

## Lesson 21: Jesus, the Redeemer

“He has snatched us, poor lost creatures, from the jaws of hell, won us, made us free, and restored us to the Father’s favor and grace. He has taken us as his own, under his protection, in order that he may rule us by his righteousness, wisdom, power, life, and blessedness.”

- Dr. Martin Luther, *Large Catechism*: The Second Article of the Creed

### Keys to Lesson 21:

Topic: Second Article of the Apostles’ Creed: Jesus, the Redeemer

Thesis: Jesus redeemed us from sin by His blood sacrifice.

Key question: From what and how has Jesus redeemed us?

Catechism: Sverdrup Questions 166-176

Accompanying Bible Story: Genesis 22:1-19 – A Ram in the Thorns

### Warm-up or review:

As students enter the classroom, have a task posted for them.

Options:

Finish paragraph from Lesson 20

Finish questions from Lesson 20

Finish Lesson 20 summary

Lesson 20 quick quiz

Read and summarize Genesis 22:1-19

Read the Sverdrup questions assigned for this lesson

### Introduce new lesson:

Options:

Discuss what it means to make a sacrifice.

Discuss the concept of redemption.

Read and discuss the student worksheet text

*What a strange and maybe awful (as in terrible) request it was.*

*God had promised a son to Abraham. He was 100 years old, and his wife Sarah was 90. God had fulfilled his promise. In her old age, Sarah got pregnant and had a son. They called him Isaac.*

*We don’t know how old Isaac was when God told Abraham to offer him up as a sacrifice. We know he was old enough to carry the wood that would be used. So, one day, God said to Abraham, “Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you.” One of the lessons in this story is to show just how much Abraham loved and trusted God. God was testing Abraham’s faith. God told Abraham to take Isaac to the top of a mountain, kill him, and burn his body as a sacrifice to God. Abraham did what God told him to do. He took his son. He went to the top of the mountain. He built an altar. He tied Isaac up and put him on top of the wood on the altar. Abraham raised his knife to kill the son he loved. Abraham showed God that God was more important to him than was his son, Sarah’s only child, the son he loved.*

*This would be a horrible story if it had ended there. Yes, God tested Abraham’s faith; but God had a greater lesson he wanted both Abraham and us to learn. Just as Abraham was about*

*to kill his son, the “angel of the LORD” stopped him and spoke to him. As Abraham was listening, he looked up into the thorn bushes around him. There he saw a ram, a male sheep, caught by its horns. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a sacrifice to God instead of offering Isaac. Just as Abraham had told Isaac, God provided a sacrifice for them to offer.*

*We also have a horrible story. Because we are sinners, we deserve to die, in a way to be sacrificed to pay for our sin. But God’s story, and our story, does not end with our death, our eternal separation from God. Just as God provided a ram in place of Isaac, God has provided a sacrifice for us. John the Baptizer called Jesus “the lamb that takes away the sin of the world.” When Jesus was around thirty-three years old, He was taken to a mountain, maybe even the same one on which Abraham offered Isaac. On that mountain, or hill, outside the city of Jerusalem, Jesus was nailed to a cross. Jesus was sacrificed on the cross, offered up as the penalty for our sins. On the cross, Jesus became our sin so that He could die in our place. Through the cross, Jesus is now our life.*

**Lesson:**

Help the students work through the text and Bible passages in the student material.

**\* Read aloud the Second Article of the Apostles’ Creed.**

*And [I believe] 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.*

**\* Answer the following questions using the explanation to the Second Article of the Apostles’ Creed in your Lutheran *Small Catechism*.**

**What kind of creatures are we?**

*We are lost and condemned creatures.*

**What did Jesus do for us?**

*“who has redeemed me”*

It will be helpful to the students if you help them understand the concept of redemption. It is not necessary to delve into all the theories of atonement. It is enough to note the similarities between being bought out of slavery and being bought out of slavery to sin. To redeem is to pay a price for something of value.

**\* Read 1 Peter 1:17-19.**

*If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth; 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.*

Students are here asked to read the entire sentence beginning at verse 17 in order to place the redemption content in context. While the entire focus of the passage is on “conduct yourselves in fear,” what we might call sanctification, the focus of the question is on what Jesus has done for

us. We ought always to look first to Jesus.

**What did not redeem us?**

*We are not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold.*

**How were we redeemed?**

*We are redeemed with the precious blood of Christ.*

**\* Read Romans 3:21-26.**

*But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*

**What two things are true about everyone?**

- 1) *Everyone has sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.*
- 2) *For everyone, the only way to justification is as a gift by God's grace.*

**Through what is the gift of grace given?**

*The gift of grace is given through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus.*

**How did God show us this gift?**

*God displayed Christ Jesus publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith.*

A number of terms need defining:

“the glory of God” - being acceptable in God's presence. Because of our sin, we are not acceptable, we are not welcome in the presence of Holy God.

“justification” - being declared acceptable or not guilty. As a gift, because God is gracious, He declares us not guilty even though we are. We are welcomed into God's presence only because he says we are not guilty. Our guilt was taken by Jesus on the cross where He died to forgive our sin.

“redemption” - being purchased out of slavery

“propitiation” - a sacrifice offered because of sin, or a sacrifice to appease the wrath of God

“faith” - part of the gift of grace; the capacity given to us by God that makes it possible for us to trust that we are indeed declared not guilty. Students should understand that only believers, those who trust, those who have faith, actually receive the benefits of Christ's blood sacrifice: “through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.”

**\* Read John 10:10-15**

*“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. He who is a hired hand, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, sees the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and is not concerned about the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me, even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.”*

**What does a good shepherd do for his sheep?**

*A good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep.*

**Who is our Good Shepherd?**

*Jesus is our Good Shepherd.*

**What did our Good Shepherd do for us?**

*Jesus laid down His life, He died, for us.*

**\* Read Revelation 5:9.**

*And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.”*

**Look back through the beginning of Revelation 5.**

*I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a book written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals. And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?” And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the book or to look into it. Then I began to weep greatly because no one was found worthy to open the book or to look into it; and one of the elders said to me, “Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals.”*

*And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth. And He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.”*

**Who is the only one worthy to open the book?**

*Only the “Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David,” the Lamb is worthy to open the book.*

These three labels—Lion of the tribe of Judah, Root of David, and Lamb—clearly point us to Jesus.

**Why is He worthy to open the book?**

*The Lamb is worthy to open the book because He died, was slain, and because He bought for God people from every people group and language.*

**What did He use to buy “men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation” for God?**

*The Lamb used His blood to buy “men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation” for God.*

**\* Read Ephesians 1:7.**

*In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.*

**How is redemption defined in this verse?**

*Redemption is the forgiveness of our sins by the riches of His grace.*

The Gospel is so rich. While we begin with our being lost and condemned because of our sin, we are taken immediately to redemption through the shed blood of Jesus “through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.” Amen!

**Summary:**

Options:

Students write questions in their question column

Students write a three to four sentence summary: What did I learn in this lesson?

Students write a SEE paragraph

Possible paragraph prompt:

*How did Jesus redeem me?*

Sample paragraph:

*Jesus redeemed me, a lost and condemned sinner, by laying down His life for me. Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me, even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep” (John 10:14, 15 NASB). Jesus knows me, that I am a sinner separated from God. Jesus is my Good Shepherd. Because He is my Good Shepherd, He laid down His own life and shed His own blood to forgive my sins and redeem me from sin and death.*

## Genesis 22:1-19

1 Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham, and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” 2 He said, “Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you.” 3 So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and Isaac his son; and he split wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. 4 On the third day Abraham raised his eyes and saw the place from a distance. 5 Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey, and I and the lad will go over there; and we will worship and return to you.” 6 Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son, and he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. 7 Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, “My father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” And he said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?” 8 Abraham said, “God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” So the two of them walked on together. 9 Then they came to the place of which God had told him; and Abraham built the altar there and arranged the wood, and bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. 10 Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. 11 But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” 12 He said, “Do not stretch out your hand against the lad, and do nothing to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.” 13 Then Abraham raised his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him a ram caught in the thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram and offered him up for a burnt offering in the place of his son. 14 Abraham called the name of that place The LORD Will Provide, as it is said to this day, “In the mount of the LORD it will be provided.” 15 Then the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, 16 and said, “By Myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17 indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies. 18 In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.” 19 So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham lived at Beersheba.