

Lesson 5

The Holy Spirit Preserves Faith Through The Lord's Supper

Bible Lesson: Matthew 26:26-28

Memory Verse: And 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." *Matthew 26:26-28*

Enrichment Memory Verse: Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is not the bread which we break a sharing in the body of Christ? *1 Corinthians 10:16*

Catechism Memory Work: I believe in the Holy Spirit;...

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to Him; But the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, and sanctified and preserved me in the true faith;...

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach:

- ✦ The student will indicate understanding that God's grace is His love that we do not deserve, and that God gives faith, forgiveness and eternal life by His grace.
- ✦ The student will show understanding that God gives His grace through the Means of Grace, and that the Means of Grace are the Word of God and the sacraments.
- ✦ The student will show understanding that God gives grace and forgiveness of sins through the Lord's Supper.
- ✦ The student will accept God's grace and daily forgiveness given through God's Word.

Prepare Materials:

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

- ◆ communion tray with glass of grape juice and a plate with a wafer.

Prayer Preparation

1. Thank God for His grace which He gives freely through His Word and sacraments. Praise Him that He has given you faith to trust Christ as your Savior.
2. Pray that your Bible study will lead you to an understanding of grace and the means of grace.
3. Pray for a work of grace in the hearts of your students. Pray that God's Word will work repentance and faith and strengthen the faith of believing children.

BIBLE BACKGROUND

A. Bible Study

The people were a grumbling, murmuring bunch. They were aware of God's faithfulness to them but were yet ungrateful for His provision. They were wishing for the good old days of their time in...Egypt. You remember the great times they had right? When they were slaves; used and abused, making bricks under more and more difficult circumstances. Right, that doesn't sound like a golden age to me either. Yet, when the people had been safely brought out of Egypt's slavery this is what they looked back to.

They were in the desert for somewhere around a month when they began to grumble (Exodus 16:2-3). They grumbled against God because they didn't have the food that they thought they needed. They blamed God and

He heard all their grumbling. They didn't deserve God's help and mercy. But God does this great and gracious thing; He provides them with food. They call it "manna" which is Hebrew for "What is it?" They didn't know what it was at first but soon found out this was, "bread from heaven," provided for them. God provides strength through this nourishment for all the years of their wandering.

The attitude and actions of the people of Israel showed their rebellious hearts. The same type of hearts that we also have. We go astray so quickly. So God in His mercy acts to remind us **"It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery"** (Galatians 5:1).

The Lord's Supper is God feeding us spiritually. He feeds us with Himself. The question sometimes comes, "Who should receive the Lord's Supper?" We answer all who believe and are baptized are invited to come and receive from Jesus Himself. We might think that our sin should keep us away from receiving from Christ His holy and precious body and blood. However, this is not the case. Those who know their need for forgiveness are exactly the ones who should gladly hear Christ's words, "Take, eat" and "Drink of it."

Luther years ago put together questions for personal preparation (See the Ambassador Hymnal p.15). In the final question, Luther tells the one who doesn't feel hunger or thirst for the Lord's Supper to do something a little silly. He says that such a one should "put his hand into his bosom, and feel whether he still have flesh and blood." It seems like he is saying something like "pinch yourself to make sure you are alive." You are in this world in which there is still sin. Your sin still remains, but Christ has provided His own flesh and blood for you. You still have a body of sin but Christ has provided for you His own precious body and blood for you. Your grumbling sometimes sounds a lot like those in the desert wandering around and God in His mercy says, "Here is My Body, the food to sustain you" and "Here is My Blood, that will quench your thirst." (John 4:14, 7:37-39).

B. Creed Study

Our Lord Jesus instituted the Sacrament of the Altar. The disciples were gathered to celebrate the Passover meal. During the eating of the meal, the Lord turned to His disciples, took the bread and the cup and spoke the words of institution. Christ, the Passover Lamb, ended the Old Testament Passover ceremony and instituted the New Testament Communion service.

As we examine the above Bible texts (along with I Corinthians 11:23-33) we see five aspects to the Lord's Supper.

1. The Lord's Supper is a *sacrament*. As Lutherans we believe that the body and blood of Christ are in and with the bread and the cup of blessing. Thus, the penitent sinner truly receives the real presence of Christ.
2. The Lord's Supper is a *memorial service*. Jesus said that we are to observe this supper in "remembrance of Me!" Too often we forget or take for granted the tremendous sacrifice (physically, emotionally and spiritually) that Christ made on our behalf.
3. The Lord's Supper is a *testimony meeting*. In I Corinthians 11:26 Jesus said we are to "proclaim His death until He comes again." When we gather to partake of the Lord's Table we acknowledge that He is our Lord and we eagerly await His second coming. The Lord's Supper also becomes a foretaste of the great marriage supper of the Lamb described in Revelation 19.
4. The Lord's Supper is a *self-examination time*. It is possible to eat and drink in an unworthy manner; if we fail to examine our hearts for sin; if we fail to confess our sin and come in repentance, we eat and drink condemnation upon ourselves.
5. The Lord's Supper is a *fellowship of believers*. When you come to the Lord's Table you are spiritually communing with all true believers worldwide.

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome

Discuss with the class the work of the Holy Spirit for us, and the way the Holy Spirit uses God's Word to bring us to repent of our sins and trust in Jesus as Savior.

Open with Prayer

Ask students to thank God in sentence prayers for the following ways the Holy Spirit calls us.

- a. Shows us our sins by the law.
- b. Calls us by the gospel and makes us able to trust in Jesus.
- c. Gives faith through baptism.
- d. Continues to show us our sins by His Word and calls us to repent and believe.

Ask for the work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts through today's class.

Recite Memory Work

Listen to students recite their memory work:

From the Bible: I Peter 3:21

And

From the Catechism: I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to Him; But the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts,...

Review

Conduct a quick oral review of last week's lesson.

What is a sacrament? (*A sacrament is an act of God in which He uses visible means along with His Word to give invisible gifts.*) What is the visible means in baptism? (*Water*) Which Bible verse is used in baptism? (*I baptize you in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19*)

More questions to be added later.

Introduce Wall Words

sanctuary—

Communion—

resumed—

institute—

preserved—

Introduce the Lesson

Write words such as Stop, Go, Thank you, Please, I'm Sorry, and other powerful words across the chalkboard or large piece of paper. **SAY** Sometimes words are powerful. They can make people do things or stop them from doing something. They can make someone happy or sad. Can you think of other things words can do? (Allow students to

answer.) Some people's words are more powerful than other people's. **ASK** Whose words have the most power? (*In school, the teacher's; at home, your parent's words are powerful.*) **SAY** God's words have a different kind of power. When He created the world, God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. When God speaks, His words make things happen. God's Word has another kind of power. It is the power of His grace. When God's Word tells us about His love and what He has done for us, His grace comes to us through His Word. Then wonderful things can happen in our hearts. God's Word gives us the power to confess our sins and believe in Jesus if we do not resist His Word. God never forces us to believe, but He does make it possible for us to receive Jesus and to truly repent of sin if we are willing. We learned that God's Word used with ordinary water makes a sacrament by which God works in hearts and gives faith and forgiveness of sins to those who receive it. In today's lesson we will learn about the other sacrament, the Lord's Supper.

Teach the Lesson

SAY Open your books to Lesson 5. Will someone read the lesson title. The title says that the Holy Spirit preserves faith through the Lord's Supper. We had the word "preserves" in the first quarter books. We learned that God preserves our bodies and souls. Who remembers what the word "preserves" means. (*Preserves means to keep. The Holy Spirit keeps living faith alive and makes it stronger.*) **ASK** Who remembers where faith first came from. (*In baptism*) **SAY** This lesson explains why children your age do not receive the Lord's supper. **ASK** When will you receive the Lord's Supper? (*After you have learned more about Communion in confirmation class.*)

More to be added later...

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Memory Work

BIBLE VERSE—Matthew 26:26-28

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CATECHISM—READ

I believe in the Holy Spirit...

What does this mean?

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Activity Pages

Activity 1

ANSWERS

1. f
2. a
3. h
4. b
5. i
6. g
7. d
8. j
9. c
10. e

Activity 2**ANSWERS**

1. c
2. o
3. m
4. m
5. u
6. n
7. i
8. o
9. n

*Communion***CLOSING THE LESSON****Closing Prayer**

Thank you, Lord Jesus, that You loved us enough to die for us. Thank you for giving us the means of grace to strengthen our faith. May your Holy Spirit work in our hearts in such a way that we can repent of our sins, confess them and forsake them, and have true and living faith in our hearts. Make our faith strong so that we can love and obey You. In Your name we pray. Amen.

Assignment

1. Send home activity pages.
2. Encourage students to share their lesson with someone at home.
3. Challenge students to review memory work, learn the new verse and catechism.