

Promise and Deliverance Student Workbook

Volume 18

Level 3

Harvey De Groot

Copyright © 2023 Harvey De Groot

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are taken from the New King James Version.

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons AttributionNonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 Unported License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/> or send a letter to Creative Commons, 171 Second Street, Suite 300, San Francisco, California, 94105, USA.

In plain English, it means that you are free share (copy, distribute and transmit) this work under the following conditions:

- You must attribute the work to Harvey De Groot.
- You may not use this work for commercial purposes.
- You may not alter, transform, or build upon this work. Among other things, that means you must include all pages, including this one, in any copies you share.

If someone has shared a copy of this book with you and you would like to support this work, please consider purchasing your own copy at:

www.norlandegroot.com

While at the website you can purchase bound copies or download free PDFs of this and other volumes.

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

Life's Joy

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 10

Scripture: John 7

Memory Verse: “On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out saying, ‘If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” (John 7:37-38)

Lesson Truth: As the Redeemer, Christ Jesus is able to bring life's true joy.

Lesson

Life's true joy can only be found in Christ Jesus. He offered this joy as living water at the Feast of Tabernacles. At this time the division between those who believed in the Redeemer and those who did not became increasingly sharp. The Lord's brothers even showed their unbelief before the Feast of Tabernacles. The law of life was seen in this sharp division between those who loved the Lord and those who hated Him. Despite the growing hostility toward Him, Jesus offered the living water of communion with God to all who believe. It was tragic that the Jewish leaders had no thirst for this living water. They were filled with self-sufficient, self-righteous pride.

The Jews in Judea sought to kill Jesus, and the hostility toward Him in Galilee was increasing. The division between believers and unbelievers was becoming more pronounced. Now as the Lord's brothers were preparing to go to the Feast of Tabernacles, they urged Him to go. At this point His brothers still did not believe that Jesus was the Messiah. They still thought He was a man with a gift to perform miracles. They wanted Him to show this gift of healing to the people in Jerusalem and Judea. However, Jesus knew that the Jews in Judea wanted to kill Him so he told His brothers that He could not go. He could not go because His time to suffer and die for the sins of His people had not yet fully come. Jesus told His brothers that the world did not hate them because they did not claim Jesus as the Messiah. But the world hated Him because He testified against their evil works. The world thought they could earn salvation by keeping the Law.

Later, Jesus did go to the Feast of Tabernacles almost in secret. At the feast there was a sharp division among the people concerning Jesus. Some said that He was good, and others insisted that He deceived the people. About the middle of the feast Jesus went to the temple and taught the truth of Scripture. The Jews marveled at His teaching because He did not have formal training. They asked how He could teach the Scriptures without formal training. Jesus answered their question by telling them that He did not teach His own doctrine, but He taught the doctrine of the Father who sent Him. Jesus knew that the Jews believed their salvation depended on keeping the Law. So, He reminded them that they did not keep the Law because they wanted to kill Him. Then they accused Jesus of having a demon. As Jesus taught, there came a sharp division between the believers and unbelievers. Some said, “Do the rulers know indeed that this is truly the Christ?” (John 7:26). Others said that when the Christ comes, they would not know where He comes from, but they knew that Jesus came from Nazareth. Jesus responded that he did not come of His own, but He who sent Him was true. This was the law of life; some knew the Lord and loved Him, while others did not know Him and hated Him.

The believers asked, "When the Christ comes, will He do more signs than these which this Man has done?" (John 7:31). When the Pharisees heard these comments, they became upset and went to the chief priests. Together the chief priests and Pharisees agreed to send soldiers to arrest Jesus. The Lord then warned them that He would be with them only a little while longer. The time of grace for the leaders of the Jews was running out! Still, on the last, great day of the feast, Jesus invited anyone who would believe to share in a covenant communion with God. He cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water" (John 7:37-38). This invitation also showed the sharp division among the believers and unbelievers. Some said that this was truly the Prophet! Others asked, "Will the Christ come out of Galilee?" (John 7:41). The division became so sharp that some wanted to seize Him. Still, no one laid a hand on Him because the Father's time for Him to suffer and die had not yet come.

In the end, many rejected Him because the Word of God had not made them thirsty for the living water that He offered. The Chief Priests and Pharisees became hardened in their rejection of the Christ. They believed that they were sufficient in themselves to keep the Law and earn their own salvation. They had no need of a Redeemer. Gratefully one Pharisee, a member of the Sanhedrin, felt the need of a Redeemer. He was Nicodemus, who asked if the Law would judge a man before it hears Him and know what He teaches. The others mocked Nicodemus and asked if he was also from Galilee. Sadly, the Jewish leaders rejected the source of the living water that would bring true joy in Christ the Redeemer. May we never reject the source of the living water that could flow from our hearts and bring true joy!

Questions

1. What Jewish feast was at hand to which the Lord's brothers would go? (John 7:2)
2. Who did not believe in Christ and wanted Him to go to the feast? (John 7:5)
3. Where did Jesus remain after he told His brothers that world hated Him? (John 7:9)

4. Why didn't the people speak openly about Jesus? (John 7:13)

5. Who taught at the temple in the middle of the feast? (John 7:14)

6. Why did the Jews marvel at Jesus teaching? (John 7:15)

7. What did some people ask if the rulers did not know because Jesus spoke boldly? (John 7:26)

8. What did Jesus cry out that people should do if they were thirsty? (John 7:37)

Lesson 2

Come to Save

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 11

Scripture: John 8

Memory Verse: “Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, ‘If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.’” (John 8:31-32)

Lesson Truth: Christ Jesus came to seek and to save the lost. He came to save our lives.

Lesson

There is some comfort in the story about the woman caught in the sin of adultery. That comfort comes when we realize that Jesus did not come into the world to condemn the world. He came so that the world, through Him, might be saved. In order to make His purpose clear He had to confront the legalism of the Jewish authorities. Jesus made these authorities think about their sins instead of only the Law. He assured those who believed in Him that they would know the truth and the truth would set them free.

Jesus once told a man who wanted to follow Him, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head” (Luke 9:58). This was true after the Feast of Tabernacles when we are told that everyone went to his own house, but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At dawn the following day, Jesus returned to the temple to teach. Once again crowds of people gathered to hear Him. Then as He was teaching some scribes and Pharisees interrupted Him. They hauled a woman into the temple and cast her at Jesus’ feet. They informed Jesus that they caught this woman in the act of adultery. They also reminded Jesus of what the Law of Moses required. It required that anyone caught in adultery had to be put to death by stoning. They knew that Jesus was a friend of tax collectors and sinners. Now they wanted to know what He would say about this woman and the Law. Would Jesus dare to ignore the Law and show His grace to this woman? But Jesus saw through the evil judging hearts of the scribes and Pharisees. They wanted this woman to be put to death so they could feel righteous and Law abiding. Jesus knew that He had to confront their cold, judging, legal, hearts. Still, He had not come to destroy the Law but to fulfill it.

The Lord knew that the Jewish leaders were testing Him, so at first, he ignored their question. He wrote on the ground with His finger and acted like He did not hear them. These self-righteous leaders must have thought that they had trapped Jesus. Either He would have to forget His Kingdom of grace, or the Law of Moses. So, they pushed Him for an answer. Imagine their dismay when Jesus stood up and said nothing about ignoring the Law of Moses. But neither did He forget His kingdom of grace. Instead told them to go ahead and stone her to death as the Law required, but with one condition. Jesus said, “He that is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first” (John 8:7). In this way, Jesus confronted the Jewish leaders with their own sins and hypocrisy. Now they had to make a choice. Would they throw stones at the woman as if they were without sin, or would they walk away? One by one they admitted that they were sinful people and left the woman with Jesus. Sadly, it was unlikely that this was a genuine sorrow for sin. They were most likely embarrassed by the Lord’s insight into their sins. Only a true repentance and sorrow for sin brings us to confession so we can receive God’s forgiveness.

5. What was the result when Jesus talked about His relationship with His Father? (John 8:30)

6. According to Jesus, who is a slave to sin? (John 8:34)

7. Who must make men free in order to make them free indeed? (John 8:36)

8. According to the Lord's words, what would Abraham's children do? (John 8:39)

Lesson 3
Come For Judgment

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 12

Scripture: John 9

Memory Verse: “And Jesus said to him, ‘You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you.’ Then he said, ‘Lord I believe!’ And he worshiped Him.” (John 9:37-38)

Lesson Truth: Christ Jesus brought sight to the blind. He brought blindness to those who thought they saw.

Lesson

In the story of the man that was born blind, Jesus showed that He not only came to save, but He also came for judgment. Jesus had to help His disciples understand that judgments of God are not the results of a specific sin. As the Lord opened the eyes of the man who was born blind, He also made those blind who relied on themselves. Christ Jesus not only gave sight to the man born blind, but also gave him faith to believe that He was the Redeemer. However, the Pharisees, who thought they could see, remained blind.

The Jewish leaders were becoming increasingly hostile to the Lord Jesus. After He suggested to these leaders that Abraham’s children would do the works of Abraham, they wanted to stone Him. But the Lord’s time had not yet come, so He was able to walk away. Now as He left the temple with His disciples, Jesus saw a man who was blind from birth. When the disciples saw this man, they had a question for Jesus. They asked Him who had sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind. Imagine their surprise when Jesus said, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him” (John 9:3). The disciples had to understand that God does not send a specific judgment for a specific sin. Instead, God’s judgments are sent because of the sins of mankind. The wonder of this story is that Jesus came to take away those judgments against sin. This story is about the grace that Christ Jesus came to bring. He proclaimed that as long as he was in the world, He was the light of the world.

After Jesus instructed His disciples about judgments and grace, He made some clay with saliva and anointed the blind man’s eyes. He then told the man to go to the pool of Siloam and wash his eyes. The pool of Siloam was an illustration of why Christ Jesus had come to earth. Siloam means “Sent” Just as the blind man was sent to Siloam for healing, so also the Father sent Jesus for the healing of His people. As the blind man received his sight at Siloam, so also we receive our sight of faith in communion with the Lord. Although the man did not understand who Jesus really was, he washed his eyes at Siloam and came back seeing. But it was the Lord’s intention not only help the blind man but also to reveal Himself to other believers.

As soon as he was healed, the man who had been blind went to his family and friends. He did not recognize Jesus as the Redeemer, or he would likely have returned to give thanks. When his family and friends saw that the man had received his sight they could not agree if he was really the same man. Some of them said he was a double or a look alike. But the man testified that he was the man who had been blind. Then they asked him how his eyes were opened. He told them that a Man called Jesus anointed his eyes with clay and told him to wash at Siloam. When he washed at Siloam, he received his sight.

Lesson 4

The Good Shepherd

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 13

Scripture: John 10

Memory Verse: “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.” (John 10:27-28)

Lesson Truth: Jesus is the Good Shepherd who gave His life for His sheep.

Lesson

In this lesson Jesus presented Himself as the Good Shepherd and those who listen to His voice as His sheep. He also spoke of Himself as the door through which His sheep enter the sheepfold. The amazing love of the Good Shepherd for His sheep is evident in His being willing to lay down His life for His sheep. It is also evident in His offer to give His sheep eternal life.

The Pharisees’ hostility to Jesus continued to grow after He gave sight to the blind man at the pool of Siloam. The Lord now confronted the Pharisees with some figures of speech. He used the figures of a door and a shepherd that finally brought Him to the claim that He was the Good Shepherd. In this confrontation, Jesus accused the Pharisees of being strangers to God’s people. He did this by reminding them that anyone who enters the sheepfold by any way except through the door is a thief and a robber. The one who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. As the shepherd enters the sheepfold, he calls his own sheep by name, and they hear his voice. The sheep are willing to follow the shepherd because they know his voice. But they will flee from a stranger because they do not know his voice. Sadly, the Pharisees did not understand what Jesus said to them.

Even though the Lord’s message was clear, the Pharisees did not follow what Jesus said because their hearts were hard. The Lord then told them very clearly that He was the door of the sheepfold. All those who came before and did not recognize the Redeemer were thieves and robbers. But those who enter the fold through Christ Jesus, the door, will be saved. They will go in and out and find pasture. Jesus then pointed out the spiritual aspect of His figure of speech. He said that a thief only comes to steal, to kill, and to destroy. But He had come so that His sheep might have an abundant life.

Jesus pointed out how a good shepherd could be identified and that He was the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd gives His life for His sheep. In contrast a hired hand thinks only about wages and will desert the sheep if danger comes. Jesus then stated clearly, “I am the Good Shepherd, and I know My sheep, and am known by My own” (John 10:14). He also made His claim of being the Son of God when he said, “As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for My sheep” (John 10:15). The Lord then made a claim that would anger the Pharisees. He said that He had sheep that were not of this fold that He had to bring in. Those sheep from outside the fold of Israel would hear His voice. They would be one flock with the believers from Israel. How thankful we must be that we are part of the Lord’s sheep and that he is our Good Shepherd. Jesus then claimed the love of the Father because He volunteered to lay down His life for His sheep.

When Jesus taught these amazing truths about His relationship with the Father and His role as the Good Shepherd, a division arose among the people. Some of them said that He had a demon and that He was mad. But others insisted that His words were not the words of a demon. They asked, “Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?” (John 10:21). Now the Jews demanded that He tell them if He was the Christ. Jesus responded that He had told them, but they did not believe. They did not believe because they were not of His sheep. Jesus assured them that his own sheep know His voice and follow Him. To them he gives eternal life, and they will never perish. They will never perish because the Father gave them to Him. And no one can snatch them from the Father who is greater than all.

Now the Jews were incensed and took up stones to kill Jesus. He then asked for which of His good works were they going to stone Him. They said it was not for His works, but because He was guilty of blasphemy when He called himself the Son of God. Jesus then asked them to believe Him for the miracles that they saw Him perform. But they made themselves guilty by rejecting God’s revelation in the Lord’s miracles. Still, we rejoice that many did believe that Jesus was the Good Shepherd. They believed because all the things that John said about Him were true. Do you believe that Jesus is your Good Shepherd?

Questions

1. In the Lord’s figure of speech how would you know if someone were a thief or robber? (John 10:1)
2. How do you know when the shepherd of the sheep enters the fold? (John 10:2-3)
3. Why will the shepherd’s own sheep follow him? (John 10:4)
4. What did Jesus call those who came before Him and led the sheep astray? (John 10:8)

5. What does a hireling do when he sees danger, such as a wolf, coming? (John 10:12)

6. Were the believing Jews the only sheep that would be part of the Lord's flock? (John 10:16)

7. According to the Lord's word why didn't many of the Jews believe? (John 10:26)

8. With whom is Jesus considered to be one? (John 10:30)

Lesson 5

The Resurrection and the Life

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 14

Scripture: John 11

Memory Verse: “Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?’” (John 11:25-26)

Lesson Truth: When Lazarus was called from the grave, Christ declared that He was the resurrection and the life.

Lesson

Jesus declared Himself to be the resurrection and the life. He did this when He assured Martha that her brother, Lazarus, would rise again. He told His disciples that Lazarus’ illness was not unto death but for the glory of God. Through this death the Son of God would be made known. Jesus assured those who believe in Him that they would never die because He has the victory over death. In response to bringing Lazarus back to life, many people believed in Jesus. However, the Sanhedrin determined that He must die and Caiaphas, the high priest prophesied. Despite his unbelief and hate, Caiaphas was prompted to prophesy that it is expedient that one man should die for the people.

Because the Jews in Jerusalem sought to seize Jesus, He and His disciples went to the region of the Jordan River where John had preached. While they were in this region they received word that Lazarus, a friend of Jesus, was very sick. When they heard this news, Jesus said an amazing thing to His disciples. He said, “This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it” (John 11:4). Jesus knew that He was going to perform an unbelievable miracle. He was going to call His friend Lazarus back from the dead. This would be done to demonstrate that Jesus is the resurrection and the life. Knowing what He was going to do, Jesus remained near the Jordan for another two days.

After two days, Jesus said to His disciples that He wanted to go to Judea. This made His disciples panic. They reminded the Lord that it was the people in Judea who tried to stone Him. But Jesus insisted that He would go because He was doing the work of His Father. Doing the work of His Father was like walking in the daylight. The Lord told His disciples that people do not stumble if they walk in the day. As Jesus prepared to leave for Judea, Thomas said to the other disciples, “Let us also go that we may die with Him” (John 11:16). He was convinced that the Jews would succeed in putting the Lord to death. Jesus then indicated that He was going to see Lazarus. He said to His disciples that Lazarus was asleep. The disciples misunderstood what the Lord was saying and suggested that if he was only sleeping, he would get well. Then the Lord told them plainly that Lazarus was dead. He also said that He was happy for the sake of His disciples that He wasn’t there when Lazarus died. The Lord knew that He would call Lazarus from the dead and strengthen the faith of His disciples.

When Jesus arrived at the home of Lazarus and his sisters, He learned that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days. Martha met the Lord and, in her grief, said, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died” (John 11:21). Jesus assured her that Lazarus would rise again.

She then confessed that she believed in the resurrection and knew that Lazarus would rise on the last day. In response Jesus said something that assures the heart of every believer. He said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die" (John 11:25-26).

The Lord then went out to the tomb where Lazarus was buried. Even though Martha objected, He asked that they remove the stone from the doorway. Then Jesus prayed a prayer of thanksgiving so the people would know that the Father had sent Him. He then called in a loud voice, "Lazarus come forth!" (John 11:43). And Lazarus, the man who had been dead four days, came from the tomb alive.

This created a crisis for the Sanhedrin. They saw that many more people now believed in Jesus. They quickly called a meeting and discussed how they might take Him. They agreed that He had to be put to death or they would lose their standing with the Romans and their authority. In response to their discussion the high priest, Caiaphas, spoke a prophetic word. Even in his unbelief and hostility to Jesus, the Holy Spirit allowed him to prophesy "that it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish" (John 11:50). Although Caiaphas did not mean it that way, it was true that Jesus would be One Man who would die for the sins of the people. He is truly the resurrection and the life and whoever believes in Him shall never die. Jesus asked Martha and also believers today, "Do you believe this?" (John 11:26).

Questions

1. What town in Judea did Lazarus come from? (John 11:1)
2. What message did Lazarus' sisters send to Jesus? (John 11:3)
3. What kind of relationship did the Lord have with Lazarus and his sisters? (John 11:5)
4. How many days did Jesus wait before He went to Lazarus and his sisters? (John 11:6)

Lesson 6

The Reproducing Kernel of Wheat

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 15

Scripture: John 12:20-33

Memory Verse: “He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him will My Father honor.” (John 12:25-26)

Lesson Truth: A grain of wheat must die to produce more wheat. So also, Christ had to die to produce the fruits of eternal life for His people.

Lesson

It is a principle of nature that for a seed to produce new grain it must die. That principle is also true spiritually. Jesus spoke of Himself as being the grain of wheat that had to die to produce much fruit for His Kingdom. The Lord talked about this principle of the grain when some Greeks wanted to see Him. The principle that there must be death to produce life is a law of God’s Kingdom. When Jesus talked about His coming death, He asked the Father to glorify His name in this death. The death of the Lord Jesus produced much fruit in having many people come to know the Redeemer.

Following the Lord’s triumphal entry into Jerusalem the hostility of the rulers against Jesus grew. They watched His every move looking for a reason to arrest Him. The Jewish leaders were seething in anger because the whole world has gone after Him. Not only did many Jews believe in Jesus after He raised Lazarus from the dead, but also some Greeks wanted to see Him. These Greeks had come to the feast to worship but were not yet part of the covenant people. For that reason, they had to remain in the outer court of the temple. Now they approached Philip and asked if he could arrange to have them see Jesus. Philip was hesitant to trouble Jesus, so he went to Andrew. The two of them decided to tell the Lord that some Greeks wanted to see Him. Jesus responded with an unexpected response. Before this time, He had said My hour has not yet come, but this time He said, “The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified” (John 12:23). From the request of the Greeks, Jesus knew that Gentiles would also become part of the covenant.

The Lord then spoke about the principle of the kingdom that says, for there to be life there must be death. Not only would the Jews need to know this principle, but also the Greeks. Jesus explained this principle by saying that it was like a grain of wheat. For a grain of wheat to produce new wheat it must be placed in the soil. Then when it dies it will produce a lot of grain. The same is true for God’s Kingdom; there must be death to produce life. Jesus was speaking first about Himself. He is the grain of wheat. His death would produce much fruit and would bring many believers into His Kingdom. But Jesus also applied this principle to believers, both Jews and Gentiles, when He said: “He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life” (John 12:25). The Lord set the example of “hating” His life in this world when He was willing to die on the cross for the sins of His people.

Jesus then agonized about His coming death on the cross and asked, “What shall I say? Father to save Me from this hour?” (John 12:27). He knew that He could not do that because it was for this reason that He had come to earth. Instead, the Lord asked that The Father’s name would be

glorified in His death and resurrection. Upon hearing this request, the Father in heaven answered with a voice that could be heard. He said, "I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again" (John 12:28). When the people heard this voice, they thought it had thundered. Some said that an angel had spoken to the Lord. Then Jesus said that the voice was not sent for His benefit, but for the sake of the people.

Jesus then assured the people that the time for the judgment of this world had come. He would overcome sin and cast out Satan. By His death on the cross and His resurrection He would draw all His people to Himself. Following His death and resurrection people would know that He was the reproducing kernel of wheat. They would know that His life had produced much fruit in an abundant harvest.

Questions

1. For what reason did the Greeks come to the feast? (John 12:20)
2. Where did Philip come from? (John 12:21)
3. Who did Philip recruit to go along with him to Jesus? (John 12:22)
4. To what did Christ liken the principle (law) of God's Kingdom? (John 12:24)
5. What will the person who hates his life in this world gain? (John 12:25)

6. What did the voice from heaven say concerning the glory of the Father's name? (John 12:28)

7. Some people who heard the voice thought it thundered, what did others say it was? (John 12:29)

8. When will Jesus draw all peoples to Himself? (John 12:32)

Lesson 7

Love to the End

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 16

Scripture: John 13:1-17

Memory Verse: “If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.”(John 13:14-15)

Lesson Truth: Christ Washed His disciples’ feet. He did this to show the full extent of His love.

Lesson

The Lord Jesus loved His disciples completely and He loved them to the last hour. He showed this love in doing the menial task of washing the disciples’ feet. Jesus indicated that His foot washing was a symbol of the washing away of our daily sins. As Jesus the Lord and Teacher washed His disciples’ feet, He set an example for them and for us.

John recorded what Jesus did when He washed His disciples’ feet. Jesus knew that His hour to suffer and die had come. Before He departed from this world to return to the Father, He showed His love in an unusual way. Jesus broke the barrier of human pride by doing the task of a servant. He showed this remarkable love even when He knew that Judas would betray Him and Peter would deny Him. The Lord knew that the Father had given all things into His hands. He knew that He had come from God and that He was going to return to God. With this knowledge He showed His love by performing the lowliest task.

Jesus and His disciples were gathered in the upper room to share the Passover meal. This would be the last supper He would share with them before His death. As they entered the upper room there was a jar of water and a basin to be used to wash the guests’ feet. However, no servant was there to perform this task. None of the disciples offered to do it; instead, they sat at the table with dusty feet. Now Jesus got up and removed His outer garments, and tied a towel around His waist. Then He knelt before His disciples and began to wash their feet. As He washed their feet, He dried them with the towel He had around his waist. Jesus was well aware of Judas and his decision to betray Him. It was pride that led Judas to that decision. When Jesus washed their feet, he broke the power of pride among His other disciples.

The disciples were likely ashamed and confused when Jesus began to wash their feet. Jesus took the lowest place among them. Amazingly none of the disciples objected to having their feet washed until He came to Simon Peter. Peter could not stand to see the Lord do this lowly task. He asked, “Lord, are You washing my feet?” (John 13:6). Jesus responded by telling Peter that he didn’t understand what was being done. But there would come a time when he would understand. Peter still failed to realize what Jesus was doing and said, “You shall never wash my feet!” (John 13:8). Jesus then instructed Peter that unless He allowed his feet to be washed, he had no part of the Lord. But Peter wanted more than anything to be part of the Lord. So, he said, “Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!” (John 13:9). Jesus then said to Peter, “He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet” (John 13:10). This meant that even though we belong to Christ, yet we have daily sins that cling to us like dust on our feet.

Jesus then assured the disciples that they were all clean except one. He knew that Judas would betray Him. After that He put on His outer garments and again took His place at the table. The Lord then asked the disciples, “Do you know what I have done to you?” (John 13:12). He then answered His own question by saying, “You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you” (John 13:13-15).

Jesus showed His love in wanting His disciples to be free from the sin of pride and self-importance. He wanted more than just some good deeds. The Lord wanted His disciples to have a new heart. Their new heart would be a servant’s heart that would break the power of sin in the world. Jesus did love completely, and He loved to the end. He encouraged His disciples by telling them that they now knew the way of a servant. They would be blessed if they would live like a servant in the world.

Questions

1. Who specifically did Jesus love to the end? (John 13:1)

2. Who had given all things into the Lord’s hands? (John 13:3)

3. With what did the Lord gird Himself in preparation to wash the disciple’s feet? (John 13:4)

4. Which disciple questioned if Jesus would wash his feet? (John 13:6)

5. What did Jesus tell Peter would be the result if He did not have his feet washed? (John 13:8)

6. What did Jesus say to indicate that one of His disciples would betray Him? (John 13:11)

7. What question did Jesus ask His disciples after He again sat down? (John 13:12)

8. Because the disciples knew these things, what would make them blessed? (John 13:17)

Lesson 8

The Rock

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 17

Scripture: John 18:1-27

Memory Verse: “And when He had said these things, one of the officers who stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand saying. ‘Do you answer a high priest like that?’ Jesus answered him, ‘If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil; but if well, why do you strike Me?’” (John 18:22-23)

Lesson Truth: Christ suffered for the sins of His people. He showed that He was the Rock on which they could build.

Lesson

A rock is thought of as being something unmovable. As Jesus was arrested and brought before the high priests, He was as unmovable as a rock. He surrendered freely to the soldiers that came to arrest Him, because this was the Father’s appointed this time for Him to suffer. He remained unmovable when Peter denied Him three times. Yet, even though Peter fell, he was brought to repentance and forgiveness. When He was interrogated, the Lord confessed that everything He taught, He taught openly.

It was the Passion Week and Jesus had shared the Passover meal with His disciples as a last supper with them. They now went to the Garden of Gethsemane where Christ struggled with the burden of sin He carried for His people. Judas knew that the Lord was at Gethsemane with His other disciples. So, he led the squad of soldiers and captains to Gethsemane where he intended to betray Jesus. As they came into the garden, Jesus went to meet them and asked who they wanted. They said they were looking for Jesus of Nazareth. Then Jesus told them to look no further, He said, “I am He” (John 18:5). Amazingly when Jesus said that, the soldiers drew back and fell to the ground. It was evident that the soldiers had no power over the Lord. They could not have arrested Him unless God permitted them to do so. The truth is that the Lord surrendered of His own free will because He knew that this was the appointed time for Him to suffer and die.

The disciples did not understand what was about to happen. Peter drew his sword and began to fight and cut off the ear of the high priest’s servant. When Jesus saw this, He instructed Peter to put his sword back into its sheath and then asked him, “Shall I not drink the cup which the Father has given Me?” (John 18:11). He was ready to offer Himself as the sacrifice for the sins of His people.

The soldiers arrested Jesus and bound Him like a common criminal. They led Him away to the house of Annas a high priest where Caiaphas the high priest joined them. At the same time Peter followed at a distance because he wanted to see what would happen to Jesus. One of the other disciples spoke to the doorkeeper of the courtyard of Annas’ house to allow Peter to enter. When Peter entered this girl asked, “You are not also one of this Man’s disciples, are you?” (John 18:17). Then an unbelievable thing happened. Peter the disciple who had said, “I will lay down my life for Your sake,” (John 13:37). denied that he knew the Lord. Three times throughout this night Peter denied knowing Jesus. Yet when the rooster crowed Peter remembered the Lord’s warning that he would deny Him three times. Now he understood that these were words of love, and he was

brought to repentance and forgiveness. Jesus had changed his name from Simon to Peter, which means rock. Yet as Jesus suffered, He was the Rock on which His people, including Peter could build.

Even as Peter warmed himself in the courtyard, Annas and Caiaphas interrogated Jesus. They asked Him about His disciples and His doctrines. They implied that Jesus taught mysterious doctrines in secret. But Jesus confessed that He only taught as the Father instructed Him. He did not deny that He was the Redeemer. The Lord assured the high priests that He spoke openly to the world. He taught in the synagogues and the temple where the Jews always met. Never had the Lord taught anything in secret.

When the officer standing by heard the Lord's response, he struck Him with the palm of his hand. Jesus then asked him, "If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil; but if well, why do you strike me?" (John 18:23). Jesus wanted to protect the sacredness of the call the Father had given Him. In His suffering He showed that He was the Rock on which His people can build!

Questions

1. What question did the Lord ask Peter about His suffering and death? (John 18:11)

2. Who arrested Jesus and bound Him? (John 18:12)

3. What relation was Annas to Caiaphas? (John 18:13)

4. Who advised that it was expedient for one man to die for the people? (John 18:14)

Lesson 9

Not of this World

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 18

Scripture: John 18:28–19:16

Memory Verse: “Pilate therefore said to Him, ‘Are You a king then?’ Jesus answered, ‘You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness of the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.’” (John 18:37)

Lesson Truth: Christ Jesus said that His Kingdom is not of this world. Those who reject Christ also reject the Kingdom of heaven.

Lesson

Jesus said that He was a king and that His Kingdom was not of this world. The Lord Jesus said that He came to bear witness to the truth. His Kingdom was a Kingdom of truth. Pilate the Roman governor thought he had the power to execute Jesus or to release Him. He failed to realize that God gave him the only power he possessed. The Jewish chief priests rejected Christ when they said, “We have no king but Caesar!” (John 19:15).

After Annas and Caiaphas questioned Jesus, they sent Him to the Sanhedrin. The Sanhedrin decided that Jesus had to be put to death. However, the Jews were under Roman rule, so they did not have the authority to execute a person. Therefore, the Sanhedrin brought Jesus to the Praetorium, which was the palace of the Roman governor when he was in Jerusalem. In order to keep themselves undefiled, these Jews would not enter the Praetorium. There may have been leavened bread there, which would defile them and prevent them from eating the Passover meal. Still, these pious Jews were intent on putting an innocent Man to death. Because the Jews would not enter the Praetorium, Pilate the governor came out to them.

The first question Pilate asked was, “What accusation do you bring against this Man?” (John 18:29). The Jewish leaders replied with an arrogant answer, saying, “If He were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered Him up to you” (John 18:30). When Pilate suggested that they judge Him themselves according to Jewish law, their real motive became evident. They answered that it was not lawful for them to put anyone to death, and they wanted Jesus to die. But there was a greater reason that Jesus was brought to Pilate and that was because the Lord prophesied that He would die on a cross. The Jews then informed Pilate that Jesus said He was a king.

Pilate then took Jesus into the Praetorium and asked Him, “Are You the King of the Jews?” (John 18:33). Jesus asked Pilate if this was his own question or if someone else had suggested that He was a King. Pilate became defensive and said that it was His own people who brought Him for judgment; what had He done? Now Jesus declared that He was a King and that His Kingdom was not of this world. He said that if His Kingdom were of this world, His servants would fight to deliver Him from the Jews. Pilate asked Him, “Are You a king then?” (John 18:37). Jesus said that it was for the purpose of being a King that He came into the world. He came to bear witness to the truth and those who know the truth listen to the Lord’s voice. But Pilate did not look for God’s grace, so he sighed and asked, “What is truth?” (John 18:38). He then went out and told the Jews that he could find no fault with Jesus.

Now Pilate tried to avoid declaring the Lord innocent by offering to free Him as the one prisoner freed each year at the Passover. However, the people cried out that they wanted the criminal Barabbas set free instead of Jesus. Pilate then had Jesus scourged and allowed the soldiers to put a purple robe on Him and a crown of thorns on His head. As he brought Jesus out, Pilate said, “Behold the Man!” (John 19:5). The chief priests and officers then led the people in an angry, emotional cry, screaming, “Crucify Him! Crucify Him!” (John 19:6). Pilate weakly responded that he could find no fault with Jesus. The Jews then informed Pilate that Jesus had said that He was the Son of God. This made Pilate afraid, so he asked Jesus where He was from. When Jesus did not answer, Pilate threatened that he had the power to execute Jesus or to set Him free. Jesus the King responded that Pilate had no power except that which God had given him.

Now Pilate brought Jesus out and sat in the judgment seat at the place called The Pavement. And since it was the day of preparation for the Passover he said, “Behold your King!” (John 19:14). This statement caused the crowd to cry out again, “Away with Him! Crucify Him! Crucify Him!” (John 19:15). Then the chief priests showed their hate for Jesus and their rejection of Him. When Pilate asked, “Shall I crucify your King?” (John 19:15), they declared that they had no king but Caesar! Sadly, their rejection of Christ Jesus meant that they also rejected the Kingdom of heaven. Do you accept Jesus as your King and Redeemer?

Questions

1. What claim did the Jews make about Jesus that prompted them to bring Him to Pilate? (John 18:30)
2. What question did Pilate ask Jesus when he entered the Praetorium? (John 18:33)
3. If Jesus’ Kingdom were of this world, what would His servants do? (John 18:36)
4. Jesus came into the world to be a king and to bear witness to what? (John 18:37)

5. In what way did Pilate treat Jesus like a convicted criminal? (John 19:1)

6. What was Jesus wearing as Pilate took Him out and said, “Behold the Man?” (John 19:5)

7. What had Jesus claimed to be that prompted the Jews to say He ought to die? (John 19:7)

8. What did the chief priests answer when Pilate said, “Behold your King?” (John 19:15)

Lesson 10
The Love Offering

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 19

Scripture: John 19:17-42

Memory Verse: “For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, ‘Not one of His bones shall be broken.’ And again another Scripture says, ‘They shall look on Him whom they pierced.’” (John 19:36-37)

Lesson Truth: Christ Jesus died on the cross as an offering of love for His people.

Lesson

I John 4:9 tells us, “In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that the world might live through Him.” It was this love offering that we see as Jesus died on the cross. His love was able to endure the suffering He experienced when the soldiers cast lots for His clothing. His love provided for His mother by giving her John as a son and by having John take Mary as His mother. His love endured the thirst that comes from crucifixion. His love fulfilled every prophecy of Scripture concerning the Messiah. And His love allowed Him to be buried in another man’s tomb.

When Pilate said, “Behold your King,” the people cried out, “Away with Him! Crucify Him!” (John 19:14-15). He then delivered Jesus to be crucified. The soldiers brought Him to the place called in Hebrew, Golgotha, and there they crucified Him with two others. Pilate posted a sign over His cross that read, “Jesus of Nazareth the king of the Jews” (John 19:19). This did not suit the Jewish leaders because they did not believe Him to be the king of the Jews. However, when they asked Pilate to change the sign he refused. He was likely unhappy that the Jews had forced him to convict Jesus, so he said, “What I have written, I have written” (John 19:22).

As Jesus hung on the cross, the soldiers divided His clothing. When they saw His one-piece tunic, they decided to gamble to see who would get it. It had to be that way because Scripture had to be fulfilled, and Scripture said, “They divided My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots” (John 19:24). Looking down from the cross Jesus saw His mother, and in an act of love He provided for her. He told her to take John as her son; and He told John to take Mary as his mother. As the Lord’s earthly relationship with His mother came to an end, He provided a relationship that would be eternal. Because of the Lord’s love offering on the cross, we too can enjoy relationships that are eternal.

The physical pain and suffering that Jesus endured on the cross were evident in His intense thirst. Now when Jesus knew that everything the Father required from Him was accomplished, He said, “I thirst!” (John 19:28). When the soldiers heard His exclamation, they filled a sponge with sour wine and put it on a hyssop stalk and offered Him a drink. This time the Lord tasted the sour wine. Before He had refused to drink some drugged wine because He wanted to be fully conscious in His suffering. After Jesus tasted the wine He said, “It is finished!” (John 19:30). Then He bowed His head, and gave up His spirit. The Lord Jesus surrendered His love offering to God as full payment for the sins of His people. In this way He bought our freedom.

It was Friday the day of preparation for the Jewish Sabbath, so the Jews thought it was necessary to take the bodies down from the cross before sunset. Although they felt righteous for putting

Jesus, an innocent Man, to death they did not want to violate the Sabbath law. They asked Pilate to hasten the death of those crucified so they could remove their bodies. In order to speed the dying process, the soldiers came to break the legs of the criminals. However, when they came to Jesus, they found that He was already dead. So, they decided that it wasn't necessary to break His legs. Instead, a soldier pierced His side with a spear. This was the way it had to be in order to fulfill the Scripture that said, "Not one of His bones shall be broken" (John 19:36). And another Scripture that said, "They shall look on Him whom they pierced" (John 19:37). Scripture helps believers understand that their Christ died to pay the penalty for their sins.

Two secret disciples of Jesus then came and offered to bury Him. They were Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. They could have remained secret, but chose to declare that they were disciples of Jesus by taking His body. They wrapped His body in linen with spices as was the custom of the Jews. But it was the love of Jesus that drew them to show that they were His disciples. Thankfully the Lord's death and burial was not the end. He lives in the hearts of His people and even now is seated on the throne in heaven.

Questions

1. What happened to Jesus at the Place of a Skull? (John 19:17-18)
2. What did the Jews want Pilate to change the sign above the Lord's cross to read? (John 19:21)
3. What was Pilate's response to the Jews request? (John 19:22)
4. Into how many parts did the soldiers divide the Lord's clothing? (John 19:23)

Lesson 11

The Resurrection of Love

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 20

Scripture: John 20:1-18

Memory Verse: “Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?’ She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, ‘Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to Him, ‘Rabboni!’ (which is to say, Teacher).” (John 20:15-16)

Lesson Truth: When Christ Jesus rose from the dead, love rose with Him.

Lesson

When Christ Jesus arose, He reached out in love to draw His people to Him. He sought Mary Magdalene in a special way and instructed her not to cling to His physical presence. Instead, He urged her to share the news with His disciples that He would ascend into heaven. In His love the Lord also drew Peter and John to Him that they might testify to His resurrection.

The death and burial of Jesus on Friday caused His followers’ untold grief. The women could hardly wait for the Sabbath to end that they might go to the tomb to pay their respects to Jesus. That is why early in the morning on the first day of the week they went to the tomb. Mary Magdalene was among the women who went to the tomb. John tells us that when Mary saw that the stone was rolled away and the tomb was empty, she rushed to tell the disciples. She assumed that the Lord’s body was stolen and told the disciples they had taken His body and she didn’t know where they had laid Him. Mary was filled with grief because she could not find the Lord’s body. Jesus had cast seven demons out of Mary and her response was to cling to His physical presence. Still, it was Christ’s love that drew her to the tomb. It was certain that when Jesus rose from the dead, His love rose with Him. It was this love of the Lord for forgiven sinners that continued to minister to Mary Magdalene. Through His love the Lord brought Mary from faith in His presence to faith in His Word. His love also brings us to faith in His Word.

After Mary told the disciples about the empty tomb, Peter and John ran out to see what had happened. John arrived at the tomb first and when he stooped to look in, he saw the grave clothes lying there folded. When Peter arrived, he immediately went into the tomb and also saw the burial linens. The kerchief that had been around the Lord’s head was lying by itself neatly folded. John followed Peter into the tomb. When he saw the orderliness of the tomb, he was convinced that no one had stolen the Lord’s body. This reminded him of what Jesus had said about rising from the dead. Although John’s faith was weak, we are told that he believed. The hope that he would see the Lord Jesus in His glory had begun to awaken John’s faith. Not only had Jesus risen from the dead, but His love had also risen, and this love of Christ would conquer the world.

Sadly, Peter’s denial of the Lord Jesus prevented him from believing what the Scriptures said about the resurrection. He still could not believe that there was forgiveness for his sins and that his relationship with the Lord could be restored. But Christ’s love had risen with Him and surely drew Peter to repentance and forgiveness. Peter would testify to the truth of the resurrection to both Jews and Gentiles. The love of Jesus also draws us to believe in the resurrection and sets us free from a life of bondage to sin.

As the disciples left the empty tomb, Mary remained and stood there weeping. When she looked into the tomb this time, she saw two angels sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet of where Jesus had lain. The angels spoke to Mary and asked her why she was weeping. Because her faith was not yet based on the Word of the Lord, she told them why she was weeping. She said, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him” (John 20:13). As soon as she said this, she became aware that someone was near. So, she turned around and there was Jesus. Sadly, she did not recognize her Lord. When Jesus also asked her why she was weeping and whom she was seeking she assumed he was the gardener. So, she asked Him, “Sir if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away” (John 20:15). Then Jesus spoke just one word to her that opened her eyes. He said to her, “Mary!” In that instant she knew that it was Jesus and exclaimed, “Rabboni!” which means teacher (John 20:16).

In His love, Jesus had drawn Mary to Himself and now He told her not to cling to His physical presence. Instead, he told her to go and tell His people that He was going to ascend to heaven. She was given the honor of telling the others that the Lord would return to His Father. Even more, she could tell the others that fellowship with God was restored for all believers. Jesus said, “I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God” (John 20:17). In His love, the Lord claimed Mary, causing her to believe in the resurrection. She went and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord and that He had spoken to her.

Questions

1. What time of the day did Mary Magdalene go to the Lord’s tomb? (John 20:1)
2. What did Mary tell Peter and John about the Lord? (John 20:2)
3. Who followed John and went into the tomb? (John 20:6)
4. Why didn’t the disciples first understand the resurrection? (John 20:9)

Lesson 12

Christ, the Son of God

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 21

Scripture: John 20:19-29

Memory Verse: “So Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.’ And when He said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’” (John 20:21-22)

Lesson Truth: The Word of God was confirmed when Jesus arose as the Christ, the Son of God.

Lesson

Today we study the beautiful account of the Lord’s resurrection from the dead and the announcement of His resurrection to the disciples. Jesus chose to announce His resurrection to His disciples by appearing to them and showing them His hands and side. Christ’s resurrection is true because God’s Word said it was true. However, His appearance confirmed the truth of God’s Word. Our lesson not only tells us about the Lord’s resurrection, but also about His commission to his disciples, and His rebuke to Thomas.

You recall from Lesson 11 how Jesus claimed Mary Magdalene with His love and how He showed Himself to her. He also appeared to the two men on the road to Emmaus. Now on the evening of this resurrection day, the Lord chose to appear to the disciples. They were gathered in a room with the doors shut and locked because of fear. Very likely they were discussing the report they heard from Mary that she had seen the Lord. Could it be true that Jesus had risen from the dead? If Jesus had risen from the dead, then they were redeemed. Even more, the whole world was redeemed. Still, the disciples had not yet experienced the joy of the Lord’s victory. They were not ready to bring the good news of the Lord’s resurrection to both the Jew and Gentile world. Only the Lord’s grace, through the power of the Holy Spirit, could prepare them for this work. Suddenly, something beyond belief happened. The Lord appeared in their midst even though the doors were closed.

As Jesus stood in the midst of the disciples He said to them, “Peace be with you” (John 20:19). He then showed them His hands and His side to confirm that what God’s Word said was true. God’s Word said that Jesus would rise from the dead. This should have been enough for the disciples. But because of their weak faith Jesus showed them His wounds of the cross. Now they realized that Jesus had indeed been victorious over suffering and death. They realized that Jesus knew all along that He would rise from the dead. They now understood that the Lord suffered voluntarily to atone for the sins of His people. By His grace Jesus showed the disciples that they shared in His victory over sin and death. They could live in communion with Christ. No wonder John records that the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

Then Jesus said to the disciples a second time, “Peace to you!” (John 20:21) This was not just a wish that the disciples could find peace, but it was a gift that Jesus gave to His disciples. They were given peace and because they were given peace, they were now ready to do the work of spreading the news of the resurrection. Jesus then gave them their assignment, which flowed from the assignment the Father had given Him. He told His disciples, “As the Father has sent Me, I also send you” (John 20:21). The Lord then extended His grace even further by breathing on His

disciples and made them ready to receive the Holy Spirit. They would be able to spread the news of the Lord's resurrection to the ends of the earth because He had empowered them with the Holy Spirit. We can rejoice today that the Word of God that the disciples carried to the ends of the earth has been kept for us. The Lord had this Word recorded in the Bible through the Holy Spirit. This Word continues to have the power to bring mankind to repentance and forgiveness, or it condemns them. Sadly, when the Lord showed Himself to His disciples in that closed room, Thomas was not with them. But it was even more tragic that Thomas did not believe God's Word, or the testimony of the other disciples. When they told Him that Jesus had appeared to them; Thomas said, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe" (John 20:25). Thankfully Jesus was also willing to show His grace to Thomas.

Eight days later, the disciples again gathered in the room with the doors closed, only this time Thomas was with them. Jesus appeared as He did the first time and again greeted them with His blessing saying, "Peace to you!" (John 20:26). The Lord then asked Thomas to look at His hands and to put his hand into the Lord's side. He then rebuked Thomas with these words: "Do not be unbelieving, but believing" (John 20:27). At the Lord's rebuke, His grace was seen in Thomas as he confessed, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28). Jesus reminded Thomas that he believed because he had seen and touched the Lord. He then added a warning for believers of all ages saying, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believed" (John 20:29). We must be ready to believe that Jesus is the Christ because God's Word says that He is.

Questions

1. What time of the day did Jesus appear to the disciples? (John 20:19)
2. What did Jesus show the disciples to indicate that He was the Lord? (John 20:20)
3. What did Jesus say to the disciples a second time before He commissioned them? (John 20:21)
4. What did the Lord commission His disciples to do regarding church discipline? (John 20:23)

Lesson 13

His Bond to this Life

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 22

Scripture: John 21

Memory Verse: “He said to him the third time, ‘Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?’ Peter was grieved because He said to him a third time, ‘Do you love Me?’ And he said to Him, ‘Lord, You know all things ; You know that I love You. ’Jesus said to him, ‘Feed My sheep.’” (John 21:17)

Lesson Truth: Christ Jesus continued His association with His people even after He rose from the dead.

Lesson

For the third time after His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples at the Sea of Tiberias. However, He did more than just appear to His disciples. He also revealed to them what He would always be to His people even after He ascended. The Lord indicated that He could bless the everyday work of His followers. He could draw His people to Him with His enticing love. The Lord also made it known that He is the sovereign ruler over the lives of believers.

It had been some weeks since Jesus appeared to His disciples after His resurrection. The Lord had indicated that He would see His disciples in Galilee. For that reason, they returned to Galilee to wait for the Redeemer at the sea of Tiberias. As they waited Simon Peter decided to go fishing and when he mentioned this to some of the other disciples; they agreed to go with Him. These veteran fishermen fished all night and did not catch a thing. Then when they came close to shore in the morning light, they saw a stranger on the shore. He asked them if they had any fish to fry. When they told Him they had none; He suggested that they cast their net on the other side of the boat. Imagine their surprise when they saw the net filled with so many fish that it nearly broke. Immediately, when John saw the catch of fish, he said to Peter, “It is the Lord” (John 21:7).

When Peter realized that the Lord was on the shore, he put on his outer garment and swam to shore. The other disciples continued to struggle with the net and the huge catch of fish. As the fishing party came to shore, they saw that Jesus had a fire of coals on which He was frying some fish. When the Lord asked for some of their fish to fry, Peter went out and dragged the net to shore. It was then that they realized the blessing that Christ had brought on their work. They counted 153 large fish in the net. The Lord then invited the disciples to eat breakfast. All the while, the disciples were afraid to ask if He was truly the Lord. Yet they knew that He was the Redeemer, because only the Redeemer could bring such a blessing to their work. Now they knew that the risen Lord controlled all things by His sovereign hand!

As the disciples gathered in a circle to have breakfast, the Lord Jesus addressed Peter. He said to him, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?” Peter answered, “Yes, Lord, You know that I love You.” Jesus said to Peter, “Feed My lambs” (John 21:15). Then the Lord asked Peter a second time; “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?” Again, Peter answered, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.” Jesus said to Peter, “Tend My Sheep” (John 21:16). It was nearly embarrassing when the Lord asked Peter a third time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?” Peter was hurt that the Lord asked him a third time if he loved Him. So, he answered with emphasis, “Lord You know all things; You know that I love You.” Jesus then instructed Peter

one more time with the words, “Feed My sheep” (John 21:17). Being questioned three times by the Lord Jesus reminded Peter of the three times that he denied the Lord. Yet he knew that this was the way that Christ showed His love and reinstated him to the office of apostle. Although Jesus addressed Peter, His questions about love for Him was for all the disciples. Jesus asked for their love just like a bridegroom asks for the love of his bride.

Jesus then warned Peter that as a disciple of the Lord he would suffer, even dying a cruel death. Still, the Lord commanded Peter to follow Him. Peter then did something very human, he showed that he was worried about the duties of another apostle. He saw John and asked Jesus if he would also need to suffer. The Lord then corrected Peter by saying, “If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you?” He then once again commanded Peter, “You follow Me” (John 21:22). The Lord Jesus indicated that He is the sovereign ruler over the lives of His people. He remained bound to the associations of this life even after His resurrection.

Questions

1. Who was with Thomas, Nathaniel, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples waiting for Jesus? (John 21:2)
2. With whom did these disciples say they would go fishing? (John 21:3)
3. What did Jesus ask the disciples when they came to shore? (John 21:5)
4. What did Jesus instruct the disciples to do so they would catch fish? (John 21:6)

