

# Promise and Deliverance

## Student Workbook

Volume 14

Level 3

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 of Life Is a Miracle

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

**Scripture:** Mark 7:31–8: 26

**Memory Verse:** “In the meantime, when an innumerable multitude of people had gathered together, so that they trampled one another, He began to say to His disciples first of all, ‘Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.’” (Luke 12:1)

**Lesson Truth:** Christ Jesus taught that life is a miracle. Believers live by the miracle of God’s grace.

### Lesson

The Lord Jesus performed many miracles in the Father’s name. Still, most of the people did not understand that life itself is a miracle. They did not understand that mankind lives by the miracle of God’s grace. Jesus showed this miracle of grace when He opened the ears and loosed the tongue of a deaf and mute man. He showed it again when He fed four thousand people with seven loaves and a few fish. It was also a miracle of grace to give sight to a blind man at Bethsaida.

Jesus was in the area where he had cast the legion of demons out of the wild man from Gadara. He was back among the people who had asked Him to leave Gadara because their pigs were destroyed by the legion of demons. As soon as He arrived in the area of Decapolis the people brought a man to Jesus who was deaf and mute. They believed that the Lord had some mystical power so that He could heal this man. They did not understand that any healing that took place was a miracle of God’s grace. Jesus took the man aside, so that his healing would not be a spectacle. There He put His fingers in the man’s ears and touched his tongue with His saliva. Then He sighed deeply and looked up to heaven, because He wanted the people to know that healing came from the Father in heaven. After that Jesus gave the command for the ears and tongue of this man to be opened. Immediately the man could talk and hear plainly. Although the people were astonished at what had happened, many still did not understand that this was a miracle of God’s grace.

Crowds of people continued to follow Jesus after He healed the deaf and mute man. For three days they followed Him without having anything to eat. Because Jesus had compassion on them, He told His disciples that He could not send them home. If He sent them home, they would faint along the way. So He suggested to His disciples that they feed them. The disciples reminded Jesus that they didn’t have food enough to feed such a crowd. Jesus then asked how many loaves they had. When they told them that they had seven loaves and a few fish, Jesus commanded the people to sit on the ground. He then took the loaves and after giving thanks He broke them and told His disciples to set this bread before the people. Jesus also blessed a few of the disciple’s fish, which they distributed with the bread. The amazing thing was that four thousand people were fed and seven baskets of pieces were picked up afterward. The wonderful truth that this miracle illustrates was not that four thousand people could be fed with a few loaves and fish. Rather, it was that Christ Jesus is the Word of God’s grace! He is Lord of all things! Jesus has the power to do all things. He even causes every plant to

grow. All of life is a miracle of the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. Yet many of those who were fed did not understand God's eternal grace in Christ Jesus.

The Lord Jesus then left the crowds and got into a boat with His disciples. Alone with His disciples, He told them about leaven. The disciples didn't realize what he was talking about. They thought that Jesus was unhappy that they didn't bring enough bread to feed them on the boat. But Jesus was talking about leaven when it is used as yeast. As yeast leaven causes the bread to rise before it is baked. It is leaven that spreads through the whole loaf and causes it to respond. Jesus warned the disciples to beware of the leaven of Herod and the Pharisees. This was a warning to beware of the Pharisees' influence because their influence was hypocrisy. As hypocrites Herod and the Pharisees pretended to be righteous, but truthfully, they hated the Lord's gospel message. It was this influence that Jesus warned the disciples to beware of. We must also be on guard against the unbelief of the Pharisees, and live by faith in Christ, who is the Word of God's grace.

Along with His disciples, Jesus came to Bethsaida. At Bethsaida the people once again found Jesus and brought a blind man to Him. They asked Him to touch the man and heal him of his blindness. Again, it seemed that the people wanted to test Jesus to see if He had some mystical power that could heal people. But Jesus never brought healing to impress people. So, He led the blind man out of town where He could deal with him alone. There, Jesus touched the man's eyes with His saliva and then asked him if he could see. The man replied that he could see forms of men who looked like trees. Jesus then anointed the man's eyes again and his sight was completely restored. He could see everything clearly, even at a distance. Did this man see his healing as evidence of God's grace? If he did, not only were his eyes restored, but his life was also restored for eternity. Do you believe that all of life is a miracle of God's grace?

## Questions

1. What region did Jesus leave so He could go to Decapolis? (Mark 7:31)
2. What did the people want Jesus to do for the deaf and mute man at Decapolis? (Mark 7:32)
3. What was the command that Jesus uttered as He sighed and looked up to heaven? (Mark 7:34)



## Lesson 2

# Transfigured

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

**Scripture:** Mark 9:2-13

**Memory Verse:** “As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening. And behold two men talked with Him, who were Moses and Elijah.” (Luke 9:29-30)

**Lesson Truth:** Christ Jesus was shown the glory that would be His because He was obedient to the Father.

### Lesson

In the transfiguration Jesus’ appearance was completely changed. For a moment He experienced the exultation that He would receive because He was obedient to the Father. In obedience to the Father, He would carry the guilt and yoke of our sins on Himself. As Jesus surrendered to the Father in prayer, He was transfigured. It was just as if His suffering for sin was behind Him for this moment. Jesus was willing to suffer the wrath of God against sin as our Covenant Head. As His appearance changed, He gave His redeemed people a glimpse of the glory that awaits them.

Jesus knew that His suffering and death at the hands of the Jewish leaders was near. In preparation for this suffering, He withdrew with His disciples to the area of Caesarea Philippi. There he told them that He would be delivered into the hands of the Jewish leaders to be put to death. However, Jesus also assured them that he would rise from the dead. The disciples did not understand that someone could rise from the dead. At this point Jesus decided to take three of the disciples and go up on a high mountain to pray.

As Jesus struggled in prayer, He asked that he would be given the strength to remain obedient to the Father. Then when Jesus was one with the Father His appearance changed before the eyes of the disciples. His face shone like the sun and His clothes became as white as light. This was called the transfiguration. For this moment Jesus was given a glimpse of the glory that would be His after he suffered and died for the sins of His people. For this moment Jesus was above all suffering. In this way He received the strength to go ahead with His suffering and death for the sins of His covenant people.

The most amazing part of Jesus’ transfiguration was that the glory that He was shown was also a glimpse of the glory that awaits His people. How do we know that this glory awaits His people? We know it because Jesus would suffer and die as the Covenant Head of His people. He was recognized as this Covenant Head when Moses and Elijah appeared at his transfiguration to talk with Him. Moses and Elijah were two of the most prominent leaders of God’s covenant people. They had been given the grace to look forward to the suffering and death of Christ Jesus as atonement for their sins. You and I must also believe that Jesus suffered and died to atone for our sins. Then the glory that He saw is also waiting for us!







## Lesson 3

# Fighters for Life

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

**Scripture:** Mark 9:14-29

**Memory Verse:** “Then Jesus answered and said, ‘O faithless and perverse generation, How long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me.’ And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour.” (Matt. 17:17-18)

**Lesson Truth:** Christ Jesus leads His Church to become fighters for life.

### Lesson

The story of the boy with the deaf and dumb spirit tells us how the faithlessness of the people affected the disciples’ faith. Jesus told the disciples why they lacked the power to cast out this demon. It was because they did not fast and pray when they were surrounded by the unbelief. Jesus cast out the dumb spirit after He awakened faith in the boy’s father.

The events of this story take place at the foot of the mountain when Jesus returned from His transfiguration. As He, along with Peter, James, and John, came from the Mount of Transfiguration they found the other disciples in a crowd of people arguing with some scribes. The minute the people saw Jesus, they came running to Him hoping to have Him perform a miracle. But instead, Jesus chose to question the scribes about their quarrel with the disciples. Before they could answer, a man from the crowd spoke up and told Jesus what the discussion was about. He said that he brought his son to the disciples to have them heal him. His son had an evil spirit in him that caused him to fall down with seizures. The seizures were so bad that the boy would foam at the mouth, gnash his teeth and become rigid. Sadly, the disciples were not able to heal this child. At this point they were overcome with the unbelief of the crowd and were disputing with the scribes.

Imagine Jesus’ disappointment; He had just returned from the mountain where He had been transfigured. He had seen a glimpse of the glory that would be His after he rose from the dead, and now He was surrounded by unbelief. No wonder that Jesus exclaimed, “O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you?” (Mark 9:19). Then He asked the boy’s father to bring his son. As the boy was brought to Jesus’ feet, the evil spirit gave him a heavy convulsion making him wallow on the ground and foam from his mouth. When the boy’s father saw this convulsion, he was afraid. He told Jesus that the demon had tried to destroy his son by throwing him into the fire or into the water. He then cried out to Jesus for mercy, but his cry was filled with doubt when he said: “If You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us” (Mark 9:22). The Lord Jesus had to reject the doubt in this father’s heart and replace it with faith. So, He said to him: “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes” (Mark 9:23).

The father realized that Jesus was asking him to believe. His immediate reply was: “Lord I believe, help my unbelief” (Mark 9:24). He said this through his tears, which indicated that he was ready to surrender to the Lord Jesus. Now he began to understand that faith to overcome the clutches of

unbelief would come from Christ. After this exchange the crowd of people pressed around Jesus and the boy's father.

The Lord then rebuked the unclean spirit in the boy and commanded him to come out. This was not just a problem of being deaf and dumb, rather it was demon possession. By commanding this demon to leave the boy, Jesus demonstrated His power over Satan. But as the demon came out of the boy he cried out and caused him to have a massive convulsion. The convulsion was so severe that the boy lay as if he were dead. The people around him said that he was dead. But Jesus took him by the hand and helped him to stand up.

Later, as Jesus and His disciples entered a house, the disciples asked Him privately why they were unable to cast out this demon. Jesus told them it was because they were surrounded by the unbelief of the crowd and were overcome by that unbelief. Only through fasting and prayer would the disciples realize that they were unworthy. Through fasting and prayer, they would be given the faith to overcome the evil one. We must also seek communion with the Lord through fasting and prayer. We will then realize our own unworthiness and depend completely on the Lord to grant us the faith to overcome Satan and his demons.

### **Questions**

1. With whom were the scribes disputing when Jesus returned from the mountain? (Mark 9:14)
2. Which group of Jewish leaders did Jesus ask about the topic of their discussion? (Mark 9:16)
3. What did the man who came to Jesus say was troubling his son? (Mark 9:17)
4. To whom did the man bring his son for healing? (Mark 9:18)

5. What did Jesus call the generation of people surrounding the disciples? (Mark 9:19)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. What happened to the child after Jesus rebuked the demon that was in him? (Mark 9:26-27)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. What question did the disciples ask Jesus about the boy and the demon? (Mark 9:28)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. What did Jesus say to his disciples about how the demon could be cast out? (Mark 9:29)

## Lesson 4

# He Came to Serve

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

**Scripture:** Mark 10:32-45

**Memory Verse:** “And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:44-45)

**Lesson Truth:** Christ Jesus did not come to be served, but to be the servant of all.

### Lesson

Christ Jesus humbled Himself before the Father and in a spirit of self-denial was willing to be the suffering servant. He went to Jerusalem to be a personal sacrifice for the sins of mankind. In His journey to Jerusalem, Jesus saw the love of His disciples mixed with selfishness. He therefore instructed them that the way to greatness in God’s Kingdom is through submission and service.

As Jesus traveled from Galilee to Judea and Jerusalem, He crossed the Jordan River. All the while He taught the people what it was like to be a citizen in the Kingdom of God. The disciples were both amazed and afraid as they journeyed with their Lord to Jerusalem. They were amazed at His teaching while also being afraid of what would happen to their Lord. Jesus sensed the disciples’ fear and took them aside to instruct them. He told them clearly that He would be betrayed and given into the hands of the chief priests and scribes. The chief priests and scribes would condemn Him to death and ask the Romans to kill Him. The Romans would add to His suffering by mocking Him and spitting on Him.

The Lord Jesus knew that all these things would happen, yet he went to Jerusalem. Sadly, the disciples did not understand what He was saying. They could not imagine a Messiah who was going to suffer and die. They only thought of a Messiah who would be a king. Not only did they misunderstand His need to suffer but also the necessity of His death. That is why they did not understand when He told them that after three days He would rise from the dead. The truth is that the disciples did not understand the Scriptures.

Following Jesus’ clear teaching about His suffering and death, He found it necessary to teach His disciples the way to greatness. This was necessary because of a request from James and John. They were two of the disciples who had been with Jesus on the mount of Transfiguration. In their zeal to be part of Him they asked Jesus if they could sit on His right and on His left in His Kingdom. Jesus knew that they did not understand what His Kingdom was really like. He also knew that their love for Him was mixed with selfishness. To teach them, Jesus asked if they were able to drink of the cup from which He would drink. This was another way to ask if they were ready to suffer the way He would suffer. Amazingly their answer was that they were ready. Jesus told them that they did not know what they were asking. He also told them that they would indeed suffer with Him. Still, His suffering was the only suffering that could atone for the sins of mankind. However, it was not His to give the places on His right and left. Those places are reserved for the ones for whom they were prepared.

The other disciples were upset when they heard what James and John had asked. They also shared in the love-mixed-with-selfishness that gripped James and John. Jesus knew that all the disciples had to be instructed in what it means to be a citizen of God's Kingdom. He told the disciples that they were thinking just like the people of the world. People of the world want to rule over each other and have authority over others. But this is not the way it works in the Kingdom of God.

In God's Kingdom those who want to be great must become the slave of everyone. Greatness in the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ comes by way of submission. Those who belong to the Lord Jesus Christ must be willing to be the servant to others for Jesus' sake. God's people must walk in humble submission by serving others rather than being served. Jesus then told the disciples that He was the example of this kind of submission. He did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many. By His suffering and death, the Lord Jesus lived in submission to the Father. As Jesus came to serve, we also must be servants. It is only in serving that we can become great in the Kingdom of Heaven!

### **Questions**

1. What group of people did Jesus take aside to tell about the things that would happen? (Mark 10:32)
2. Who would be betrayed to the chief priests and scribes? (Mark 10:33)
3. What astounding thing would happen three days after Jesus death? (Mark 10:34)
4. Whose sons came to Jesus to ask a favor? (Mark 10:35)

5. Where did James and John ask to sit in the Lord's glory? (Mark 10:37)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. What question did Jesus ask James and John? (Mark 10:38)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. What was the attitude of the other ten disciples to James and John's request? (Mark 10:41)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. What was the Son of Man willing to give as a ransom for many? (Mark 10:45)



## Lesson 5

# The Answer to the Questions

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

**Scripture:** Mark 12:13-44

**Memory Verse:** “Jesus answered him, ‘The first of all the commandments is: ‘Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord 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.’ This is the first commandment.” (Mark 12:29-30)

**Lesson Truth:** Christ Jesus not only answered questions, but as Lord He is the answer to questions.

### Lesson

While Jesus was in Jerusalem during Passion Week He was confronted with many questions. Some of these questions were designed to trap Him, while others were honest questions seeking the wisdom of His answers. Because Christ Jesus knew the intent of each questioner He could not be trapped. In addition, His divine wisdom could properly answer all other questions. Each answer was a revelation of Himself!

Jesus had ridden into Jerusalem on a donkey colt with people shouting before Him, “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!” (Mark 11:9-10). The people had honored Jesus as the Messiah the Son of David. This made the religious leaders in Jerusalem very unhappy. They were convinced that he was an imposter, so they surrounded Him, hoping to catch Him disagreeing with the Law of Moses.

The Jewish rulers were so intent on catching Him in an error that they designed some questions to trap Him. They sent some Pharisees and Herodians to ask Him these questions. They approached Jesus with flattering words about being a true teacher. Then they asked Him, “Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” (Mark 12:14) They were certain that if Jesus said either yes or no, they would have reason to accuse Him. If He said yes, it is lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, the people would rise up against Him because they hated the Romans. If He said no, then the Romans could charge Him for being against the established rulers.

Jesus knew their evil intentions and rather than answering either yes or no, He asked them to bring Him a Roman coin. When they brought Him a coin, He asked whose image was on the coin. When they said that it was the image of Caesar, Jesus revealed who He was by saying, “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s” (Mark 12:17). As the Son of God, Jesus told the Pharisees that they had to confess their sins and, in this way, give to God what is God’s. If they had a right relationship with God, they would know how to live under the government authority in their life.

Following this, some Sadducees came with another trick question. The Sadducees did not believe that there is a resurrection from the dead. They thought that they could trap Jesus into admitting that there





## Lesson 6

# Learning Obedience

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

**Scripture:** Mark 14:32-42

**Memory Verse:** “Then He came and found them sleeping, and said to Peter. ‘Simon, are you sleeping? Could you not watch one hour? Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit is indeed willing, but the flesh is weak.’” (Mark 14:37-38)

**Lesson Truth:** Christ Jesus learned to be obedient to the Father as he suffered in Gethsemane.

### Lesson

In Hebrews 5:8 we read, “Though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.” How can we understand the perfect Son of God learning obedience? We must remember that He suffered as a man. The Bible tells us that He was the second Adam. We have all become unrighteous through the disobedience of the first Adam, our covenant head. Now through the obedience of Jesus, the second Adam, God’s people are made righteous.

We can also understand why He learned obedience at Gethsemane when we know that He was God’s sacrificial Lamb. In the Old Testament the priest had to examine the sacrificial lamb to make sure it was without blemish. In the same way Jesus suffered intensely at Gethsemane but was obedient to the Father to show that He was the true Lamb of God without blemish. His suffering at Gethsemane showed that He was ready to be obedient to death on the cross for the sins of His people.

The suffering of Jesus at Gethsemane took place near the end of Passion Week. The chief priests and elders had already decided to put Him to death. They just had to find the occasion to do so. They were happy with the offer they received from Judas Iscariot to betray the Lord Jesus. Christ Jesus knew that He would suffer and die yet He remained at Jerusalem. He took His disciples to Garden of Gethsemane where He would struggle in prayer with the Father. There He would submit in obedience to the Father’s will.

As Jesus and His disciples came to Gethsemane, He asked them to wait while He went to pray. He did take Peter, James, and John deeper into the garden where He began to be deeply troubled. He shared with the three disciples that His soul was exceedingly sorrowful, even unto death. So, Jesus asked them to watch as He wrestled in prayer. Then He fell to the ground and asked the Father if it were possible for Him to avoid the suffering of God’s wrath against sin. This was not a question of unbelief because Jesus addressed God as Abba, Father. He confessed that all things were possible for the Father. Yet His prayer asked that He would not have to suffer if the Father’s plan for redeeming His people could be done some other way. Still Jesus knew that The Father’s people must be redeemed so He said, “Not what I will, but what You will” (Mark 14:36). Jesus’ suffering was so painful that His sweat became like drops of blood. He was truly suffering as a human being, as the second Adam. Yet He learned obedience and was obedient to the Father’s will! Through His prayer Jesus was able to gain control over His human nature. As He struggled in prayer an angel appeared to give Him strength. And in that strength, He got up from the ground and went to His disciples.





## Lesson 7

# Like a Murderer

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

**Scripture:** Mark 14:43-72

**Memory Verse:** “Again the high priest asked Him, saying to Him, ‘Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?’ Jesus said, ‘I am. And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.’” (Mark 14:61b-62)

**Lesson Truth:** Jesus was arrested as a murderer. He was condemned to die when He had done no violence.

### Lesson

Christ Jesus had never done any violence, yet He was arrested like a murderer and sentenced to die. He willingly surrendered Himself to a band of soldiers so that the Scriptures would be fulfilled. God’s plan of salvation was carried out in the arrest and condemnation of Jesus as a murderer. The Lord’s suffering included having His disciples forsake Him and having Peter deny that he knew Him.

Jesus stayed in Gethsemane all night struggling in prayer while His disciples waited and slept. After He gained the victory in the garden and became totally obedient to the Father, He told the disciples to arise for the betrayer was near. While Jesus was still speaking, Judas came, followed by a band of soldiers carrying swords and clubs. The chief priests and elders had sent these soldiers to arrest Jesus. It was likely that Judas had gone to the chief priests at night and told them that Jesus could be arrested without stirring up the people. Judas knew that He was alone with His disciples at Gethsemane, so here was their opportunity. Still Judas wasn’t sure if Jesus and the other disciples would try to defend themselves, so he gave the soldiers a signal to identify Christ. He told them that the one he kissed was the Christ whom they were sent to arrest.

The disciples were completely unaware that Judas was a traitor, but Jesus knew. He knew that the kiss He received from Judas was not the greeting kiss of a friend, but a sign of treachery. Tragically, Judas did not know anything about the grace available in the Lord Jesus. Judas had no idea that Christ did not need to be surrounded with swords and clubs because he would surrender without resistance. Jesus had gained the victory in Gethsemane. He was ready to drink of the cup that the Father had given Him. He would surrender without a fight in order to redeem His people.

The Lord Jesus found it incredible that they would send soldiers with swords and clubs to arrest Him. He asked why they came to capture Him as if he were a robber or a murderer. He reminded them that He had taught in the temple every day, and no one tried to arrest Him. Why this show of force with swords? Then Jesus answered His own question by telling them why they came to arrest Him like a criminal. It was because the Scriptures had to be fulfilled. Isaiah, years before, had prophesied that Jesus would be numbered among the transgressors. For this reason, the leaders led the people to arrest Jesus as a criminal because they had rejected His grace. They saw the grace of the Lord Jesus as a danger to their authority and to the state. To add to the suffering of the Lord Jesus in His arrest, the disciples all forsook Him and fled.







## Lesson 8

# Regarded as Nothing

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

**Scripture:** Mark 15:1-20

**Memory Verse:** “And they clothed Him with purple; and they twisted a crown of thorns, put it on His head, and began to salute Him, ‘Hail King of the Jews!’” (Mark 15:17-18)

**Lesson Truth:** Jesus was treated as someone who has no value. He was regarded as less than a murderer.

### Lesson

Can you imagine how it feels to be treated as if you are worthless? This was the way Pilate treated Jesus. Then the people, the soldiers, and even Barabbas showed what little regard they had for the Christ. Jesus’ treatment before Pilate was truly a fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy: “He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him” (Isaiah 53:3).

The chief priests and elders had declared that Jesus deserved to die. Early the next morning they bound Him and brought Him to Pilate. Pilate was the Roman governor who would have to approve His death sentence. The Jews did not have the authority to put anyone to death. The sad truth was that Pilate had no more regard for Jesus than did the elders. He was curious about the claim that He was the king of the Jews. So, he asked Jesus if He was the King. This was difficult for Jesus to answer because He was the King of the Jews, but not at all like Pilate thought. Pilate was wondering if He was a king who would lead the Jews away from Roman rule. Pilate thought it was ridiculous that a Man who wouldn’t even answer His accusers could ever be a king. So, Pilate treated Jesus as if He were nothing, a nobody!

After Pilate had questioned Jesus, he was convinced that He was not dangerous to the Romans. For that reason, Pilate thought of a way that he could possibly release Him. The possibility of release would be because of a custom that Pilate had made for the Jews. This custom was to release a convict that the Jews would choose at the Passover Feast. Pilate decided that he would give the Jews a choice to release Jesus or Barabbas. Barabbas was a murderer caught in a rebellion. He treated Jesus as if He were a convicted criminal although He had done nothing wrong. Pilate showed he was not interested in justice as he regarded Jesus as a criminal. He never knew that Jesus was the Redeemer.

The people were also led to treat Jesus as worthless. They were disappointed that He did not set Himself up as a king and deliver them from the Romans. They had seen His miracles of healing and heard His message of mercy. Jesus showed them the grace of God that was available to all who believed. But the people, led by the chief priests and elders, were not interested in that grace. They were interested only in being free from Roman rule. For that reason, the elders had little trouble convincing them to ask that Pilate release Barabbas and not Jesus. But the total disrespect the people had for Jesus came when Pilate asked them what he should do with Jesus. With their hard hearts they shouted, “Crucify Him! Crucify Him!” (Mark 15:13-14). He was despised and rejected by His own





Lesson 9  
**Powerlessness**

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

**Scripture:** Mark 15:21-47

**Memory Verse:** “So when the centurion, who stood opposite Him, saw that he cried out like this and breathed His last, he said, “Truly this Man was the Son of God.” (Mark 15:39)

**Lesson Truth:** Jesus surrendered His power in His suffering and His death.

**Lesson**

Jesus was willing to become weak and without power in His suffering and death. He was mocked for being without power on the cross and in the grave. He was completely powerless when God the Father abandoned Him and forsook Him to pay for the sins of mankind.

Before Jesus arrived at Pilate’s courtroom, He surrendered all His power. When Pilate sentenced Jesus to die on a cross, the soldiers led Him outside the city. Criminals were always taken outside the city to be crucified. They were thought to be unfit to fellowship with other human beings. As the soldiers prepared Jesus for crucifixion, He showed how completely He had surrendered His power. He refused to take the wine they offered Him to dull the pain of the cross. He did not resist the mockery intended by Pilate when he posted the sign, “The King of the Jews” (Mark 15:26). Sadly, neither Pilate nor the people understood the kingship that Jesus talked about. The Lord Jesus was powerless to object to being crucified between two murderers. He had to be counted among the transgressors to fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah. For hours Jesus endured this bitter suffering and shame as one without power. But the wonder of it all was that He voluntarily gave up His power in order to redeem His people from their sins!

The people that walked by as Jesus hung on the cross mocked Him for having no power. Some made fun of the things Jesus said, wagging their heads in blasphemy they sneered: “Aha! You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself, and come down from the cross!” (Mark 15:29-30). The chief priests also mocked this powerless Jesus by saying: “He saved others; Himself He cannot save” (Mark 15:31). The tragedy was that none of those who passed by realized that Jesus was not allowed to save Himself if He wished to save others. It was through His surrender of power that Jesus purchased the grace of God for those who believe.

How was it possible for Jesus to surrender Himself without resistance to this suffering and destruction that led to death? It was possible because God the Father abandoned Him. Even as God abandoned Him, He was powerless. For three hours He hung on the cross in total darkness, as He was powerless to escape being forsaken by God. Jesus who is the Light of the world suffered in darkness as He endured the eternal death of hell itself. He suffered the ravages of hell until in utter agony until He cried out: “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” (Mark 15:34). He sank deeper and deeper into torment until He was seized by unspeakable horror and was without power to change His suffering. The wonder of His suffering is that He did it in order to remove the judgment from those



5. With what words did those passing by the cross blaspheme Jesus? (Mark 15:29-30)

6. How did the murderers who were crucified with Jesus treat Him? (Mark 15:32b)

7. What was the centurion's testimony about Jesus? (Mark 15:39)

8. Who asked for the Lord's body to bury it? (Mark 15:43)

## Lesson 10

# The Word of the King

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

**Scripture:** Mark 16:1-20

**Memory Verse:** “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matt. 28:19-20)

**Lesson Truth:** Because Jesus lives as King after His resurrection; His Word goes forth with power.

### Lesson

Jesus rose from the dead as King of the Kingdom of heaven. As King, He sent an angel to bring the Word of the resurrection that he was no longer in the tomb. He had risen from the dead. As King, He urged His people to believe that resurrection Word. Those who believed in the resurrection Word were told to make disciples of all nations. This was the beginning of His exaltation as He sat at God’s right hand in heaven.

A number of women had watched from afar as Jesus died on the cross and His body was placed in Joseph’s new tomb. They waited restlessly through the Sabbath so they could return to the tomb and anoint His body. Now on the first day of the week as they hurried to the tomb, they talked about the stone blocking the entrance. Who would roll away this huge stone? But as they neared the tomb, they were overjoyed that the stone was already rolled away. Immediately they went inside to find the body of the Lord Jesus. But instead of finding His body, they saw an angel who appeared as a young man in a long white robe.

At first, they were afraid when they saw the young man. But he told them not to be alarmed because they did not see the body of Jesus who had been crucified. He then gave them the resurrection word by telling them: “He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him” (Mark 16:6). This is the Word that declared that Jesus was no longer under the curse of the cross or death. He had conquered sin and death and the grave. The angel’s message not only declared that He was alive, but that He now had the power to take up His life, never to lay it down again. The angel then instructed the women to tell the disciples and Peter that Jesus would go before them into Galilee. Peter was mentioned by name to assure him that he was not excluded from the circle of disciples. He was still counted as a disciple even after he denied that he knew the Lord. Peter would experience the Lord’s grace and be comforted by it. The women were so frightened and amazed by the angel’s message that they fled from the tomb and didn’t say anything to anyone.

Jesus knew that if His people were going to believe in the resurrection, He would have to awaken that faith in them. Early on the first day of the week, after He rose from the dead, He appeared to Mary Magdalene. This woman, from whom He had cast seven demons, was the first to receive the resurrection Word. She immediately went to tell other followers of Jesus. Added to the testimony of Mary was the testimony of two men from Emmaus, who had talked with Jesus. But sadly, it was just too amazing and wonderful for the disciples to believe. If what they heard was true, then sin and death







## Lesson 11

# The Lord Is Gracious

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

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

**Memory Verse:** “And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; for you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, to give knowledge of salvation to His people by the remission of their sins.” (Luke 1:76-77)

**Lesson Truth:** God sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for the Lord as proof of His grace to His people.

### Lesson

The children of Israel were God’s chosen people. For hundreds of years, they had been told about God’s covenant relationship with them that would extend to people of every nation. Still, it was in Israel that the Redeemer would be born. Isn’t it amazing that when the time came for God to announce the fulfillment of this promise that Zacharias the priest did not believe it?

It had been many years since the last prophet had come to Israel to remind them of the promise of coming Redeemer. Hope was bound to diminish without a word from the prophets. Still there were those who lived in covenant with the Lord and waited for the fulfillment of His promise. Two people who lived in covenant with the Lord were Zacharias and Elizabeth. Zacharias was priest of the division of Abijah, and Elizabeth was a daughter of the family of Aaron. They were a righteous couple that lived in obedience to the commandments of the Lord. Although their hope was in God’s grace, they lived with one of their prayers unanswered. Zacharias and Elizabeth had prayed that God would give them children, but sadly Elizabeth remained barren. In a way this couple was a picture of all of Israel. Just as they prayed for a child that did not come, so Israel prayed and hoped for the Messiah that did not come. Now the time had come for these prayers and expectations to be answered. God was ready to announce the birth of the forerunner to the Christ.

God’s announcement came to Zacharias, who the priest chosen to burn incense in the temple at this time. As he was in the holy place burning incense, an angel appeared on the right side of the altar of incense. When Zacharias saw the angel and the splendor of God’s grace, he was frightened. Immediately the angel assured Zacharias that there was no reason to be afraid. Rather, the angel had come to tell him that his prayers and the prayers of Elizabeth had been heard. They were going to have a son and they were to name him John. This son, the angel told Zacharias, would be great in the eyes of the Lord and would be filled with the Holy Spirit. He would be a prophet who would turn the many in Israel to the Lord their God. He would go before the Lord in the spirit and power of Elijah turning the hearts of the fathers to their children. This child would be the one to prepare the people for the coming of the long-awaited Messiah.

Sadly, Zacharias was not ready to believe that such a miracle could occur. He asked the angel how this could ever happen because he and Elizabeth were old and past the age of having children. Then the angel answered him with an astounding answer. He said, “I am Gabriel who stands in the presence of





## Lesson 12

# Holy Is His Name

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

**Scripture:** Luke 1:26-56

**Memory Verse:** “He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.” (Luke 1:32-33)

**Lesson Truth:** The Redeemer was conceived in the womb of Mary, as a sign that God is Holy.

### Lesson

The angel Gabriel made the announcement to Mary that the Holy Spirit would conceive the Redeemer in her womb. She would be considered blessed among women because she would bring forth the Redeemer. Mary believed and submitted to the announcement of the angel in faith. She confirmed the angel’s message when she went to visit Elizabeth with whom she shared prophetic words.

The angel Gabriel made two astounding announcements. The first one was to Zacharias concerning the birth of John and the second to Mary concerning the birth of the Lord Jesus. Both announcements are significant in the miracle of redemption. The son that God promised to Zacharias and Elizabeth had not yet been born. Six months after Gabriel told Zacharias that he and Elizabeth that they would have a son, he made an announcement to Mary. Gabriel told Mary that she was highly favored and that because the Lord was with her, she was blessed among women. The miracle of redemption came from God alone. God for His own purpose chose a very common woman who was engaged to a very common man to be the mother of His own Son. Not only was Mary a common woman, but she also came from a very ordinary place. She came from the humble town of Nazareth in the despised area of Galilee. Yet to this common woman God had His angel Gabriel announce that the Redeemer would be conceived in her womb. Her first reaction to this announcement was fear. But Gabriel assured her that God’s favor rested upon her so she should not be afraid.

Gabriel then explained to Mary exactly who the Redeemer was. He told her that He would be the Son of the Highest, and that the Lord God would give him the throne of His father David. Even more He would reign over the house of Jacob forever and His kingdom would never end. But Mary had a question for the angel. She asked how this could be because she did not have a husband. Then Gabriel assured her that this would happen by a miracle of God. God’s Holy Spirit would come upon her and overshadow her so that the Son she would conceive would be the Holy One, the Son of God. As an additional sign, Gabriel told Mary that her relative Elizabeth was going to have a son in her old age. Elizabeth who had been barren would have a son because everything is possible with God!

Following this incredible announcement, we notice that Mary reacted differently than Zacharias. Zacharias asked for a sign because he could not believe that with God everything is possible. He was then given the sign of being unable to speak until John was born. But Mary responded in faith. She submitted to everything the Lord wanted from her by saying: “Behold the maidservant of the Lord!

Let it be to me according to your word” (Luke 1:38). Mary showed that she had been given special grace from the Lord so she could become the mother of the Redeemer.

Following Gabriel’s announcement to her, Mary hurried out to see her relative Elizabeth. She went to the hill country of Judea to the house of Zacharias and Elizabeth. As soon as she greeted her cousin the baby leaped in Elizabeth’s womb, and she was filled with the Holy Spirit. Then Elizabeth confirmed Gabriel’s announcement to Mary by telling her that she was blessed among women and that the fruit of her womb would be blessed. Elizabeth found it nearly unbelievable that the mother of her Lord would visit her. She had also received the miraculous gift of God’s grace in her life to utter prophetic words.

After Elizabeth had expressed her joy to receive a visit from the mother of her Lord, Mary also broke forth in song. Her song was also prophetic as she related that it was the Lord who had done great things for her. It was the Lord who would use her to fulfill the promise He had made to Abraham and his seed. She sang of the mercy of God that would be on those who serve Him from generation to generation. Holy is the Name of the Lord who showed His Holiness in causing the Redeemer to be conceived in Mary’s womb! The Son of God became flesh! His kingdom will never end!

### **Questions**

1. To what city and province was the angel Gabriel sent? (Luke 1:26)
2. What would the Holy One to be born of Mary be called? (Luke 1:35)
3. According to the angel what is impossible with God? (Luke 1:37)
4. What was Mary’s response to the announcement of the angel? (Luke 1:38)

