

## Lesson 9: 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

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

My questions:

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.

\* 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?

What did Jesus do for us?

\* Read 1 Peter 1:17-19.

What did not redeem us?

How were we redeemed?

\* Read Romans 3:21-26.

What two things are true about everyone?

Through what is the gift of grace given?

How did God show us this gift?

\* Read John 10:10-15

What does a good shepherd do for his sheep?

Who is our Good Shepherd?

What did our Good Shepherd do for us?

\* Read Revelation 5:9.

Look back through the beginning of Revelation 5. Who is the only one worthy to open the book?

Why is He worthy to open the book?

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

\* Read Ephesians 1:7.

How is redemption defined in this verse?

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What did I learn in this lesson (three or four sentences)?