

Promise and Deliverance

Student Workbook

Volume 14
Level 1

Harvey De Groot

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Preface

When S.G. De Graaf wrote his four-volume series, *Promise and Deliverance*, he showed educators how to teach Bible stories from a redemptive-historical perspective. Rather than turning Bible stories into moralistic tales, De Graaf taught us how all the Bible shows God revealing himself as the God of the covenant, who is working out His redemptive plan for humanity and all of creation.

The 80 workbooks written by Harvey De Groot are meant to supplement De Graaf's work. They are divided by volume and level number: 20 volumes with four levels per volume. Workbook lessons are written at four levels so that families with students in various grades can study the same Bible stories during the week in preparation for their classes on Sunday. Prior to class, the Sunday School teacher should study the lesson in De Graaf's book. The teacher and students can go through the workbook during class.

The levels are divided according to the following grades:

- **Level One:** Grades K-1
- **Level Two:** Grades 2-3
- **Level Three:** Grades 4-6
- **Level Four:** Grades 7-8

Each volume contains 12 or 13 lessons, and each lesson has the following sections:

- **Reference:** The volume and lesson number in De Graaf's series.
- **Scripture:** The passage from Scripture on which the lesson is based.
- **Memory Verse:** A memory verse related to the lesson.
- **Lesson Truth:** A short statement to help the class focus on the main point of the lesson.
- **Lesson:** The lesson itself, which the teacher can read in class. For older grades, the teacher may opt to assign it as homework.
- **Questions:** Items to be discussed in class. For older grades, the teacher can assign these questions as homework but should also use them as a basis for class discussion. These are not the only questions that could or should be asked. Teachers should encourage students to come with their own questions as well.

This edition was written by Harvey De Groot and edited by his son Norlan De Groot.

All of Life Is a Miracle

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 39

Scripture: Mark 7:31–8:26

Memory Verse: “He makes both the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”
(Mark 7:37b)

Lesson Truth: The Lord Jesus taught the people that life is a miracle. You and I also live by the miracle of His grace.

Lesson

A miracle is a mighty act of God. A miracle is like a sign or a wonder. Jesus told the people that life is a miracle. Our life is a miracle of God’s grace. It was a miracle that Jesus could make a deaf person hear. It was a miracle that he could make a blind person see. The biggest miracle is that God’s people are saved by grace.

Jesus was teaching the people near the Sea of Galilee. This was the place where Jesus cast a legion of demons out of a man. These people asked Him to leave their region. They wanted Him to leave because the demons destroyed their pigs.

Now the people brought a deaf man to Jesus. This man could not talk and he could not hear. The people thought Jesus could use magic to heal this man. But Jesus does not use magic. He is the Son of God. He can make deaf people hear and blind people see. Jesus did not want to heal the man to show His power. He wanted the people to believe that He is Lord. He wanted them to believe in the power of His grace. Do you know what grace is? It is God’s gift of love to each of us. It is His gift of eternal life for His people. God’s gift of grace comes through Jesus our Lord.

Jesus showed His grace to the deaf and mute man. He took him away from the people. Then He touched his ears and his tongue. Do you know what

happened? The man was able to talk and he could hear. The people were astonished. They said that Jesus did all things well. He makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak. But they still did not believe that Jesus was Lord. They did not understand that life is miracle of grace.

The people followed Jesus for three days. They wanted to see His miracles. For three days they did not eat. Jesus felt sorry for them. The people would faint if He sent them home. Jesus asked His disciples how much bread they had. They told Him they only had seven loaves. Jesus told the people to sit down. He gave God thanks for the loaves. After that He told the disciples to feed the people. They fed four thousand people. Then they picked up seven large baskets of leftovers. The people should have known that Jesus was the Lord. They should have known that life is a miracle. They should have known that men live by the miracle of God's grace. Jesus is God's Word of grace! He gives life by providing bread. He gives eternal life by His grace.

Later Jesus was in a boat with His disciples. He told them to be careful about the teaching of Herod and the Pharisees. Herod and the Pharisees did not teach the truth. They said they needed a special sign in order to believe. But God's people do not need a special sign. God's people believe God's Word. Do you believe God's Word?

Jesus then went to Bethsaida. There the people brought a blind man to Him. They also thought Jesus could use magic to heal him. But Jesus does not use magic. He can heal people with the power of His grace. He led the blind man away from town. There He touched his eyes two times. Then the blind man could see again. Jesus did many miracles. He did these miracles to show His grace. God's people are redeemed by the miracle of His grace. Redeemed means that Jesus paid for our sins with His blood. Now we know that our redeemed life is a miracle of His grace.

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. Jesus was teaching the people near the Sea of (Judea – Galilee).

2. The people thought that Jesus could use (magic – the power of grace) to heal the deaf man.
3. The people followed Jesus for (four – three) days and did not eat.
4. Jesus told His disciples to be careful of the teaching of Herod and the (High Priest – Pharisees).
5. God's people are redeemed by the (miracle – magic) of His grace.

Transfigured

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 40

Scripture: Mark 9:2-13

Memory Verse: “And Elijah appeared to them with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus.” (Mark 9:4)

Lesson Truth: The Lord Jesus was obedient to the Father in heaven. God showed Him the glory that would be His after He rose from the dead.

Lesson

The Bible tells us that Jesus was transfigured. Peter, James, and John saw His transfiguration. Do you know what transfigured means? It means that a person changes in the way he looks. Jesus changed when He was transfigured. His face became as bright as the sun. His clothes became whiter than snow. The Bible says that Jesus’ clothes looked whiter than anyone could whiten them!

But something even more wonderful happened than the change in Jesus. God the Father showed Jesus His glory! Jesus would live in this glory after He rose from the dead. This was also a picture of the glory that will be given to God’s people. Jesus saw His place of high honor at the transfiguration. He would be highly honored because he died for the sins of His people.

The transfiguration tells us even more. It tells us that Jesus is the Head of God’s covenant. This means that He is the King. A good king works for his people. Jesus died for the sins of His people. Because He is the King He is able to pay for our sins. How do we know that Jesus was the Covenant Head? We know it because Elijah and Moses were there. God sent Moses and Elijah to lead His covenant people. They told the people about the promised Savior. Now they saw the glory that Jesus would receive. They saw the glory that God’s people will receive. Why will God’s people receive this glory?

Because the King paid for their sins! Jesus is their King. He is their covenant Head.

The disciples didn't know what to do. They saw Jesus' face shine. They saw His very white clothes. Then God covered them with a cloud. God's voice spoke from the cloud saying, "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!" The disciples could not live in the excitement of the mountain. They had to listen to the Words of Jesus. You and I must also listen to the Lord's Word.

Later Jesus and the disciples came down from the mountain. The disciples asked Jesus about Elijah. The scribes taught that Elijah had to come before the Messiah came. Jesus said the scribes were wrong. He said that John the Baptist had come with the power of Elijah. But the people rejected him. The people would also reject Jesus.

In the transfiguration God showed Jesus His glory. This glory belonged to Jesus. It belonged to Him because He obeyed the Father in heaven. You and I can also receive God's glory. We must believe in Jesus as our Lord. We must believe His Word!

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. Peter, James, and (Judas – John) saw the transfiguration of Jesus.
2. The face of Jesus became as bright as the (stars – sun).
3. Elijah and (Moses – Aaron) were at the transfiguration of Jesus.
4. God's voice spoke from the (mountain – cloud) saying, "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him."
5. In the transfiguration God showed Jesus His (power – glory).

Fighters for Life

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 41

Scripture: Mark 9:14-29

Memory Verse: “Jesus said to him, ‘If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.’” (Mark 9:23)

Lesson Truth: The Lord Jesus fought for the life of a boy who had a demon. Believers fight for life in Christ.

Lesson

In the last lesson Jesus was on a mountain. God showed Him the glory that would be His. Jesus’ face shone like the sun. His clothes were glowing white. This gave Jesus strength to suffer and die for His people. After that Jesus came down from the mountain. He saw something that made Him very sad.

Jesus saw a crowd of people around His disciples. In the crowd were some scribes. The scribes did not like Jesus. They were quarreling with Jesus’ disciples. Jesus asked why they were quarreling. A man from the crowd answered Jesus. Then Jesus knew why they were quarreling. They were quarreling because of the man’s son.

The man told Jesus that his son had an evil spirit. This evil spirit caused the boy to get seizures. The seizures were so bad they threw the boy down. Then his mouth would foam, and he would gnash his teeth. Sometimes his body would become stiff. The man then told Jesus something sad. He said he asked Jesus’ disciples to heal his son. But they could not heal him. They healed other sick people. Why couldn’t they heal this boy?

Jesus knew why they could not heal him. It was because they were surrounded by unbelief. The crowd did not believe. The scribes did not believe. This unbelief broke the power of the disciple’s faith. Jesus then reminded the people that they were unbelievers. He asked how long shall I

be with you? Jesus surely wanted to redeem sinners. But He was sad because of their unbelief. Jesus then told them to bring the boy to Him.

Just when the boy came to Jesus the demon gave him a seizure. The poor boy rolled on the ground. He foamed from his mouth. Jesus asked the boy's father how long the demon had been hurting him. The father said it had been happening ever since the boy was a child. He told Jesus that this demon sometimes threw the boy into the fire, or sometimes into the water. The father then asked Jesus if He could do anything. His question showed his unbelief.

Jesus wanted to help the father to believe. He told him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes!" (Mark 9:23). The father knew that Jesus wanted him to believe. He began to cry and said to Jesus, "Lord, I believe, help my unbelief" (Mark 9:24). That was the way that Jesus made faith grow in the boy's father. Isn't that wonderful?

Jesus then rebuked the evil spirit. He commanded this evil spirit to come out of the boy. The evil spirit then gave the boy one more big seizure. The boy rolled on the ground just like he was dead. But Jesus took his hand and helped him stand up.

Later the disciples asked Jesus why they could not cast out this demon. Jesus told them it was because they were surrounded with unbelief. The only way they could break this unbelief was by prayer and fasting. Through fasting and prayer, God's people know they are sinners. They know they need a Redeemer. Then God makes faith grow in their hearts. Jesus fought for the life of this boy and his father. God's people fight for the life of sinners. Jesus fights to free each one of us from the power of evil!

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. Jesus saw (a few – a crowd of) people around His disciples.

2. The (scribes – disciples) in the crowd did not like Jesus.
3. The man from the crowd told Jesus that his (daughter – son) had an evil spirit.
4. Jesus told the boy's father that all things are (impossible – possible) to those who believe.
5. The (disciples – scribes) could not cast out the evil spirit because they were surrounded by unbelief.

He Came to Serve

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 42

Scripture: Mark 10:32-45

Memory Verse: “Through love serve one another.” (Galatians 5:13b)

Lesson Truth: The Lord Jesus came to serve others. He came to give His life for sinners.

Lesson

Do you know why Jesus came to earth? He came to be a suffering servant. Jesus did not come to do what He wanted. He came to do what His Father wanted. Jesus was willing to give His life to pay for our sins. He told the disciples that He came to serve.

Jesus was coming from Galilee. He was walking with His disciples to Jerusalem. On the way they crossed the Jordan River. At many villages He stopped to teach the people. Jesus wanted the people to know about God’s Kingdom. The disciples heard the things that Jesus said. They were amazed at His words.

Soon Jesus and His disciples came near Jerusalem. The leaders in Jerusalem did not like Jesus. This made the disciples afraid. So Jesus took them aside. He decided to tell them what would happen in Jerusalem. Some terrible things were going to happen. Jesus said that someone would betray Him. The chief priests and scribes would capture Him. They would tell the Romans that Jesus should be put to death. The Romans would mock Jesus. They would whip Him, and the soldiers would spit on Him.

After all these bad things Jesus would be put to death. But Jesus also told the disciples that He would rise from the dead. It is sad that the disciples did not understand what He told them. They believed that Jesus was the Messiah. But they did not believe that the Messiah would suffer. They

thought the Messiah would be a king. A king would not suffer and be put to death! Sadly, the disciples did not know what the Bible said.

The disciples were also mistaken about Jesus' Kingdom. They thought that He was about to set up His Kingdom and be the king. James and John even asked for a special favor. They asked if they could sit on Jesus' right and on His left in His Kingdom. Jesus told them that they did not understand.

Jesus asked James and John if they were ready to suffer like He would suffer. They said that they were ready to suffer. But Jesus knew that they did not understand. He said that they would suffer. But only the Father could say who would sit on His right and left. The other disciples were upset with James and John. They thought it was not right for them to ask Jesus for such a favor.

Now Jesus knew that He had to teach all the disciples. He told them that they were thinking like people of the world. He told them that worldly people want to boss each other. But God's people must be different. God's people must be willing to serve each other. Anyone who wants to be great in God's Kingdom must become a servant.

Then Jesus told the disciples that He was their example. He came to earth to serve others. He would serve so completely that He would give His life. Jesus said that He came to give His life as payment for their sins. Now we know that Jesus came to serve. He came to set us free from our sins. Jesus also wants you and me to be servants. We must be servants because we are God's people.

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. Jesus and His disciples were coming from (Edom – Galilee).
2. Jesus said that someone would (honor – betray) Him at Jerusalem.

3. The (Romans – Disciples) would mock Jesus, whip Him, and spit on Him.

4. James and (Peter – John) asked Jesus if they could sit on His right and His left in His Kingdom.

5. Jesus told the disciples that He came to earth to (be served – serve).

The Answer to the Questions

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 43

Scripture: Mark 12:13-44

Memory Verse: “Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.” (Mark 12:29b)

Lesson Truth: Both Jesus’ enemies and friends asked questions. The Lord Jesus is the answer to these questions.

Lesson

Is it good to ask questions? Asking questions is a good way to learn. But people can also bad questions. Bad questions are questions used to trap someone. The leaders of Israel sent some Pharisees to Jesus to ask some bad questions. They wanted to trap Jesus. They made up some questions that Jesus could not answer yes or no. Either yes or no would be wrong. Others asked Jesus honest questions. They wanted to know the truth.

Jesus was in Jerusalem. He came into Jerusalem riding on a donkey. The people honored Him by crying, “Hosanna!” They said, “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!” (Mark 11:9). Sadly, the chief priests did not like it that the people honored Jesus. They were angry that Jesus spoke parables against them. Do you know what they did?

They sent some Pharisees and Herodians to ask Jesus a question. It was a trick question. They thought they would catch Jesus saying something wrong. They asked Jesus, “Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” (Mark 12:14). They thought if Jesus said, yes, the people would be angry with Him. The people hated Caesar and the Romans. They thought if He said, no, the Romans would punish Jesus. They would punish Him because the law said they had to pay taxes. Wasn’t this a very bad question?

Jesus knew their wicked hearts. So, He did not answer either yes or no. He asked them to bring Him a penny. Then He asked them whose image was on the penny. They told Him that it was an image of Caesar. Do you know what Jesus told them? He told them to give to Caesar the things that belonged to Caesar. But He also told them to give to God the things that belong to God. Jesus knew that people who are right with God will do right for Caesar. Jesus' answer showed that He was the Son of God!

Later, some Sadducees asked Jesus a trick question. It was question about rising from the dead. The Sadducees do not believe that people will rise from the dead. But the Bible says that everyone will rise from the dead. Some will be punished, and others will go to heaven. The Sadducees made up a question about a woman. This woman married seven brothers. She married each brother when the one before had died. They asked whose wife this woman would be when people rise from the dead. Jesus also knew the Sadducees' wicked hearts. He told them that they did not know the Bible. And they did not know the power of God. God will raise people from the dead. Then they will not be married. They will be like the angels in heaven. Jesus again showed that he was the Son of God!

Jesus also answered an honest question. A scribe asked which was the first commandment. He really wanted to know which commandment was the most important. Jesus told him to love God with all his heart, soul, mind, and strength. This was the most important commandment of all. Jesus said the second commandment was like the first. He had to love his neighbor as He loved himself.

The Lord Jesus also warned them not to pretend to be God's people. Some of the scribes pretended to be God's people. They wanted to pray long prayers so others would see them. Jesus told about a widow who put two pennies into the offering. She did not pretend to belong to God. She really was God's child. The two pennies she put into the offering was all she had. She put them in because her heart was thankful for God's grace in her life. Remember that Jesus is the answer to the questions!

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. The chief priests sent some Pharisees and (Herodians – disciples) to ask Jesus a question.
2. The Pharisees asked (a scribe – Jesus), “Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar?”
3. Jesus told the Pharisees to give to Caesar the things that belonged to (God – Caesar).
4. Jesus also told the Pharisees to give to God the things that belong to (God – Caesar).
5. Jesus told a (scribe – disciple) to love God with all his heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Learning Obedience

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 44

Scripture: Mark 14:32-42

Memory Verse: “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.” (John 6:38)

Lesson Truth: Jesus suffered in the Garden of Gethsemane. He was obedient to the Father in heaven.

Lesson

Today’s story tells about Jesus’ suffering. He was in the Garden of Gethsemane. There He suffered the fear of death. He suffered because He knew He would be punished for the sins of His people. Jesus suffered to show that He was the Lamb of God. He was the perfect Lamb of God. He could pay for His people’s sins. Jesus was obedient to the Father. He said that He would do the Father’s will.

This is what happened. Jesus came into Jerusalem riding on a donkey. The people praised Him. They cried out, “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.” This made the chief priests and elders angry. They decided to put Jesus to death. Sadly, one of Jesus’ disciples helped the chief priests and elders. Judas told them that he would betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the chief priests and elders would put Him to death. But He did not run away. He stayed at Jerusalem. Jesus and His disciples went to the Garden of Gethsemane.

At Gethsemane Jesus suffered. He suffered the fear of punishment for the sins of His people. Jesus went to Gethsemane to pray. He asked the disciples to wait while He prayed. He took Peter, James, and John with Him. Jesus told them that His soul was in deep sorrow. He asked them watch.

Then Jesus fell on the ground and prayed to the Father. He asked the Father if it was possible for Him not to suffer. Jesus knew everything was possible with the Father. This was not unbelief for Jesus. It was asking the Father if there was another way to save His people. Could they be saved without Jesus suffering and dying? Still the Lord Jesus was obedient. He prayed that He did not want to do His will. He wanted to do the Father's will. Jesus showed that He could obey the Father as a man.

Then Jesus went back to the disciples. He found them sleeping. Three times He prayed to the Father. Three times He came back to the disciples. Each time He found the disciples sleeping. Jesus asked Peter a question. He asked, "Simon, are you sleeping? Could you not watch one hour?" (Mark 14:37). Then Jesus warned the disciples about temptations. He told them to watch and pray so they would not be tempted.

Jesus won the victory over the fear of dying. He won this victory as He prayed. No one else has ever suffered such deep sorrow in prayer. No one else has ever been so obedient. Jesus was ready to do the Father's will. But the disciples were not ready. They would fall into temptation. Only the grace of the Lord Jesus would save them.

You and I will also fall into temptation. We will fall into temptation because we are weak. But Jesus overcame our weakness. He overcame our weakness because He was obedient. We must believe in Jesus. Then His victory can be ours. Jesus said that we must watch and pray. He won the victory over fear for us. Now we are able to watch and pray.

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. Jesus came to a place named (Jericho – Gethsemane).
2. Jesus took Peter, James, and (John – Matthew) with him.

3. (Jesus – Peter) said, “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful...”
4. Jesus knew that everything was (impossible – possible) with the Father.
5. Jesus warned the (elders – disciples) about temptations. He said they should watch and pray.

Like a Murderer

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 45

Scripture: Mark 14:43-72

Memory Verse: “Then they all forsook Him and fled.” (Mark 14:50)

Lesson Truth: Jesus was treated like a murderer. They came with swords and clubs to take Him prisoner. Then they said He should be put to death.

Lesson

Jesus never did anything wrong. Still, they took Him prisoner. Soldiers came with swords and clubs to take Him. They treated Him like He was a murderer. This had to happen. It had to happen because the Bible said it would. The chief priests and elders said that He should be put to death. His own disciple said that he did not know Jesus.

The Lord Jesus struggled in the Garden of Gethsemane. He won a great victory over Himself as a man. He was willing to do the Father’s will. He would suffer and die for the sins of His people. Now Jesus woke His disciples. He told them that the one who would betray Him was coming. Just then Judas came to Gethsemane. A large band of soldiers followed him. They had swords and clubs. The chief priests told them to take Jesus. They treated Jesus like He was a murderer.

This was sad. It was sad because Jesus was not a murderer. Judas and the soldiers did not know Jesus. They did not know that He was the Redeemer. They did not know that He was ready to surrender. Jesus was ready to suffer and die for the sins of His people. He was ready to have the soldiers take Him.

The soldiers were not sure which one was Jesus. So, Judas gave them a sign. He told them that he would kiss Jesus. They should arrest the one he kissed. Then he ran and kissed Jesus and said, “Rabbi!” Peter started to fight. He

cut off an ear with his sword. Then Jesus told them not to fight. He was ready to do the Father's will.

Jesus asked the soldiers why they came with swords and clubs. He said that He was in the temple every day, and no one took Him. But Jesus knew why they treated Him like a murderer. It was because the Bible said that He would be treated that way.

The Bible is always true. So, the soldiers arrested Him like a murderer. Then the disciples ran away. The soldiers took Jesus to the high priest. The elders and scribes were also there. The chief priests and elders called men to lie about Jesus. They wanted to find a reason to put Him to death. Jesus never answered the men who told lies about Him.

At last, the high priest asked Him if He was the Christ. He asked Him if He was the Son of the Blessed. Then Jesus answered. He said that he was the Christ. He also said that they would see Him sitting on the right hand of the power. This should have been a warning for the chief priests and elders. But it wasn't. Instead, they said that He made light of God's name. These evil men said that He deserved to die. Then they mocked Him and spit on Him. They even slapped Him with their hands.

Jesus also suffered because of His disciples. Peter told the people that he did not know Jesus. Three times he said that he did not know his Lord. Just then the rooster crowed. And Peter remembered. He remembered that Jesus said that he would deny Him. Then Peter went outdoors. His heart was broken so he wept. But Peter did know the Lord Jesus. He knew that He was the Redeemer. Peter knew that he could be forgiven. He could be forgiven because of the Lord's grace. Do you believe that the grace of Jesus can forgive your sins?

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. A large band of (disciples – soldiers) followed Judas into Gethsemane.

2. They treated Jesus like He was a (king – murderer).
3. The sign that (Judas – Peter) gave to the soldiers was a kiss.
4. Jesus was treated like a (priest – murderer) because the Bible said it would happen that way).
5. Jesus suffered because (Peter – Judas) said that he did not know Him.

Regarded as Nothing

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 46

Scripture: Mark 15:1-20

Memory Verse: “But they cried out all the more, ‘Crucify Him!’” (Mark 15:14b)

Lesson Truth: Jesus was treated like He was nothing. They thought of Him as worthless.

Lesson

The title of our lesson is hard. To regard someone as nothing is to think of that person as worthless. That was the way Jesus was thought of. He was thought of as if He was nothing. Pilate thought of Jesus as nothing. The people did not respect Him. And the soldiers mocked Him. These people thought that Jesus was not good for anything. Wasn't that terrible?

This happened at Pilate's court. The chief priests and elders sent Jesus to Pilate. Pilate was the Roman governor. He had the authority to put Jesus to death. Pilate was curious about Jesus. He heard that Jesus was a King. So, Pilate asked Jesus a question. He asked, “Are You the King of the Jews?” (Mark 15:2). Jesus was the King of the Jews. But He was not a king like Pilate thought. Pilate was thinking of a king who would lead armies. Jesus was not that kind of king. Jesus is a King who rules men's hearts. So, He answered Pilate in a strange way. He said, “It is as you say” (Mark 15:2).

Pilate did not respect Jesus. He did not think that Jesus was a king. Pilate listened to the things the chief priests said against Jesus. Then he asked Jesus why He didn't answer the chief priests. But Jesus never said a word. He kept very quiet.

Pilate did not think that Jesus was dangerous. He decided that he would try to set Jesus free. Each year at the Passover Feast, Pilate would set a prisoner

free. He offered to set Jesus free. He did not care to be fair or right. It would have been right for Jesus to go free. It was right because Jesus never did anything wrong. But Pilate treated Jesus like he was a prisoner. He told the people they could choose to set Barabbas or Jesus free. This was sad because Jesus was not a prisoner. He is God's perfect Son!

Neither did the people respect Jesus. They saw the miracles that He did. They saw that He healed sick people. They also heard Him talk about God's grace. But the people did not want God's grace. They wanted a king to fight the Romans. That is why they listened to the chief priests and elders. They shouted that they wanted Pilate to set Barabbas free. They did not want Jesus! Pilate asked them what he should do with Jesus. Do you know what they shouted? They shouted, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" (Mark 15:13-14).

Pilate told the soldiers to crucify Jesus. Before the soldiers crucified Jesus, they mocked Him. They pretended that he was a king. They dressed Him in a purple robe. Then they made a crown of thorns and put it on Jesus' head. All the while the soldiers hit Jesus and spit on Him. The soldiers did not respect Jesus.

Isn't it sad that many people today do not respect Jesus? Many people believe that His cross is foolish. But other people do believe. They believe that Jesus is the Redeemer. They believe that He suffered disrespect to pay the price for sin. Believers know that Jesus died on the cross to save His people from their sins. Do you respect Jesus? Do you believe that He is your Redeemer?

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. The chief priests and elders sent Jesus to (Pilate – Herod) the Roman governor.
2. When Jesus did not answer, Pilot (became angry – marveled) at Jesus.

3. The people did not want (Pilate's – God's) grace.
4. Pilate asked the people what he should do with (the elders – Jesus).
5. The people shouted to Pilate to (crucify – release) Jesus.

Powerlessness

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 47

Scripture: Mark 15:21-47

Memory Verse: “Truly this Man was the Son of God!” (Mark 15:39b)

Lesson Truth: Jesus gave up His power in suffering. He was willing to give up His power to death and the grave.

Lesson

Powerlessness means to be without power. Jesus gave up His power when He suffered. He gave up His power to death and the grave. Isn't that amazing? The Lord, who made all things, gave up His power. He did this to redeem His people.

Jesus gave up His power in Pilate's court. He did not answer the people who accused Him. Pilate told the soldiers to crucify Jesus. The soldiers took Him outside the city. They did not crucify criminals in the city. Criminals could not be with other people. Jesus was treated like a criminal. He gave up His power to the soldiers. That was part of His suffering. Jesus allowed Himself to be helpless on the cross. He was crucified between two murderers. He even allowed Pilate to put a sign over Him. The sign read: “The King of the Jews” (Mark 15:26). This was sad because Pilate did not understand. He did not know that Jesus rules in people's hearts. Jesus gave up His power in all this suffering.

Many people mocked Jesus because He gave up His power. Do you know what they said when Jesus was on the cross? They said: “Save Yourself, and come down from the cross” (Mark 15:30). The chief priests and scribes also mocked Him. They said to each other: “He saved others; Himself He cannot save” (Mark 15:31). That was wicked of them to say such things. It wasn't that Jesus could not save Himself. It was because He was willing to die for the sins of His people. He gave up His power to redeem His children.

Why was Jesus without power? He gave up His power willingly. God also forsook Him. That is why He was powerless. On the cross Jesus was without His Father. For three hours He hung on the cross. All this time God had forsaken Him. This was so dreadful that it became dark. It was mid-day, but the sun could not shine. Jesus is the Light of the world. Yet on the cross He suffered in darkness. Jesus suffered the darkness so that His people would have light.

The Lord Jesus was without the Father on the cross. At last, He cried out: “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” (Mark 15:34). Without the Father, Jesus felt the anger of God against sin! He gave up all His power to pay the price for the sins of His people.

Jesus also gave up His power when He died. He allowed death to rule over Him. He also submitted to being forgotten in the grave. Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for His body. He wrapped Jesus’ body in fine linen and placed it in his new tomb. In all these ways Jesus gave up His power. He became powerless. In that way His people would have the power to become sons of God!

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. In His suffering Jesus gave up His (power – wisdom).
2. The (elders – soldiers) took Jesus outside the city to crucify Him.
3. Many people (praised – mocked) Jesus because He gave up His power.
4. Jesus was powerless because (His disciples – God) forsook Him.
5. Jesus suffered (darkness – mockery) so that His people would have light.

The Word of the King

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 48

Scripture: Mark 16:1-20

Memory Verse: “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” (Mark 16:15b)

Lesson Truth: Jesus the King arose from the dead. Now His Word is taught with power.

Lesson

Do you know what the Word of the King is? It is a word that must be obeyed. It must be obeyed because a king is like a president. Jesus is the King. He arose from the dead. After He arose, He told His disciples to tell everyone. Jesus told them to go to every part of the world. They had to tell people the good news that Jesus was alive.

Three women watched as Jesus died on the cross. They watched as Joseph put Jesus’ body in his new tomb. These women were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome. Jesus was put in the tomb just before the Sabbath Day. These women could not wait for the Sabbath to be over. They wanted to go to the tomb and put spices on Jesus’ body. They talked as they hurried to the tomb. They asked each other who would roll the big stone away from the door of the tomb. The women were surprised when they came to the tomb. The stone had been rolled away. So, they went into the tomb.

The women thought they would find the body of Jesus. But it wasn’t there. Instead, they saw an angel. This angel was dressed in a long white robe. He looked like a young man. The angel told the women not to be afraid. Then he told them the best news the world has ever heard. The angel said that Jesus had risen from the dead. He was no longer in the tomb. The women

could see the place where Jesus had lain. The women must have been very excited. Jesus their Lord was alive!

The angel then told them to tell the disciples. They had to tell them that they would see Jesus in Galilee. The women were amazed and afraid. They left the tomb, but they did not tell anyone. Jesus had to bring faith into their hearts. Then they would tell the good news. Do you know how Jesus made faith live in the hearts of His followers? He talked to them to show that He was alive. The first person He talked to was Mary Magdalene.

Jesus had cast seven demons out of Mary Magdalene. She right away went and told His followers that Jesus was alive. Jesus also talked to two men from Emmaus. They told the others as well that Jesus was alive. Sadly, Jesus followers did not believe it. It was too wonderful to believe. They could not believe that Jesus had won the victory over death.

Later Jesus talked to His disciples. He came when they were eating. Do you know what Jesus said to them? He scolded them because they did not believe. Jesus told them it was their hard hearts that kept them from believing. Isn't it wonderful that Jesus made faith live in their hearts? He then told them to tell everyone in the world. They had to tell everyone that Jesus is alive! This was the Word of The King. They had to tell people that those who believe would be saved. But they also had to tell people that those who do not believe would be lost. Jesus is alive so His disciples could bring His Word with power!

After Jesus talked to His disciples He went up to heaven. He sat down at God's right hand. He received praise and honor and glory from the Father. Jesus is now the King. He gives His grace to His people to help them believe. Do you know how He gives His grace? The Holy Spirit brings His grace. The Holy Spirit makes the Word of the King live in people's hearts. Because of that Word sinners can be made free!

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. (Three – four) women watched as Jesus died on the cross and was put into the tomb.
2. The women saw (a gardener – an angel) when they went into the tomb.
3. The (angel – gardener) said that Jesus had risen from the dead.
4. The first person Jesus talked to after He arose was (Salome – Mary Magdalene).
5. The (disciple – Holy Spirit) brings the grace of the Lord Jesus into people's hearts.

The Lord Is Gracious

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 49

Scripture: Luke 1:1-25, 57-80

Memory Verse: “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace.” (John 16:33)

Lesson Truth: John was sent to make the way ready for Jesus. This is how God showed His grace.

Lesson

Do you know what it means to be gracious? It means to show compassion or mercy. Our story is about the Lord being gracious. He was gracious when He gave a son to Zacharias and Elizabeth. He was gracious because this son made the way ready for Jesus. This son’s name was John. John means the Lord is gracious.

The people of Israel should have been ready for the Messiah. For years they talked about God’s promise. God promised that He would send a Savior. Now that the time was here, the people were not ready. Do you know how God told about the coming Messiah? He told Zacharias and Elizabeth that they were going to have a son. Their son would make the way ready for the Messiah. It was a miracle for Zacharias and Elizabeth to have a son. It was a miracle because they were too old to have children.

Zacharias and Elizabeth loved God very much. They kept all His commandments. Zacharias was a priest. He was chosen to burn incense to the Lord at the temple. While he was burning incense a wonderful thing happened. An angel appeared and stood by the altar. This made Zacharias afraid. The angel told him not to be afraid. He said he came to tell him that his prayer was going to be answered. Do you know what his prayer was? He and Elizabeth prayed for a child. But God had never given them children. Now they thought they were too old to have children. That is why Zacharias

could not believe what the angel told him. The angel told him that he and Elizabeth were going to have a son. He said they should name him John. His name meant the Lord is gracious. Zacharias asked the angel how he would know this was true. It was wrong for Zacharias not to believe the angel. Because he did not believe, God would give him a sign. The sign was that Zacharias would not be able to talk until his son was born.

Still, God showed His grace to Zacharias. He made faith grow in his heart and in Elizabeth's heart. Then the day came that their son was born. The neighbors and family helped them rejoice. Eight days later the baby had to be circumcised and given a name. The family was sure that his name would be Zacharias. Most sons were given the name of their father. But Elizabeth said no, he should be called John. The family could not understand why they would name him John. They said that no one in the family had that name. Then they decided to ask Zacharias what his name should be.

Zacharias could not speak. So, he wrote on a tablet that his name is John. As soon as he wrote that his name is John, Zacharias could speak again. He could speak because he showed that he believed God's Word. Then Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit. He was able to prophesy. He told of things to come. He said that God was sending the Messiah. The Messiah would come from the house of David. He would forgive the sins of His people. The Messiah would bring peace and light to God's people.

Zacharias also said that his son would be a prophet. He would call the people to repent of their sins. And he would be the one to make the people ready for the Messiah. The name John was the right name for Zacharias and Elizabeth's son. It was right because John means the Lord is gracious. Truly the Lord is gracious, also to us!

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. The name (Zacharias – John) means “the Lord is gracious.”

2. Zacharias was a (priest – prophet) who was chosen to burn incense in the temple.
3. Zacharias was not able to (eat – talk) until his son was born.
4. The neighbors and family wanted to name the new son (Zacharias – John).
5. Zacharias said that his son would be a (priest – prophet) who would call the people to repent of their sins.

Holy Is His Name

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 50

Scripture: Luke 1:26-56

Memory Verse: “And Mary said: ‘My soul magnifies the Lord.’” (Luke 1:46)

Lesson Truth: God showed that He is Holy. He caused Jesus to grow in Mary’s womb.

Lesson

Mary said, “Holy is His Name” (Luke 1:49). She said this after an angel talked to her. The angel was Gabriel. He told Mary that she would give birth to Jesus. Mary believed what Gabriel told her. That is why she said, “Holy is His Name.” Holy means to be set apart by God. Jesus was set apart by God to be the Redeemer.

This is a wonderful story about God choosing Mary. He chose Mary to be the mother of Jesus, the Redeemer. Mary was a very common girl. She was engaged to a very common man. His name was Joseph. Mary came from a little town in Galilee. The name of the town was Nazareth. The people of Israel thought Nazareth was not important. They made fun of Nazareth in Galilee.

But God chose Mary who lived in Nazareth. He sent His angel Gabriel to talk to Mary. Gabriel told Mary that the Lord was with her. He said that she was blessed among women. Do you know why he said this? He said it because she was going to be Jesus’ mother. Gabriel told her that she would have Son. Her Son would be the Son of the Highest. This meant that He was the Son of God. But Mary had a question.

She asked Gabriel how she could become a mother. She told the angel that she was not married. Then Gabriel said that God would work a miracle in her. He told Mary that God’s Holy Spirit would come upon her. The power

of God would surround her. The Holy Spirit and the power of God would make it possible for her to have a Son. Gabriel also told Mary about another miracle. This miracle was that her cousin Elizabeth was going to have a son. This was a miracle because Elizabeth was old. This would help Mary know that Gabriel's words were true. Then Mary showed that she believed his words. She said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38). Now Mary was ready to be the mother of the Holy One. She would be the mother of Jesus.

Mary hurried to see Elizabeth as soon as possible. Something wonderful happened when Mary greeted Elizabeth. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Then Elizabeth told Mary that everything Gabriel told her would happen. She was really going to be the mother of the Redeemer. That was the way God showed His grace to Mary and Elizabeth.

Both Mary and Elizabeth were women of faith. They believed the promises that God made to Israel. Now Mary sang a song of praise to God. She said that her soul magnified the Lord. Her spirit rejoiced in God her Savior. Mary praised God for choosing her to be Jesus' mother. She praised Her Lord for doing great things for her. Mary then exclaimed, "Holy is His Name." Elizabeth and Mary knew that God was the ruler in their lives. Is the Lord Jesus the ruler in your life?

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. God chose (Mary – Elizabeth) to be the mother of the Redeemer.
2. Mary came from the little town of (Capernaum – Nazareth).
3. The Holy Spirit and the power of God would make it (impossible – possible) for Mary to have a Son.

4. Both Mary and Elizabeth were (unbelievers – women of faith).

5. Mary sang a song saying that her (spirit – body) rejoiced in God her Savior.