

Promise and Deliverance

Student Workbook

Volume 12
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.

The First and the Last

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 14

Scripture: Matthew 19:13–20:16

Memory Verse: “Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 18:4)

Lesson Truth: In some ways the Kingdom of heaven will be opposite of the kingdoms on earth. Jesus said the first will be last, and last first.

Lesson

Today we will learn about children who were brought to Jesus. We will also learn about a young man who came to Jesus. Jesus told the disciples important things about children. He told the young man important things about going to heaven.

Jesus was traveling through Judea. Some parents brought their children to Jesus. They wanted Jesus to put His hands on them. Jesus hands would bless them. They also wanted Jesus to pray for their children. Then a sad thing happened. Jesus’ disciples tried to send the children away. Jesus’ disciples thought that He could not bother with children. But Jesus loved children. He did not want them to be sent away.

Do you know what Jesus said to His disciples? He said, “Let the little children come to Me” (Matt. 19:14). He told the disciples not to send them away. Jesus wanted to put His hands on the children. He said that children belonged in the Kingdom of heaven. Isn’t it wonderful to know that Jesus loved the children? Jesus told the disciples that they should be humble like a child. Then they would be the great in the kingdom of heaven.

The disciples had to learn something about the Kingdom of heaven. They had to learn that Jesus gives the Kingdom as a gift. The disciples did not

have to do things to earn their way to heaven. They had to believe like a child that heaven is a gift from Jesus.

Later a young man came to Jesus. He asked Jesus what he had to do so he could go to heaven. Jesus told him to keep the commandments. The young man told Jesus that he kept all the commandments. He was a good young man. But he wasn't sure about heaven. Jesus then told him to sell everything he owned. Then Jesus told him to give the money to the poor. Then a very sad thing happened. The young man went away with sorrow. He was filled with sorrow because he was very rich. The young man did not want to leave his riches. He did not want to follow Jesus.

Jesus then told the disciples that it is hard for a rich man to go to heaven. The disciples were surprised. They asked Jesus, "Who then can be saved?" (Matt. 19:25). Jesus told them that it is impossible for men to earn heaven. But He said, with God all things are possible. Jesus wanted the disciples to know that heaven is a gift. It is a gift of God's grace.

The Lord Jesus then told the disciples a parable. This is a story that has a spiritual meaning. He told about a farmer who hired workers for his vineyard. This farmer hired workers early in the morning. He agreed to pay them a certain amount. Later he went and hired other workers. He even hired some workers the last hour of the day. At the end of the day the farmer paid all the workers the same pay. Some of the workers complained.

Jesus wanted the disciples to know that the Kingdom of heaven is like that. The Kingdom of heaven is a gift. Some workers worked all their life in the Kingdom. Other workers work only a short time. They will both get the same gift. The gift is a place in the Kingdom of heaven. Do you believe that Jesus can give you the gift of heaven?

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. Parents brought their children to (the disciples – Jesus).

2. Jesus' (enemies – disciples) thought that He could not bother with children.
3. Jesus told (His disciples – the rich young man) to sell all he owned and give it to the poor.
4. Jesus told the disciples that it is (easy – hard) for a rich man to go to heaven.
5. The (rich young man – disciples) asked Jesus, “Who then can be saved?”

Looking for Fruit

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 15

Scripture: Matthew 21:18-46

Memory Verse: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)

Lesson Truth: The fig tree was cursed because Jesus found no fruit on it. We are also cursed because we do not bear fruit. Jesus took our curse so that we may bear fruit.

Lesson

Do you know what a fig tree is? A fig looks like a small brownish pear. Fig trees grow in the land of Palestine. This is where Jesus taught the people. One day Jesus was going to Jerusalem. He was walking with His disciples. Jesus saw a fig tree. He wanted to eat some figs because He was hungry. But this fig tree did not have any figs on it. Do you know what Jesus did? He told the fig tree that it would never grow figs again. Then the tree just shriveled up.

Jesus’ disciples were amazed that the tree shriveled up. But Jesus told them not to be amazed. He said they should have faith. Then they would be able to do greater things than shrivel a tree. Jesus said they could tell a mountain to be thrown into the sea. And it would happen if they had faith.

Later Jesus went to the temple in Jerusalem. At the temple the chief priests and elders met Him. They asked Jesus a question. They asked by what authority He taught the people. The elders wanted to know who said that Jesus could teach and do miracles. Jesus then asked the elders a question. He asked them about John the Baptist. He asked if John received permission from heaven to baptize or if John got permission from other men. The elders did not know what to answer Jesus.

The elders did not dare to say that he got permission from heaven. Then Jesus would ask why they didn't believe John. If they said it was only from men, they were afraid of the people. The people thought John was a great prophet. Jesus knew that the chief priests and elders had closed hearts. They did not want to know about God's Kingdom.

Now Jesus told the chief priests and elders two parables. A parable is a story that has a spiritual meaning. He told them about two sons and about wicked vinedressers. A father told his sons to work in his vineyard. The oldest son told his father that he would not work in his vineyard. Later he felt sorry and went to work as his father asked. The youngest son told his father he would go to work. But he never went to work as he promised. Jesus asked the elders who obeyed the father. The elders said it was the oldest son. He first refused, but later he did what his father asked. Jesus told them that is the way it will work in His Kingdom. The tax collectors and harlots first refuse but later obey. The chief priests say they want the Kingdom but later refuse. The tax collectors will enter the Kingdom of God before the elders.

Jesus then told about some wicked vinedressers. An owner asked vinedressers to tend his vineyard. When harvest time came, he sent his servants to get the fruit. These wicked vinedressers killed the servants. They even killed the owner's son when he sent him. Jesus asked the elders what the owner would do to these wicked vinedressers. They said that he would destroy them. Jesus then told the elders that the Kingdom of God would be taken away from them. It would be given to a nation that would bear the fruits of the Kingdom. Jesus is looking for fruit. Do you bear fruit for God's Kingdom?

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. Jesus wanted to eat some (pears – figs) because He was hungry.

2. Jesus said (the disciples – the elders) could tell a mountain to be thrown into the sea. It would happen if they had faith.

3. The chief priests and elders asked (the disciples – Jesus) by what authority He taught and did miracles.

4. Jesus asked the elders if (the disciples’ – John’s) baptism was from heaven or from men.

5. The tax collectors and harlots will enter God’s Kingdom before the (servants – elders).

Calling and Election

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 16

Scripture: Matthew 22:1-14

Memory Verse: “For many are called, but few are chosen.” (Matthew 22:14)

Lesson Truth: Jesus chooses people to be His followers. He tells them to do His work. The Bible uses the words election and calling to describe this.

Lesson

Jesus asked people to serve Him in a certain way. We name this a calling. He also chose people to answer His call. We give this the name election. These big words are hard to understand. But Jesus helped us understand by telling a story. He told this story to the chief priests and elders in the temple. The story that Jesus told had a spiritual meaning. A story with a spiritual meaning is named a parable.

This is the story that Jesus told. A king prepared a beautiful wedding feast for his son. He invited his friends to come to the feast. On the wedding day he sent his servants to call the invited guests in. Then a sad thing happened. The invited guests did not want to come to the feast. But the king loved his friends. He wanted them to enjoy his wedding feast. So, he sent other servants to tell his invited guest to come.

The invited guests still did not want to come. They even killed the king’s servants. Then the king became angry. He sent his army to destroy the invited guests. He told the soldiers to burn up their city. The king then told his servants that the wedding was ready. But the invited guests were not worthy to come. What would the king do?

The king needed guests at his wedding feast. Do you know what he did? He sent his servants out to the highways. He told the servants to bring people from the highways. The people from the highways would be his wedding

guests. Soon the wedding hall was filled with guests. Then the king came in to see the guests from the highways.

The king saw something very bad. He saw a guest that was not wearing wedding clothes. The king told his servants to tie the guest's hands and feet. He told them to throw him into outer darkness. This is a place where people weep, and they gnash their teeth.

Jesus taught the chief priests and elders. He said that the kingdom of heaven was like the story about the king. The king sent his servants to call the invited guest in. This was like calling Israel, God's chosen nation. But they did not want to come. So, the servants brought in people from the highways. This was like bringing in the tax collectors and sinners. Jesus, as the king, called people from every nation. He chose them to be guests at His wedding feast. Guests at the wedding feast are people of God's kingdom.

The king saw one guest who did not have a wedding garment. This guest was cast into outer darkness. Do you know what wedding garment the guest needed? He needed to be wearing the garment of God's grace. Every guest at the wedding feast of the King must wear this garment. They must be covered with grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Isn't this a beautiful story? It tells us how Jesus calls His people. He calls them just like the king called the wedding guests. It also tells us that Jesus chose the people from the highways. He chose or elected them to be guests at His feast. They could be at His feast because they were wearing wedding clothes. They were wearing the garment of His grace. You and I know that we are wearing the garment of God's grace. Jesus can choose us to be guests at His wedding feast!

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. A story with a (spiritual – earthly) meaning is called a parable.

2. Jesus told about a (priest – king) who prepared a wedding feast for his son.
3. The king brought in people from the (temple – highways) to be his wedding guests.
4. The king saw a guest that was not wearing a wedding (flower – garment).
5. The guest needed to be clothed in the garment of God's (grace – anger).

For the Bridegroom's Sake

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 17

Scripture: Matthew 25:1-13

Memory Verse: “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.” (Matthew 25:13)

Lesson Truth: Jesus is the Bridegroom. We must wait eagerly for His return.

Lesson

Do you know what a bridegroom is? A bridegroom is the man at a wedding who is getting married. The bridegroom takes his bride to be his wife. At a wedding today everyone waits for the bride and bridegroom. Jesus told His disciples a story about a bridegroom. In this story bridesmaids waited for the bridegroom to come.

The story that Jesus told was a parable. A parable is an everyday story with a spiritual meaning. The spiritual meaning in this story is about Jesus. It is about the time that Jesus will come back to earth. It is about the time of the end of the world. The end of the world will be like waiting for the bridegroom. Jesus is the Bridegroom in this story. We must be ready to honor the Bridegroom when He comes back. We must watch for the time when Jesus returns from heaven.

Do you know why Jesus told this story? He told it because His disciples asked Him a question. You see Jesus told the disciples that the temple would be destroyed. This would point to the time when Jesus returns. Then they asked Him when would this happen. Jesus told His disciples that many things would point to His return. He said that His people would be treated badly. He said His people would suffer. But Jesus will return! He said that no one knows when He will return. That is why the disciples had to watch and wait. They had to watch and wait like bridesmaids wait for the bridegroom.

Then Jesus told the story about the bridegroom. He said that ten young girls were invited to a wedding. The ten girls brought their lamps. They would light the way for the bridegroom. They would help him to the wedding feast. Jesus said that five of the girls were wise and five were foolish. The wise girls took extra oil for their lamps. But the foolish girls forgot to take extra oil.

The girls all fell asleep while waiting for the bridegroom. Then they heard someone cry: “Behold, The bridegroom is coming” (Matt. 25:6). They wanted to rush out to meet him. They would light his way to the wedding feast. But the foolish girls could not light their lamps. They were out of oil. They asked the wise girls for some oil. But the wise girls had only enough for their own lamps. They told the foolish girls to buy more oil at the store. So, the foolish girls left for the store.

While they were away the bridegroom came. The wise girls lighted his way to the wedding feast. They also went into the feast. Then a sad thing happened. The foolish girls came back from the store. They wanted to get into the wedding feast. But the door was locked. The foolish girls cried, “Lord, Lord, open to us!” (Matt. 25:11). The Lord answered that he did not know them! The foolish girls were not ready to honor the bridegroom.

This was the end of Jesus story. Then He told His disciples to watch. They had to watch because they did not know when Jesus would return. They had to watch so they could honor the Bridegroom when He comes. In the spiritual meaning of this story Jesus is the Bridegroom. Jesus will come at the end of the world. He will come just like the bridegroom in the story. We must be ready to honor Jesus the Bridegroom.

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. The (bridegroom – best man) is the man at a wedding who is getting married.
2. The Bridegroom in this story is (a disciple – Jesus).

3. Jesus said that His (disciples – enemies) had to watch and wait for His return.
4. Jesus told the story about (five – ten) girls who were invited to a wedding feast.
5. The (wise – foolish) girls could not light their lamps when the bridegroom came.

The Master's Goods

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 18

Scripture: Matthew 25:14-30

Memory Verse: “You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy.” (Psalm 16:11a)

Lesson Truth: Jesus is the Master. It should be a joy for us to work with His goods.

Lesson

Jesus again used a parable to teach His disciples. He taught them that He gives gifts to His people. In the parable He called these gifts, talents. These talents are His goods that His people may use. We should honor Jesus by using His gifts.

This is the parable that Jesus told. He said the Kingdom of heaven is like a rich man. This rich man liked to travel. He wanted to go to a far country. Before he went away, he called his servants. The rich man was going to give his goods to his servants. He wanted his servants to use his goods. They could use his goods to build his kingdom.

The rich man was the servant's master. He gave the first servant five talents. The master gave the second servant two talents. But he gave the third servant only one talent. Do you know why he gave them different talents? He did this because they had different abilities. The servants also had different possessions. The master was now ready to travel.

The first servant used his master's goods. He traded with the talents his master gave him. His trading worked well. The five talents soon became ten talents. The second servant also traded with his talents. His two talents soon became four talents. But the third servant was different. He did not want to

use His master's goods. This servant would not honor his master. Do you know what he did? He dug a hole and buried his one talent.

Some time later the master came home. He asked his servants what they did with their talents. The first servant told his master that he traded his talents. He said that his five talents had become ten talents. The master told this servant that did well. He was happy that his servant was faithful over a few things. The master said he would make him the ruler over many things. The master also praised the second servant. The second servant also used the master's goods. Both the first and second servants were given a special blessing. They were told to enter the joy of their lord.

The third servant was bad. He told his master that he did not do anything with his talent. This servant was not willing to use the master's goods. He dug up his one talent and gave it back to his master. His master then told him that he was wicked and lazy. He said the servant should have brought the one talent to the bank. Then the master would have earned interest. The master then did a surprising thing. He said the one talent should be taken away from the lazy servant. Do you know what had to be done with this talent? It had to be given to the servant who had ten talents. Even worse the wicked servant had to be thrown into outer darkness.

That is what the Kingdom of heaven is like. God's people should find it a joy to use the Master's goods. Those who use the Master's goods get a reward. They can live forever with their Lord. Those who do not respect the Master's goods are punished. They will be separated forever from the Lord. Are you ready to use the talents God has given to you?

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. In the parable Jesus called the gifts He gives (talents – riches).
2. We should (mock – honor) Jesus by using His gifts.

3. The master gave each servant (different – the same) talents.
4. The first servant's (five – four) talents became ten talents.
5. The third servant (hid – brought to the bank) the one talent he had been given.

Ready to Be Sacrificed

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 19

Scripture: Matthew 26:1-16

Memory Verse: “But now I go away to Him who sent Me.” (John 16:5a)

Lesson Truth: Jesus was ready to suffer and die. But His love controlled the events.

Lesson

Jesus taught the people many wonderful things. He taught them using stories. These stories were called parables. After Jesus taught His parables, He talked to His disciples. Do you know what He talked about? He talked about His suffering and His death. Jesus reminded the disciples that it was only two days until the Passover. He told them that during the Passover He would be crucified.

Let me tell you something wonderful. Jesus’ love controlled everything. This is how we learn about His control. We learn it from a meeting. The chief priests, the scribes, and the elders had a meeting. They met at the palace of the high priest. His name was Caiaphas. At that meeting they made a plan to kill Jesus. But do you know what they said? They said they could not kill Jesus during the Passover. They could not do this because the people would get upset. The people might start fighting.

Do you understand the problem? Jesus said He would be crucified during the Passover. The elders said He could not be killed during the Passover. They could not both be right. Jesus was right because of His love. He would be crucified during the Passover. He would be crucified because He was the true Passover Lamb.

The Passover was a feast to remember. The people had to remember the angel of death. The angel passed over some homes in Egypt. He passed over

the homes that had blood on the doorframes. The firstborn of every home without blood on the doorframe died. Jesus was the true Passover Lamb. He would die during the Passover feast. Jesus gave His blood for the sins of His people. Because Jesus gave His blood God's curse will pass by those who believe.

The disciples did not understand about Jesus' death. But a lady came to Jesus who did understand. Her name was Mary. Jesus was at the house of Simon. He was having dinner with Simon. Mary came to Simon's house. She had a bottle of perfume oil. This oil was expensive. Mary took this oil and poured it on Jesus. She did this because she loved Him. This made the disciples angry. They thought Mary should have sold this perfume oil. Then she could have given the money to the poor.

But Jesus scolded the disciples. He said that Mary did a good thing. She anointed His body for burial. Mary's love showed that she understood. She understood that Jesus had to die. Mary understood that Jesus had to give His blood. Jesus said that Mary would always be remembered. She would be remembered because of her love for Jesus. Isn't that a wonderful story? Mary believed that Jesus was the Passover Lamb. We must pray that God will help us to believe.

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. Jesus talked to His disciple about His suffering and His (Kingdom – death).
2. At a meeting the chief priests, the scribes, and the (elders – disciples) planned to kill Jesus.
3. The (Passover – Sabbath) was a feast to remember that the angel of death passed over homes in Egypt.

4. Jesus said that (Martha – Mary) did a good thing when she anointed his body for burial.

5. Mary – Martha) would always be remembered because of her love for Jesus.

The New Testament in His Blood

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 20

Scripture: Matthew 26:17-29

Memory Verse: “For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many.” (Matthew 26:28a)

Lesson Truth: God is faithful to His covenant. That is why we can be sure of His promises.

Lesson

The Bible often uses different words to tell about the same thing. The words *new testament* in our title also mean *new covenant*. Jesus told His disciples about a new covenant in His blood. Do you remember what a covenant is? It is a promise or an agreement. The covenant of grace was God’s promise to be the God of His people. Do you know why it was called the covenant of grace? It was because God made all the parts of the agreement. He also kept all the parts of the agreement. God did this because he loved His people. This love for His people is called his grace.

The story today tells about Jesus making a new covenant. This new covenant meant that God’s promises would be made sure with Jesus’ blood. The old covenant was made sure with the blood of bulls and goats.

This is what happened: Jesus ate the Passover supper with His disciples. The Passover feast helped people remember what God did for them in Egypt. The people had to remember that the angel of death passed over some homes. The angel passed over the homes that had blood on the doorframe. The blood was from the Passover lamb. This happened when God’s people left Egypt. Jesus and His disciples remembered that the angel passed over.

At this supper Jesus said something amazing. He said that one of His disciples would betray Him. This meant that a disciple would turn against

Jesus. He would help Jesus' enemies arrest Him. This made the disciples afraid. Each one asked Jesus, "Lord, is it I?" Jesus told Judas that he was the one. Then Judas went away. He left Jesus forever.

Jesus did not want His disciples to be afraid. Do you know what He did? Jesus took some bread. He blessed it and He broke it. Then He told His disciples to eat it. Jesus told them that it was His body. He also took a cup and told the disciples to drink from it. Jesus said that this was His blood. He said that His blood was the blood of the new covenant. Sometimes the Bible says it is the New Testament in His blood.

What does all this mean? It means that Jesus gave His blood on the cross. It means that Jesus died for our sins! Priests no longer need to offer the blood of bulls and goats to pay for sins. Jesus offered His blood. His blood pays for all the sins of His people. Isn't the new testament in His blood wonderful? It tells us that we can be sure of God's promises. We can be sure because God always keeps His covenant. His covenant is His promise that He will always be our God.

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. A covenant is a (promise – lie).
2. In the new covenant God's promises are made sure with the (teaching – blood) of Jesus.
3. Jesus said that one of His (enemies – disciples) would betray Him.
4. Jesus took (fruit – bread) broke it and said, "This is My body."
5. Jesus (blood – flesh) paid for the sins of His people.

The Faithful Witness

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 21

Scripture: Matthew 26:57-75

Memory Verse: “He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth.” (Isaiah 53:7b)

Lesson Truth: Christ Jesus suffered for His people. He suffered because He was rejected as the Christ.

Lesson

Do you know what a witness is? A witness is a person who knows the truth. He tells this truth to others. Jesus was the faithful witness. He told the truth. He said that He was the Son of God. The chief priests and elders rejected Him. They did not believe that He was the Christ. Jesus suffered for His people when they rejected Him.

The soldiers took the Lord Jesus as a prisoner. They did this in the garden of Gethsemane. Then they took Him to the house of Caiaphas. Caiaphas was the high priest. The scribes and elders were at the high priest's house. Do you know what the elders did? They looked for witnesses to tell lies about Jesus. They wanted to find a reason to put Jesus to death. But they could not find two witnesses to agree. The law said that no one could be put to death unless two witnesses agreed.

Do you know why they wanted to put Jesus to death? They thought He was just a man. They thought it was wrong for a man to say He was God. The elders thought it was wrong for Jesus to say that He brought God's grace. They thought it was wrong for Him to say that God sent Him. That is why they wanted to kill Him. That is why they looked for witnesses who did not tell the truth.

It was not wrong for Jesus to say that He was the Christ. It wasn't wrong because he was the Christ! Then, two men thought they could say something bad about Jesus. They said that He boasted that He could destroy the temple and that He could build in three days. Jesus did not answer the men who said these bad things. He suffered without saying a word. He suffered so that He could pay for the sins of bad men. Jesus suffered so that He could pay for our sins!

The high priest became upset with Jesus. He was upset because Jesus would not talk. The high priest told Jesus to tell the truth before God. He said, "Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!" (Matt. 26:63). Then Jesus was the faithful witness. He told the truth. Jesus said that He was the Christ. He was the Son of God. Then the high priest tore his clothes. He thought that Jesus was lying. He said that Jesus spoke blasphemy! This means to speak evil about things of God. The high priest asked the elders what they thought. The elders said that Jesus deserved to be put to death.

Jesus told the priests and elders about His grace. But they rejected His grace! Still you and I may be filled with joy. We may have joy because Jesus paid for the sins of people who reject Him. He paid for all the sins of those who believe! Jesus paid for the sins of Peter, His disciple. Just think three times Peter told others that he did not know Jesus. Then the rooster crowed. When Peter heard the rooster he remembered what Jesus said. Jesus said Peter would say three times that he did not know Him. He would say this before the rooster crowed. Now Peter remembered! Then he went away and cried and cried. But Peter was forgiven. He was forgiven because Jesus paid for his sins. He was forgiven because he was sorry for his sins. We are also forgiven if we believe in Jesus!

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. Jesus was (a faithful – an unfaithful) witness.

2. The elders wanted a reason to (help Jesus preach – put Jesus to death).
3. The elders thought it was (wrong – right) for Jesus to say that he was the Christ.
4. Jesus (suffered – rejoiced) so that He could pay for our sins.
5. The priests and the elders (accepted – rejected) the grace of the Lord Jesus.

Like Clay in the Potter's Hands

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 22

Scripture: Matthew 27:1-10

Memory Verse: “And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of Him who was priced, whom they of the children of Israel priced, and gave them for the potter’s field, as the Lord directed me.” (Matthew 27:9b-10)

Lesson Truth: Christ Jesus can make us new. He can remake us like a potter makes a new vase from a broken one.

Lesson

The lesson today is from three passages of Scripture. Matthew told about the potter’s field. Zechariah prophesied about the potter’s field. And Jeremiah told about the clay in the potter’s hands. This lesson helps us understand that we are like clay. A potter can make a beautiful vase from a broken one. Christ Jesus can make new people from sinful ones. The Lord’s people are like clay in the potter’s hands.

It was the morning after Jesus was arrested. The chief priests and elders were at a meeting. At their meeting they talked about putting Jesus to death. The chief priests and elders rejected Jesus. They did not understand that Jesus was the Head of God’s covenant. In His covenant God promised to send a Redeemer. Jesus was this promised Redeemer. It was bad for the chief priests and elders to reject Jesus.

Jesus was willing to be rejected. He knew that He was the head of the covenant. His life would be like the clay on a potter’s wheel. The potter could take the clay of a bad vase and make a new vase. Jesus’ death would make it possible to form new life. Because Jesus died for our sins, we can be new people. We can be made new just like the potter makes a new vase from an old one.

Why is our lesson is about a potter and clay? It is because of Judas. Judas saw that the elders were going to bring Jesus to Pilate. They needed to bring Him to Pilate. Pilate was the Roman governor. Only the governor could put Jesus to death. This made Judas feel bad. He felt bad because it made him look evil. Judas brought thirty pieces of silver back to the elders. He told them that Jesus was innocent.

The elders didn't care what Judas said. They did not want the thirty pieces of silver. Then Judas threw down the silver in the temple. He was filled with despair. But he did not turn to Jesus. Judas went out and hanged himself. He was far from the Lord Jesus. The Psalmist said that such people would perish. Judas did perish apart from Jesus.

The chief priests did not know what to do with the thirty pieces of silver. They could not use them for the temple. This silver was the price of Jesus' blood. So, they decided to use it to buy the potter's field. Strangers could be buried there. The potter's field is also a sign. This sign points to the blood of Jesus. Even in death God's people are redeemed by Jesus' blood. His people are like clay in the potter's hands. God can take sinful people and make them new. He can do this like the potter makes a beautiful vase from an ugly one! This lesson tells us about the grace that Jesus bought for us. It would be terrible for us to reject that grace.

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. The chief priests and (elders – disciples) talked about putting Jesus to death.
2. Jesus was the Head of the covenant and the promised (Governor – Redeemer) of Israel.

3. The (potter – governor) can take the clay from an old vase and make a new one.

4. Judas brought the thirty pieces of silver back to the elders and the (disciples – chief priests).

5. The chief priests and elders decided to buy the (temple – potter’s field) with the thirty pieces of silver.

Arbitrary Treatment

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 23

Scripture: Matthew 27:11-31

Memory Verse: “And when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified.” (Matthew 27:31)

Lesson Truth: Christ Jesus did not break the law. Still, He suffered. He suffered to pay for our sins.

Lesson

Arbitrary is a big word. It means to do something without a law to guide you. The chief priests and elders hurt Jesus. They did this without a law to guide them. Pilate also ruled against Jesus. He did this without a law to guide him. Soldiers spit on Jesus and hit Him. They nailed Him to the cross because they hated Him. He did not break the law.

The chief priests and elders brought Jesus to Pilate. He was the Roman governor. The elders accused Jesus. They said that he claimed to be the King of the Jews. Pilate asked Jesus about this. He asked, “Are you the King of the Jews?” (Matt. 27:11). Jesus said that He was the King of the Jews. Pilate did not know what to do with Jesus. He was not afraid that Jesus wanted to rule Rome. Pilate thought that Jesus was just being foolish.

Pilate decided to let Jesus answer the elders. The elders then accused Jesus of many things. Pilate asked Jesus if He heard what they said. But Jesus did not answer them. He never said a word. He was so quiet that Pilate was amazed.

Then Pilate had another idea. He decided to offer to free Jesus. Each year the Romans allowed a prisoner to go free. They would do this at the Passover Feast. Now Pilate offered to free Jesus or Barabbas. Barabbas was a

murderer. Pilate thought the people would choose Jesus. But they didn't. They asked him to let Barabbas go free. That is how much they hated Jesus. They chose to have Barabbas go free instead of Jesus.

The people wanted Pilate to set Barabbas free. He had a question for the people. He asked them, "What should I do with Jesus?" Do you know what they answered? They said, "Let Him be crucified" (Matt. 27:22). Isn't that terrible? Jesus never broke a law. Still the people wanted Him to be crucified.

God warned Pilate. He did this through Pilate's wife. She told Pilate to get rid of Jesus. Unbelievers do not know what to do with Jesus. Pilate's wife knew that Jesus was not guilty. But she did not ask Pilate to do what was right. She only told him to get rid of Jesus. It is sad that Pilate and his wife did not know that Jesus was the King of grace.

The people continued to cry, "Crucify Him!" Now Pilate tried once more to rescue Jesus. He asked the people, "Why, what evil has He done?" (Matt. 27:23). But they said that He must be crucified. Then Pilate washed his hands before the people. He said this showed that he was innocent of Jesus' blood. But he wasn't. He was the governor. The governor was supposed to be a fair and honest judge.

Pilate then beat Jesus and told the soldiers to crucify Him. The soldiers then mocked Jesus. They put a robe on Him. The soldiers made a crown out thorns. They put this on Jesus' head. Then they bowed to Him. They pretended that He was a king. Do you know what they said? They said, "Hail king of the Jews!" After that they spit on Jesus and hit Him. It is sad that they did not understand that Jesus was truly the King of the Jews. Jesus is the King of grace for all believers! Jesus was treated with hatred. He was found guilty without breaking a law!

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. The chief priests and elders brought Jesus to (Herod – Pilate).

2. Jesus (did – did not) answer the accusations of the chief priests and elders.
3. The people asked Pilate to let (Barabbas – Jesus) go free.
4. The people wanted Jesus to be (set free – crucified).
5. The soldiers (mocked – praised) Jesus and said, “Hail King of the Jews!” (Matt. 27:29).

Cursed by God

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 24

Scripture: Matthew 27:32-56

Memory Verse: “Truly this was the Son of God.” (Matthew 27:54b)

Lesson Truth: Christ Jesus suffered God’s curse. His curse earned God’s blessing for us.

Lesson

The story today is about Jesus being crucified. He was treated like an outlaw. Our Lord suffered God’s curse. Unbelievers mocked him. As He hung on the cross it became dark for three hours. His death caused the curtain of the temple to tear. The torn veil meant that God no longer lived behind the curtain. God now lives in the hearts of men!

The trial before Pilate was over. Pilate told the soldiers to take Jesus out of the city. They were told to crucify Him on a hill called Golgotha. Jesus was hurt so bad that He could not carry His cross. The soldiers made a man named Simon carry it for Him. Jesus was sent out of Jerusalem. He was treated like the scapegoat from the Old Testament. The sins of the people were laid on the scapegoat. Then the scapegoat was chased into the wilderness. Jesus also carried the sins of the people. He carried them to the cross.

At the cross they tried to give Him sour wine to drink. The wine would deaden the pain of the cross. But Jesus would not drink the wine. He was ready to suffer all the pain of the cross for His chosen ones. His cross was on a hill called Golgotha. On this hill everyone could see Him. He hung on the cross in shame. In that shame He bore God’s curse against our sins. But His shame and pain were not the worst of His suffering. The worst of His suffering was to be cursed by God. God rejected the Lord Jesus for our sake. We deserved to be rejected. But Jesus was rejected for us.

As Jesus hung on the cross the people mocked Him. They asked, “Why don’t You save yourself? Didn’t You say that You could rebuild the temple in three days?” Leaders mocked saying, “He saved other people, but He can’t save Himself.” They scoffed, “If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross.” (Matt. 27:38-44). Even the robber on the other cross, mocked Him. Then an amazing thing happened!

The whole earth became dark. It was just like night only it was noon. The darkness lasted for three hours. This was the time that Jesus suffered the most. It was the time that God forsook Him. He knew that God forsook Him to pay for our sins. Yet he cried out, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” (Matt. 27:46). Jesus felt all the pain of God’s curse against sin. Some of the people thought that He was calling Elijah. They said let us wait to see if Elijah will help Him. Then another amazing thing happened!

The curtain in the temple was torn apart. This was the curtain that separated the Holy place from the Holy of Holies. God tore the curtain to show that He no longer lived behind the curtain. Jesus bore the curse for our sins. Now God lives in the hearts of those who believe. Then a man who was probably not a believer said something wonderful. The Roman officer said, “Truly this was the Son of God!” (Matt. 27:54).

The women who saw Jesus on the cross were filled with despair. Later they believed that Jesus atoned for their sins! Yes, Jesus died on the cross. He bore God’s curse against sin. He did this so that God’s blessing of forgiveness would be ours.

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. The soldiers made a man named (Simon – Judas) carry Jesus’ cross.
2. At the cross, the soldiers gave Jesus (water – sour wine) to drink.

3. Jesus was crucified on a hill called (Gethsemane – Golgotha).
4. As Jesus hung on the cross the people (praised – mocked) Him.
5. The (robe – curtain) in the temple was torn apart from the top to the bottom.

In the Realm of the Dead

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 25

Scripture: Matthew 27:57-66

Memory Verse: “So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard.” (Matthew 27:66)

Lesson Truth: Christ Jesus went to the place of the dead. There He opened the gates of death for us.

Lesson

The title of today’s lesson talks about a realm. Do you know what a realm is? It is another word for place. Jesus died on the cross. Then He went to the place of the dead. He was buried in a tomb. The curse of death was upon Jesus. But the curse of death could not keep Jesus. He opened the gates of death for us.

Do you know what happened to Jesus after He died on the cross? A friend came and took His body down from the cross. This friend was Joseph of Arimathea. Joseph was a rich man. He had made a new tomb in the rocks. This Joseph asked Pilate if He could bury Jesus’ body. Pilate gave Joseph permission to bury Jesus. So Joseph carefully took Jesus’ body down from the cross. He and his friends laid Jesus’ body in his new tomb. Then Joseph rolled a large stone in front of the door of the tomb.

What does it mean that Jesus went to the place of the dead? It means that He went to the place where men are forgotten. This is the place where their names are forgotten. That is what the chief priest’s and Pharisees wanted. They wanted Jesus’ name to be forgotten. Jesus stirred the crowds when He preached. Now He was in the place of the dead. Would the people forget His name?

When people go to the place of the dead they are forgotten. That is the curse of our sins. Our names are not remembered. But Jesus took the curse of our sins on Himself. He paid the price of our sins. His name was not forgotten. Instead, He opened the gates of death. Jesus opened the gates of death for Himself and also for us. Because Jesus came back to life you and I will also live again.

Jesus rose from the dead. The elders of Israel tried to make sure this could not happen. They went to Pilate to ask him to make the tomb secure. The elders told Pilate that they heard Jesus say that He would rise from the dead. They were afraid that His disciples would steal His body. Pilate told the elders to do what they wanted. So, they sealed the stone in front of Jesus' tomb. They also ordered soldiers to guard the tomb. But a seal and some soldiers could not keep the Lord Jesus in the tomb.

The Lord Jesus suffered and paid the price for our sins. His name would not be forgotten. The Kingdom of grace He preached about, would come. It would come because He rose from the dead. The place of the dead could not keep Him. Before long, the elders would say, "You have filled all Jerusalem with His name" (see Acts 5:28).

Yes, Jesus went to the place of the dead. But He was victorious over death. Jesus opened the gates of death for those who believe. Jesus' name was not forgotten. Neither will the names of those who believe be forgotten. Do you believe that Jesus paid for your sins?

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. A (friend – enemy) took Jesus' body down from the cross.
2. The chief priests and Pharisees wanted Jesus' name to be (remembered – forgotten).

3. Jesus paid the curse for our sins and (opened – closed) the gates of death for us.
4. The elders were afraid that Jesus' (enemies – disciples) would steal His body.
5. The elders ordered (Jesus' disciples – soldiers) to guard the tomb where Jesus' body was placed.

The One with Authority

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 26

Scripture: Matthew 28

Memory Verse: “I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”
(Matthew 28:20b)

Lesson Truth: Christ Jesus rose from the dead. Then all authority was given to Him.

Lesson

Authority means to have power to command or act. Jesus rose from the dead. He was then given all authority. Do you know what Jesus did with His power? He used it to bring His grace to believers. Grace is His gift of love and favor.

What happened after Jesus died on the cross? Joseph from Arimathea took His body down from the cross. He laid Jesus body in his own new tomb. The chief priests and Pharisees wanted His body to stay in the tomb. They wanted the people to forget Jesus’ name. They sealed the stone at the door of the tomb. Then they made soldiers stand guard. The chief priests thought this was the end of Jesus. No one could steal His body.

Jesus’ disciples didn’t know what to do. Jesus was in the tomb. Was the message of Jesus’ grace true? Could it be true if Jesus was dead? They spent a sad Sabbath day talking about what to do. Two women woke early in the morning on the first day of the week. They could not wait any longer. They hurried out to Jesus’ tomb. These women were going to anoint Jesus’ body with spices.

Then something amazing happened. The women were near Jesus’ tomb. They felt a great earthquake shake the ground. Then they saw an angel come down from heaven. The angel was dressed in white. He looked like

lightening. This angel talked to the women. He told them not to be afraid. He knew that they were looking for Jesus body. Then the angel told them something wonderful. He said that Jesus had risen from the dead. It was true! Jesus did rise from the dead. The angel showed the women where He had lain.

The earthquake and the angel made the soldiers shake with fear. They acted like dead men. The angel told the women to tell Jesus' disciples. The women hurried away to tell the disciples the good news. The good news was that Jesus was alive.

Jesus had won the victory over sin and death. The women ran to Jerusalem. Do you know what happened? Jesus met them on the way. They were so filled with joy that they held His feet. The women worshiped the Lord Jesus. The soldiers also ran to Jerusalem. They told the chief priests what happened. This made the chief priests upset. They did not want Jesus to be alive. Do you know what the chief priests did? They told the soldiers to lie. They told the soldiers to say that His disciples stole Jesus body. The chief priests gave the soldiers money so they would lie.

Later Jesus showed Himself to His disciples. He met them in Galilee. Jesus then told them something wonderful. He said that all authority was given to Him. Jesus is in command of everything. He rules all things in heaven and on earth. This means that He won the victory over sin and death. He also won this victory for all those who believe.

Jesus then gave His disciples a command. He told them to go and make disciples of all nations. They also had to baptize these disciples. They had to baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said that the new disciples should do everything that He commands. Then He promised that He would be with them. Just think Jesus will be with His people until the end of time.

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. The chief priests and Pharisees wanted Jesus to (rise from the dead – remain in the tomb).
2. Two women went to the (tomb – temple) early in the morning on the first day of the week.
3. The women felt an (earthquake – explosion) as they came near the tomb.
4. The (chief priest – angel) at the tomb told the women that Jesus had risen from the dead.
5. Jesus told (the disciples – the Pharisees) that all authority had been given to Him.