

# 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.