

Lesson 10

God Protects My Soul

Bible Lesson: Luke 22:31-34, 54-62; John 21:15-17

Memory Verse: The LORD will protect you from all evil; He will keep your soul. *Psalm 121:7*

Enrichment Memory Verse: Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. *1 Peter 5:8*

Catechism Memory Work: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. *What does this mean?* I believe that God has created me and all that exists; that He has given and still preserves to me my body and soul, my eyes and ears, and all my members, my reason and all the powers of my soul together with food and clothing, home and family, and all my property; that He daily provides abundantly for all the needs of my life, protects me from all danger, and guards and keeps me from all evil; . . .

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach:

- ✠ That the student has a soul which is the real person who doesn't die but will exist forever.
- ✠ How to identify the enemies of their souls and tell how they try to lead them away from God
- ✠ That it is God who protects their souls. He is the only One who can guard us from our souls' enemies and keep us trusting in Him.
- ✠ That students will thank God for protecting their soul and will trust in God to keep the safe. That the student who is not trusting in Jesus will come to believe in Him.

Prepare Materials:

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

1. Objects used for protection or pictures of those objects (e.g. football player's helmet, construction worker's hard hat, seat belt for a car, bike helmet, knee/elbow pads, goggles, pot holder, etc.)

Prayer Preparation

As you prepare for this lesson, thank God for His abundant grace, which brings us to Christ and keeps us in the faith through His Word. Thank God for the privilege of teaching His Word to children. Pray that a work of grace may be done in your heart as you prepare to teach and share the Word of God with your students. Pray for your students, that they may be kept in the grace of God or be brought to Christ as each one needs. Pray for wisdom to teach and lead according to each child's need.

BIBLE BACKGROUND

A. Bible Study

The experience of Peter is an excellent illustration of the spiritual battle that goes on in the struggle for control of man's soul. The devil "goes about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." Jesus abides with His children to protect them from the attacks of the devil and to bring them into His heavenly kingdom. In the situation described by our text, Jesus demonstrates His care for His children.

With His divine foreknowledge, Jesus could see what Peter was going to experience. So here, a few hours before it would occur, Jesus took the opportunity to warn Peter of Satan's plot and reminded him of His support.

Satan's Plot. The devil had evil intentions for Peter. It was not his immediate purpose to bring physical harm to Peter. Peter was not going to suffer physically as Job did, but when Peter was going through his trial, it

was his physical welfare he was concerned about. He was sure that if his identity became known he would be beaten or stoned. Thus, he acted as he did out of concern for his physical well-being.

But while Peter was maneuvering to protect his physical life, Satan was fighting for Peter's soul. He wanted to get Peter to sin and fall into spiritual despair. If he could get Peter to doubt the ability of God's grace in Christ to cleanse him of his sin, the devil would win the victory. That was the devil's intention and he nearly succeeded.

Of all the eleven disciples left, Peter's actions were the most deplorable. While the others ran, as did Peter, when Jesus was arrested, Peter went further than the others in distancing himself from Jesus. He denied any knowledge of Jesus and lent credibility to his denial by cursing and swearing. The depth of his fall was great. After he would come to his senses, he might well wonder if he could be forgiven and received again.

Jesus' Prayer. Jesus knew that the real danger facing Peter lay in the spiritual, rather than the physical realm. And He told Peter in His warning, "I have prayed that your faith may not fail." Faith is what binds the sinner to Jesus and the forgiveness and life that are found in Him. Since it was faith that Satan wanted to destroy, Jesus' prayer was that the evil intentions that Satan had for Peter's faith would not succeed.

It is significant to note that Jesus did not pray that Peter would not sin. He knew that Peter would sin, if not in the way he did, then in some other way. Jesus knows that all of us will sin. "If we say we have no sin we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us" (1 John 1:8). As long as we live, sin will be a part of our lives. That is natural for our old sinful nature which is with us until we die.

Sinners will sin and what they need is mercy. God is full of mercy. The danger, however, is that when the sinner has fallen into the depths of sin and despair, he may forget that God is merciful. When Peter would be in greatest need of mercy, he would also be most inclined to doubt that mercy. Jesus' prayer for Peter was that when Peter came to realize the depths of his fall, his faith would not fail but would rise up and hold firmly to the fact that God is merciful to sinners for Jesus' sake.

A further assurance was offered to Peter's faith in the words of Jesus: "When once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers." Peter was reminded that even though he would in weakness sin against Jesus by denying Him, he need not remain in that guilty state; he could turn again and be received by Jesus. In addition, even though Peter's actions would be the most deplorable, if he would return, there would be a ministry for him. Jesus would still have a place of service for him in the kingdom of God.

Peter's Repentance. Peter sinned, but until he saw the look of Jesus in the courtyard, he did not realize it. He had been so busy saving his hide that he failed to guard his heart. When he realized he had fallen he could only weep. His own strength had failed to guard and keep him.

When Jesus met with the disciples after His resurrection, He had a special discussion with Peter. Three times He asked Peter, "Do you love Me?" Three times Peter said, "Yes," but in his answer acknowledged that he did not love Jesus as he should. Peter had become a humble man, aware of the fact that he was too weak and sinful to serve and obey Jesus as he ought. He would have to trust the love and mercy of Jesus to protect and guide him in the ministry of caring for Jesus' sheep.

B. Creed Study

In the last lesson we mentioned we pray in the Lord's Prayer that God would "deliver us from evil." This is a prayer for protection in this world but also a prayer that God would at some point remove us even from the presence of evil. In the Lord's Prayer and the Apostles' Creed we note there are dangers that come against our physical bodies and also dangers to our souls. The devil approached Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and temptations have continued to come to people from that day until this day. Because this is true and temptations will continue even until the end of the world we need protection for our souls.

In 1 Peter 5:8 we have Satan, the accuser, described as prowling around "like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour." What hope can we have against such a powerful enemy? With all these dangers to our body and this powerful enemy trying to destroy our souls we might be led to despair. But do not fear, our hope

is in the Savior Jesus Christ who has defeated sin, death, and the devil at the Cross. When Jesus declared “It is finished” we heard a cry of victory.

We are reminded in Colossians 2 that God the Father has called and sent Jesus with the task of bringing about this great victory over Satan and all our enemies. Colossians 2:15 says that God “disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him (Jesus).” We also have the Apostle Paul speaking of victory over death in 1 Corinthians 15 and that “Christ always leads us in triumphal procession” (2 Cor. 2:14).

How does God protect our souls? He does this through the means of grace assuring us that we have been forgiven. The Word of God and the Sacraments make clear to us that He is gracious and merciful not to all people generally but to us specifically and individually. He conveys to us all the benefits procured at the Cross through these means. He protects us making forgiveness possible and assuring us that our souls are protected by God who is called the Holy One. In history, people have sometimes sought to protect their souls by removing themselves from other people. They have done this thinking that they might remove temptations in this way. This might protect in one area of temptation but other areas are then vulnerable. The soul’s protection can only occur through the mercy of God. We confess in the 1st Article that indeed we believe that God is a good and merciful God who will indeed care for us body and soul; eternally.

A wonderful example of this care is shown in the record of Peter’s denial and later his reinstatement after Christ’s Resurrection. Peter had yielded to temptation and shamefully denied the Savior. But God in His mercy offered mercy and forgiveness to Peter. Peter saw the victory of Jesus over death firsthand in the Resurrected Savior. God, our Father, is the one who sent Jesus to win this victory for us and who will guard and keep us forever.

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome

Greet students by name as they come to class.

Open with Prayer

Thank God for the chance to study His Word today. Ask God to open the students’ hearts and minds to receive and understand today’s lesson. Pray that God will keep you and your students from the enemies who want to keep you from hearing and believing God’s Word.

Recite Memory Work

Listen to students recite their memory work:

From the Bible: Psalm 121:7

And

From the Catechism: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean? I believe that God has created me and all that exists; that He has given and still preserves to me my body and soul, my eyes and ears, and all my members, my reason and all the powers of my soul, together with food and clothing, home and family, and all my property; that He daily provides abundantly for all the needs of my life, protects me from all danger, and guards and keeps me from all evil; . . .

Review

Use the following to review lesson 9:

1. Ask the class to recite Psalm 91:11 together. Watch for students who are not recalling the verses and give appropriate help.
2. Give the Bible references for two or three review verses, and ask for the verses. Review different verses each week.
3. Lead the class in a quick review of last week’s lesson, using selected questions from the following or others:
 - a. What are some dangers that you meet at home or outside? (individual responses)
 - b. How can you avoid dangers? (By following the rules set for our protection, and by staying away from dangerous places.)
 - c. How does God protect us from danger? (He sends angels to protect us.)
 - d. Why was Peter put into prison? (Because he was a Christian. He taught other people about Jesus.)
 - e. What was going to happen to Peter? (He was going to be killed.)
 - f. What kept Peter from escaping? (chains on his wrists, guards beside him)
 - g. How did he escape? (An angel came and took him out of the prison.)

Introduce Wall Words

unholy trinity—
 separate—
 attitudes—
 flesh—
 approached—
 courtyard—
 recognized—
 bitterly—

Introduce the Lesson

SHOW the pictures of objects (or the objects themselves) used for protection. **TALK** about how they protect us, asking such questions as "Why does a construction worker wear a hard hat?;" "Why do we wear seat belts in a car?"

SAY These things protect our heads or our hands or our whole bodies. But we need protection for the part of us we can't see. Does anyone know what that part is? There is a part of us that no one can see. It is called the soul. You remember that we talked about the soul a few weeks ago. We said that God made us with souls that could think about God and talk with God and be His friend. It is the part of us that will live forever.

SAY In our last lesson we learned that God protects our bodies from danger. Our souls need to be protected from the evil things around us, from all the wicked things in the world. What are some things that will hurt our soul? (Swearing and other bad language, bad stories, wicked movies and television shows, some books and magazines, and many other things. Even people who tell us that we have no soul and are just animals can also hurt our souls.)

SAY In today's lesson, we will learn about some of the enemies of our souls and about how God protects us from them.

Teach the Lesson

1. **SAY** Open your books to lesson 10 and read the title. What does it tell us this lesson is about? (This lesson will teach us how God protects our souls.) **READ** the first paragraph to find out what it teaches about your soul. What two things do you learn about your soul? (1. No one can see it, even on an x-ray. 2. Your soul will exist forever.) Do you remember what "exist" means? (Exist means "to

be." Something that exists really is. Your soul will exist forever.)

2. **SAY** Read the next three paragraphs to find the names of three enemies that always work to lead us away from God. (the devil, the world, and our own flesh) The next paragraph tells what the devil does to take us away from God. Read it and find out. (The devil puts evil thoughts into our minds. That means he gives us ideas that are bad.) Does that ever happen to you? The devil tries to get us to do sinful things. He wants us to obey him and disobey God. **ASK** How do we disobey God? (When we do, think, or say things that He tells us not to do. We learn about those things from the Ten Commandments. Can anyone tell us one of the Ten Commandments? (Response)

READ paragraph 3 to the class. **ASK** How does the world of wicked people try to lead us away from God? (The wicked people try to get us to do the sinful things they do.) Why do we sometimes follow the world? (We're afraid we might be alone, laughed at, etc.) Why shouldn't we do what wicked people do? (Wicked people follow the devil. People don't always realize that when they say and do bad things they are really following the devil. But they are and God cannot accept any sin.)

READ paragraph 4 to the class. **ASK** What is the flesh? (The part of us that wants to do sinful things.) What are two words that mean the same as the flesh? (old nature) What are some things our flesh, or old nature, makes us feel like doing? (disobeying our parents, lying, fighting with brothers/sisters or friends, etc. Encourage the students to share other things the flesh tells us to do.) [Note to Teacher: Remember to pray for your students in these areas. Also, this is a time for you to understand the problems of children.] Will the flesh ever obey God? (No, it can't, it always disobeys God. In and of ourselves we are powerless to obey or please God. Only in Christ and because we love Him can we want to do anything to please God.)

3. **ASK** Will we ever stop sinning? (No, not as long as we are living here on earth. We will never be able to obey God perfectly.) Why is that? (Because we have our old nature [sinful hearts].) What should we remember and do if we have listened to the devil, the world or our flesh (old nature) when they have lead us to sin? (We should remember that God is a merciful Father Who loves and cares about us. But we need to confess our sins to Him and believe that He forgives us because Jesus died for our sins.)

ASK What is the worst sin? (Not believing in Jesus.) Who are the ones that try hard to make us not believe in Jesus? (our enemies, the devil, the world and our own flesh)

SAY Our Bible lesson tells about a time when Simon Peter listened to the devil. But God protected his soul in the end. **READ** paragraph 5 to the class. Jesus called Peter by his first name, Simon. When Jesus warned Simon about the devil, what did He call the devil? (Satan) What did Jesus say Satan would try to do? (try to take Peter away from Jesus) What did Jesus do to protect Peter? (He prayed that Peter would not lose his faith.)

SAY Peter didn't think he would ever listen to the devil. He thought he was too strong. He didn't understand about his flesh. And he didn't trust in Jesus to help him. You read the next two paragraphs to find out what happened to Peter. (If you have students who do not read well, you may want to have several good readers read aloud after the silent reading.) Then **ASK** What did Peter do? (He told a terrible lie. He said he didn't know Jesus.) Why did Peter lie? (Satan tempted him, the world made him afraid, and his flesh was weak.)

ASK Did Peter turn back to Jesus? (yes) How did Jesus protect Peter so that he wouldn't stop believing in Jesus? (Jesus prayed for him. Then He came to Peter and spoke to him. The word of Jesus helped Peter to confess his sin. Jesus forgave him. **READ** Luke 22:54-62 and John 21:15-17 to the class as they follow along.

4. **LEAD** the class in reading paragraphs 8 and 9 in unison. **ASK** What brought Peter back and kept him from losing his faith? (the Word of Jesus)

SAY If you were baptized, Jesus gave you faith so that you could believe in Jesus. If you still trust Jesus as your Savior, confess your sins and ask God to forgive you, God has protected your soul. God can protect you so that you will always believe in Jesus. The Bible tells us that Jesus prays for us always. When we hear and learn His Word in the Bible, God's Word works to protect our souls. You need to listen to God's Word and let God help you believe.

SAY If you don't trust Jesus as your Savior, Jesus wants you to. His Word will help you. You can confess your sins and ask Jesus to be your Savior. Then He will protect you too.

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Memory Work

BIBLE VERSE—Psalm 121:7

The LORD will protect you from all evil; He will keep your soul.

CATECHISM—Have each student add the next segment of the Meaning to the First Article of The Apostles' Creed:

Add: *and guards and keeps me from all evil*

Then the student may draw whatever kind of line he wishes to make an edge for the puzzle piece. Cut the piece off along that line.

Allow students time to place all their puzzle pieces together. At this point, the students should have pieces for the following portion of The Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean?

I believe that God has created me and all that exists; that He has given and still preserves to me my body and soul, my eyes and ears, and all my members, my reason and all the powers of my soul, together with food and clothing, home and family, and all my property; that He daily provides abundantly for all the needs of my life, protects me from all danger, and guards and keeps me from all evil

Then read together all the segments of The Apostles' Creed that the students have.

Students should place the puzzle piece in their envelope.

Send the puzzle home with the students and encourage them to put their puzzle together once a day, read through it, and memorize the new section and any other sections they haven't committed to memory

See sample puzzle at the front of this Teacher Manual.

Activity Pages

ANSWERS (See answers on website)

Activity 1—Fill in the Blanks

ANSWERS

1. Soul
2. Unholy trinity
3. Recognized
4. Separate
5. Bitterly
6. Attitudes

Activity 2—Who's Who?

ANSWERS

7. H
8. G
9. A
10. F
11. C
12. J
13. B
14. I
15. E
16. D
17. K

CLOSING THE LESSON**Closing Prayer**

Encourage students to pray short prayers thanking God for protecting our souls. Pray that God's Word will help every student to trust in Jesus and to keep trusting and confessing sins every day.

Assignment

1. Remind students to take home their activity sheets and to use them to share the lesson with family and friends.
2. Challenge students to learn the memory verse and catechism and to review all verses from the quarter.