

Lesson 21: The Lord's Supper – Benefits

“But those who feel their weakness, who are anxious to be rid of it and desire help, should regard and use the sacrament as a precious antidote against the poison in their systems. For here in the Sacrament you receive from Christ's lips the forgiveness of sins, which contains and conveys God's grace and Spirit with all his gifts, protection, defense, and power against death and the devil and all evils.”

- Dr. Martin Luther, *Large Catechism*: The Sacrament of the Altar

Keys to Lesson :

Topic: The benefit of the Lord's Supper

Thesis: God forgives our sins through the Lord's Supper.

Key question: What is the benefit of the Lord's Supper?

Catechism: Sverdrup Questions 367-372

Accompanying Bible Story: Matthew 26:17-30 – Jesus Celebrates Passover

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 Matthew 26:17-30

Read the Sverdrup questions assigned for this lesson

Introduce new lesson:

Options: Take students to the sanctuary and read through the order for Holy Communion

Read and discuss the student worksheet text

It happened around 1500 B.C. Jewish people today still celebrate it as they have been year after year since then. Compare that to 1776 A.D., the celebrated independence of the United States.

For the children of Israel, the celebration is really two festivals: The Feast of Unleavened Bread and Passover. The Feast of Unleavened Bread is a whole week. Passover is just one day at the beginning of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Both events originally happened on the eve of the Exodus, the day God freed His people from slavery in Egypt. According to the Bible, the Exodus is the beginning of the independent nation of Israel. That night in Egypt the people of Israel prepared and ate bread with no yeast. The dough they took with them on the journey would spoil if there was yeast in it, so God told them to prepare unleavened bread. They also ate roast lamb. The father in each home had butchered a lamb and spread its blood on the front door-frame of the house. That night God visited Egypt. He put to death all the firstborn in the homes with no blood. He passed over the homes with blood on the door frames.

This last of the plagues finally broke the Pharaoh's resistance. Not only did he let the Israelites go, he ordered them out of Egypt.

On the night that Jesus was betrayed, the day before He was crucified, He ate the Passover with His disciples. For as long as anyone can remember, the Passover meal (called seder) has had fifteen specific parts in a specific order. Twice during the meal unleavened bread (matzah) is broken and passed around the Table. Four times during the meal, a cup of wine is shared with those at the table.

It is likely that Jesus took the second breaking and sharing of bread with the last drinking of the cup to institute our sacrament of Holy Communion. When He did so, He revealed to His disciples the true meaning of these elements of the Passover meal. The bread, He said, is His body. The cup, He said, is His blood. The breaking of His body and the pouring out of His blood, He told them, is for the forgiveness of sins.

The promise is for us as well as for the disciples. The promise is in the words “for many” and the in words “for the forgiveness of sins.”

For more information on Christ in the seder see for example

<https://jewsforjesus.org/publications/issues/issues-v03-n02/book-review-christ-in-the-passover/>

Lesson:

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

*** Copy from your Lutheran *Small Catechism* the answer to the question, “What is the benefit of such eating and drinking?”**

It is pointed out in these words: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” Through these words, the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation are given unto us in the Sacrament. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

*** Read Luke 1:76-79. *The end of Luke 1 is a prophecy spoken by Zacharias when his son John was circumcised and named.***

*“And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
For you will go on before the Lord to prepare His way;
To give to His people the knowledge of salvation
By the forgiveness of their sins,
Because of the tender mercy of our God,
With which the Sunrise from on high will visit us,
To shine upon those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death
To guide our feet into the way of peace.”*

**According to John’s message, what would happen as the result of the forgiveness of sins?
*The people would receive the knowledge of salvation.***

This is poetic language. We could just as well say the people would be saved.

*** Read Luke 24:46, 47.**

...and He said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem...”

What message did Jesus give His disciples to proclaim to the world?

The disciples would proclaim repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

*** Read Ephesians 1:7, 8a.**

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace which He lavished on us.

What do we get through the forgiveness of sins?

We get redemption through the forgiveness of sins.

This is a great place to parallel the Exodus and Passover to the Lord's Supper. In the Exodus through the Passover, Israel was freed from slavery. That was redemption. We are freed from slavery to sin by forgiveness. This is redemption.

Through what do we get forgiveness of sins?

We have forgiveness and redemption through His blood.

While they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and after a blessing, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins."

According to which attribute of God do we get forgiveness of sins?

We get forgiveness of sins "according to the riches of His grace which He lavished on us."

*** Read Colossians 1:13, 14.**

For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

List three things that are also part of the forgiveness of sins.

When our sins are forgiven, we are 1) rescued from the domain of darkness, 2) transferred to the kingdom of His beloved Son, and 3) redeemed.

*** Read Hebrews 9:22.**

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

What is necessary for the forgiveness of sins?

The shedding of blood is necessary for the forgiveness of sins.

*** Read 1 John 1:1-4.**

What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life-and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us-what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.

Why did John proclaim the things he had seen, heard, and touched?

John proclaimed the things he had seen, heard, and touched so that we can have fellowship with each other and fellowship with God (the Father and His Son Jesus Christ).

*** List all the gifts God gives us when He forgives our sins.**

salvation

redemption

rescue from the domain of darkness

transfer into the kingdom of God

fellowship with other believers

fellowship with God

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:

What is the benefit of the Lord's Supper?

Sample paragraph:

The benefit of the Lord's Supper is forgiveness of sins. When He instituted the Lord's Supper, Jesus said, "Take, eat; this is My body" and "Drink from it, all of you; for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins" (Matthew 26:26-28). Jesus gave us bread and drink and said they are his body and blood. Jesus said that the pouring out of his blood is done to forgive sins. When we receive His body and blood in the elements of Holy Communion, our sins are forgiven.

Matthew 26:17-30

17 Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?” 18 And He said, “Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, “My time is near; I am to keep the Passover at your house with My disciples.”’” 19 The disciples did as Jesus had directed them; and they prepared the Passover.

20 Now when evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the twelve disciples. 21 As they were eating, He said, “Truly I say to you that one of you will betray Me.” 22 Being deeply grieved, they each one began to say to Him, “Surely not I, Lord?” 23 And He answered, “He who dipped his hand with Me in the bowl is the one who will betray Me. 24 The Son of Man is to go, just as it is written of Him; but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born.” 25 And Judas, who was betraying Him, said, “Surely it is not I, Rabbi?” Jesus said to him, “You have said it yourself.”

26 While they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and after a blessing, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is My body.” 27 And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; 28 for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins. 29 But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom.”

30 After singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.