SAY** This verse comes from Revelation, the book in the Bible that teaches us about heaven. There a song of praise is being sung to Jesus. What does this verse say about Jesus? (*The Kingdoms of*

the world are the Kingdoms of Christ, of Jesus.) If the Kingdoms belong to Jesus, what does that make Jesus? (*The King.*) **ASK** What do you remember about last Sunday's lesson. **ASK** the review questions: What do you remember about King David? (*He defeated Israel's enemies, killed Goliath, helped King Saul, and wrote many Psalms.*) What did God promise David about one of his descendants? (*He would be King over God's Kingdom and bring salvation to the world.*) Who was the King that brought salvation to the world and to us? (*Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.*) What did Jesus do for you as your King? (*Defeated sin and death and delivered you from these enemies.*)

Introduce Wall Words

redeemed—

despite—

rejected—

committing—

Introduce the Lesson

SAY Turn in your books to Lesson 6 and read the lesson title. **ASK** What do you think this lesson will be about? Allow students to give their ideas. **ASK** Have you ever heard the word, redeemed? How about the word, Redeemer? Where have you seen that word? (*Yes, on the cover of this book, which says, God the Son is our Redeemer.*) Do you think this lesson will teach us more about what that word means? We learned before that it means something like Savior. But this lesson will teach us more about that word and what it means. Who redeemed you, according to the title? (*Jesus redeemed you.*) **ASK** Do you know what a slave is? A long time ago there were slaves in our country. (*Landowners bought slaves to work on their farms.*) A good slave cost a lot of money. But the life of a slave wasn't good. A slave had to work for his master and do whatever his master said. Sometimes slaves were beaten or were separated from their families. Show a handful of silver coins. **ASK** Do you think a slave could be bought for this much silver? Let's see how much it weighs. (*Weigh coins on the scale. Have a student read the weight.*) **SAY** Let's be sure to remember how many ounces these silver coins weigh and we'll see later how much the slave in our lesson cost.

Teach the Lesson

ASK Has anyone heard the story, "The Boat Twice Owned?" This story will help us understand what the word redeem means. Ask a student to read the story to the class. After the reading, **ASK** What did the boy mean when he said his boat was "twice owned?" (*He owned his boat twice. The first time he owned it because he had made it.*) **ASK** What did he have to do to own his boat again, after he had lost it? (*He had to buy it back.*) What word means to buy something back? (*Redeem*) **SAY** Let's read the story and find out who the slave was and who it was that bought her back. **READ** the first part of the story to the class. **ASK** Who are the characters in the story? (*Hosea, God's prophet, and his wife, Gomer.*) Let's read the next paragraph and see what happened to Gomer. **READ** and **ASK** What did Gomer do? (*She left her husband, Hosea, and her children to commit adultery.*) **SAY** The Bible doesn't tell us exactly what happened. The whole story is written in the book of the prophet, Hosea, but most of it is in difficult language, and is about what God wanted to teach His people, Israel, through what happened to Hosea and Gomer. Gomer left her loving husband and children and went to be with other men. They didn't love her as Hosea did, and weren't kind to her. Finally, she was sold as a slave as we see in the picture and her husband, Hosea, is redeeming her, buying her back. **SAY** In the book of Hosea, chapter 3:1-2, we see why Hosea redeemed Gomer. Let's find it in the Bible and read it. **HELP** the students find the passage and **READ** the verses with them. **ASK** Who told Hosea to redeem Gomer? (*God did. Hosea loved Gomer. God wanted Hosea to love her and redeem her.*) Let's read the rest of the story from the student book. **READ** the remainder of the story. **ASK** How much did Hosea pay for Gomer when he redeemed her? (*6 ounces of silver and*

about 10 bushels of grain.) God wanted to teach His people that He would redeem them, too. Let's see what He wants to teach us. **SAY** How are we like the little boat? (*The boat belonged to the boy who made it. We belong to God because He created us and takes care of us. The boat was lost when it blew away. We became lost—all people became lost because they turned away from God. You and I don't fear, love and trust in God above all things. We need to be redeemed.*) **ASK** Why did God send His Son, Jesus, to be the redeemer of the world? (*Because of our sins. Because of our sins, we were lost from God. We needed to be redeemed.*) **ASK** Did Jesus redeem us with gold, silver, or grain? (*No, we were redeemed with something much more precious, much more valuable.*) What was the price He paid to redeem us? (*His holy and precious blood, precious because He was perfectly holy and sinless. It was precious because He was God's only Son, and God loved Him very much. When God gave Jesus to die for us, He gave up His precious, only Son.*) **SAY** When Jesus gave so much to redeem us—to buy us back so we could belong to God again—we would think that everybody would believe and be redeemed. But they don't. **ASK** Why are people lost? (*They refuse to believe God's Word. Some people do not want to be redeemed from sin. They reject God's love. They refuse to be twice owned by God.*) **SAY** Not everybody rebels against God. Jesus died to redeem you. He wants you to believe in Him as your Savior. If you are no longer living close to Jesus, you need to realize how terrible it is to be out of fellowship with Him. You need to remember the great price Jesus paid to save your soul. When this happens we feel great sorrow and shame for our sins. But when you tell Jesus you are sorry for your sins and need Him to be your Savior He will forgive your sins. Then you will know that you belong to Him. You will be "twice owned." You will enjoy fellowship with Jesus again.

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Memory Work

BIBLE VERSE— Isaiah 43:1

But now, thus says the LORD, your Creator, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine!"

CATECHISM—**READ**

The Second Article of Redemption

And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; . . .

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true Man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord; who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, . . .

Review the Second Article of the Creed. **ASK** What part of the Second Article shows that Jesus is True God? (*Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit*) What part teaches that Jesus is True Man? (*Born of the Virgin Mary*) What part tells how He redeemed us? (*Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. He descended into hell.*) What teaches

that God accepted Jesus' sacrifice so that we can be saved? (*The third day He rose again from the dead—ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty*) What part teaches us that He will come again to take those who love and trust Him to heaven? (*From thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.*)

Activity Pages

Activity 1—Think Carefully

ANSWERS

1. True; 2. False, *faithful*; 3. True; 4. False; Hosea *continued* loving Gomer; 5. True; 6. False; Redeem means to *buy back*; 7. False; *all* people need to be redeemed; 8. False; *sometimes*; 9. True; 10. True

Activity 2—Thought Questions

ANSWERS

1. to buy back;
2. a thing can be redeemed by us, human beings; a person can only be redeemed by the blood of Christ;
3. a. they refuse to believe God's Word and they love sin, b. they start out believing in God but little by little wander away from Him.

Activity 3—We Are Healed

ANSWERS

1. (J)ES(U)S
2. (WO)OD
3. BO(DY)
4. GOME(R)
5. (P)E(T)ER
6. (G)OMER

POWER OF SIN

CLOSING THE LESSON

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, we thank You for paying the price to buy us back to God. Thank You for being our Redeemer. Give us Your grace so that we will not be like the people who don't want to be "twice owned." Keep us so that we won't wander away from You. Forgive our sins and help us to live close to You everyday. But if any one of us has gone away from You and is living in sin help us to know we are lost and in great danger. And then help us to ask You to forgive all of our sins and take us back as Your very own child. We thank You, Jesus, that You will always forgive us when we truly repent of our sins. In the name of Jesus, our Redeemer. Amen.

Assignment

Remind the students to complete unfinished pages and review memory verses and catechism.

Lesson 7

No Longer Condemned

Bible Lesson: Matthew 8:1-4, Luke 17:12-19

Memory Verse: Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. *Romans 8:1*

Enrichment Memory Verse: Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. *Psalms 51:1-2*

Catechism Memory Work: And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; . . .
What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true Man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord; who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, . . .

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach:

- ✦ The student will understand what it means to be "lost and condemned."
- ✦ The student will understand that all people in the world are lost and condemned until God calls them to repent and believe in Jesus, their Savior.
- ✦ The student will be convinced of his own sinfulness and great need of a Savior.
- ✦ The student will be assured that Jesus is the Savior they need and will confess their sins and trust Jesus as Savior from sin and judgment.

Prepare Materials:

Along with the regular materials needed for class, you will need the following items for this lesson:

- ◆ Gavel representing or similar to a judge's gavel.

- ◆ Map of the Old Testament Holy Land, preferably one showing Abraham's journeys.
- ◆ Pictures from the student book Lesson 7.

Prayer Preparation

1. Pray for your own preparation to lead your students to a knowledge of their sin and need. Pray that God's Word may convince you of your own sin and need.
2. Pray for your students by name. Thank God for those who know and trust Jesus as their Savior. Thank Him for the opportunity to witness to the students. Pray that God will do a work in them through the law and the gospel.
3. Pray for the coming Sunday. Pray for the class session and for God's protection and guidance, that His work may not be hindered by disruption or by inattention.

BIBLE BACKGROUND

A. Bible Study

In the Old Testament great care was taken with the items to be used in the Temple. They were sanctified, set apart, for special use in that sacred place. As believers in Christ, we too have been given new life and are made holy by God. This is a declaration of God by which we are justified; being made children of God. The work of the Holy Spirit graciously does not end at that point but continues as God does His great work of sanctification. The Savior does this through His Word and Sacraments.

Even as we recognize God's work of transforming us we note that this work will not be finished in this world. In fact, we pray that God would bring this good work to completion at the day of Christ Jesus (Philippians 1:6). We don't claim to be perfect or sinless. Only Jesus was perfect. We humbly proclaim as the Scriptures teach us that as believers we are simultaneously saint and sinner. In the eyes of God, because of His

declaration we are holy and righteous but our neighbors around us see that we continue to sin. It is a righteousness not our own; it is imputed to us. It is credited to our accounts (Genesis 15:6).

Because of God's declaration we are no longer condemned prisoners but freed children (I John 3). We are also given the promise that the time will come when we are removed even from the presence of sin. But even now we are given freedom. This is what allows for hope, peace, and joy. It is the Gospel that motivates and prompts us to love and care for others.

So as we consider our confession of the 2nd Article we should be aware of how different this is from the norm for people. Many people live lives full of guilt and shame. Others feel broken and helpless because they can see their many failings and mistakes. In the Creed we confess that God has made a proclamation that takes away guilt, shame, and condemnation. As it says in Romans 8:1, "Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

This is not a sweeping of our sins "under the rug" or God "turning a blind eye" to our wickedness. The price was paid. In Washington D.C. the Korean War Memorial has these words etched on its wall: "Freedom Is Not Free." That memorial points to the high cost of protecting and defending a nation. When we confess the 2nd Article of the Apostles' Creed we are pointing to the high price that was paid by Christ for the sins of the whole world.

"...you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, *the blood of Christ*" (I Peter 1:18-19).

B. Creed Study

A convicted criminal, condemned to death and living on death row, might best understand what it means to be condemned. He will suffer the full wrath of the law unless someone intervenes. He would be ready to hear and accept any word of pardon. A sinner apart from God's grace is literally on death row; he is lost and condemned. He is a child of "God's wrath" (Ephesians 2:3). All he can expect is judgment and death, the full force of the wrath of God.

The Wrath of God

Wrath is a quality of a holy and just and righteous God, without which God would cease to be fully righteous and just, and His love would degenerate into sentimentality.

God's wrath is directed at all sin and evil, and therefore against all sinners who continue in their sinful ways. They will suffer the natural consequences of their sin (Romans 1:18-32), and they will suffer eternal death (John 3:36). Our only hope and salvation is to find refuge in Christ (John 3:16; Romans 8:1).

It is the law of God that shows us our sin and the wrath of God toward sin. It is the gospel that tells us of God's mercy and grace for sinners, that they need no longer be objects of His wrath but recipients of His grace in Jesus Christ (John 3:16). The love of

God for sinners is seen in Jesus, whom He sent to redeem us "lost and condemned creatures." Jesus took our place on the cross, on "death row," and died in our place. He took the full wrath of God upon Himself, delivering us from the wrath to come (Romans 5:9; Thessalonians 1:10). On the other hand, the wrath of God remains on all who do not obey the Son or believe in Him (John 3:18, 36).

Man's sin and disobedience must always be followed by divine wrath and judgment. These times of judgment, or "days of wrath," come periodically, as seen in the examples of the flood (Genesis 6-8) and the destruction of Sodom (Genesis 18-19). But at the same time, God's wrath is always tempered with mercy, giving time for people to repent and be saved. When punishment is delayed for that reason, people don't always understand God's mercy, failing to see that His kindness and patience are intended to lead to repentance (Romans 2:4).

The Flood (Genesis 6-8)

Judgment

Today's stories show how utterly helpless we are to save ourselves. In every case God must "reach down" to intervene and deliver the lost and condemned creatures. The great flood (Genesis 6-8) was God's first full-scale exercise of judgment on a sinful world. Moses writes, "the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Genesis 6:5).

Jesus verifies the fact that all evil comes from the heart (Matthew 15:18,19). And Paul knows that "nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh" (Romans 7:18).

The result of this evil in the heart is that God says He will "blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky" (Genesis 6:7). Just as God later informs Abraham of His plans (Genesis 18:17), so He now tells Noah, "I am bringing the flood of water upon the earth, to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life,...everything that is on the earth shall perish"(Genesis 6:17).

Mercy

Sin would have destroyed them all were it not for the mercy of God to them through a righteous man. God showed His patience through Noah, a "preacher of righteousness" (II Peter 2:5). If as "few" as eight souls were saved (I Peter 3:20), seven of them owed their life to a single one (Hebrews 11:7). But God was patient with all men for 120 years while Noah built the ark, an act which also condemned the world because of its unbelief and unrighteousness.

The Doom of Sodom (Genesis 18:16-33)

Judgment

Now God's wrath is visited on Sodom, a city which exemplifies the total depravity of man (Genesis 19:1-11). But here, too, God makes His intent known to a righteous man. This time He doesn't wait 120 years, but He does give Abraham an opportunity to plead for the city. Even this brief time of prayer is a time of grace and patience.

The Lord and two angels have been visiting Abraham (18:1-15). As they leave, Abraham sees them off and they look down toward Sodom (18:16). The following conversation (18:17-21) establishes the need and the effectiveness of Abraham's prayer and the Lord's kindness and patience.

The conversation is between friends. The question, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do?" (18:17) proves Abraham to be the "friend of God" (Isaiah 41:8) by Jesus' own criterion (John 15:15). The expression "I have chosen (known) him" (18:19) re-emphasizes the relationship. It means "I have made him My friend."

It is the Lord who takes the initiative in this relationship with Abraham, as He does with all His children. From what we know of God in Scripture it must always be God's choice. We do not say, "Lord, I'd like to have a part in this." He chooses us (Deuteronomy 7:6-9; John 15:16; Ephesians 1:4). God seeks and chooses us in Christ. Just as Abraham communes with God here, so in Jesus we have the same access to the Father and His grace (Hebrews 4:14-16).

The "outcry of Sodom" (18:20,21) may mean the outcry against it or simply the crying evil of the place. Either way it reflects the heart of man (Genesis 6:5; Matthew 15:18,19) and it reminds us that God's judgments are well-weighed and perfectly informed. He does not act without knowing all the facts, or without perfect justice. Abraham realizes this when he says, "Shall not the judge of all the earth do right?" (18:25c).

Mercy

As the two angels turn toward Sodom (18:22), the Lord now waits for Abraham to speak, having already said what he will do. This is a time of mercy as God waits for the righteous man to pray.

The prayer itself is simple, but unique (18:23-32). It would be easy to say the prayer comes close to haggling, or bargaining, with God. A better word is "exploring." Abraham carefully moves ahead with faith, humility, and confidence in God's goodness.

Abraham's prayer shows a love for the whole city, not just for Lot.

This prayer should prompt us to pray for the lost and condemned people around us.

God's will is that they be saved (I Timothy 2:4). The outcry is great today, too, and God will one day judge the world. But in the meantime He is patient and kind. Today is still a day of grace and that grace comes through Jesus who came to save the world (John 3:16-18).

Abraham knows that God is just and will do the right thing here (18:25). So he pleads that Sodom might be spared if some righteous people are found there. When sin is ripe for judgment, God will not spare the unrepentant. But He will deliver His covenant people out of the judgment, those living in fellowship with Him through the blood of Christ.

The law condemns (Romans 3:20) as it shows us our sin and the wrath of God toward sin. The law and its condemnation ought to strike fear and terror into our hearts, a holy fear of God that will drive us to Christ. That work of the law must begin early in life.

C. F. W. Walther writes in "Law and Gospel" that "even little children have to pass through these experiences of

anguish and terror in the presence of the law. The reason why so many imagine that they can pass for really good Christians is because their parents reared them to be self-righteous Pharisees; they never made them aware of the fact that they are poor, miserable sinners."

In Adam we are poor, miserable sinners; lost and condemned. But in Christ there is no condemnation (Romans 8:1). Why? Because Jesus Christ bore our sins in His body on the cross. At the right time He died for us (Romans 5:9). The law of double jeopardy states that a man cannot be tried twice for the same crime. Since Jesus paid the penalty for our sins, when we are "in Christ" God cannot condemn us. In Christ God "reached down" to take us from "death row" and give us safe refuge in Christ.

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome

If you use memory verse cards in class for memorization, encourage early arriving students to review previously learned verses. Puzzles of the Apostles Creed would also be good review activities.

Open with Prayer

Encourage students to participate in opening prayer with sentence prayers.

Conclude with a prayer asking God for the Holy Spirit's guidance in teaching each student and for the teacher in understanding what God has to teach on this day.

Recite Memory Work

Listen to students recite their memory work:

From the Bible: Isaiah 43:1

And

From the Catechism: And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From where He shall come to judge the living and the dead."

Add: And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; . . . *What does this mean?*

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true Man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord; who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, . . .

Review

Discuss the following questions on Lesson 6: **ASK** Who were Hosea and Gomer? What do you remember about them? (*Hosea was a prophet of*

God whose wife, Gomer, committed adultery and was sold as a slave. Hosea bought her back, redeemed her, for 6 ounces of gold and ten bushels of grain.) Why did God have Hosea redeem Gomer? (*To teach His people that they had left Him and needed to be redeemed; to teach His people that He loved them and would redeem them.*) What does the word redeem mean? (*Buy back someone who has gone away from God.*) What did Jesus pay to redeem us? (*His holy and precious blood, His innocent suffering and death.*)

Introduce Wall Words

leprosy—
progressive—
condemned—
shunned—
contaminated—
gratefulness—
hopelessness—

Introduce the Lesson

SHOW the gavel or mallet used to represent a gavel. **ASK** Do you know what a judge uses a gavel for? (*He raps with it to call for order in the court; he may use it to announce his sentence on a person who has been found guilty of a crime.*) A judge may say, "I sentence you to prison for the rest of your life." Or if a crime is very serious, a person may be sentenced to die. Then we say he has been condemned to die. **SAY** Find Lesson 7 in your book and read the title aloud. . . "No Longer Condemned." That sounds as if someone has been condemned and then pardoned. In this lesson we'll find out about being condemned.

Teach the Lesson

This section is still in progress.

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Memory Work

BIBLE VERSE—Romans 8:1

Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

CATECHISM—READ

The Second Article of Redemption

And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; . . .

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true Man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord; who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, . . .

Review the first part of the meaning. Then learn "...Who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature..." What is a lost and condemned creature? (*a person who is helpless to save himself, who is condemned because of his sin.*) Have the class recite the meaning from the beginning through today's portion. **ASK** Who does this meaning say has redeemed me? (*Jesus Christ, True God and True Man.*) Who is my Lord? (*Jesus Christ, who has redeemed me.*) Complete memorization.

Activity Pages

Activity 1— Test Your Memory

ANSWERS

1. manifested, God, begotten, world, live, Him
2. Word, flesh, glory, grace, truth
3. God, fathers, prophets, ways, spoken
4. Lamb, God, sin, world
5. world, kingdom, Lord, Christ, reign
6. Creator, redeemed, name
7. condemnation, those, Christ

1. John 1:14
2. Isaiah 43:1
3. Revelation
4. 1 John 4:9

Activity 2

ANSWERS

1. 1
2. B
3. 5
4. A
5. C
6. 6
7. E
8. 2
9. 3
10. D

CLOSING THE LESSON

Closing Prayer

Father in heaven, thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, to die for us when we were ungodly and didn't know You. Thank you for giving us Your Word so we can confess our sins and trust in You. We pray that everyone here will listen to Your warning and let You rescue him. Help us to lead other people to know Jesus too. We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

Assignment

1. Remind the students to share this lesson with someone who needs to know Jesus.
2. Remind the students to complete unfinished activities and practice memory work every day.

Lesson 8

Jesus, Victorious Over Enemies

Bible Lesson: Matthew 12:22-29

Memory Verse: But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
1 Corinthians 15:57

Enrichment Memory Verse: Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?" John 11:25-26

Catechism Memory Work: And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; . . .
What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true Man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord; who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, bought me and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; . . .

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach:

- ✦ The student will recognize sin, death and the devil as his greatest enemies and will, therefore, want to live close to Jesus Christ in order to be kept from these enemies.
- ✦ The student will know that Jesus Christ makes the believer free from sin's rule, from eternal death and from the power of the devil over all who do not trust in Christ.
- ✦ The student will confess His sins and trust confidently in Jesus to rescue him from these enemies.

Prepare Materials:

Along with the regular materials needed for class, you will need the following items for this lesson:

- ◆ Quarter-long project materials (listed in Introductory section): for this, Lesson 8, have the students add onto the previous messages the following: "bought me, and freed me from all my sins, from death, and from the power of the devil"

Prayer Preparation

1. Pray that you may become sensitive to the deceptiveness of sin, and may trust wholly in Jesus' protection from sin and Satan.
2. Pray for your pupils. Pray that each one may be aware of the deceitfulness of sin and of the workings of Satan. Pray that each pupil may be turned to Jesus and trust wholly in Him.
3. Pray for the coming Sunday's lesson. Pray that Satan may be restrained from distracting the pupils from what God would have them learn.

BIBLE BACKGROUND

A. Bible Study

In the culture at large, people sometimes get the impression that Jesus and Satan are on equal standing. Perhaps you have seen a picture of Jesus and Satan about to have an arm wrestling match. Or maybe you have seen the Taoist teaching in which good and evil are portrayed as equal (eg. the yin-yang symbol). This is to fundamentally misunderstand the Bible's teaching about Satan and, even more significantly, misunderstands Jesus Christ's power and authority. Christ is all-powerful.

Perhaps the devil thought he could somehow match up against the Son of God when he tempted Jesus in the desert (Matthew 4). But as that text shows, Satan was defeated at that encounter and ordered to leave. In fact, whenever the Scripture shows a confrontation between the Savior and Satan there is only one outcome. The defeat of Satan.

Let there be no confusion, we have real enemies. Sin is an enemy. It resides in us. So we call our old flesh an enemy. It has corrupted us in such a profound and powerful way we are helpless against it. Sin is rebellion against God and brings hurt and harm to those around us as well as ourselves. There would be only defeat in store for us if we battled sin on our own. But Jesus has set us free from the slavery of sin.

Death is an enemy. It is not a friend. The world will often claim it is death that gives peace, removes troubles, etc through abortion, suicide, or euthanasia. This is a lie. Our friend is Jesus who has defeated death for us. Yes we will die, unless the Lord returns first. With that in mind, we recognize that we have a friend who has already died so that we will be brought from this life into eternity; to eternal life.

Satan is also an enemy. The devil's power, which we would agree is greater than ours, is nothing in comparison to Jesus'. He accuses us, pointing out our sin. Satan has come to steal and kill and destroy (John 10:10). We must remember that the devil is a created being; Jesus is the only begotten of the Father. As we confess in the Nicene Creed, "And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made." The book of Revelation reveals to us the culmination of Christ's victory. We see in Revelation 20:10 the devil being cast into the lake of fire, a place of eternal torment. There is no back and forth like an arm wrestling competition. Satan is no match for the victorious Christ.

Sin, death, and the devil have been defeated by Christ. We who believe in Him are granted the privilege of being lead in triumph with Him (2 Corinthians 2:14). We enjoy the benefits of Christ's victory now and for all eternity.

B. Creed Study

If we are not "in Christ," we are still under condemnation and death (Romans 8:1), slaves of sin and the devil. Christ our High Priest has redeemed us. He has bought us and freed us from all sin, death and the power of the devil, forces that rule over all those in whom Christ does not live and rule. He has defeated those enemies by His death and resurrection. But personal redemption means that Christ redeems and saves only those who believe in Him and have been baptized into His name, and are today walking in fellowship with Him (Acts 2:38; I John 1:7-9).

Christ redeems us from sin

For one thing, Christ has redeemed us from the guilt and punishment of sin (Catechism #172). By fulfilling the law in our place and paying the penalty of all our sin, Jesus has taken away the condemnation that our sins brought on us. In Him we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins (Colossians 1:14).

But for daily living and victory, Christ has also broken the hold that sin has on us. Sin no longer rules in our hearts; Jesus does (Romans 6:11-14). There is in every one of us an inborn love of sinning. We like to listen to the tempter. A father was praying with his little girl at bedtime and suggested she pray that Jesus make her a good and obedient little girl. She resisted, saying, "I don't want to say that." "Why not?" asked her father. "Because sometimes I want to be good and sometimes I want to be mean." It is that "wanting to be mean" that causes so much distress for the Christian. Even the Apostle Paul struggled with this, but found victory in Christ (Romans 7:18-25).

Christ redeems us from death

Death is another cruel master and enemy that came when Adam and Eve sinned. Now in Adam all die. When the body dies the soul that is not "in Christ" goes into a dark and hopeless eternity. When Jesus rose from the dead He made eternal life a certainty for all who believe in Him. With Christ the grave can only hold the body for a short time; the soul goes home to God and at the final resurrection we shall arise with new bodies and will always be with the Lord (I Corinthians 15:54; I Thessalonians 4:13-18).

Christ redeemed us from the power of the devil

Satan is the god of this world, and until Christ came he generally ruled as he wished in all nations outside of Israel. But Jesus defeated Satan in the temptations (Matthew 4:1-11), on the cross (John 12:31), and on Easter morning (Hebrews 2:14). Jesus is where the kingdom of God is, and Satan has no power over the child of God, unless the believer yields himself to temptation. Jesus promised to be present where His people are. He has given to His church the saving means of grace through the Word and the sacraments. He gave believers the Holy Spirit to lead them in the Truth. No one and no thing can snatch us out of His hand (John 10:28), or separate us from the love of God in Christ (Romans 8:38-39).

Jesus does indeed rescue us and give us victory over the enemy (I Corinthians 15:57). While Jesus walked on earth He fought all three enemies in one form or another. He saw and wept over the effects of sin that left people distressed, downcast, lost and weary. He encountered death and wept at the grave of His friend, but also raised Lazarus and two other people from the dead. Perhaps the most obvious encounter with the enemy in Scripture is His casting out of demons, literally setting people free from the power of Satan. Demon possession is only one of many ways in which Satan afflicts and oppresses us. It shows the reality of a devil and demons and the destruction they bring.

Rescued From Satan (Matthew 12:22-29)

The accusation (12:22-24)

The man brought to Jesus was certainly in sad shape, for he was blind, unable to speak, and possessed with a demon. Jesus delivered the man, something the Pharisees could not do. Instead of rejoicing that God had sent a Redeemer, the religious leaders were seeking to discredit Christ's work and character. Imagine people being so blind that they could not distinguish a work of God from a work of Satan. No wonder we need to discern the spirits (I John 4:1ff).

They accused Jesus of casting out demons by the power of Beelzebub, the ruler of demons, saying that Jesus was actually in league with the devil. They did not agree with Nicodemus' evaluation of His miracles (John 3:2). "Beelzebub" was one of the names for the Philistine god Baal (II Kings 1:1-3); it means "lord of flies." A variant is "Beelzebul" (12:24) and means "lord of the dwelling" and ties in with Christ's illustration (12:29, 43-45).

The refutation (12:25-29)

Jesus points out that their statement is illogical and impractical. First of all, why would Satan fight against himself and divide his own kingdom? Note that Jesus believed in a real devil who has a kingdom that is strong and united (Ephesians 2:1-3; 6:10ff). In the second place, their charges were self-incriminating. There were Jewish exorcists (see Acts 19:13-16) who apparently were successful. By whose power did they cast out demons? (12:27). If it were by Satan's power, they were in league with the devil. Yet no Pharisee would ever admit that. On the contrary, Christ's miracles show that the kingdom of *God* is present, not the kingdom of *Satan*.

And thirdly, their accusation was really an admission of Jesus' power, for He could not defeat Satan unless He was stronger than Satan. Jesus says that Satan has a "house," which seems to refer to the body of the man who was possessed (12:29, 43-44). Satan would not destroy his own house. Jesus pictures Satan as a strong man guarding his house and goods. But Jesus invades Satan's territory, destroys his armor and weapons and claims the spoils (Colossians 2:15; John 12:31-33; I John 3:8). Our Lord has "led captivity captive" (Ephesians 4:8) and set the prisoner free (Luke 4:18). Satan is a defeated enemy.

The application (12:30, 43-45)

Since Jesus is victorious over Satan, we must now stand on one side or the other. It is impossible to be neutral in this spiritual war, for neutrality means standing against Jesus and with the enemy. We are either with God or against Him (12:30).

There are two spiritual forces at work in this world and we must choose between them. Satan is scattering and destroying, Jesus is gathering and building (His people and His Church). Jesus described the danger of neutrality by telling the story of the man and the demons (12:43-45). For some unknown reason the demon leaves his "house" and goes elsewhere. The man's condition improves, but the man did not invite God to come and dwell within. He remained neutral. As a result the demon returned with seven more demons worse than itself and the man is worse off than before.

Jesus does give power to say "no" to sin and to the devil. This is the true freedom which only Jesus can give (John 8:36). God warns us about the danger of temptation, but shows us a way of escape (I Corinthians 10:13; Psalm 119:11). He also offers victory over the daily struggle with Satan (James 4:7,8; I Peter 5:8,9).

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome

Check student books for completion of activity pages. Give help as needed.

Open with Prayer

Ask for prayer topics. Call on students for sentence prayers. Close with a prayer for God's protection during this hour. Pray that God will keep us from our enemies' power over us.

Recite Memory Work

Listen to students recite their memory work:

From the Bible: Romans 8:1

And

From the Catechism: And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From where He shall come to judge the living and the dead."

Add: And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; . . . *What does this mean?*

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true Man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord; who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, . . .

Review

This section is still in progress.

Conduct a quick review drill on Lesson 7. Divide the class into two teams, giving team points for correct answers.

Introduce Wall Words

defeated—

demon-possessed—

accused—

reveals—

Introduce the Lesson

Show the mousetrap. **ASK** How does a mousetrap work? (*Bait the trap, set it.*) If the mouse takes the bait, the trap closes and catches the mouse, unless the mouse is too fast. The purpose of the trap is to trick the mouse into going into the trap and eating

the bait. All traps are meant to trick animals into doing something dangerous. **ASK** Has any person ever tried to trick you into doing something dangerous or against the law? Some kids try to trick others into taking drugs by saying the drugs will make a person smart or popular. Those kids are telling lies. They are trying to "trick" other kids into doing wrong. If we say "trick" maybe we sound as if it's a big joke, but it isn't. It's a deadly "trick." If we believe a lie, we are deceived.

In the Bible Jesus teaches us about someone who tries to deceive us. Jesus calls that deceiver a liar, and the father of lies. Do you know who that liar is? It's the devil. Someone who wants to hurt you in this way is an enemy. Today's lesson teaches us about our enemies and what happens to them.

Teach the Lesson

SAY In this second quarter book we are learning that Jesus, God's Son, is our what? (*He's our Redeemer.*) As our Redeemer, what are some of the things He's done for us? (*He taught us God's way of salvation, paid for our sins, prays for us, and redeemed us so we are no longer condemned.*) Turn to lesson 8 and find out what else He does. (*Jesus is victorious over enemies.*) **ASK** Without looking at your book, can you say what our greatest enemies are? (*sin, death and the devil*) **ASK** Did you know that these were your greatest enemies? Let's read to see what makes sin, death, and the devil such great enemies. **READ** the paragraph to the class. **ASK** Why are these your great enemies? (*They fight against you to try to separate you from God.*) **SAY** Did you know that sometimes devils, or demons as they are called, live right inside people and control them, and make them do all kinds of things that would hurt the person? Today's lesson is about these a demon-possessed man. **ASK** How did Jesus rescue the demon-possessed man in the lesson? (Read Mark 9:14-27) (*He might have said, "Get out of him and leave him alone."*) It was Jesus' powerful Word that delivered the man from his enemy the devil. **SAY** Some people accused Jesus of being the devil's partner. **ASK** What did Jesus do to Satan? (*tied him up.*) **SAY** This same paragraph gives a hint about whether you and I can fight the devil by ourselves. Can we? (*No, because the devil is strong.*) But Jesus is stronger. He has defeated Satan. He can rescue the prisoners. Read and see how Jesus defeated Satan. (*He died on the cross and rose from the dead.*) Because Jesus won over Satan and rose from the dead He can rescue you and keep you safe from Satan. Jesus is stronger than Satan.

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Memory Work

BIBLE VERSE— I Corinthians 15:57

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

CATECHISM—READ

The Second Article of Redemption

And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; . . .

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true Man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord; who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, bought me and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; . . .

Review the first parts of the meaning of the Second Article of the Creed. Read together the part for this lesson: "...bought me and freed me from all my sins, from death, and the power of the devil..."

ASK What is another way of saying "bought me?" (*He redeemed me.*) What do we mean when we say Jesus has "freed me from all my sins.?" When Jesus is our Savior, will we stop sinning? (*No, we still sin but Jesus can give us strength and the desire not to sin.*) And even though our bodies will die, Jesus will raise up from the dead all those who have Him

as their Savior, and they will live with Him in heaven forever.

Activity Pages

Activity 1— Crossword Fun

ANSWERS

Across:

1. *bought*
5. *creed*
7. *life*
8. *partner*
9. *death*
10. *Jesus*
12. *blind*

Down:

1. *believes*
2. *healed*
3. *demon*
4. *amazed*
5. *cross*
6. *devil*
11. *Satan*

Activity 2—Break the Code

ANSWERS

Because it separates me from God.

CLOSING THE LESSON

Closing Prayer

Thank you, Jesus, for reminding us about our great enemies. Help us to hate all sin. We confess our sins and ask You to forgive us. Give us the strength and desire to win over temptation and sin. Thank You that You are stronger than Satan and sin. Amen

Assignment

1. Remind the students to review the lesson and complete anything that is not finished.
2. Challenge the students to share the lesson and to remember to live close to Jesus every day.
3. Remind students about memory work.

Lesson 9

The Suffering Savior

Bible Lesson: Isaiah 53:3-7, Mark 15:6-32

Memory Verse: All we like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him. *Isaiah 53:6*

Enrichment Memory Verse: Knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ. *1 Peter 1:18-19*

Catechism Memory Work: And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; . . .

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true Man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord; who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, bought me and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with silver and gold, but with His holy and precious blood and with His innocent sufferings and death; . . .

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach:

- ✦ The student will understand that it was necessary for Jesus to suffer and die to save us from our sin.
- ✦ The student will appreciate how much it cost Jesus to redeem us.
- ✦ The student will give thanks for Jesus his Savior and will confess his sins and trust Jesus as his own personal Savior.

Prepare Materials:

Along with the regular materials needed for class, you will need the following items for this lesson:

- ◆ Student books and Bibles, pencils; teaching pictures depicting Christ's suffering before

Pilate, on the way to the cross, and on the cross; large steel knitting needle.

- ◆ Quarter-long project materials (listed in Introductory section): for this, Lesson 9, have the students add onto last week's message the following: "not with silver and gold, but with His holy and precious blood, and with His innocent sufferings and death;"

Prayer Preparation

1. Pray that God may make real and clear to you the wonder of Christ's suffering and death for you, so that you might share your love and faith with your students.
2. Pray that your students may be prepared throughout this week for what God wants to teach them. Pray that they may be convinced of their need of a Savior, and that Jesus might be revealed to them as the Savior they need.

BIBLE BACKGROUND

A. Bible Study

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ said, "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). Often when we look around it seems like the Christian Church will crumble under the attacks from her enemies. It looks like the bride of Christ cannot stand against such an onslaught. So Jesus' words are spoken to help His followers understand the animosity that the world has to the truth and righteousness. We are hated because we follow Christ who was hated. We are also assured that the gates of Hell will not prevail against Christ's church (Matthew 16:18).

We are in a world full of suffering. Much of our suffering comes from our sin but at various times we are told believers will suffer for our faith in Christ. To suffer for Christ is a great honor. We are told that if we suffer with Christ we also will be glorified with Him (Romans 8:17). We suffer in this world for various reasons. When Christ suffered, He suffered for us. His sufferings, unlike ours, were redemptive. Our sins were laid on Him and by His wounds we are healed (Isaiah 52:13-53:12). Some atheists have declared that the Father sending the Son to suffer and die is some kind of child abuse. This is foolishness. Our Savior went without complaint or attempts to derail the process (Isaiah 53:7). He humbled Himself to the suffering of the Cross for the joy set before Him (Philippians 2:8, Hebrews 12:2). He knew that through His suffering He was bringing many "sons to glory" (Hebrews 2:10).

The parable of the wicked tenants vividly shows the reaction of the people to God's servants, the prophets and then even to the Son of God. Indeed, Jesus was despised and rejected. The world says that a king shouldn't suffer but should rather be given every comfort; a king shouldn't serve but should be served. But our gracious and merciful God sent His Son for the very purpose of suffering and dying.

Our Gospel text from Mark for this lesson describes in graphic language what was done to Jesus. It was gruesome. But his suffering was not just physical. We also include the burden and suffering of carrying our sins. Jesus, who had never been separated from the Father declared, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:45-46).

We often bring "tribulation" or "trouble" on ourselves through our careless or loveless actions. But Jesus did not suffer because of His own sin even the thief on the cross recognized this. He said to the unrepentant criminal, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man had done nothing wrong" (Luke 23:40-41). What a friend we have in Jesus, the innocent one, the suffering Savior who shed His blood for us.

B. Creed Study

Jesus not only died for us but He also suffered for us, so we speak of the "suffering savior." Merely suffering for sin, of course, would not redeem us, but it is a suffering that leads to death and is inseparable from His death. As the suffering Savior, Jesus continues His priestly work on our behalf.

The Old Testament priest was the mediator between God and man; he alone could officiate at the altar, offer sacrifices for sin, and intercede for the people. The high priest was a type and a prophecy of Christ the true high priest and mediator between God and man.

The Law of Substitution

The Old Testament sin offerings brought to the Lord by the priests on behalf of the people were based on the law of substitution. The animal took the place of the sinner whose sins were transferred to the animal by the laying of hands upon its head (as was done with the scapegoat on the Day of Atonement, Lesson 4).

The law of substitution is a universal law of life. Christ spoke of this when He said, "unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains by itself alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit" (John 12:24). Christ became that grain of wheat and by dying became the life of the sinner, to do what the sinner could not do for himself. Christ also fulfills the law of God for us, the law that we have broken; thereby He becomes our righteousness. Christ also bears our sins on Himself (I Peter 2:24). As the sin bearer, Christ in His death has the same effect for us as if each one had died for his own sin. The difference, of course, is that as God, Jesus' death and blood have power to atone for our sin.

The Suffering Servant Isaiah 53:3-7

The substitutionary death of Christ (vicarious atonement) is seen in the suffering servant of Isaiah 53. This passage, more clearly than any other, describes what Jesus will do. Here we see why Jesus was despised and rejected by men.

The writer is surprised that there are so few believers to hear (53:1), then goes on to describe the servant's life (53:2ff). The servant lived the entire course of his earthly life in the presence of God as he "grew up before Him," and was kept in the power of God. To men, however, the servant appeared as a tender twig growing on a tree, which men cut off because it appears to take life from the tree. He is also described as a root out of parched ground (note also Isaiah 11:1).

The dry (parched) ground refers to the lowly conditions and background in which the servant was to appear. He has neither form or glory. Things that we think are necessary for leadership were not found in Him. Our judgment is according to outward appearances and is not accurate. This verse does not describe the physical appearance of Jesus (the Bible never does). Rather, it shows that His appearance was such that man would completely misjudge Him.

He is a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief (53:3). It is not a picture of one whose body is weakened by physical sickness. The word "grief" or "sickness" here stands for sin. Men simply did not give attention to Him (John 1:11). It was a form of unbelief.

In his commentary on Isaiah, J. Edward Young writes, "The unbelief that Isaiah here depicts is the same unbelief found all about us today. Men say pleasant and complimentary things about the Lord of Glory. They will praise His ethics, His teaching, declare that He was a good man and a great prophet, the only one who has answers to the social problems that today confront the world. They will not, however, acknowledge that they are sinners, deserving of everlasting punishment, and that the death of Christ was a vicarious sacrifice, designed to satisfy the justice of God and to reconcile an offended God to the sinner. Men will not receive what God says concerning His Son. Today also, the Servant is despised and rejected of men, and men do not esteem Him."

Verses 4-5 clearly picture how Jesus, the suffering servant, became our substitute. Though characterized by griefs and sorrows, they are not his own. He bears what is ours. He not only became a fellow sufferer with us, but bore the sin that is the cause of the suffering. The thought is that because we sinned, He suffered; He is pierced, crushed, chastened, scourged. If this is to have any meaning for us, the servant must be one who was himself utterly free of sin and iniquity, or else his vicarious suffering could be of no help to us. Unlike the Old Testament high priest, Jesus did not have any sin of His own to atone for.

Verse 6 shows us a new picture of why the servant had to suffer. Like a flock of sheep that has lost its shepherd, all of us have gone astray. This verse has a beautiful balance of law and gospel. The first half gives the reason for the servant's suffering (our willful straying and sinful ways), and the second part says the Lord Himself made the servant suffer by placing on Him the iniquity that belonged to us all. The law tells us what we have done; the gospel tells us the good news of what God has done for us in Christ.

Mark 15:6-20

The suffering of Christ is concisely summarized in the creed as He "suffered under Pontius Pilate." It was part of "the fullness of time" (Galatians 4:4) that the Romans ruled over Palestine when Jesus was crucified. Pontius Pilate was governor over Judea. Jesus was crucified under Roman law, not under the Mosaic or Jewish law. The Mosaic law provided that the body of one who had been put to death be hung on a tree to emphasize the shameful character of the crime committed (Deuteronomy 21:22-23). The Romans crucified people alive.

Unspeakable as the physical sufferings were, His spiritual sufferings were even greater. He knew His road to Calvary led through Gethsemane, and He was prepared to meet what was in store for Him there. But even though Jesus was prepared, He suffered physical, emotional and spiritual anguish in the garden that went far beyond anything we would be able to endure. He sweat blood (Luke 2:44) and prayed for deliverance asking, "Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as thou wilt" (Matthew 26:39).

It was under Pilate that Jesus was "despised," "oppressed" and "afflicted" (Isaiah 53:3, 7). The soldiers mocked Him as king (Mark 15:17,18), beat Him and spit on Him (15:19). Only after such humiliation did they lead Him out to be crucified.

Christ demonstrates even in the manner in which He died that He took upon Himself the curse of the most shameful and degrading sin. No sinner, not even the greatest (which is any of us) should ever be able to face Christ and say, "You did not die for my sins."

He suffered for us, and He died, "the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God" (I Peter 3:18).

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome

Set the mood for this important lesson by showing your care for each student and your thankfulness to your Lord and Savior.

Open with Prayer

Elicit prayer topics from the students, by reminding them of their Redeemer who paid the price to save lost and condemned creatures, including each of

you. Encourage prayer participation. Close with a prayer of petition that God will help you and your students to see and know Jesus' suffering and death.

Recite Memory Work

Listen to students recite their memory work:

From the Bible: 1 Corinthians 15:57

And

From the Catechism: And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From where He shall come to judge the living and the dead."

Add: And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; . . .
What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true Man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord; who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, bought me and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; . . .

Review

Why was our lesson entitled, "No Longer Condemned?" (*Jesus redeemed us, bought us and freed us by His death on the cross so our sins could be taken away. We could repent of our sins, trust in Jesus, and be saved. We then would be "no longer condemned."*)

Introduce Wall Words

oppressed—
afflicted—
despised—
forsaken—
demanding—
scourged—
jeered—
mocked—
agony—

Introduce the Lesson

SAY The story is told of a young boy who lived with his grandmother because he didn't have any parents to take care of him. She was a good woman who loved the Lord Jesus and cared for her grandson. She made her living by knitting sweaters

and other things for people. (Show the knitting needles.) The grandmother did her best for her grandson and tried to lead him to live a good life. But the boy got mixed up with some friends who got him started stealing things. You see, he was mixed up with a couple of our great enemies, as we learned in the last lesson. He was tempted by bad company and by sin.

After trying many things to get her grandson to stop his stealing, the grandmother decided she'd have to try something drastic. She told her grandson, "If you don't stop stealing, I will have to heat my needles in the fire and stab your stealing hand with a hot needle." The boy looked scared, but he still couldn't stop his stealing when he was tempted by the other boys and his own thoughts about what he could do with the money he'd steal.

Finally, the grandmother found out he was still stealing. She took the boy's hand and then put her sharp needle into the fire to get it hot. When the needle was hot, she held it over her grandson's hand, then suddenly thrust the needle into her own hand. She took the punishment that her grandson deserved. When the boy saw how much she loved him, he confessed his sins and accepted Jesus as his Savior.

Today's lesson tells about how Jesus took our punishment. The punishment He took was much greater than having a hot needle stab His hand. In our lesson we'll think about what Jesus did to save us.

Teach the Lesson

ASK But why did Jesus have to die to redeem us? We read about that in our Old Testament lesson. Find it in Isaiah 53:3-7. Be ready to read verses 5 and 6. **CALL ON** a student to read verse 5. Why was Jesus pierced? (*For our transgressions, "transgressions" are sins. We should have been pierced for our own sins, but Jesus was pierced for us, instead of us.*) Jesus was crushed for our iniquities. That means He was hurt and killed for our sins. "Iniquities" means "sins." God is holy and His kingdom is holy. God wanted to prepare a good and holy kingdom for his people. Nothing sinful can have a place in God's kingdom. It couldn't be a holy and happy place for God's people if there were sin there. God's plan was for Jesus to take away the sins of the people by taking the punishment for sins onto Himself. That was the only plan that would work. Only one who was a perfect man could pay for our sins. **CALL ON** a student to read verse 6. Then **SAY** Isaiah says we are like sheep. Sheep are hard to lead because they go off on their own way. We are like that too. But Jesus took all our sins on

Himself. He took them all away. **SAY** When Jesus was being punished for our sins, many people turned away from Him. He died on the cross like a criminal. Some people were ashamed of Him and hated Him. But it wasn't His own sin that put Him there. It was our sin. He was holy and sinless. **SAY** Our lesson describes how Jesus suffered and died for us. It explains how Jesus happened to be crucified, or nailed to a cross. The New Testament lesson tells more about it. Look up Mark 15:6-32. **CALL ON** a student to read verses 11-13. **ASK** Who brought Jesus to Pilate and asked to have Jesus crucified? (*the chief priests, Jesus' enemies, the Jewish priests, were jealous of Jesus and told lies about Him. They wanted Jesus to die.*) **SAY** Pilate, the Roman governor, thought Jesus was a criminal when the chief priests brought Him. But after Pilate asked Jesus questions, what did he find out? (*Jesus hadn't done anything wrong.*) Then why did Pilate have Jesus crucified? (*Pilate was afraid of the crowd. He was afraid the people might turn against him if he didn't do what they wanted.*) That was why Pilate, the governor, had Jesus crucified. But hundreds of years before, Isaiah had said that that would happen. That was Isaiah's prophecy. Because Isaiah was God's prophet, God spoke to him and told him what would happen. Isaiah's prophecies came true. Read more of the lesson and make a list of the things the soldiers did to Jesus. **LIST** on the

things on the chalkboard as the students find them. (*beat Jesus; put cuts and bruises on His body; pressed a crown of big, thick thorns on His head; fastened Him to a cross; drove nails through His hands and feet; mocked and made fun of Him*) **ASK** What did the people say about Jesus? (*He saved others, but He couldn't save Himself.*) They said they'd believe in Jesus if He came down from the cross. **ASK** Did Jesus have the power to come down from the cross? (*Yes, He did. But then He couldn't have saved us. He needed to die on the cross so we could be saved.*) **ASK** Why Jesus didn't come down from the cross? **CALL ON** a student to read this paragraph. (*He stayed there because He loved us and so He could take the punishment for our sins.*) What was the worst punishment Jesus had to take? (*God turning away from Jesus.*) Jesus hung alone on the cross. Even God didn't comfort Him. Jesus paid the price God demanded for sin. Jesus was the perfect sacrifice for sin, once, for all time, for all people. **ASK** How much are you worth to Jesus? (*We are worth so much that Jesus was willing to die for us.*) **READ** and discuss the last paragraph. **ASK** When we see how much Jesus loved us and what He suffered for us, how should we show Him our love? (*We should confess our sins and trust Him as Savior, praise Him and thank Him, pray and sing praises, live for Him, ask Him to help us live holy lives, and tell others about Him.*)

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Memory Work

BIBLE VERSE— Isaiah 53:6

All we like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.

CATECHISM—**READ**

The Second Article of Redemption

And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; . . .

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true Man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord; who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, bought me and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with silver and gold, but with His holy and precious blood and with His innocent sufferings and death; . . .

ASK What was the price Jesus paid to redeem us? (*It was not money—silver or gold. It was His holy and precious blood.*) He shed His blood on the

cross. He was holy and so His blood was holy and precious. It was worth a lot. His sufferings and death were innocent. He was innocent of any crime or sin. Pilate could not find any crime in Him. Jesus had no sin, so His sufferings and death were innocent. Complete the memorization.

Activity Pages

Activity 1— He Suffered For Me

ANSWERS

1. They jeered and mocked Jesus
2. Let student answer
3. Because of His great love for us; to take the punishment for our sins; to bring forgiveness for all our sins.
4. He was wrongly accused, he was arrested and sentenced to death, he was beat and scourged until covered with cuts and bruises and his flesh was torn, people mocked him, his disciples forsake Him, and His father God turned away from Him.
5. His Father turning away from Him

6. a. “despised and forsaken”, b. “pierced through for our transgressions”, c. “crushed for our iniquities”, d. “He was oppressed and He was afflicted”

Activity 2— Jesus Saves!**ANSWERS**

Because I am **SINFUL**, I need **JESUS** as my **SAVIOR**.

CLOSING THE LESSON**Closing Prayer**

Lord Jesus, we thank You for being our suffering Savior. Thank You for dying on the cross so we may be forgiven and saved and live with You in heaven forever. Forgive us for not remembering how much it cost You to redeem us. Give us Your grace so that we may turn from our sins, trust in You, and love You and live for You every day. Amen.

Assignment

1. Challenge your students to tell someone this week about Jesus' suffering and death to redeem us.
2. Remind your students to complete the lesson and practice saying the memory verse and catechism.
3. Remind your students to read in their Bibles and pray each day.

Lesson 10

Jesus Makes Us His Own

Bible Lesson: Luke 15:3-10, Isaiah 43:1

Memory Verse: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine!"
Isaiah 43:1b

Enrichment Memory Verse: "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep." *John 10:10-11*

Catechism Memory Work: And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; . . .

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true Man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord; who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, bought me and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with silver and gold, but with His holy and precious blood and with His innocent sufferings and death; in order that I might be His own, live under Him in His kingdom, . . .

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach:

✝ This section in progress.

Prepare Materials:

Along with the regular materials needed for class, you will need the following items for this lesson:

- ◆ Quarter-long project materials (listed in Introductory section): for this, Lesson 10, have the students add onto last week's message the following: "in order that I might be His own, live under Him in His Kingdom"

Prayer Preparation

This section in progress.

BIBLE BACKGROUND

A. Bible Study

You will often hear people say, usually trying to be encouraging or uplifting, "I believe that people are basically good." It might sound nice, but this is a sentiment that is foreign to the Scriptures. The problem that we often have is that we like to compare ourselves to others and not to God's holy and perfect law. When we compare ourselves to others in this way we might think we look pretty good. According to the law, there are none that are good or righteous, not one of us (Romans 3:10, 12). The Bible says that we are lost and enemies of God in our natural, "default" position. We are dead in our sins and called children of wrath without Christ. (Ephesians 2)

The astounding news given to the sinner, broken and humbled by the Law, is that the Son of God came to make the lost His own children (I John 3). He calls us and gathers us to Himself through the means He has provided through the Word and Sacraments. We will examine this more thoroughly in the lessons on the 3rd Article.

To be "His own" means to be safe and secure. To be His means to be assured that are sins truly are forgiven and that we can rest in His finished work. It is often the case that we will be led to examine our feelings to see if this is true. This a dangerous and destructive activity. Our feelings go up and down and are undependable. What is dependable? The objective work of Jesus Christ at the Cross. There the price of ownership was paid. It is God's inspired and inerrant Word that clearly speaks of this and attaches promises to His means of grace. The Bible, Baptism, and the Lord's Supper are gifts of God through which He conveys His grace to us; they are His

means. The Gospel comes to us through these things so that we need not rely on experience but on the sure promises of God.

In the ancient world, the pagan gods were often depicted as using people as their tools or playthings to get what they wanted. In those depictions the people were pawns moved about by the varying whims of the gods. When considering the 1st Article of the Creed we were reminded of God's claim of ownership over us as His special creation. In the 2nd Article we have been thinking of God's claim of ownership because of the price of redemption He has paid. In the Creed, we confess that God's Word reveals Jesus Christ's desire to take the broken pots (Jeremiah 18) and make us His own. He does not treat us as tools or playthings but as his precious children. Jesus also makes clear that we are not called slaves but have been called friends (John 15:15). Our Savior and friend, Jesus Christ, has promised His friends that He will come back for them. He has gone to prepare a place for us but He will return in glory to take His friends to be with Him forever.

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome

Open with Prayer

Recite Memory Work

Listen to students recite their memory work:

From the Bible: Isaiah 53:6

And

From the Catechism: And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From where He shall come to judge the living and the dead."

Add: And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; . . .
What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true Man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord; who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, bought me and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with silver and gold, but with His holy and precious blood and with His innocent sufferings and death; . . .

Review

Ask the following review questions:

Who said, "I don't find any wrong in Jesus?"
(*Pilate*)

Who wanted Jesus to be crucified? (*His enemies, priests*)

What prophet said the Savior would be pierced for our sins? (*Isaiah*)

What did it cost Jesus to redeem us? (*His sufferings and death*)

Introduce Wall Words

parable—

livelihood—

hefts—

valuable—

persistently—

Introduce the Lesson

This section in progress

Teach the Lesson

This section in progress.

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Memory Work

BIBLE VERSE— Isaiah 43:1b

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine!"

CATECHISM—READ

The Second Article of Redemption

And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; . . .

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true Man, born of the

Virgin Mary, is my Lord; who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, bought me and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with silver and gold, but with His holy and precious blood and with His innocent sufferings and death; in order that I might be His own, live under Him in His kingdom, . . .

READ the catechism selection together. This is the part of the Second Article meaning that tells why Jesus redeemed us. **ASK** What are two reasons given here that tell us why Jesus redeemed us? (1. *In order that we might be His own*, 2. *Live under Him in His kingdom*.) To "live under Him" means that we accept His control over us. He is King in that kingdom and knows what is best for each one of us. He guides us and gives us commands that we will be happy to obey. We live with Him as our King. **REVIEW** the meaning of the Second Article and complete memorization.

Activity Pages

Activity 1— Lost and Found

ANSWERS

1. He leaves his 99 sheep to go after the one which was lost until he finds it. Because the sheep is his own.

2. To celebrate with him because he has found his one lost sheep.
3. She lights a lamp, sweeps the house and searches for it until she finds it. Because it is valuable and belongs to her.
4. To rejoice with her because she has made the coin hers again.
5. "one sinner who repents."
6. Have student answer
7. Have student answer
8. In baptism

Activity 2— Search and Find

ANSWERS

1. parable
2. redeemed
3. livelihood
4. persistently
5. valuable
6. abundantly
7. His Kingdom

CLOSING THE LESSON

Closing Prayer

Assignment

1. Remind your students to complete the lesson and practice saying the memory verse and catechism.
2. Remind your students to read in their Bibles and pray each day.

Lesson 11

Jesus Calls Us To Serve Him

Bible Lesson: Colossians 3:12-25

Memory Verse: Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father. *Colossians 3:17*

Enrichment Memory Verse: Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve. *Colossians 3:23-24*

Catechism Memory Work: And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; . . .
What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true Man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord; who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, bought me and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with silver and gold, but with His holy and precious blood and with His innocent sufferings and death; in order that I might be His own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness; . . .

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach:

✠ Students will understand that when Jesus lives in them, He changes them so that they will want to live for Him.

Prepare Materials:

Along with the regular materials needed for class, you will need the following items for this lesson:

- ◆ Quarter-long project materials (listed in Introductory section): for this, Lesson 11, have the students add onto last week's message the

following: "serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness"

Prayer Preparation

1. Pray that God's Word might have its way in your life, that you may serve Him as he wills.
2. Pray for your students, that God's Word might reveal to them that God's will for their lives is that they may be His own, to live under Him in forgiveness and trust.
3. Pray that your students may in faith look ahead to the preparation God may have for them so they may serve Him.

BIBLE BACKGROUND

A. Bible Study

The desire to serve God does not come naturally to us. It is a fruit of being made a child of God. How can we serve God? I cannot wash His feet or bring Him something to eat. We are able to serve God through loving and caring for our neighbors, those people whom God has called us to help and serve. It has been said that "God doesn't need our good works but our neighbor does."

These acts of service and love are not offered as if through them we merit something before God. To do so would demean the blood of Christ shed at the Cross. We do not add our works to His but rely on His alone for our salvation. We note along with this, the great opportunity it is, as a believer, to serve in thanksgiving and joy in God's kingdom. It is amazing to consider that we are invited to participate in the work of God's kingdom.

Remember when we pray in the Lord's Prayer, "thy kingdom come," we pray knowing that "the kingdom of God comes indeed of itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come also to us" (SC, Lord's Prayer, 2nd Petition). The question that follows is this: How is this done? When our heavenly Father

gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and live a godly life here on earth and in heaven forever" (SC p. 107).

It is only because of Jesus that we can live a godly life here on earth or as we say in the meaning to the 2nd Article, serve in "righteous, innocence, and blessedness." The Savior has called us to share in the work of the kingdom using the various gifts and talents that He has given to us. Do not forget that He "gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:11-12). Even now, as you prepare to teach, God is using you to bless and help your students. As you prepare, you pray for them, you consider how you might make the truth of God's Word clear to them, you love them. You serve your students in this way; you serve God in this way.

God shows His rule in this world through the authorities and institutions that He has created. In the earthly realm, governments and various authorities are in place to keep order and promote that which is good. The Christian Church has been given the Great Commission to further the spread of the Kingdom of God in such a way that more and more might be saved. This is why we are called the body of Christ. We are, by His grace and through the power of the Holy Spirit, able to be the hands and feet of Christ; bringing the Good News to the entire world.

B. Creed Study

Jesus Christ Calls us to Serve Him

Jesus "has redeemed me,...that I might serve Him." Or as the familiar saying goes, "We are saved to serve," a delightful result of the saving grace of God (Ephesians 2:8-10). God has given to each of His children a place to serve Him in His kingdom, and He supplies the necessary gifts and abilities to carry out the assigned task. He calls and equips His people through his Word. One such servant was Jeremiah.

The Context (Jeremiah 1:1-3)

Jeremiah is a well-known Hebrew prophet, known for the almost impossible mission to which God called him. As a prophet, he was to call the people of Judah back to God at a time when they were on the brink of national and spiritual ruin. Corrupted by the influence of pagan Canaanite worship, they had fallen into apostasy, and this was followed by social and moral decay.

Jeremiah was called to speak to an indifferent and rebellious people. He soon acquired a reputation for pessimism and gloom and was rejected, hated, and persecuted. Such a prophetic mission demanded a strong and continuing assurance of his calling, as well as courage, faith and determination. The book begins with the circumstances surrounding Jeremiah's call (1:1-3).

As with most prophecies, these opening verses supply information as to the author and date as a means of setting God's message in historical perspective. "To whom the word of the Lord came" (1:2) is a favorite expression of Jeremiah and means more than that the word of God was spoken to and heard by him. It means that the word is influencing, taking possession of him, placing him under obligation.

At this point the word of the Lord becomes a matter of personal importance to Jeremiah. His life and thought were formed to a large extent by prophets such as Amos, Hosea, Isaiah and Micah, and probably by the lives and sayings of Elijah and Elisha. Hosea especially seems to have gripped the mind of Jeremiah with his striking pictures of divine love for wayward Israel. Jeremiah also uses the imagery of Hosea in describing Israel's apostasy as harlotry and adultery.

So the word of the Lord came to him, and took possession of him at an early age. The divine word would strengthen and sustain him in performing the almost superhuman tasks placed on him by God's call. At times the struggle grew very bitter, yet from every battle with his enemies, from every conflict with his own flesh and blood, from every wrestling with God, Jeremiah came through more than a conqueror because the Word of God possessed him. The Word held him in its strong and living and persuasive embrace, supplying him strength, endurance, patience and faithfulness. Such is the power of the Word of God to every believer who is called and sent in Christ.

The Call (Jeremiah 1:4-10f)

Jeremiah was "*foreknown*" (1:4-5) in the truest sense of the word (Romans 8:29-30). Before he was born or "formed" (1:5), God began to form Jeremiah. God knew him, took an interest in him, and separated him to a

special work - to be a prophet to the nations. There is nothing careless or haphazard about the way God chooses Jeremiah or any of His children, or in His plans for them (Psalm 139:14-16).

This word is a special comfort to the child of God, and it is that word that continues to give assurance and strength and purpose to our lives, that they might be lived in God's perfect will. For Jeremiah, God had worked out each step of the process from conception to consecration with an intimate awareness both of the need and the One who would meet that need. Under such circumstances, Jeremiah had little choice but to surrender to the high calling of God. To be so loved and so chosen is the privilege of every child of God in Christ (Ephesians 1:1-6).

Jeremiah is *fearful* (1:6). He shudders at the thought of becoming a prophet. He feels so unworthy, so incompetent for the office. "I do not know" literally refers to a knowledge gained by experience. He is inexperienced and thus feels he cannot do the work for he is only a youth. The word for "youth" here can mean a young person from the age of infancy to the period of manhood, including all who are yet inexperienced in a given profession. Jeremiah does what any of us would do - protest that he is not qualified in any way for the work to which God is calling him. Moses felt the same way when God called him (Exodus 4:10ff).

God says, "*fear not*" (1:7-8). Fear is one of the most paralyzing of human emotions. It affects all our efforts at times, but is for some reason especially present in Christian witness. Fear can only be dispelled fully by the love of Christ (I John 4:18). The Lord assures Jeremiah that there is no reason why he should be afraid or reluctant to go. He is chosen as God's ambassador and God will map out his paths and his work. He will speak the words God gives him to speak. God will support His servants in the mission assigned to them (1:8). It does not mean that Jeremiah will be free from opposition, physical danger, etc., but he will survive all difficulties because God will be with him. What more should he need?

God sends Jeremiah *forth* (1:9-10). God touches Jeremiah's lips and tells him that he will be sent forth with the Word of God in his mouth, a word to the nations, a prophet speaking the divine message. Throughout his life God will put His words in the prophet's mouth. How useless then to worry about his inexperience, or fear his opponents. Jesus gives the same assurances to His Church today as He sends us out. He promises that He will be with us and that the Holy Spirit will enable us (Matthew 10:19-20; John 16:13; Acts 1:8).

There is in the touch of God a cleansing and purifying power that enables the Word to go out and accomplish what God intends, for the words of the prophet are in fact the words of God. God tells Jeremiah what the effect of the Word will be (1:10). That Word will tear down what is corrupt in the nation and people, for that must be uprooted and torn down. Only then can God build and plant anew. The Word (law and gospel) always has that two-fold purpose: destruction and construction. God uses the law in our lives to remove sin, to break down the hardness and resistance of the sinner's heart. When this is done, God can apply the gospel of grace to create a new heart and cause us to grow in grace and in the knowledge of Christ (II Peter 3:18; Ephesians 4:15). We, too, can be assured that the Word of God will accomplish what God intends (Isaiah 55:11).

When God calls His prophets He creates the willingness to serve Him before He actually sends them as His messengers. God does not want unwilling servants in His kingdom. Yet God demands unconditional surrender to His will. By His gracious Word He works to remove our fears, doubts and objections, and persuades, convinces and convicts those He calls to willingly go wherever He sends them and speak what He wants them to speak.

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome

Open with Prayer

Ask students for suggestions for thanksgiving and other prayer topics.

Encourage participation in sentence prayers.

Close the prayer session with prayer for God's leading in the class session. Pray that students and you, the teacher, will learn what God would teach you about His will today.

Recite Memory Work

Listen to students recite their memory work:

From the Bible: Isaiah 43:1b

And

From the Catechism: And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And is

seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From where He shall come to judge the living and the dead.”

Add: And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; . . .
What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true Man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord; who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, bought me and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with silver and gold, but with His holy and precious blood and with His innocent sufferings and death; in order that I might be His own, live under Him in His kingdom, . . .

Review

Review last week's lesson (in progress).

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Memory Work

BIBLE VERSE—Colossians 3:17

Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

CATECHISM—READ

The Second Article of Redemption

And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; . . .

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true Man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord; who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, bought me and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with silver and gold, but with His holy and precious blood and with His innocent sufferings and death; in order that I might be His own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness; . . .

REVIEW the parts of the Second Article & Meaning previously learned. Then **READ** together today's portion. **ASK** Why did Jesus redeem you? (*So that you might be His own, live under Him in His Kingdom and serve Him.*) **ASK** What does it mean to live under Jesus? (*To obey Him because He is my King.*) If we belong to Jesus, we will serve

Introduce Wall Words

significant—

mentored—

hospitality—

unique—

ordinary—

noticeable—

Introduce the Lesson

In progress

Teach the Lesson

In progress

Him and live for Him all our lives. We will have happy lives if we serve Him. But we'll be even happier when we serve Him in heaven. We don't know exactly how we'll serve Him in heaven, but the Bible teaches us that we will serve Him there. That will be forever.

Activity Pages

Activity 1— Serving God, Serving Others

ANSWERS

1. service
2. serving
3. examples, different, different
4. unique
5. ordinary, glamorous
6. neighbors

Activity 2— What's The Word?

ANSWERS

1. ordinary
2. hospitality
3. persistently
4. prophet
5. condemned
6. redeemed
7. leprosy
8. parable
9. mentored
10. citizens

CLOSING THE LESSON

Closing Prayer

Assignment

Since next week's lesson is the last one of this quarter, ask your students to review the lessons, verses and catechism.

Lesson 12

Jesus The King of Kings and Lord of Lords

Bible Lesson: Matthew 28:16-20, Revelation 4 and 5

Memory Verse: "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing." *Revelation 5:12*

Enrichment Memory Verse: "Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." *Matthew 28:20b*

Catechism Memory Work: And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; . . .

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true Man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord; who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, bought me and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with silver and gold, but with His holy and precious blood and with His innocent sufferings and death; in order that I might be His own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness; even as He is risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach:

is risen from the dead, and lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true."

Prepare Materials:

Along with the regular materials needed for class, you will need the following items for this lesson:

- ♦ Quarter-long project materials (listed in Introductory section): for this, Lesson 12, have the students add onto last week's message thus completing the project for this quarter on the study of "The Son, Our Redeemer:" "even as He

Prayer Preparation

1. Pray that you may be prepared to teach this lesson through Bible study and careful preparation.
2. Remember to pray for each of your students every day. Pray that their hearts may be sensitive to God's call. Pray that God's Spirit may prepare a lesson geared to each one's need.

BIBLE BACKGROUND

A. Bible Study

When the Lord ascended into heaven He did so visibly and will return one day physically and visibly. When He ascended He did not leave the disciples without tools to make more disciples. He specifically instructed them concerning the call to baptize and the ongoing work of teaching. He also did not leave His disciples without a promise. He would be with them to the end of the age. We confess that our Risen Savior is alive and that we will not be abandoned. We rejoice during the Easter season and throughout the year that He who was dead is now alive forevermore. He is the Living One (Revelation 1:16-20). Life would have been a depressing and daunting task without the promises of a Resurrected Savior. What might the disciples focus on in their teaching? He commanded them to repent, to trust Him, and to believe the words of forgiveness and mercy He had repeated through His ministry.

The Kingdom of Israel was at its pinnacle during the reigns of David and his son Solomon. Years later, many in Israel hoped for a return to the glory of the nation of Israel under their rule. Some even believed that

when Jesus was ministering He might overthrow the Roman government and set up His own rule from Jerusalem. Jesus, however, was not interested in an earthly kingdom. Even at the height of David's military might and the climax of Solomon's splendor neither were comparable to the power and splendor of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

As King of Kings and Lord of Lords we have noted that He has no equal or superior. He is strong to save and powerful to protect us. He will not allow any enemy to tear us out of His hand. Our Savior died but He did not fail in His mission. It was a mission of sacrifice and His sacrifice was accepted by God the Father as proved by the Resurrection on Easter Sunday. He is alive. The Son of God sits at the right hand of God interceding for us, ruling over all things by His glorious power. We who have been given life serve Him in this world.

We are given only a few glimpses of what heaven will be like in the Bible. It is a place of rejoicing and peace where there will be no more tears (Revelation 21:4). This is what the Son has provided for us. We have been promised heaven. We are made citizens of His kingdom; without sin bringing sadness anymore. We will behold Him who was slain and we will sing for joy. We will be in the presence of the Redeemer forevermore.

So as we confess all these things contained in the words of the 2nd Article we end with the statement, "This is most certainly true." These words are the "Amen" to the confession. These are words of agreement that what we have proclaimed is our faith in Jesus Christ, our Lord, as He has been revealed to us in the words of Scripture. Indeed, He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome

Open with Prayer

Thank God for sending Jesus to be our Redeemer.
Thank God for buying us back from sin and death
and for making a place for us in His kingdom.
Pray for listening, eager hearts so that we may learn
what God wants to teach us today.

Recite Memory Work

Listen to students recite their memory work:

From the Bible: Colossians 3:17

And

From the Catechism: And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From where He shall come to judge the living and the dead."

Add: And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; . .
What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true Man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord; who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, bought me and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with silver and gold, but with His holy and precious blood and with His innocent sufferings

and death; in order that I might be His own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness; . . .

Review

Review last week's lesson (in progress).

Introduce Wall Words

ascended—

brilliant—

elders—

creatures—

Introduce the Lesson

In progress

Teach the Lesson

In progress

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Memory Work

BIBLE VERSE— Revelation 5:12

“Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing.”

CATECHISM—READ

The Second Article of Redemption

And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; . . .

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true Man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord; who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, bought me and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with silver and gold, but with His holy and precious blood and with His innocent sufferings and death; in order that I might be His own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness; even as He is risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

SAY Today we finish memorizing the meaning of the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed. Can you say what we've learned so far? **CALL ON** a student to begin. After he/she has recited a portion, tell him to stop and call on another to continue etc. **SAY** Now let's read today's portion together. **READ** 'Jesus lives and reigns to all eternity' means He is alive and rules and will live and rule over everyone

and everything forever and ever. He will never stop being King. Today's catechism begins with 'even as.' 'Even as' means 'because.' Everything we have learned that Jesus will do for believers will happen because He rose from the dead and will live and rule forever and ever. Jesus' resurrection is proof that everyone who has Jesus as Savior from sin will be forgiven and saved and will live with Jesus forever. Then we finish the meaning with 'This is most certainly true.' We know all we have learned in the meaning is true because God says so in His Word. His Word is always true. **LEAD** the class in memorizing the conclusion of the meaning.

Activity Pages

Activity 1— Check Your Memory

ANSWERS

Place check marks after these numbered phrases:

1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14

Jesus is present with us in His Word. He is present through His Sacraments: Baptism and the Lord's Supper. For example, Jesus has promised that in the Lord's Supper He is physically present with us. Jesus has also promised that where two or three are gathered in His name, He is present there.

Activity 2— Let's Review

ANSWERS

true, eternity, true, Mary, redeemed, condemned, creature, freed, power, gold, holy, blood, death, His, kingdom, everlasting, risen, lives, reigns, true

CLOSING THE LESSON

Closing Prayer

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for being our wonderful Redeemer. Thank you for suffering and dying for us even though You were perfectly innocent and holy. We confess our sins to you, Lord Jesus. Forgive them for Your own sake and make and keep us as Your own. Help us to live and witness for You. Help us to be ready and watching for You to come again. We ask these things in Your name, Jesus, because You have earned us the right to come to You and ask. Amen.

Assignment

1. Send second quarter student books home with the students.

2. Remind students to share what they have learned about Jesus, our Redeemer with family and friends.
3. Remind students to continue to learn and review memory verses and catechism.
4. Tell the students they will begin a new book, in which they will learn about the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity. Ask them to find out anything they can about the Holy Spirit from their parents.

4.2 Activity Answers

LESSON 1

Activity 1 - Which Verse?

1. **EARTH**
2. **BLIND**
3. **MIRACLES**
4. **DIED**
5. **ROSE**
6. **RESTORED**
7. **ALIVE**

E D M E R E R E = REDEEMER

Activity 2 - Jesus Is True God

1. (5)
2. (6)
3. (8)
4. (8)
5. (13)

LESSON 2

Activity 1 - It's Greek to Me!

Word = **JESUS**

flesh = **HUMAN**

dwelt = **LIVED**

saw = **BEHELD**

glory = **MAJESTY**

begotten = **SON**

Activity 2 - Who Is Jesus?

Z Y F X X F I Y
T Z I F B B T Y
Y R I Z X R F X
Z B U Y U I B F
Z F X E Z X B I
I B G X M Z B B
F O X I Z A Z F
D Y Y F X I N Z
Z I F X Z B X I

Jesus is **TRUE GOD**, and **TRUE MAN**.

LESSON 3

Activity 1 – Jesus Said...

1. home, great, things, Lord, you, had, mercy
2. way, truth, life, comes, Father, Me
3. power, Holy Spirit, witnesses, Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, earth
4. joy, angels, sinner, repents
5. John 14:6

Activity 2 - Important Words

1. prophet
2. Moses
3. promise
4. Isaiah
5. Scripture
6. Jesus

LESSON 4

Activity 1 – Our Great High Priest

A.

1. Breastpiece
2. Ephod
3. Robe
4. Tunic of checkered work
5. Turban
6. Sash

B.

1. gold
2. blue
3. purple
4. scarlet

C. “Holy to the Lord”

D.

1. holy
2. innocent
3. undefiled
4. separated from sinners
5. exalted above the heavens

Activity 2 - Do You Remember?

1. sacrifice (c)
2. priest (f)
3. high priest (b)
4. Most Holy Place (i)
5. intercessors (j)
6. Day of Atonement (g)
7. prophet (a)
8. Gospel (e)
9. fulfilled (d)
10. ascended (h)

LESSON 5

Activity 1 – An Exciting Day

1. J(E)RUSALEM
2. (C)OMES
3. HIG(H)EST
4. PE(A)CE
5. K(I)NG
6. DE(A)TH
7. (H)IS
8. ZECHARIAH
9. No. Some had forgotten the prophecy and thought that He came to defeat the Romans.

Activity 2 – Jesus Is My King

Circle numbers 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10

LESSON 6

Activity 1 – Think Carefully

1. True
2. False, *faithful*
3. True
4. False, *continued* loving
5. True
6. False, *buy back*
7. False, *all* people
8. False, *sometimes*
9. True
10. True

Activity 2 – Thought Questions

1. To “buy back”
2. A thing can be redeemed by us, human beings; a person can only be redeemed by the blood of Christ.
3. a. they refuse to believe God's Word and they love sin, b. they start out believing in God but little by little wander away from Him.

Activity 3 - We Are Healed

1. (J)ES(U)S
2. (WO)OD
3. BO(DY)
4. GOME(R)
5. (P)E(T)ER
6. (G)OMER

POWER OF SIN

LESSON 7

Activity 1 - Test Your Memory

1. manifested, God, begotten, world, live, Him
2. Word, flesh, glory, grace, truth
3. God, fathers, prophets, ways, spoken
4. Lamb, God, sin, world
5. world, kingdom, Lord, Christ, reign
6. Creator, redeemed, name
7. condemnation, those, Christ

1. John 1:14
2. Isaiah 43:1
3. Revelation
4. 1 John 4:9

Activity 2

1. 1
2. B
3. 5
4. A
5. C
6. 6
7. E
8. 2
9. 3
10. D

LESSON 8

Activity 1 - Crossword Fun

ACROSS:

- 1. bought
- 5. Creed
- 7. life
- 8. partner
- 9. death
- 10. Jesus
- 12. blind

DOWN:

- 1. believes
- 2. healed
- 3. demon
- 4. amazed
- 5. cross
- 6. devil
- 11. Satan

Activity 2 - Break the Code

Because it **SEPARATES** me from **GOD**

LESSON 9

Activity 1 - He Suffered For Me

1. They jeered and mocked Jesus
2. Let student answer
3. Because of His great love for us; to take the punishment for our sins; to bring forgiveness for all our sins.
4. He was wrongly accused, he was arrested and sentenced to death, he was beat and scourged until covered with cuts and bruises and his flesh was torn, people mocked him, his disciples forsake Him, and His father God turned away from Him.
5. His Father turning away from Him
6. a. “despised and forsaken”, b. “pierced through for our transgressions”, c. “crushed for our iniquities”, d. “He was oppressed and He was afflicted”

Activity 2 - Jesus Saves!

Because I am **SINFUL**, I need **JESUS** as my **SAVIOR**.

LESSON 10

Activity 1 - Lost and Found

1. He leaves his 99 sheep to go after the one which was lost until he finds it. Because the sheep is his own.
2. To celebrate with him because he has found his one lost sheep.
3. She lights a lamp, sweeps the house and searches for it until she finds it. Because it is valuable and belongs to her.
4. To rejoice with her because she has made the coin hers again.
5. "one sinner who repents."
6. Have student answer
7. Have student answer
8. In baptism

Activity 2 - Search and Find

1. parable
2. redeemed
3. livelihood
4. persistently
5. valuable
6. abundantly
7. His Kingdom

LESSON 11

Activity 1 - Serving God, Serving Others

1. service
2. serving
3. examples, different, different
4. unique
5. ordinary, glamorous
6. neighbors

Activity 2 - What's The Word?

1. ordinary
2. hospitality
3. persistently
4. prophet
5. condemned
6. redeemed
7. leprosy
8. parable
9. mentored
10. citizens

LESSON 12

Activity 1 - Check Your Memory

Place check marks after these numbered phrases:

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Jesus is present with us in His Word. He is present through His Sacraments: Baptism and the Lord's Supper. For example, Jesus has promised that in the Lord's Supper He is physically present with us. Jesus has also promised that where two or three are gathered in His name, He is present there.

Activity 2 - Let's Review

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