

Promise and Deliverance Student Workbook

Volume 14

Level 2

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

All Life Is a Miracle

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

Scripture: Mark 7:31–8:26

Memory Verse: “Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing.” (Isaiah 35:5-6a)

Lesson Truth: The Lord Jesus taught that all of life is a miracle. We all live by a miracle each day!

Lesson

Do you know what a miracle is? A miracle is a wonderful happening, often different from the laws of nature. It is an event in which the Lord takes part. Jesus taught the people that life is a miracle. Each day the Lord cares for us in a miraculous way. Today we will learn how Jesus gave a deaf and mute man his hearing and speech. We will learn how He fed four thousand people with seven loaves and a few fish. Also, we will learn how He gave a blind man his sight.

Jesus was not yet ready to go back to Galilee. He wanted the people to desire to have Him back. So, He continued to teach in the land of the Gadarenes. This was the area where Jesus had cast the legion of demons out of a man. It was the same area where the people had asked Him to leave. They asked Him to leave because the demons destroyed their pigs. In this same area the people brought a man to Jesus who could not hear or speak. They wanted to see if Jesus had some magical power to heal him.

But Jesus did not heal anyone to show off. He took the man aside, away from the people. He wanted him to believe that life is a miracle. Jesus wanted this man to believe that He was the Lord of life. Do you know what Jesus did? He put His fingers in the man’s ears. Then He touched the man’s tongue. As He did this Jesus looked up to heaven. He wanted the man to know that healing came from God the Father. Jesus then sighed and said, “Be opened!” (Mark 7:34). At once the man could hear and speak. Now the man could serve the Lord. As he heard the words of Jesus, he could tell them to others. This deaf and mute man was healed by God’s grace in Christ.

Did the people believe that the man was healed by God’s grace? They were astonished and said that Jesus did all things well. The people said He makes the deaf hear and the mute to speak. Still, most of them thought Jesus used some magical

power. Sadly, they did not understand that this was a miracle of God's grace. They did not believe that life is a miracle of grace.

Jesus remained on the other side of the Jordan River. There a large crowd of people followed Him. They wanted to hear His words and see His miracles. For three days they followed Jesus. All this time they did not have anything to eat. Jesus then told His disciples that He felt sorry for the people. He said that they needed something to eat before they went home. If they did not have food, they would faint along the way. But the disciples asked Jesus how they could possibly feed all those people. They told Jesus that they had only seven small loaves of bread. Still Jesus told the people to sit on the ground.

Now the disciples would learn that Christ Jesus is the Word of grace. They would learn that He has power over all things. Jesus took the seven loaves, and He gave thanks to God the Father. Then He blessed the loaves and broke them. He told the disciples to feed the people with the loaves and a few fish. Once again Jesus showed that life is a miracle. Four thousand people were fed, and the disciples picked up seven large baskets of leftovers. The people could have seen God's grace in Christ Jesus. They could have seen that life is a miracle. Do we see the miracle of God's eternal grace in our lives?

Jesus then got into a boat with His disciples. After they left the shore, He told them to beware the leaven of Herod and the Pharisees. Because Jesus talked about leaven, the disciple thought He was upset that they had forgotten bread. But Jesus was warning them to be careful not to listen to the evil influence of the Pharisees. Herod and the Pharisees lived without faith. They wanted Jesus to show them a sign that He was the Christ. But true faith lives by the Word of God.

One more time Jesus showed that life is a miracle. At Bethsaida the people brought a blind man to Jesus. These people also thought that Jesus had some magical powers. But Jesus did not heal anyone to show off. He took the blind man out of town and there He touched his eyes. Not only did He want to heal this man, but He also wanted him to believe. Jesus wanted this man to look to Him in faith. He wanted him to see God's grace in his life. Pray that we may see that life is a miracle of God's grace!

Questions

Fill in the blanks.

1. "Then they brought to Him one who was _____ and had an impediment of speech, and they begged Him to put His hand on him." (Mark 7:32)

2. “Then looking up to _____, He sighed, and said to him, ‘Ephphatha,’ that is, ‘Be opened.’” (Mark 7:34)
3. “He asked them, ‘How many loaves do you have? And they said, _____.’” (Mark 8:5)
4. “So they ate and were filled, and they took up seven large _____ of leftover fragments.” (Mark 8:8)
5. “Now those who had eaten were about _____ . And He sent them away.” (Mark 8:9)
6. “Then He charged them, saying, ‘Take heed, beware the _____ of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod.’” (Mark 8:15)

Lesson 2
Transfigured

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

Scripture: Mark 9:2-13

Memory Verse: “And a cloud came and overshadowed them; and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!”” (Mark 9:7)

Lesson Truth: The Lord Jesus humbled Himself and was obedient to the Father. At the transfiguration the Father showed the Son the glory that would be His.

Lesson

The Bible story from Mark 9 tells about the transfiguration of Jesus. Transfiguration means that there is change in form or appearance. The appearance of Jesus changed at the transfiguration. His face shone like the sun. At the same time His clothes became as white as light. They were whiter than any launderer could ever make them. This was the way that the Father showed the glory that would be given to Jesus after His death and resurrection. It is also the way that the Father showed the glory that is waiting for those who believe in Jesus.

The story of the transfiguration of Jesus is beautiful story. Jesus knew that the time of His suffering was near. He knew that the Jewish leaders wanted to get rid of Him. Because of this He took His disciples to Caesarea Philippi. Jesus wanted to get them ready for His time of suffering. He told the disciples that He would be handed over to the Jewish leaders who would put Him to death. Jesus also told them that He would rise from the dead. The disciples did not understand how anyone could rise from the dead.

Then one day Jesus took Peter, James, and John and went up on a mountain to pray. He prayed for strength to be obedient to the Father. He needed the strength to suffer and die to pay for the sins of His people. While Jesus was struggling in prayer He was transfigured. His face and clothing changed. His face shone like the sun. And His clothing became whiter than snow. For just a minute The Father allowed Jesus to see the glory that He would enjoy after He rose from the dead. This gave Him the strength to submit to suffering and to die for our sins. Isn't that an amazing story?

But this story tells us something even more amazing. It tells us that Jesus was the Head of the covenant. God sent two of the great leaders of His covenant people to talk to Jesus. These leaders were Moses and Elijah. They knew that they were in heaven because Jesus paid for their sins. He paid for their sins because He is the

Head of the covenant. That means He also paid for our sins if we are His covenant children. Just think, the glory that the Father showed to Jesus will also be our glory. It will be our glory if we believe that Jesus is our covenant Head.

The disciples didn't know what to make of the change in Jesus' appearance. They wanted His fellowship with Moses and Elijah to continue. But God wanted them to believe in the power of Christ's Word. He did not want them to cling to the fellowship on the mountain. God then overshadowed the group with a cloud. He spoke from the cloud. Do you know what He said? He said, "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!" (Mark 9:7). The Father in heaven wanted the disciples to live by faith in the Lord's Word. You and I must also live by faith in the Word of Jesus. We must also listen to Him!

Jesus and the disciples came down from the mountain. He told the disciples not to tell anyone what they had seen until after He rose from the dead. The disciples did not understand what Jesus meant when He talked about rising from the dead. But they did have other questions. They had seen Elijah and Moses. Did this mean that Scribes were right that Elijah had to come before the Messiah? Jesus told them plainly that someone had already come in the spirit and power of Elijah. John the Baptist had spoken with the power of Elijah and called the people to repent. But the people did not believe him. They did not believe that he had come to prepare the way for Jesus. Jesus said that they did to him whatever they wished.

The transfiguration showed that the way to glory for Jesus was through suffering and obedience. That is also the way to glory for God's people. We must believe that Jesus paid the price for our sins. Those who believe that He their covenant Head will share in His glory!

Questions

Fill in the blanks.

1. "Now after six days Jesus took _____ James and John and led them up on a high mountain apart by themselves." (Mark 9:2a)
2. "And He was _____ before them." (Mark 9:2b)
3. "His _____ became shining exceedingly white, like snow, such as no launderer on earth can whiten them." (Mark 9:3)

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

5. “And a _____ came and overshadowed them; and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!”” (Mark 9:7)

6. “But I say to you that _____ has also come, and they did to him whatever they wished, as it is written of him.” (Mark 9:13)

Lesson 3

Fighters for Life

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

Scripture: Mark 9:14-29

Memory Verse: “Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, ‘Lord I believe; help my unbelief!’” (Mark 9:24)

Lesson Truth: The Lord Jesus fights for life. He calls on believers to fight for life with Him.

Lesson

The story today tells how Jesus fought for the life of a demon-possessed boy. He fought for this boy’s life after the disciples couldn’t cast out this demon. He fought for the boy’s life because of the unbelief of the crowd surrounding him.

Jesus with Peter, James, and John just came down from the mountain. This was the mountain on which Jesus was transfigured. His face and clothing changed when He was shown the glory that would be His. After that beautiful experience Jesus came down the mountain to a sad experience. He found the other disciples surrounded by a crowd of people. The disciples were arguing with some scribes in the crowd. Jesus wanted to help His disciples, so He asked the scribes what they were discussing. Before the scribes could answer, the father of a young boy answered.

He told Jesus that he had a son who had an evil spirit. This spirit would overcome the boy with seizures. These seizures were so bad that the boy would foam at the mouth and gnash his teeth. At times his body would become rigid. He told Jesus that he brought this boy to His disciples for healing. But sadly, they could not cast out this demon. Jesus knew that His disciple had been overcome by the unbelief of the crowd. He knew that the scribes were in the crowd standing in the way of the disciples’ faith. It was sad for Jesus to come from the glory of the mountain to this valley of unbelief!

It is no wonder that He said to the crowd, “O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you?” (Mark 9:19). These words did not mean that Jesus was tired of His work of redemption. They meant that He was tired of the crowd’s unbelief. Jesus knew that His healing power came from faith, not from unbelief. Jesus would surely help the father and his son. But first He had to do away with unbelief, and replace it with faith. Jesus then told the man to bring Him his son.

When this father brought his son to Jesus, a dreadful thing happened. The evil spirit in this boy threw him at Jesus feet. This demon caused the boy to have a deep convulsion. It made him wallow on the ground and foam from his mouth. Jesus watched the boy wallow on the ground. Then He asked the father how long this demon had tormented the boy. The man told Jesus the demon had been there since he was a child. Even worse this demon sometimes threw the boy into the fire or into the water. The father said the demon tried to destroy his son. Then he cried out to Jesus, “If you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us” (Mark 9:22). The father’s question of “if” showed that he was filled with doubt.

Jesus could not allow the man to live with that kind of doubt. If there was to be healing for this boy, He had to awaken faith in his father. So, Jesus said to the father, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes” (Mark 9:23). The father knew that Jesus was asking him to believe. He knew that Jesus was leading him to faith. He cried out between his tears, “Lord I believe; help my unbelief” (Mark 9:24). Jesus then rebuked the unclean spirit. He said, “Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you to come out of him, and enter him no more!” (Mark 9:25). Satan had been sent away before the crowd could gather. The evil spirit cried out as it left the boy. It caused the boy to go into one more convulsion, and then he lay down. The people thought the boy had died. But Jesus took him by the hand, and he got up.

Satan had been defeated and ordered to leave this boy. After this Jesus and the disciples went into a house. When they were alone the disciples asked Him why they were not able to cast out this demon. Jesus said that it was because they were surrounded by unbelief. They were overcome by the unbelief of the scribes. Jesus told them that only prayer and fasting could overcome such unbelief. Even when we pray and fast Jesus must reach out with His grace to help His people. Jesus fought for the life of this boy. Pray that He will visit us with His grace so that we may also be fighters for life!

Questions

Fill in the blanks.

1. “And when He came to His _____ He saw a great multitude around them, and scribes disputing with them.” (Mark 9:14)
2. “And he asked the _____ ‘What are you discussing with them?’” (Mark 9:16)

3. "Then one of the _____ answered and said, 'Teacher, I brought You my son, who has mute spirit.'" (Mark 9:17)

4. "And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, he _____ at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid." (Mark 9:18a)

5. "Jesus said to him, 'If you can believe, all things are _____ to him who believes.'" (Mark 9:23)

6. "Immediately the _____ of the child cried out and said with tears, 'Lord, I believe; help my unbelief.'" (Mark 9:24)

He Came to Serve

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

Scripture: Mark 10:32-45

Memory Verse: “Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant” (Mark 10:43)

Lesson Truth: The Lord Jesus came to earth to serve others. He came to give His life as a ransom for many.

Lesson

Do you know what a servant is? A servant is someone who works for the good of others. A servant waits on those he serves. He helps them in any way he can. Jesus came to earth to be a servant. Even more, He was willing to give His life for His people. Jesus taught His disciples that they must learn to serve others. They could only become great in God’s Kingdom by being a servant.

Jesus taught the people as He traveled from Galilee to Judea. On His way to Jerusalem, He crossed the Jordan River. There He also taught the people. Jesus noticed that His disciples were afraid as they neared Jerusalem. He decided to stop and tell His disciples what was going to happen. Do you know what He told them? He told them that someone would betray Him. The betrayer would help the chief priests and scribes capture Him. Then they would say that He broke their laws and that He should die. The chief priests and scribes would ask the Roman governor to kill Him. Do you know what the Romans would do before they put Him to death? They would mock Him and spit on Him.

The disciples did not understand what Jesus told them. They knew that He was the Messiah. The disciples could not think of a Messiah who would suffer. They thought of their Messiah as a king. How was it possible that their King would be mocked and spit on? Jesus even told the disciples that He would die. He also told them that after three days He would rise from the dead. It is sad that the disciples did not understand what He told them. They had to learn that Jesus came to suffer to atone for their sins.

Later two disciples came to Jesus with a strange request. The two were James and John the sons of Zebedee. James and John had been on the mount of Transfiguration with Jesus. Now they asked Jesus about important places in His Kingdom. Likely they still did not understand that Jesus had to suffer. They thought He would soon set up His Kingdom. They asked if they could sit on His right and

on His left in His Kingdom. Jesus said that they did not know what they were asking. He knew that they loved Him. But He also knew that they were selfish. For that reason, Jesus asked them a question. He asked them if they could drink the cup that He would drink. This was another way to ask if they were ready to suffer just like He would suffer. Surprisingly James and John said they were able to drink this cup. Jesus then told James and John that they would indeed suffer. He told them that the way to an important place in His Kingdom was the way of serving. James and John had to put away their selfish request. Instead, they would have to learn to be servants who were ready to suffer. The Father would choose the places of honor.

The other disciples were very unhappy when they heard James' and John's request. Why should these two be more important in Christ's Kingdom than the others? Now Jesus knew that He had to teach all the disciples. He told them that they should not think like the people of the world. Unbelievers want to have important places and rule over others. But that is not the way it is in God's Kingdom. He told them that in God's Kingdom the one who wants an important place must learn to serve. Jesus said that anyone who belongs to the Lord is willing to be the least. He is willing to be a servant for God's sake.

Jesus then told the disciples that He was the example that they should follow. He came to earth to be a servant. He came to earth to give His life as a ransom for sinners. A ransom is the price that is paid to free a prisoner. Jesus paid the price for our sins. He was the suffering servant who was willing to die to set us free! If we are God's people, we must also be ready to give of ourselves for each other!

Questions

Fill in the blanks.

1. "Then He took the _____ aside again and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him." (Mark 10:32b)
2. "Behold we are going up to _____ and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles." (Mark 10:33)
3. "And they will _____ Him and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again." (Mark 10:34)
4. "You know that those who are considered rulers over the _____ lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them." (Mark 10:42b)

5. “Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to be _____
among you shall be your servant.” (Mark 10:43)

6. “For even the Son of Man did not come to be _____
but to serve, to give His life a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45)

The Answer to the Questions

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

Scripture: Mark 12:13-44

Memory Verse: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.” (Deuteronomy 6:5)

Lesson Truth: Both believers and unbelievers asked Jesus questions. They found the Lord Jesus is the answer to these questions.

Lesson

A number of people asked Jesus questions. Some of these questions were meant to trap Him. Others were honest questions. Jesus was made known by the answers He gave to these questions. God chose to make Himself known to us by telling us about these questions.

It was the week before Jesus was crucified. This week is known as the Passion Week. The Lord Jesus was in Jerusalem. He came into Jerusalem riding on a donkey. People had cried out “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!” (Mark 11:9). Jesus knew that not everyone believed that He was the Messiah. Yet, He allowed the people to honor Him. Sadly, the chief priests were upset that the people honored Jesus. Because they were upset, they sent evil men to try to trap Jesus with trick questions.

The chief priests sent some Pharisees and Herodians to trap Jesus. These bad men pretended that they honored Jesus. They said that they knew He was a teacher who told the truth. Yet they were trying to trap Him. They asked Jesus if it was lawful to pay taxes to Caesar. They thought that if He said yes the people would be against Him. They would be against Him because they hated to pay taxes to the Romans. Yet if He said no they should not pay taxes, then the Romans could arrest Him. But Jesus knew what was in their wicked hearts. So, He asked them to bring Him a Roman coin.

When they brought the coin, Jesus asked whose image was on it. They said it was an image of Caesar. Then Jesus told them to give “to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s” (Mark 12:17). Jesus knew that if they served God with their heart, they would know how to serve Caesar. Even these unbelievers marveled at Jesus’ answer. Their trick question did not work.

Later, some Sadducees came to Jesus with another question. They did not believe that people will rise from the dead. They wanted to trick Jesus into saying that there

was no resurrection. They made up a story about a lady who had married each of seven brothers. The brothers had each married this lady to keep the Law of Moses. This law said that if a man died leaving no children that His brother should raise children for him. Then they asked Jesus whose wife this lady would be when they rose from the dead. Again, Jesus knew their wicked hearts. He said that they did not know the Bible. The Bible tells us that when the dead arise no one will be married. God's people who rise from the dead will be like angels.

People also asked Jesus honest questions. A scribe who was confused by all the laws the chief priests made, asked a question. He asked, "Which is the first commandment of all?" (Mark 12:28). He really wanted to know which was the most important commandment. Jesus did not hesitate to answer. He said that the first commandment of all is, "Hear O Israel, the Lord our God is One. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength" (Mark 12:29-30). Jesus also told him that if we love God above all, we will also love our neighbor. The second commandment comes out of the first saying, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:31). Sadly, the scribe did not understand that the love for God and our neighbor is a gift of grace. He thought the love was what he did. That is why Jesus said, "You are not far from the kingdom of God" (Mark 12:34).

Jesus also warned the people about pretending to be Christians. He said the scribes pretended to be Christians so that people would see them making long prayers. Jesus told about a widow who did not pretend, but served God with her heart. She brought her offering to the temple. She gave her two mites as true gift of love. Her two mites were all that she had. But she gave them because she knew that God's grace had made her a child of God! Is Jesus the answer to all your questions? Do you believe that His grace made you a child of God?

Questions

Fill in the blanks.

1. "Then they sent to Him some of the _____ and the Herodians, to catch Him in His words." (Mark 12:13)
2. "For you do not regard the person of men but teach the way of _____ in truth. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" (Mark 12:14b)
3. "And Jesus answered and said to them, 'Render to _____ the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's.' And they marveled at Him." (Mark 12:17)

4. “Therefore, in the _____ when they rise, whose wife will she be? For all seven had her as wife.” (Mark 12:23)

5. “Jesus answered and said to them. ‘Are you not therefore _____ because you do not know the Scriptures nor the power of God?’” (Mark 12:24)

6. “For when they rise from the dead, they neither _____ nor are given in marriage, but are like the angels in heaven.” (Mark 12:25)

Learning Obedience

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

Scripture: Mark 14:32-42

Memory Verse: “I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.” (John 5:30)

Lesson Truth: The Lord Jesus suffered terribly at Gethsemane. He obeyed the Father in His suffering.

Lesson

Jesus was both God and man. In the Garden of Gethsemane, He suffered as a man. He had to learn to obey the Father as a man. He had to do this because the man, Adam sinned. Because he sinned, we are all sinners. You see Adam was our covenant head. Now Jesus had to obey the Father as our new Covenant Head. Jesus was like the sacrificial lamb in the Old Testament. The priest had to examine this lamb to make sure it was perfect. Now Jesus suffered in Gethsemane to show that He would obey the Father. He had to show that He was the perfect Lamb of God.

The chief priests and elders at Jerusalem hated Jesus. They hated Jesus because He said He was the Messiah. These rulers made a plan to put Jesus to death. Jesus knew about their plan, but He did not leave Jerusalem. Instead, He went to a garden in Jerusalem to pray. This garden was called Gethsemane. Jesus took His disciples to Gethsemane. He wanted them to watch and wait while He prayed.

Then Jesus took Peter, James, and John further into the garden. As He and His three disciples went into the garden, He was troubled. His soul was filled with agony and sorrow. Jesus asked these disciples to watch as He prayed. Then He fell on the ground and prayed to the Father in heaven. He asked if it was possible for God’s people to be redeemed without His suffering and death. Jesus knew that everything is possible with God. But was it possible for God to save sinners unless Jesus suffered and died? Then Jesus showed that He was the perfect Lamb of God. He told God that He did not want to do His will but the will of the Father.

This was the way that Jesus struggled with the horror of His death. His struggle was so great that His sweat became big drops of blood. But as He struggled in prayer Jesus was able to win the victory over this horror. His struggle was great because He struggled as a man. Then He went to His disciples. Do you know what He found?

Jesus found them sleeping. He then asked Peter, “Simon, are you sleeping?” (Mark 14:37). He talked to Peter because Peter had said he would never forsake Jesus.

Jesus fell down in prayer three times. Three times He struggled with the Father. Three times He told the Father that He wanted to do the Father’s will. Three times He returned and found the disciples sleeping. Jesus’ suffering would have been unbearable. But an angel came to give Him strength. Now Jesus said: “It is enough! The hour has come; behold the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners” (Mark 14:41). Jesus was ready to suffer and die. He was ready and willing to be obedient to the Father’s will.

Jesus was ready but the disciples were not. When He found them sleeping, He urged them to watch and pray. Jesus wanted them to pray because that would help them overcome temptation. He told the disciples that He knew they were God’s people because the spirit was willing. But Jesus also told them that the flesh was weak. As humans they were very weak. Unless Jesus would reach out to them with His grace they would fall.

Isn’t it wonderful that Jesus learned to be obedient to the Father? He struggled as a man to be obedient. Because of His struggle He overcame the weakness of our flesh. He gained the victory over sin and death and hell! By faith In Him we can watch and pray when it seems impossible. What a wonderful Lord we serve! He is the Lord who was willing to be obedient to the Father’s will!

Questions

Fill in the blanks.

1. “Then they came to a place which was named _____ and He said to His disciples, ‘Sit here while I pray.’” (Mark 14:32)
2. “And He took Peter, James, and _____ with Him, and he began to be troubled and deeply distressed.” (Mark 14:33)
3. “Then He said to them, ‘My _____ is exceedingly sorrowful, even unto death. Stay here and watch.’” (Mark 14:34)
4. “And He said, ‘Abba, Father, all things are _____ for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will.’” (Mark 14:36)

5. “Then He came and found them _____ and said to Peter. ‘Simon are you sleeping? Could you not watch one hour?’” (Mark 14:37)

6. “Watch and pray, lest you enter into _____. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” (Mark 14:38)

Like a Murderer

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

Scripture: Mark 14:43-72

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: The Lord Jesus was condemned as a murderer. Yet He had done no wrong.

Lesson

It was remarkable that Jesus was arrested. It was remarkable because He had done no wrong. It was even more remarkable that He was treated like a murderer. Armed men were sent to arrest Him as a criminal. Yet He willingly surrendered. This was done to fulfill the prophecies from Scripture. Through it all His disciples fled. And the chief priests and elders decided that He deserved death.

Jesus had struggled in Gethsemane. His struggle was so difficult that His sweat turned to great drops of blood. Still, He was able to submit to the Father's will. He then went to wake the disciples. Jesus told them the hour had come. It was time for the Son of Man to be betrayed into the hands of sinners. As He was speaking Judas came leading a band of soldiers. The soldiers were armed with swords and clubs. They came to arrest Jesus as if He were a murderer. Judas did not truly know the Lord Jesus. He never knew the grace of Christ Jesus.

Because Judas did not know the grace of the Lord Jesus, he was afraid. He thought that Jesus and the other disciples would fight. So, he gave the soldiers a sign. He said they should arrest the one he kissed. Then he went to Jesus and said, “Rabbi, Rabbi!” and kissed Him. When the soldiers saw the sign, they arrested Jesus. One of the disciples drew a sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. What a sad misunderstanding of Jesus the Christ. He was the Redeemer. He was ready to drink the cup of suffering. Jesus had gained the victory in the garden. He was ready to surrender as a man to suffer for the sins of His people. For that reason, Jesus would not fight.

Instead of fighting, Jesus asked why they came out like they were arresting a criminal. Why did they come with swords and clubs to take Him? He reminded them that He had been in the temple every day. No one tried to arrest Him in the temple. Why did they treat Him like a murderer? He was Israel's shepherd and ruler. He came to rule Israel by His grace for the Father. So why did they come with soldiers to take

Him? Jesus then answered His own question. He knew why it had to happen this way. The prophet Isaiah said years before that the Messiah would be numbered among the transgressors. Jesus was arrested like a murderer because the Scriptures had to be fulfilled.

As soon as Jesus was arrested the disciples forsook Him and fled. A young man also followed Jesus wearing only a linen cloth. He fled away naked when the soldiers snatched his linen cloth. The disciples and this young man did not know what to do. Jesus would not allow them to fight. They had no plan without their Lord. These followers of Jesus were innocent of plans to resist the authorities. They did not understand why Jesus willingly surrendered. The disciples were not ready to surrender, so they fled. Jesus stood alone in His suffering.

The Lord Jesus was then led to the high priest. This is where the chief priests and elders were gathered. They were determined to find an accusation against Jesus. The elders brought in witnesses to say false things against Jesus. They wanted to find a reason to put Jesus to death. But they could not find any witnesses to agree. The Law of Moses said that witnesses had to agree to convict a person. Finally, the high priest got up and questioned Jesus. He asked why He didn't answer His accusers. But Jesus remained silent. Then the high priest asked Him the question that bothered them. He asked, "Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" (Mark 14:61). Jesus then answered, "I am." He was the Christ that brought God's grace. He would rule the people by His grace. Then the chief priests and elders agreed that Jesus had spoken blasphemy. He deserved to be put to death. They then jeered at Him and spit on Him.

Jesus also suffered from one of His disciples. Peter had followed Jesus to the high priest. Then three times he denied that he knew Jesus. After his third denial the rooster crowed. Then Peter remembered the words of Jesus. He remembered that Jesus had said he would deny Him. Peter then went out and wept bitterly. Peter had done a terrible thing in denying the Lord. Still, he knew of the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and was forgiven. Our Lord Jesus also suffered Peter's denial. This was in addition to His suffering in being arrested and condemned like a murderer.

Questions

Fill in the blanks.

1. "And immediately, while He was still speaking, _____ one of the twelve, with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders." (Mark 14:43)
2. "Now His _____ had given them a signal saying, 'Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him and lead Him away safely.'" (Mark 14:44)

3. “Then they laid their _____ on Him and took Him.” (Mark 14:46)
4. “Then Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Have you come out as against a _____ with swords and clubs to take Me?’” (Mark 14:48)
5. “Again the high priest asked Him saying to Him, ‘Are You the _____, the Son of the Blessed?’” (Mark 14:61b)
6. “Jesus said, ‘I am. And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the _____ and coming with the clouds of heaven.’” (Mark 14:62)

Regarded as Nothing

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

Scripture: Mark 15:1-20

Memory Verse: “But you denied the Holy One and the just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you.” (Acts 3:14)

Lesson Truth: The Lord Jesus was treated as a person who had no value.

Lesson

Jesus is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. Yet at His trial before Pilate, He was treated as if He had no value. Pilate treated Him as a murderer when He had done nothing wrong. The people asked for a murderer to be set free instead of Jesus. And the soldiers mocked Him and spit on Him pretending that He was a king. Jesus was treated as less than Barabbas, a murderer.

The chief priests and elders decided that Jesus deserved to die. Early in the morning they met and made plans to deliver Him to Pilate. They treated Him like a prisoner even though He had done nothing wrong. Because Pilate was the Roman governor, he had the authority to put someone to death. When Jesus was delivered to him, Pilate was curious. He asked Jesus if He was the King of the Jews. Jesus answered that it was as Pilate said. He answered that way because he was surely a King. But He was not a king the way Pilate thought. Pilate wondered if He was a king that would fight the Romans.

Sadly, Pilate thought that Jesus was worthless. He treated Him like a man found guilty of murder. Pilate remembered a Jewish custom. It was a Jewish custom to set a prisoner free at the Passover Feast. The Jews might choose any prisoner they wanted. Pilate thought that he would offer to set Jesus free. Wasn't that terrible? Jesus had never done anything wrong. Still Pilate treated Him like He was guilty.

The people also thought that Jesus was worthless. They wanted Jesus to become their king and free them from Roman rule. But Jesus was not that kind of king. The people saw many miracles that Jesus did and heard His message of grace. But they were not interested in healing and being made right before God. That is why the elders could easily convince them to ask Pilate to free Barabbas. Pilate knew that the elders envied Jesus. That is why they delivered Jesus to him. So, he asked the people what he should do with Jesus. Then they cried out, “Crucify Him! Crucify Him!” (Mark 15:13-14). The people wanted to have Barabbas go free and have Jesus crucified. He was despised and rejected by His own people. It was just like the

prophet Isaiah said it would be. It was terrible that the people rejected Jesus who was the head of the Covenant. Still, He remains the head of the Covenant for those who believe.

Think of how Jesus must have suffered when the people rejected Him and chose Barabbas. Still, those who believe that He is the Redeemer will kneel before Him. They will bless Him because they know that He is the true Head of the Covenant. He became the Head when He suffered and died for His people. By His obedience He brought His people back to God.

Pilate had Jesus whipped with whips with metal hooks. He then ordered the soldiers to take Jesus and crucify Him. Do you know what they did to show their disrespect for Jesus? They put a purple robe on Him and made a crown of thorns for His head. Then they mocked Him by pretending that He was a king. They bowed to Him on their knees at the same time that they hit Him and spit on Him. The soldiers also treated Jesus as worthless. They enjoyed making Him look ridiculous.

It is sad that people today still think that Jesus was foolish. The proud hearts of people refuse to believe that they need a Redeemer. Yet, others do believe that Jesus is the Christ. Believers know that Jesus did the Father's will. They know that He was willing to suffer because of people who thought He was worthless. He was willing to die on the cross as the Head of the Covenant. Pilate and many others at Jesus' trial never knew that He was the Redeemer. They never understood that His blood would pay the debt for the sins of those who believe. Do you believe that Jesus is your Redeemer?

Questions

Fill in the blanks.

1. "Then _____ asked Him, "Are You the king of the Jews?" (Mark 15:2a)
2. "And the _____ accused Him of many things, but He answered nothing." (Mark 15:3)
3. "Now at the feast he was accustomed to release one _____ to them, whoever they requested." (Mark 15:6)
4. "And there was one named _____ who was chained with his fellow rebels; they had committed murder in the rebellion." (Mark 15:7)

5. “So _____ wanting to gratify the crowd, released Barabbas to them; and he delivered Jesus, after he had scourged Him, to be crucified.” (Mark 15:15)

6. “And they clothed Him with purple, and they twisted a crown of _____, put it on His head.” (Mark 15:17)

Lesson 9
Powerlessness

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

Scripture: Mark 15:21-47

Memory Verse: “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, and from the words of My groaning?” (Psalm 22:1)

Lesson Truth: The Lord Jesus became completely powerless as He died for our sins.

Lesson

The story of Jesus’ death is an amazing story. It is amazing because He had the power to create everything. Yet, He willingly gave up that power to redeem His people. Jesus became completely powerless in His suffering because God forsook Him. He was also powerless in His death and in the grave. By giving up His power, He gave His people the power to become sons of God.

Already at Pilate’s court Jesus gave up His power. He did not defend Himself against His accusers. After Pilate sentenced Him to die, He was led out of Jerusalem. Crucifixion always took place outside the city. This was to show that these criminals were not fit to be in the company of others. Jesus refused the wine they offered to dull the pain. He had won the victory over His human nature. So He was willing to suffer for the sins of His people. Jesus was crucified between two murderers. This was a fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy that said: “And He was numbered with transgressors.” For hours He submitted to this bitter suffering and shame. Just think Christ Jesus had the power to redeem the world. Yet, in His suffering He willingly gave up that power.

Jesus suffered from being misunderstood and mocked. Pilate put a sign over His head that said: “The King of the Jews.” Sadly, neither Pilate nor the people understood the kind of king that Jesus would be. Many people who walked by the cross shook their heads and sneered. They mocked Him because He had no power, saying: “Save yourself and come down from the cross.” The chief priests and elders also mocked Him as they talked. They said, “He saved others; Himself He cannot save.” Even the criminals that were crucified with Jesus mocked Him because He had no power.

The chief priests and elders were right that He saved others. But they wrong that He could not save Himself. The truth was that He was not permitted to save Himself if He was going save others. He atoned for the sins of His people through His

suffering. Salvation for God's people comes by grace. Jesus earned this grace by willingly giving up His power as He suffered.

How was it possible that Jesus could become entirely powerless? It was possible because God the Father forsook Him. He was forsaken to satisfy God's wrath against sin. For three hours Jesus hung on the cross. From nine o'clock until noon it became completely dark. It happened because God had forsaken Him. Jesus longed to commune with God the Father. But He could not because He was willing to give His life for the sins of His people. The suffering that this brought to Jesus was more than we could ever imagine. When His bond with God was broken, He suffered eternal death. This Jesus who is the Light of the world suffered in complete darkness. That kind of darkness would have come over the whole world. But Jesus suffered the darkness alone so that His people could live in the light. For three hours Jesus endured the wrath of God against sin. Until at last He cried out: "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" (Mark 15:34). At this time Jesus felt the awful punishment of God against sin. The wonder is that through His suffering He took the judgment away from His people.

Because Jesus cried out there were those who thought He was calling for Elijah. They ran to give Him some sour wine. Others wanted to leave Him alone to see if Elijah would come. Then Jesus cried out one more time and breathed His last. He then gave Himself to the death that mankind will suffer. Jesus was willing to give up His power against death and the grave. He allowed Joseph of Arimathea to take His body down from the cross. He then submitted to being in the realm of the dead. The grave is the place where men are brought and soon forgotten. Jesus was willing to submit to this grave. We are the ones who deserve to be forgotten. Yet for the sake of His people, Jesus surrendered His power in the grave. In His surrender He also became victorious over the grave. For Jesus' sake, His people would not be forgotten in the grave. After three days Jesus rose from the dead. Because He lives, all who believe in Him will also live forever!

Questions

Fill in the blanks.

1. "And they brought Him to the place _____ which is translated, Place of a Skull." (Mark 15:22)
2. "With Him they also crucified two _____ one on His right and the other on His left." (Mark 15:27)

3. “Let the _____, the King of Israel, descend now from the cross, that we may see and believe.” (Mark 15:32a)
4. “Now when the _____ hour had come there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour.” (Mark 15:33)
5. “And at the _____ hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?’ which is translated, ‘My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?’” (Mark 15:34)
6. “And _____ cried out with a loud voice, and breathed His last. Then the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.” (Mark 15:37-38)

The Word of the King

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

Scripture: Mark 16:1-20

Memory Verse: “And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, all authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.” (Matt. 28:18)

Lesson Truth: The Lord Jesus is the King. After He rose from the dead His Word went out with power.

Lesson

God sent an angel to tell the women that Jesus arose from the dead. Jesus met many of His followers after He came from the grave. He gave them the faith to believe that He arose. Jesus told the disciples that they should tell this good news to every creature. The Lord Jesus then went to heaven to sit at God’s right hand. This was the beginning of His exaltation.

Three women saw the death and burial of Jesus. These women were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome. All through the Sabbath Day they were restless. They wanted to go out to the tomb and anoint Jesus body. They could not stay away because they loved Jesus. Now the first day of the week came. Early in the morning they hurried out to the tomb. They took spices to anoint Jesus’ body. As they hurried, they asked who would roll away the big stone from the door. When they came near the tomb they were surprised. The big stone had been rolled away. The women were able to go right into the tomb. When they entered the tomb, they were even more surprised. They did not see Jesus’ body. Instead, they saw an angel. This angel was dressed like a young man in a long white robe. This made the women afraid.

The angel told the women that they did not need to be afraid. He said that he knew that they were looking for Jesus. Then the angel told them something wonderful. He told them that Jesus was alive. He said that Jesus had risen from the dead. The only thing the women could see was the place where He had lain. This meant that Jesus won the victory over death and the grave. He won the victory over the sins that caused His suffering and death. Jesus had the power to take up His life. He had the power so He would never have to die again. Did the women have the faith to believe the angel?

The angel then told the women to go tell the disciples. They were to tell the disciples that Jesus was going to Galilee. In Galilee Jesus would see the disciples just like He

said He would. The angel told the women to be sure to tell Peter that Jesus was alive. Peter had to know that he still belonged to Jesus' circle of disciples. He had to know that Jesus had forgiven him for denying that he knew the Lord. At first the women didn't tell anyone because they were afraid. Jesus had to work faith in their hearts.

The Lord Jesus gave His followers this faith by appearing to them. He first came to Mary Magdalene. She was the woman from whom Jesus had cast seven demons. Mary believed that Jesus was alive. She went to tell His other followers as they mourned. But they did not believe what Mary told them. Then Jesus appeared to two men as they walked to Emmaus. They also told the others. But His followers could not believe them. It seemed just too wonderful to believe. If Jesus was alive, He had won the victory over death. He had won the victory over sin and the grave. Could they believe it? Later Jesus went to the eleven disciples as they were eating. He scolded them for their unbelief and their hard hearts. He scolded them because they did not believe the people who had seen Him. Jesus scolded them because He loved them and wanted to use them. Then Jesus brought faith into their hearts.

When Jesus brought faith into the hearts of the disciples they believed. Now they knew that grace made the Lord Jesus their King. The Lord Jesus as King then gave them a command. He told the disciples to go to the whole world and tell this good news to everyone. Everyone had to know that Jesus rose from the dead. Everyone had to know that Jesus won the victory over sin and death and the grave. Jesus also told the disciples to warn the people. They were to tell everyone that those who believe and are baptized will be saved. But those who do not believe will be lost forever.

Jesus said that believers would be able to cast out demons. They would also be able to speak in new tongues in Jesus' name. But this was not the end for the Lord Jesus. That He arose from the grave was a beginning. It was the beginning of His exaltation. As the exalted Lord, He went up to heaven. He now sits at God's right hand. There, Jesus shares in the Father's reign of grace. In His reign of grace, He has power over all His enemies. These enemies are sin death and Satan. This power over the enemies of Jesus can also be ours. It can be ours through Holy Spirit. Through the Holy Spirit, God's Word has the power to change sinners. Through the Holy Spirit, men who are slaves to sin can be set free.

Questions

Fill in the blanks.

1. "Very early in the morning on the first day of the week, they came to the _____ when the sun had risen." (Mark 16:2)

2. “And they said among themselves. ‘Who will roll away the _____ from the door of the tomb for us?’” (Mark 16:3)

3. “And entering the tomb, they saw a _____ clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed.” (Mark 16:5)

4. “But he said to them. ‘Do not be _____. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him.’” (Mark 16:6)

5. “Now when He rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to _____ out of whom He had cast seven demons.” (Mark 16:9)

6. “And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and _____ the gospel to every creature.’” (Mark 16:15)

The Lord Is Gracious

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

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

Memory Verse: “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Those who dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined.” (Isaiah 9:2)

Lesson Truth: The Lord sent John to prepare the way before Him. This is how He showed His grace to His people.

Lesson

God told Zacharias and Elizabeth to name their son John. The name John means the Lord is gracious. The Lord was truly gracious when he sent John to prepare the way for the Christ. The Lord was also gracious when He announced John’s coming to Zacharias. In spite of Zacharias’ unbelief, God gave Zacharias and Elizabeth a son as He promised.

God chose the children of Israel to be His covenant people. All through their history the children of Israel were told that the Messiah was coming. They looked forward with great expectation to the time when He would come. Even though many people in Israel had a mistaken idea of what the Messiah would do. Now the time had come. Just as God had promised in His Word, He would send a messenger to prepare the way for the Lord. This messenger was going to be the son of Zacharias and Elizabeth. They were a couple that loved the Lord and kept His commandments. But Zacharias and Elizabeth were old people. They were past the age of having children. Only a miracle from God could fulfill such a promise.

God chose to announce the coming of His messenger to Zacharias. Zacharias was a priest from the division of Abijah. As a priest he was chosen by lot to burn incense at the temple. While he was burning incense, an angel came and stood by the altar of incense. Zacharias was afraid when he saw the angel. But the angel told Zacharias not to be afraid because he had a wonderful announcement. The announcement was that the prayers of Zacharias and Elizabeth were going to be answered. They had prayed for years that God would give them children. But Elizabeth could not have children. Now when they were old God said that they would have a son. He would be very special. He was never to drink wine or strong drink because he was dedicated to the Lord. This son would turn the hearts of many in Israel to the Lord their God. He would go before the Lord in the spirit and power of Elijah.

Zacharias could not believe what the angel told him. He asked the angel how this was possible because he and Elizabeth were old. Then the angel told Zacharias who he was. He said that he was Gabriel who stood in the presence of God. He told Zacharias that God had sent him to bring these glad tidings. He then told Zacharias that he would be unable to speak until the baby was born. This would happen because Zacharias did not believe the message of the angel. But he and Elizabeth would have a son. They were to name him John because John means “the Lord is gracious.”

It was sinful for Zacharias to ask the angel for a sign. His request showed that he did not believe God’s Word. All the while that he and Elizabeth waited for the baby to be born Zacharias could not speak. But God was gracious, and He caused faith to grow in the hearts of Zacharias and Elizabeth. When their son was born the neighbors and relatives visited them. After eight days the baby was to be circumcised and named. Again, the relatives were there and were certain that the baby would be named Zacharias. But Elizabeth said no, he shall be called John. The relatives could not understand why they would call him John. They reminded Elizabeth that no one in the family had the name John.

The relatives then made signs to Zacharias asking about his son’s name. Zacharias then wrote on a tablet that his name was to be John. As soon as Zacharias wrote that his son’s name was John he could speak again. He could speak because he showed that he accepted God’s Word in faith. He now believed that his son would be the messenger to announce the coming of Christ Jesus. Zacharias was then filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied about the work of his son. He said this son would prepare the people for the coming of the Messiah. He would call for them to repent, to be ready for the true Son of David. This Son of David would grant forgiveness of sins and peace for His people. The name John was the correct name for the son of Zacharias and Elizabeth. It was correct because the Lord is gracious!

Questions

Fill in the blanks.

1. “There was in the days of Herod the king of Judea, a certain priest named _____ of the division of Abijah.” (Luke 1:5a)
2. “His lot fell to burn _____ when he went into the temple of the Lord.” (Luke 1:9b)
3. “Then an _____ of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense.” (Luke 1:11)

4. “But the angel said to him, ‘Do not be afraid _____
for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you
shall call his name John.’” (Luke 1:13)

5. “And he will turn many of the children of _____
to the Lord their God.” (Luke 1:16)

6. “But behold, you will be _____ and not be able to speak
until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words which
will be fulfilled in their own time.” (Luke 1:20)

Holy Is His Name

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

Scripture: Luke 1:26-56

Memory Verse: “For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name.” (Luke 1:49)

Lesson Truth: God showed His holiness as He made it possible for Mary to give birth to the Redeemer.

Lesson

God is the Holy One and Holy is His Name. He showed His holiness when He sent the angel Gabriel to announce the birth of Jesus. Gabriel was sent to a common young woman named Mary. He told her that she was blessed among women. Mary believed that the angel could answer her questions. And she submitted in faith to the things God had planned for her.

You remember that the angel Gabriel talked to Zacharias in the temple. He told Zacharias that he and Elizabeth would have a son. This would happen even though they were old people. Zacharias could not believe that this was possible. So he asked the angel for a sign. Gabriel said he would give Zacharias a sign. The sign would be that he would not be able to speak until the baby was born. Now, six months after Gabriel talked to Zacharias he came again. This time he came to talk to Mary.

Mary was a very common young lady. She was engaged to a very common man named Joseph. Joseph and Mary both lived in a humble little town called Nazareth. This little town was in the region of Galilee. This was the region that few people respected. Imagine how surprised Mary was when God’s angel came to talk to her. This angel was Gabriel the same angel that talked to Zacharias. Gabriel told Mary that she was the favored one. He said that she was blessed among women because the Lord was with her. The appearance of the angel and his words made Mary afraid.

But Gabriel told Mary not to be afraid. He told her that she had found God’s favor. Then he told her about a miracle that God was going to work in Mary. He said that God was going to make a baby grow in her womb. And this baby would be called Jesus. This baby would be the Son of the Highest. He would be a king who would sit on the throne of David. This king would rule the house of Jacob forever. Mary believed the angel, but she did not understand. How could this happen? She was not married. So, Mary asked the angel how this was possible.

Then, the angel told her that it would be a miracle. Gabriel said that God's Holy Spirit would come on Mary. He said that the power of God would surround her. This power and the Holy Spirit would make a baby grow in her. This baby would be the Holy One. He would be the Son of God. Then Gabriel told Mary that her cousin Elizabeth would help her understand. He told Mary that Elizabeth was also going to have a child. Even though Elizabeth was old she would have a baby. This would happen because everything was possible with God. Then Mary showed that she believed God and His angel. She said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38).

Soon after Mary hurried to see Elizabeth. She went to Elizabeth's home in Judea. Elizabeth was very happy to see Mary. God helped her understand that Mary would give birth to the Redeemer. So, she said to Mary, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!" Then Elizabeth told Mary that the things Gabriel said to her would surely happen. She would have a Son. And this Son would be the Son of God. He would be the Redeemer.

Now Mary was no longer afraid. So, she praised God with a song. Mary praised God who had chosen her to be the mother of the Lord. She praised God for the mercy He had shown to her. Mary knew that it was God's grace that had worked in her heart. She knew that God showed His grace to those who fear him. She knew that God kept the promises that He made to Abraham. In her song Mary said that it was God who did great things for her. It was God who made His Son to grow in her! That is why she could say, "Holy is His Name!" (Luke 1:49).

Questions

Fill in the blanks.

1. "Now in the sixth month the angel _____ was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth." (Luke 1:26)
2. "And having come in, the _____ said to her, 'Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!'" (Luke 1:28)
3. "Then the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid _____, for you have found favor with God.'" (Luke 1:3)
4. "And behold you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a _____, and you shall call His name Jesus." (Luke 1:31)

5. “Then _____ said, ‘Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.’” (Luke 1:38a)

6. “And Mary said, ‘My _____ magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.’” (Luke 1:46-47)