

Promise and Deliverance

Student Workbook

Volume 11
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.

Lesson 1
Given by God

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 1

Scripture: Matthew 1

Memory Verse: “And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” (Matthew 1:21)

Lesson Truth: God gave the Savior to save His people from their sins.

Lesson

The Christmas story is a beautiful story. It is a story about the birth of Jesus. The Gospel of Matthew tells us some important things about Jesus’ birth. Matthew told the Jewish Christians that Jesus was a son of Abraham. He also told them that Jesus was a son of David. Matthew showed that Jesus was the Savior. He was the Savior that God promised in the covenant.

Do you know how Matthew told about Jesus and the covenant? He listed all the names of the generations from Abraham to Jesus. This showed the Jews that Jesus was a son of Abraham. It showed them that Jesus was the promised Son of David. This is a wonderful story. It is wonderful because it tells how Jesus fulfilled all that was promised to David’s house. After David was king, his sons became very sinful. They were so sinful that they were carried into captivity. They were removed from the Promised Land. It seemed like the promises that God made to Abraham and David would not be fulfilled. But then Jesus, the Son of God, came in the line of Abraham and David and fulfilled all the promises.

Matthew tells us another important thing about Jesus’ birth. Jesus’ mother was Mary, but He did not have a human father. God’s Holy Spirit made Jesus to grow in Mary’s womb. Jesus could not have a human father. If He had a human father He would be sinful just like us. A sinful person could not be the Redeemer.

God told two people that Jesus would be born. They were Mary and Joseph. An angel told Mary that she would have a Son from the Holy Spirit. It was a miracle to have a Son from the Holy Spirit. It was such a miracle that Mary did not dare to tell anyone. She did not even tell Joseph. Joseph did not know how Mary got to be with child. He thought she maybe did something wrong. Joseph thought that he should quietly leave Mary.

Before Joseph could leave, an angel talked to him. The angel talked to him in a dream. The angel told Joseph to not be afraid to take Mary as his wife. He told Joseph about the miracle that happened to Mary. Now Joseph knew that Mary was going to have a child from the Holy Spirit. The angel also told Joseph to take this child as his own son. He told Joseph to name Mary's child Jesus. Jesus means savior or redeemer. Mary's child had to be named Jesus because He would redeem His people from their sins.

Isn't it wonderful that Joseph believed the angel? He believed even though the angel told him about a miracle. He believed that Mary's child was a gift from God. Joseph believed that Jesus was a gift to David's house. He believed that Jesus is the Redeemer. This man of God believed that Jesus would redeem people from every nation.

Because Joseph believed, he obeyed the angel's command. He took Mary to be his wife. When Mary's child was born, Joseph gave him the name Jesus. You and I must believe just like Joseph did. We must believe that Jesus is the Savior. We must also call Him Jesus because He is also our Redeemer.

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. (Jesus – Abraham) was the Savior that God promised in the covenant.
2. Jesus did not have a human (mother – father).
3. The angel talked to Joseph in (the temple – a dream).

4. The angel told (David – Joseph) that he should name Mary’s child Jesus.

5. You and I should believe just like (Joseph – Herod) did.

Lesson 2
Epiphany

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 2

Scripture: Matthew 2

Memory Verse: “For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” (Luke 2:11)

Lesson Truth: Jesus was made known to the wise men from the East. At the same time He was hidden from many in Israel.

Lesson

Part of the Christmas story is about the wise men. The wise men came from the East to worship Jesus. Sometimes the coming of the wise men is called Epiphany. It means that the wise men appeared. It is better for us to believe that God appeared to the wise men. God put a star in the sky at the time of Jesus’ birth.

The story about the wise men is a beautiful story. This story tells us how God told unbelievers about the Redeemer. These unbelievers were from the East. They were men who studied the stars. These wise men saw a new star when Jesus was born. They were sure that the star meant that a King was born. The wise men were also sure that this new King was in the land of Judah. Do you know what they decided to do? They decided to travel to Jerusalem and find out about this new King.

King Herod of Judah lived at Jerusalem. The wise men went to King Herod. They asked him where the new King of the Jews was to be born. This made Herod upset. He did not want another king in the land of Judah. Herod called for the chief priests and scribes. He asked them if they knew where the King of the Jews was to be born. The chief priests remembered the words of the prophet Micah. Micah said that a ruler would come from Bethlehem. Herod then told the wise men to go to Bethlehem. He asked the

wise men to let him know if they found the King. Then he would come and worship him.

Herod was really lying. He wanted to find Jesus to put Him to death. The wise men were happy to go to Bethlehem. They were happy because they believed the words of Micah. The wise men believed that the King in Bethlehem was the promised Redeemer. In Bethlehem they found the home of Joseph and Mary. There they found baby Jesus!

Do you know what the wise men did? They fell down and worshipped the baby Jesus. The wise men believed that Jesus was God's gift of grace to the world. They also gave gifts to this child King. Their gifts were gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. God helped these wise men from the East believe that Jesus was the Redeemer. They believed in the Savior of the world before many people from Israel.

After that a very bad thing happened. Wicked King Herod heard that the wise men went home another way. He was very angry because he wanted to know where Jesus was. He wanted to put Jesus to death. Then Herod decided to do a terrible thing. He told his soldiers to kill every baby boy in Bethlehem who was two years old or younger. It was so terrible that the mothers of Bethlehem cried for their children. Herod thought he could destroy the Redeemer of the world. But God did not allow that to happen.

God told Joseph in a dream to go to Egypt with Mary and the child. Jesus was in Egypt when Herod had the baby boys killed. After Herod died, Joseph took Mary and Jesus back to Israel. He went to live in Nazareth. Jesus lived in Nazareth as a child. Later he was called a Nazarene. This is the story that tells how Jesus was made known to the wise men. It is a beautiful story of the way God showed His grace to men from the East.

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. God put a (star – moon) in the sky at the time of Jesus' birth.

2. The story about (Herod – the wise men) tells us how God told unbelievers about the Redeemer.
3. The wise men went to (Joseph – Herod) when they arrived in Jerusalem to ask where the King of the Jews was to be born.
4. The prophet (Micah – Isaiah) said that a ruler would be born in Bethlehem.
5. Wicked King (Archelaus – Herod) did a terrible thing when he put the baby boys in Bethlehem to death.

Head of His People

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

Scripture: Matthew 3–4

Memory Verse: “Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him.” (Matthew 3:13)

Lesson Truth: The Father in heaven made Jesus the Head of His people.

Lesson

Adam was the first man that ever lived. God wanted Adam to be the head of His people. But Adam disobeyed God, so he could not be the head. That is why God made Jesus the Head of His people. The head of people is like the president. Jesus obeyed God perfectly so he could be the Head. How do we know that Jesus was the Head of God’s people? We know that because He was baptized and anointed and tempted.

God wanted John the Baptist to get everything ready for Jesus. John knew that the people needed a Redeemer. He went to the wilderness to preach. He told the people they had to be sorry for their sins. They had to be sorry because the Kingdom of heaven was near. John baptized people who were sorry for their sins. He baptized them in the Jordan River. Do you know who came to John to be baptized? Jesus came to be baptized. John did not want to baptize Jesus. He knew that Jesus was the Redeemer. But Jesus told John that He had to be baptized. He had to be just like His people. Then He could carry their sins. Jesus’ baptism was a sign that He was the Head of His people.

A wonderful thing happened after Jesus was baptized. He was anointed by God to be the Head of His people. The heavens opened for Jesus to see. Then God’s Spirit came and rested on Jesus. The Spirit looked like a dove. At the same time a voice from heaven spoke. This voice said that Jesus was

God's beloved Son. The voice said that God was pleased with Jesus. God was pleased that Jesus would redeem His people.

Jesus was also tempted. He would not give in to the temptation like Adam did. Jesus would be obedient to God the Father. Satan came to Jesus when He was hungry. He wanted Jesus to turn stones into bread. Then Jesus could eat and not be hungry. But Jesus would not give in to this temptation. He told Satan what the Bible says. The Bible says that man does not live only on bread. Man lives on the words that come from God.

Satan also tried to get Jesus to test God's word. He said Jesus should jump from the top of the temple. Satan said that God would not let Him get hurt. But Jesus would not listen to Satan. He told Satan that the Bible says we should not tempt God.

Then Satan asked Jesus to worship him. He promised Jesus all the kingdoms of the world. He said he would give all the kingdoms to Jesus if Jesus worshipped him. Now Jesus was tired. He told Satan to go away. He reminded Satan what His Bible said. His Bible said that we should worship only the Lord God. Jesus did not listen to Satan. He obeyed God the Father. Jesus was the Head of His people. Jesus won the victory over sin. He can also win the victory over sin for us. We must believe that Jesus is our Redeemer!

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. (Adam – John) was the first man that ever lived.
2. God wanted (John – Adam) to get everything ready for Jesus.
3. (Adam – Jesus) came to John to be baptized.

4. God's (Son – Spirit) that looked like a dove rested on Jesus after His baptism.

5. (John – Jesus) won the victory over sin.

The Reign of Grace

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 4

Scripture: Matthew 5–7

Memory Verse: “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”
(Matthew 5:8)

Lesson Truth: By His grace God chooses people to be citizens of the Kingdom of God.

Lesson

Today we will learn about a Kingdom. A kingdom is a group of people ruled by a king. The group of people we will learn about are God’s people. The king of God’s people is the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus gathers God’s people into His Kingdom. He does this because He loves them. They don’t deserve His love. But He loves them anyway. This kind of love is called God’s grace. God’s Kingdom is a Kingdom of grace!

One day Jesus was on a mountain. His followers came to Him at this mountain. Jesus told them about the Kingdom of God. He told them who could be citizens of this Kingdom. The citizens of God’s Kingdom are those who believe in God’s grace. They do not trust in their own wisdom. They know that they are not citizens because they are good. The only reason they are citizens is because God loves them. They believe in this love of God that is called His grace. Jesus told His disciples what these citizens were like.

He said the citizens of God’s Kingdom are poor in spirit. They know that God supplies everything they need. God gives them everything they need because of His grace. Jesus said these citizens are hungry and thirsty for righteousness. They know that God will satisfy this hunger. These citizens know that they are citizens only because God chose them. They believe that God made them part of His Kingdom.

Jesus told these citizens of God's Kingdom that they were important for the world. He said they were the salt of the earth. Without these citizens the world would not work. He said they were the light of the world. The world would be dark without them. Then Jesus taught them that the Law of God was more than keeping rules. He told them hating is just as wrong as killing. To really keep the law, Jesus said these citizens had to have a heart full of love.

The Lord also told the citizens of the Kingdom not to pretend to be holy. He warned them not to give gifts just so others would see what they did. Jesus said it was wrong to make long fancy prayers just so others would hear them. The Lord Jesus said that Kingdom citizens should have hearts that are right with God. They should even love their enemies.

Citizens of the Kingdom will also trust God for everything. They do not trust in the things of this world. They know that the things of this world can be destroyed. But the blessings of God in heaven will never be destroyed. That is why Jesus told them to store treasures in heaven. Then Jesus said something surprising. He said not that not every person who says Lord, Lord will enter God's Kingdom. Only the ones who do what God the Father commands will be in His Kingdom. They will be safe. They know that it is only because of God's grace that they are citizens of God's Kingdom.

The people were amazed when they heard what Jesus taught. They knew that He told the truth. They knew He had the power and the right to teach them. He taught them about the Kingdom of God's grace. This is the Kingdom of love they did not deserve!

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. The (citizens – enemies) of God's Kingdom believe in His grace.
2. God's love that we do not deserve is called His (charm – grace).

3. Jesus said that the citizens of God's Kingdom are poor in (spirit – treasures).
4. Jesus said that the citizens of God's Kingdom were the (darkness – light) of the world.
5. Only those who (say Lord – do what the Father commands) will enter His Kingdom.

Power to Save

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 5

Scripture: Matthew 8:1-13

Memory Verse: “Then he said, ‘Lord I believe!’ And he worshiped Him.”
(John 9:38)

Lesson Truth: The Lord Jesus cleansed a leper and healed a centurion’s servant. Now the people knew that He had the power to save.

Lesson

Jesus taught the people God’s truth. Many people loved the way Jesus taught. Still, they did not understand that the Father sent Him. They did not understand that Jesus had the power to save. The crowd that followed Jesus would see this power. They would see that He had the power to heal a leper. He also had the power to heal an official’s servant. Believers would know that Jesus has the power to save.

The Lord Jesus was walking away from the mountain. Crowds of people followed Him. They wanted to hear His teaching. They wanted to see His miracles. As he was walking, a man pushed through the crowd. The people tried to get away from him. They did not want this man to touch them because he was a leper. A leper is a person who has an awful disease. A leper’s skin has nasty sores. This leper heard Jesus’ words. He believed the words that Jesus spoke. He knew that Jesus had the power to make him well.

The leper wanted to get to Jesus. That is why he pushed through the crowd. Do you know what he did when he got to Jesus? He fell down and worshipped Jesus. Then he said to Jesus, “If You are willing, You can make me clean” (Matt.8:2). He knew that Jesus had the power to save. All that was needed was that Jesus would be willing.

Jesus then did something that amazing. He put out His hand and touched the leper. This was amazing because lepers were unclean. Nobody would touch a leper. Yet Jesus touched him. Then He said to the leper, "I am willing; be cleansed." Do you know what happened? In that moment the leper was healed. He no longer had his awful disease. Now people knew that Jesus had the power to save. Jesus told the leper to show himself to the priest. He wanted the leper to do everything the law said he should do. The priest would tell him for sure that he was clean. Then the priest would help him make a sacrifice. This sacrifice meant that he could fellowship with the Lord again.

Jesus then went to Capernaum. A kind officer from Herod's army lived at Capernaum. He was called a centurion. The centurion had a servant who was very sick. This servant could not walk because he was lame. The centurion sent the elders to ask Jesus to heal his servant. Jesus said He would come to the centurion's house. Then the centurion said that he was not worthy to have Jesus come to his house. He knew that Jesus could heal his servant if He just spoke the word. He knew that Jesus had the power to save.

Jesus was amazed at the centurion's faith. He said that He had not seen faith like that in Israel. Now Jesus knew that God would also bring Gentiles into His Kingdom. The centurion was a Gentile. Jesus said that people from the east and the west would be in God's Kingdom. They would be in the Kingdom of heaven with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jesus also warned that some of Abraham's children would not be in God's Kingdom. They would be sent into darkness. They would be sent to a place where there is weeping and great sorrow.

After Jesus warned the people He told the centurion what to do. He told him that his servant would be healed. He would be healed just like the centurion believed he would. Jesus spoke just one word and the centurion's servant was healed. Now the people knew that Jesus had the power to save. Do you believe that Jesus has the power to save?

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. As Jesus walked away from the mountain (a man – crowds) followed Him.
2. The people did not want to touch the man who pushed through the crowd because he was a (priest – leper).
3. Jesus put out His hand and (pushed away – touched) the leper.
4. The (priest – centurion) knew that Jesus could heal his servant if He spoke the word.
5. Jesus spoke one word and the (centurion's – priest's) servant was healed.

Wedding Guests

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 6

Scripture: Matthew 9:9-17

Memory Verse: “After these things He went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, ‘Follow Me.’” (Luke 5:27)

Lesson Truth: The Lord Jesus tells us that we can feel the joy of a wedding guest because He came to save.

Lesson

Our lesson today has two stories. One story is about Matthew. Jesus called Matthew to be His disciple. The other story is about John the Baptist’s disciples. John’s disciples asked Jesus about going without food. Jesus told them that people don’t go without food at a wedding feast. We will learn about being wedding guests.

Jesus needed men to tell the gospel story. He wanted to teach twelve men how to tell the gospel story. These men He would call His disciples. One day Jesus saw a man in a tax office. This man’s name was Matthew. Matthew was a tax collector. The people of Israel did not like tax collectors. Tax collectors made the people pay money to their enemies. The tax collectors also took extra money for themselves. But Jesus loved Matthew. He did not love him because he was a tax collector. Jesus loved him because He wanted to show His favor.

When Jesus saw Matthew, He said, “Follow Me” (Matt. 9:9). Matthew left his tax office and followed Jesus. Matthew knew it was only because of Jesus’ love that He asked him to follow. Matthew wanted other tax collectors to know Jesus’ love. He invited these tax collectors to have dinner with Jesus. The Pharisees did not like that. They thought that Jesus should not eat with

tax collectors. Tax collectors were sinners. The Pharisees asked Jesus' disciples why He would eat with sinners. Do you know what Jesus told them?

Jesus told them that He came to save sinners. Jesus said that sinners are like a person who is sick. A person who is sick will call a doctor. But a person who thinks he is healthy won't call a doctor. Matthew the tax collector knew he needed a Savior. He knew that he could not save himself. The Pharisees thought they were healthy. They did not think they needed a Savior. They thought they could be saved if they kept the law. That is why Jesus told them that He did not come to call the righteous. Jesus came to call sinners to repent.

Later John's disciples came to Jesus. They asked him why He and His disciples did not go without food some days. They told him that John's disciples and the Pharisees went without food some days. Jesus answered that He and His disciples did not need to go without food. They could eat and feast because it was like they were at a wedding. It is like a wedding when Jesus is with His people.

The Lord Jesus also told John's disciples that they could not depend on both the law and grace. They could be saved if they believed in God's gift of grace. But they could not be saved by keeping the law to earn God's love. God's people know that Jesus brought God's gift of grace. They can rejoice just like people at a wedding. Jesus was called the bridegroom. He was the man of the wedding party. His people can feast when He is present. Have faith in Jesus' gift of grace. Then you can rejoice like a wedding guest!

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. Jesus saw (Matthew – John) at the tax office.
2. Matthew invited (Pharisees – tax collectors) to have dinner with Jesus.

3. The (disciples of John – Pharisees) did not like it that Jesus had dinner with tax collectors.

4. John's disciples asked Jesus about going without (wine – food).

5. God's people know that Jesus brought God's gift of (the law – grace).

The Labor of His Soul

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 7

Scripture: Matthew 9:27–10:42

Memory Verse: “He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.” (Matthew 10:39)

Lesson Truth: The Lord Jesus worked in His Kingdom with heart and soul.

Lesson

The Lord Jesus was busy teaching the people. He also made many sick people well. Jesus put His soul into His work. He wanted the people to know why He came to earth. He came to bring His Kingdom of grace. It is sad that many people did not understand His work. The Pharisees even said false things about His work.

One day Jesus was very busy teaching the people. As he was teaching, two blind men called out to Him. They called Jesus the Son of David. Then they asked Jesus to heal their eyes. Jesus waited until He was in a house to talk to the blind men. He did not want the people to see that He could heal their eyes. Do you know why Jesus did not want the people to see His healing? This would make them forget why He came to earth. They would forget that Jesus came to take away their sins. Instead, they would follow Jesus because He could do miracles.

In the house Jesus asked the blind men a question. He asked, “Do you believe I am able to do this?” The blind men told Jesus they believed He could heal them. Then Jesus told them it would happen just as they believed. He touched their eyes, and they could see again. Jesus then gave them a special warning. He asked them not to tell anyone. Jesus did not want the people to think only of His miracle. He wanted them to remember that He came to take away their sins. The blind men did not understand. They did not listen to Jesus. They told everyone that Jesus helped them see again. Now

the people followed Jesus because He could do miracles. They forgot that He came to take away their sins.

Later, someone brought a man that could not speak to Jesus. This man also had a demon in him. Jesus told the demon to come out of the man. He had the power to tell demons to leave. Then the Pharisees showed how much they hated Jesus. They told the people that Jesus sent the demon out of the man by the power of Satan. The Pharisees knew this was not true. To say something false about a person to hurt him is called slander. The Pharisees slandered Jesus.

Jesus traveled through the towns and villages. He saw the people were scattered. Jesus said the people wandered just like sheep. They were like sheep that did not have a shepherd to guide them. But Jesus loved His people. He wanted them to know that He came to save them from their sins.

There was a lot of work to do in God's Kingdom. Jesus thought of this work like a farmer thinks about harvest. He told His disciples that the harvest was plentiful. This meant that many people needed to know about His grace. But Jesus said that there were only a few to bring in the harvest. Only a few would tell others that Jesus came to save them from sin.

Do you know what Jesus did? He sent out His disciples. Jesus gave them power to heal. He even gave them power over unclean spirits. But Jesus told His disciples that the work would not be easy. He said that people would hate them because of Jesus. Jesus warned that they would be open for attacks. He said they would be like sheep with wolves all around them. But Jesus gave them courage. He told them to be ready to confess the name of Jesus. Then He would bring their names before the Father in heaven.

You and I must also tell others that we love Jesus!

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. Two (blind men – lepers) called out to Jesus, “Son of David have mercy” (Matt. 9:27).

2. Jesus did not want the people to forget that He came to (do miracles – take away their sins).
3. The man who could not speak also had (a demon – an angel) in him.
4. Jesus told His disciples that the (seed time – harvest) was plentiful.
5. Jesus told His disciples that they would be (hated – loved) because of Him.

The Kingdom Forces Its Way Through

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 8

Scripture: Matthew 11

Memory Verse: “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28)

Lesson Truth: The Lord Jesus made the Kingdom of grace grow. He did this by His power and might. Believers were pushed to claim His Kingdom.

Lesson

The Old Testament taught the people about the law. People were righteous if they kept the law. The law pointed to the coming of Jesus. Jesus taught the people about grace. Grace is the gift of God’s favor. Christ Jesus brought His gift of grace. He paid for our sins when he died on the cross for us. His payment for our sins was His gift of grace. Jesus still wanted people to obey the law, but not to be made righteous. Now we are made righteous by grace. Jesus pushed John the Baptist to understand His grace. That was the way His Kingdom of grace was forced through. The Kingdom was pushed to grow. Strong people of faith took the Kingdom with their strength.

John the Baptist told King Herod about his sins. King Herod did not like to be told about his sins. He put John in jail. In jail John heard about Jesus. He heard about the miracles that Jesus did. John maybe wondered why Jesus did not get him out of jail. Jesus could make the blind people see again. He could make the lame people walk. Why didn’t He open the doors of the jail for John? This made John wonder about Jesus. He wondered if Jesus was really the Messiah.

Do you know what John did? He sent two of his disciples to talk to Jesus. He told them to ask Jesus if He was the Messiah. Jesus might have scolded John because he didn’t understand. But He didn’t. He told the disciples to remind John about the things He was doing, that the deaf can hear again and

the dead come back to life. Then he told them to remind John that these are the things the prophets told about. The prophets said the Messiah would do things like these. Jesus made the things the prophets told about come true. Jesus pushed John to understand the Kingdom of grace.

Jesus also told the people that John was a prophet. He was not a reed that the wind would shake. Jesus said that John was greater than any other person who had a mother. This meant that John had been given more grace than others. Do you know what else Jesus said? He said that the least in the Kingdom of heaven is greater than John. This meant that the smallest in the Kingdom of heaven would be given more grace than John was given. Just think, you and I can be given more grace than was given to John.

John was the man the prophets talked about. The prophets said that Elijah would come again. Jesus said that John was the promised Elijah. Elijah did not come back from the dead. Jesus meant that John came with the spirit of Elijah. He came with the power of Elijah. Jesus also told the people they were evil. They were evil because they did not believe either John or Jesus. The people said that John had a demon. They said he didn't eat or drink to make himself holy. The same people said that Jesus ate and drank too much. They accused Him of overeating.

It is sad that the people did not believe John or Jesus. They did not understand that God sent John to tell the people to repent. John had to tell the people they could not be saved without grace. Neither did the people understand that God sent Jesus to bring His grace. The grace of Jesus saves those who believe. That is why Jesus told the people to take His yoke on them. He said that His yoke is easy. Do you know why His yoke is easy? It is easy because believers are saved if they believe in the grace of Jesus. A heavy yoke is to believe we must keep all God's laws to be saved. Do you believe that Jesus paid for your sins? The payment for your sins is Jesus' gift of grace!

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. We are made righteous by (keeping the law – grace).
2. It was (Jesus – John) who told King Herod about his sins.
3. John sent two of his disciples to ask Jesus if He was the (Messiah – King).
4. Jesus said that John came with the spirit of (Isaiah – Elijah).
5. The people did not believe either John or (Elijah – Jesus).

The Gospel of the Kingdom Is Like Seed

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 9

Scripture: Matthew 13:1-30

Memory Verse: “But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear.” (Matthew 13:16)

Lesson Truth: The good news of the Kingdom sometimes grows in people’s hearts. It happens like seeds falling on the earth. Some seeds grow and other seeds do not.

Lesson

Do you know what a parable is? A parable is story about everyday things. These everyday things help us understand a spiritual truth. Jesus taught the people by using parables. He taught the people about the Kingdom of heaven. Jesus told the people how someone becomes a citizen of the Kingdom. He said it happens just like seeds that a farmer sows. Some seeds grow and produce. Other seeds do not grow because of stones or weeds. Seeds grow in good soil. People become citizens of the Kingdom by grace.

A lot of people followed Jesus. He went and sat by the sea. Jesus decided to get in a boat and teach the people on the shore. He taught them using a parable. Jesus told a story about a farmer who sowed his seed. The seed fell on different kinds of soil. Some of the seed fell on the pathway. The pathway was so hard that the seed did not grow. Then the birds ate it. Other seed fell where there were stones. This seed grew until the roots hit the stones. Then it died. Still other seed fell among the weeds. It grew until the weeds choked it. But much of the seed fell onto good ground. This seed produced a good crop.

At first Jesus did not tell the meaning of the story. He wanted the people to think about its meaning. The disciples were curious. They asked Jesus why He used parables to teach the people. Jesus said He did this so they would

understand the secrets of the Kingdom. But others would not understand these secrets. The secret of the Kingdom is that God saves His people by grace. Grace is God's gift of forgiveness!

Jesus then told the disciples the meaning of the story. Some seed fell on the pathway. This was like people who do not understand the Kingdom. Then Satan took away the seed that was sown in their heart. Other seed fell on stony ground. It first grew but later died when the roots hit the stones. This was like people who first heard the word, but later they forgot it. There was also seed that fell among the weeds. This was like people who heard the word and started to grow. Later the cares and riches of the world choked the word in their hearts. It was like the weeds that choked the wheat.

But a lot of the seeds fell onto good ground. These seeds produced a good crop. These are like people who heard God's Word and believed it. They do great things in God's Kingdom. Some multiply a hundred times. Others multiply sixty or thirty times. The Kingdom is like the farmer sowing seed. The seed of the Word of God is sown. Some of the seed grows and makes a crop. Other seed does not grow or make a crop. The seed that grew did so because God made it grow. People become citizens of the Kingdom because God makes them citizens. That is how God's grace grows in people's hearts.

Jesus also warned the people that Satan would trouble them. He told them this parable. A farmer sowed His seed in good soil. At night while he slept an enemy came. This enemy sowed weeds among his good seed. The farmer's servants did not want weeds in the wheat. They told the farmer they would pull out the weeds. But the farmer asked them not to pull out the weeds. He said the wheat would pull out with the weeds.

The farmer told his servants that an enemy sowed the weeds. He said they should wait until harvest time to take care of the weeds. At harvest time he would tell the reapers to first gather up the weeds. Later they would gather up the wheat. They would throw the weeds into the fire. The wheat would be stored in the farmer's barns.

Satan will trouble God's people. But at the judgment the wicked will be gathered just like the weeds. They will be thrown into the fire of hell. God's people will be gathered like the wheat. They will enter the glory of heaven!

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. Jesus taught the people by using a (parable – fable).
2. The story that Jesus told was about a (king – farmer) sowing seed.
3. The seed that the (nobleman – farmer) sowed fell on different kinds of soil.
4. Jesus used (miracles – parables) to teach the people so that some would understand the secrets of the Kingdom and others would not understand.
5. After the farmer sowed his seed in good soil (an enemy – a friend) came at night and sowed weeds among the wheat.

The Kingdom is like a Treasure

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 10

Scripture: Matthew 13:44-52

Memory Verse: “My fruit is better than gold, yes, than fine gold.” (Proverbs 8:19a)

Lesson Truth: The Kingdom of heaven is like a treasure. God’s people will trade everything they have to get it.

Lesson

A treasure is something very valuable. Jesus told His disciples about a valuable treasure. The treasure He told them about was the Kingdom of heaven. Do you know what kind of story Jesus told His disciples? He told them a parable. A parable is a story about everyday things. The everyday things in the story help us understand a spiritual truth. Jesus also told His disciples stories about a pearl and a fishnet.

In the first story Jesus told about a man in a field. The man was digging in the field. He found something very precious. It was so precious that he wanted to have it. The man decided to sell everything he had. Then he would have the money to buy the field. If he bought the field the precious treasure would be his.

Jesus told His disciples that the Kingdom of heaven is like this treasure. God’s Spirit works in people’s hearts. Then they want the Kingdom of heaven. They know the Kingdom is like a precious treasure. These people will sell everything they own to get this treasure. They will do just like the man in the parable. Jesus wants us to pray that the Spirit of God will work in our hearts. Then we will want the Kingdom of heaven. Jesus said that the Kingdom of heaven is like a precious treasure!

Do you know what a pearl is? A pearl is a beautiful stone. It is a very precious stone. It is a very expensive stone. Jesus told His disciples about a merchant who looked for pearls. This was another parable. This merchant found a very precious pearl. He wanted that pearl more than anything. Do you know what he did? He sold everything he had. He did this so he would have money to buy the pearl.

This parable was also about the Kingdom of heaven. Jesus said the Kingdom of heaven is like this precious pearl. God's people will sell everything they own to get this pearl. They will do just like the merchant who looked for pearls. That is how precious the Kingdom of heaven is to God's people. They will trade everything they own for the Kingdom. Is the Kingdom of heaven the most precious thing we own?

The story about the fishnet is different. This story was about separating fish. A fisherman threw his net into the water to catch fish. The fish swam into the net. Then the fisherman pulled the net onto the shore. After that he separated the fish that were in the net. The good fish were put into a pail to keep. The bad fish were thrown away.

Jesus said that is the way it would happen at the end of the world. God's people are like the good fish. They will be kept for heaven. The bad fish are the people that did not think the Kingdom of heaven was precious. They will be destroyed. Do you believe the Kingdom of heaven is like a precious treasure? Do you believe it is like a beautiful pearl? Would you sell everything you have to get this pearl? Did you say you believe this? Then you will never be destroyed like the bad fish!

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. A (treasure – field) is very valuable and precious.
2. God's people know the Kingdom of heaven is very (insignificant – precious).

3. A (pearl – rock) is a very beautiful and precious stone.

4. God’s people will trade (something – everything) for the Kingdom of heaven.

5. The story of the fishnet is about (keeping – separating) the fish that were in the net.

Lord Over the Forces of Nature

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 11

Scripture: Matthew 14:13-33

Memory Verse: “Then those who were in the boat came and worshipped Him, saying, “Truly You are the Son of God.”” (Matthew 14:33)

Lesson Truth: The Lord Jesus is God who became man. He is called the Word of God. The Lord Jesus rules all the forces of nature.

Lesson

The name Lord sometimes means to rule over. The word force can mean strength or power. And the word nature means everything God created. The title of today’s lesson tells us that Jesus is the Lord over the forces of nature. This means that He rules over the wind and waves and storms. Jesus can rule because He is God who became man.

Jesus and His disciples got into a boat. They wanted to get away from the crowds of people. They sailed their boat to the other side of the lake. But the people wanted to stay with Jesus. Do you know what they did? They walked around the lake and found Jesus on the other side. Jesus did not send them away. He felt sorry for them. The Lord Jesus wanted to help them. He talked to the people and healed the ones who were sick.

The disciples saw that evening was coming. They asked Jesus to send the people away so they could buy food. Jesus told the disciples not to send the people away. He said they should feed all the people. But they reminded Jesus that they could not feed this big crowd of people. They only had five little loaves of bread and two fish. This could feed only a few people.

Jesus did a wonderful thing! He told the people to sit on the grass. Then He asked the disciples to bring Him the loaves and the fish. He blessed the five loaves and the two fish. After that He told the disciples to feed the people.

It was amazing! There was enough bread and fish to feed five thousand men. There was even enough to also feed the women and children. How could five little loaves and two fish feed so many people? It was a miracle! Jesus made the loaves and fish increase. Jesus is God who became man. He can do all things!

Jesus then sent the people and the disciples away. He went on a mountain to pray. Jesus talked to His Father in heaven. He asked the Father to give Him strength. Jesus needed strength so He could die for His people. He asked the Father to forgive His people. In the early morning Jesus left the mountain.

The disciples were in the boat. They were in the middle of the lake. During the night a storm came. The wind blew very hard. It blew so hard the disciples were afraid. They were afraid the boat would sink. Just then Jesus walked on the water out to the disciples. The disciples were even more afraid when they saw Jesus. They thought He was a ghost. Then Jesus talked to the disciples. He told them not to be afraid. He said that He was Jesus and not a ghost.

Peter asked, are You truly Jesus? If You are Jesus tell me to come to You on the water. Jesus told Peter to come. Do you know what happened? Peter was able to walk on the water. He could walk on the water when he looked at Jesus. When he looked at the storm he started to sink. Then he cried out for Jesus to save him. Jesus reached out hand to Peter and saved him. Then He told Peter that he did not have much faith. He asked him: "Why did you doubt?" After that Jesus got into the boat. Do you know what happened? The storm stopped! The wind quit blowing.

Now the disciple knew that Jesus ruled the storms. They knew that He ruled the winds and the waves. The disciples fell down and worshipped Jesus. They confessed that they knew who Jesus was! They said: "Truly You are the Son of God" (Matt. 14:33).

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. The (people – disciples) walked around the lake so they could be with Jesus.
2. Jesus told the (Pharisees – Disciples) to feed the crowd of people.
3. The disciples reminded Jesus that they only had (three – five) loaves and two fish.
4. When Jesus said, “Come,” (John – Peter) was able to walk on the water.
5. The disciples confessed that Jesus was the (Son – Spirit) of God.

You Are the Christ

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 12

Scripture: Matthew 16:13-28

Memory Verse: “And he answered and said, ‘ I believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God.’” (Acts 8:37b)

Lesson Truth: Believers know that the Lord Jesus is the Christ. He is the Anointed One!

Lesson

Jesus healed many sick people. He taught the people with power. No doubt the people talked about Him. They talked about who He really was. It was sad that they did not know who He was. The prophets told God’s people about Jesus. But the people did not understand what the prophets taught.

The Lord’s disciples were with Jesus alone. Jesus had to teach them many things. He had to help them get ready to tell the gospel story. Jesus asked His disciples a question. He asked, “Who do the men say that I am?” (Matt. 16:13). The disciples said that some people thought He was John the Baptist. They thought that John came back to life. There were other people who thought Jesus was Elijah. Still others thought He might be Jeremiah or another prophet. It was sad that the people did not know who Jesus was!

Jesus then asked the disciples if they knew who He was. Peter spoke for the disciples. He said, “You are the Christ the Son of the living God” (Matt. 16:16). This was a wonderful profession. Peter and the other disciples knew who Jesus was. They knew that He was the Christ. Christ means that He was anointed. Jesus was anointed to do the Father’s work. He was called to bring God’s grace to His people. How did disciples know this? Other Israelites did not know. How come the disciples knew?

The Lord Jesus explained how they knew. He told Peter that he was blessed because he knew this. He told Peter that no other person told him. Peter was blessed because the Father told him. The Father in heaven told Peter that Jesus was the Christ. God told the disciples that Jesus was the Anointed One. Now Jesus anointed the disciples.

Christ Jesus gave Simon a new name. His new name was Peter. The name Peter means rock. Peter was a rock because Jesus gave him power. Jesus also gave this power to the other disciples. He told them that he would build His church on this rock. The rock of the power that Jesus gave them. With this power the disciples would have the keys of heaven. People who listened to the disciples' gospel message would enter heaven. People who rejected this message would be locked out of heaven.

Jesus then told His disciples that he would go to Jerusalem. He told them that in Jerusalem he would suffer. The chief priests and scribes would hurt Him. They were even going to kill Him. The disciples did not believe He had to suffer. Peter again talked for the disciples. He said, "Lord these bad things will never happen to you." Then Jesus told Peter he was wrong. He scolded Peter saying, "Get behind Me Satan!" (Matt. 16:23). Peter and the others had to learn that Jesus had to suffer. They had to learn that Jesus would be put to death. Jesus the Christ had to die to pay for our sins. He was the Head of His people. Christ the Head would suffer and die to save His people.

Jesus told the disciples that they would also suffer. He said that anyone who wanted to follow Him had to deny himself. People that follow Jesus will have hardships. Jesus said that in His kingdom things are opposite. Anyone who wants to save his life will lose it. And anyone who loses his life for Jesus sake, will find it. Finding our life with Jesus is better than anything in the world. He asked His disciples, "What profit it could be to a man if he gained the whole world, but lost his soul? What will a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matt. 16:26). Are you ready to leave everything to follow Christ Jesus?

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. Jesus asked (the disciples – the people) “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?” (Matt. 16:13)
2. Jesus asked (the people – the disciples) “But who do you say that I am?” (Matt. 16:14)
3. (Peter – John) said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” (Matt. 16:16)
4. Jesus said that (the Father – another person) told Peter that Jesus was the Christ.
5. Jesus scolded (John – Peter) and said, “Get behind Me, Satan.” (Matt. 16:23)

The People of the Lord

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 13

Scripture: Matthew 17:24–18:35

Memory Verse: “For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.”
(Matthew 18:11)

Lesson Truth: Believers join in fellowship when they hear the good news of the Kingdom.

Lesson

Not everyone who followed Jesus believed that He was the Redeemer. Others did believe that He was their Savior and Lord. How could the disciples tell who believed and who did not believe? How would they know who were the people of the Lord? Jesus showed them in unusual ways how to know the Lord’s people. He talked about taxes and little children. This helped the disciples know the Lord’s people.

Jesus and His disciples came to Capernaum. They had been away for some time. The tax collection man saw them when they returned. He asked Peter if Jesus paid the temple tax. Peter answered the tax man that Jesus surely did pay His taxes.

The disciples could know the Lord’s people if they knew who paid the taxes. You see, in those days the defeated enemies paid the taxes. The sons of the king did not pay taxes. They did not pay because they were children of the king. Jesus said that is also true about His people. His people are like children of the king. They do not pay to be a citizen of heaven. Jesus paid for them to be citizens. The people who believe that Jesus paid for their sins are the Lord’s people.

One day the disciples were talking about the Kingdom of heaven. They thought that there would be ordinary people and great people in heaven. Do

you know what they did? They asked Jesus who would be the greatest the Kingdom of heaven. The disciples did not have the right idea about heaven. There would not be ordinary people and great people in heaven. People in heaven will all be great in God's glory.

Jesus wanted the disciples to understand about heaven. Then He did something wonderful! Jesus found a little child. He told the disciples that they had to be humble just like the little child was humble. Then they would be great in the Kingdom of heaven.

The Lord Jesus warned the disciples not to cause a little one to sin. Jesus said it would be better to drown in the sea than to cause a little one to sin. Christ Jesus also told the disciples to warn a brother who sins. He also said they had to forgive such a brother.

Peter then asked Jesus how often he should forgive a brother. He asked if he should forgive seven times. Jesus told Peter that he had to forgive like God forgives. God forgives His people again and again. He told Peter about a king who forgave his servant a large debt. Then that servant would not forgive a fellow servant a small debt. The king was angry and put the unforgiving servant in a place of suffering. That is the way we are before God. The Father in heaven has forgiven all our sins. Therefore, we must forgive those who sin against us. Jesus told Peter we must forgive seventy times seven. We must always forgive because God forgave us!

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. The (sons – defeated enemies) did not pay the taxes.
2. The people who believe that (the priest – Jesus) paid for their sins are the Lord's people.

3. The (Israelites – disciples) asked Jesus who would be the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven.
4. Jesus warned the (Pharisees – disciples) not to cause a little one to sin.
5. Jesus told Peter that we must forgive (seventy times seven – seven) times.