

Promise and Deliverance

Student Workbook

Volume 19
Level 1

Harvey De Groot

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Preface

When S.G. De Graaf wrote his four-volume series, *Promise and Deliverance*, he showed educators how to teach Bible stories from a redemptive-historical perspective. Rather than turning Bible stories into moralistic tales, De Graaf taught us how all the Bible shows God revealing himself as the God of the covenant, who is working out His redemptive plan for humanity and all of creation.

The 80 workbooks written by Harvey De Groot are meant to supplement De Graaf's work. They are divided by volume and level number: 20 volumes with four levels per volume. Workbook lessons are written at four levels so that families with students in various grades can study the same Bible stories during the week in preparation for their classes on Sunday. Prior to class, the Sunday School teacher should study the lesson in De Graaf's book. The teacher and students can go through the workbook during class.

The levels are divided according to the following grades:

- **Level One:** Grades K-1
- **Level Two:** Grades 2-3
- **Level Three:** Grades 4-6
- **Level Four:** Grades 7-8

Each volume contains 12 or 13 lessons, and each lesson has the following sections:

- **Reference:** The volume and lesson number in De Graaf's series.
- **Scripture:** The passage from Scripture on which the lesson is based.
- **Memory Verse:** A memory verse related to the lesson.
- **Lesson Truth:** A short statement to help the class focus on the main point of the lesson.
- **Lesson:** The lesson itself, which the teacher can read in class. For older grades, the teacher may opt to assign it as homework.
- **Questions:** Items to be discussed in class. For older grades, the teacher can assign these questions as homework but should also use them as a basis for class discussion. These are not the only questions that could or should be asked. Teachers should encourage students to come with their own questions as well.

This edition was written by Harvey De Groot and edited by his son Norlan De Groot.

Exalted as King

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 23

Scripture: Acts 1:4-14

Memory Verse: “But you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” (Acts 1:5b)

Lesson Truth: Jesus was taken up to heaven. He is our exalted King.

Lesson

We are going to learn about a special baptism. John the Baptist baptized God’s people with water. But God made a promise to the disciples. He promised that they would be baptized with the Holy Spirit. The disciples did not understand that kind of baptism. They did not know that baptism would make them ready to work in God’s Kingdom. They thought that Israel would be God’s Kingdom. But the disciples had to learn that God is the ruler. Only God knows how His Kingdom grows. Jesus reminded the disciples about God’s promise. He did this just before He was taken up to heaven.

A number of times Jesus showed Himself to His disciples after He arose. Now it was forty days after He came back from the dead. The disciples were all together in Jerusalem. Jesus knew that He was going to be taken up to heaven. Jesus talked to His disciples before He went to heaven. He told them to wait in Jerusalem. They had to wait for the promise from God. God promised that they would have a special baptism. Their baptism would not be the same as John’s baptism. John baptized with water. But the disciples would be baptized with the Holy Spirit.

The disciples did not understand this special baptism. They thought it was about getting ready for God’s Kingdom. But sadly, they thought that Israel was God’s Kingdom. The disciples did not know that God’s Kingdom is for all nations. They did not know that God’s Kingdom is in the hearts of

believers. Jesus had to tell them that only the Father knows about His Kingdom. Only God knows who is in His Kingdom.

Jesus told the disciples that God would use them to build His Kingdom. They would be used after they were baptized with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit would give them power to tell about Jesus. Then they would tell about Jesus in Jerusalem. They would also tell about Him in Judea and Samaria. The Holy Spirit would give them power to tell the whole world about Jesus.

Jesus finished telling the disciples about the Holy Spirit's power. Then a wonderful thing happened. He was taken up to heaven. The disciples watched as He went to heaven. Jesus went into a cloud so the disciples could no longer see Him. Now they had to live by what they believed. They could no longer live by what they saw. You and I must also live by what we believe. We must live by faith in Jesus.

Something amazing happened when the disciples were watching. Two men in white clothes stood with them. Do you know what they told the disciples? They said that Jesus would come back some day. He would come back the same way that He went up to heaven. Isn't that a beautiful promise? Jesus is going to come back. He will come back to take His people to heaven. Do you believe in this Jesus?

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. It was (forty – sixty) days after Jesus arose that He came to His disciples in Jerusalem.
2. Jesus told (the women – His disciples) to wait in Jerusalem for a special baptism.
3. The (disciples –Pharisees) had to wait for the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

4. The (Redeemer – Holy Spirit) would give the disciples power to tell others about Jesus.

5. Two men in white clothes told the (Jews – disciples) that Jesus would come back the same way that He went up to heaven.

The Organization of the Church

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 24

Scripture: Acts 1:15-26

Memory Verse: “This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.” (Acts 2:32)

Lesson Truth: The church must be organized by following God’s Word. The Holy Spirit will guide the church if it follows God’s Word.

Lesson

“Organize” means to arrange or set up. The church of Christ Jesus had to be set up. This meant that it needed leaders. The apostles were the leaders. They had to tell the story of Jesus rising from the dead. Jesus told His twelve apostles that they should be His witnesses. Jesus promised that He would send His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit would give the disciples power to tell His story.

Sadly, one of the apostles was missing. This apostle was Judas. He was the one who betrayed Jesus. The other apostles were in Jerusalem. They were with the other followers of Jesus. All the believers were waiting at Jerusalem. They were waiting for the Holy Spirit. Do you know what happened while they waited? They thought about the missing apostle.

Peter stood up and reminded them about the missing apostle. He reminded them that David told about this missing apostle. In the Psalms, David said that Judas would betray Jesus. He said that Judas would hang himself. But David also told the church what had to be done. The church had to find a man to take the place of the missing apostle. The office of apostle could not be empty.

Do you know what Jesus’ followers did? They looked for men to take the place of Judas. The followers of Jesus were the church. They needed men

that had been with Jesus. They would need to tell the story of Jesus. That is why they wanted men that knew about Jesus' baptism. They had to know about Jesus' teaching and His rising from the dead. The man chosen to replace Judas would be the Lord's witness. Thankfully the believers found two men who had been with Jesus. They were Joseph and Matthias.

Which of these two men did the Lord want to be His apostle? The believers prayed that the Lord would show them. They said that the Lord knew the hearts of everyone. That is why they wanted Him to show them who He chose. The disciples then cast lots. Casting lots is a way to select one out of two. They asked that God would direct the lot to the right man. The lot pointed to Matthias. Now the disciples knew the man of God's choosing. Matthias became the new apostle. He took the place of Judas.

This little church in Jerusalem is an example for us. The church today must follow that example. They must do things according to God's Word. They must also pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. God's Word and His Spirit will keep the church strong. Will you pray for your church?

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. The missing apostle was (Judas – Peter).
2. The apostle (John – Peter) reminded the believers of what David said about Judas.
3. The church wanted a man that (knew – did not know) about Jesus, to be His apostle.
4. The disciples found two men that could be apostles, they were Joseph and (Matthew – Matthias).
5. When the lots were cast the lot pointed to (Matthias – Joseph).

The Spirit of Communion

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 25

Scripture: Acts 2

Memory Verse: “And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” (Acts 2:21)

Lesson Truth: The Holy Spirit was poured into the hearts of the disciples. It filled God’s people with His love.

Lesson

The Holy Spirit lives in the hearts of believers. How did the Holy Spirit come upon the disciples? Acts 2 tells about the coming of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit came when the disciples were waiting. He came with signs from heaven. The Holy Spirit gave the disciples the power to speak other languages. The people were amazed to hear the disciples speak in their own language. Peter told the people that the Spirit was the Spirit of Christ. Many people believed. The believers started a new fellowship.

It was the day of Pentecost. Many religious Jews came to Jerusalem for the feast. The disciples were also in Jerusalem. They were waiting for the Holy Spirit. Jesus promised that He would send His Holy Spirit. It was ten days after Jesus went up to heaven. The disciples had waited all this time.

Suddenly, the disciples heard a sound. It was the sound of a rushing mighty wind. Then they also saw tongues of fire. A tongue of fire rested on each disciple. They were then filled with the Holy Spirit. An amazing thing happened. Each of the disciples began to speak a different language. The Holy Spirit told them what to say.

The people in Jerusalem were amazed. Each one heard the disciples speak in their own language. How could this be? The disciples were men from Galilee.

They did not know other languages. Some of the people wondered what happened. Others thought that the disciples drank too much wine.

The apostle Peter stood up. He began to speak to the people. He told them that the disciples were not drunk. Instead, the Holy Spirit had come upon them. It happened just like the prophet Joel said it would. Years before, the prophet Joel said that God would pour out His Spirit on all flesh. This meant that God's Spirit was for all who believed. The Holy Spirit was for people of every nation.

Peter also told the people that the Holy Spirit was from Christ Jesus. This was the same Jesus who was crucified. This was the Jesus who arose from the dead. He was the Jesus that David spoke about in the Psalms. David said that Jesus would sit at God's right hand. Some of the people were afraid. They were afraid because Jesus had been crucified. They asked Peter and the other disciples what they should do. Peter told them to repent. If they repented, they could be baptized.

Do you know what happened? Three thousand people repented. These people were baptized in the name of Jesus. They became a new fellowship. This new group of believers shared everything they had. They even sold their possessions so they could share. They gave to anyone that had a need. This was the excitement of Pentecost. It was the day when God poured out His Spirit. He poured His Spirit on people of every nation.

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. The (Jews – disciples) were in Jerusalem waiting for the promised Holy Spirit.
2. The disciples heard a sound of mighty rushing (water – wind).
3. A tongue of (fire – smoke) rested on each one of the disciples.

4. The apostle (John – Peter) told the people that the prophet Joel said that God would pour out His Spirit on all flesh.

5. On the day of Pentecost (300 – 3000) people repented and were baptized in Jesus' name.

Revealed to Jerusalem

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 26

Scripture: Acts 3:1–4:31

Memory Verse: “The stone which the builder rejected has become the chief cornerstone.” (Psalm 118:22)

Lesson Truth: The Lord Jesus was made known to the people of Jerusalem. He is the One who rose from the dead. He will live forever.

Lesson

Jesus told His disciples that they would be His witnesses. They would tell about Jesus in Jerusalem. They would tell about Him to the whole world. Do you know what the disciples would say about Jesus? They would say that all things are possible because Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus rose from the dead just like the Bible said He would. The rulers in Israel were angry because Peter and John spoke about Jesus. Still, God gave the disciples the power of His Holy Spirit. This made them bold to speak about Jesus.

How did Jesus become known in Jerusalem? It happened one day when Peter and John went to the temple. They were going to pray at the time of prayer. They went into the temple at the gate named Beautiful. At this gate they saw a beggar. He was lame since he was born. So, each day they brought him to the temple to beg. This beggar asked Peter and John for money. Then something amazing happened.

Peter told the man that he did not have any silver or gold. He said that he would give him something better than gold. Do you know what he gave him? He told him to stand up and walk. The man did more than stand up. He also leaped around and walked into the temple. How could this happen? Peter said that it could happen in the name of Jesus. Only the risen Lord Jesus could make the lame man walk.

Peter also said that Jesus rose from the dead. He arose like the Bible said He would. The Bible said that Jesus would be crucified. It said that He would rise from the dead. And it said that He would go up to heaven. The Bible says that Jesus is alive in heaven. He will live forever and ever. Jesus became known in Jerusalem when the lame man was healed. He was made known when Peter spoke about Him.

The rulers in Israel did not like to have Peter speak about Jesus. They did not want the people to believe that Jesus arose. Do you know what the rulers did? They put Peter and John in jail. They kept them there overnight. The next day the rulers brought them to the high priests. There they asked them a very important question. They asked by what power and by what name they made the lame man walk.

In answer to their question, Peter told them about Jesus. He told them that it was in the name of Jesus Christ that the lame man could walk. It was in the name of Jesus, whom they crucified, that the man was healed. What could the rulers do? The lame man was walking. They decided to bully the disciples. They told them not to speak in Jesus' name. But Peter and John asked them if they should listen to the rulers or to God. They said they had to tell about the things they had seen and heard.

Later, Peter and John found the other believers. They told them what happened. Then all the believers prayed. They asked God to help the disciples become bold. They wanted to be bold to tell about Jesus. This was the way that Jesus was made known in Jerusalem. He is the risen Lord. He will live forever!

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. Peter and John went to the (tabernacle – temple) to pray.
2. A (Pharisee – beggar) was at the gate asking for gifts and money.

3. Peter said that it was in the name of (Jesus – Peter) that the lame man was healed.
4. The (rulers – believers) in Israel did not like to have Peter tell about the risen Jesus.
5. The (Pharisees – believers) asked God to make the disciples bold so they could tell about the risen Jesus.

A Holy Fellowship

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 27

Scripture: Acts 4:32–5:11

Memory Verse: “You have not lied to men but to God.” (Acts 5:4c)

Lesson Truth: The Holy Spirit lived in the hearts of the believers in Jerusalem. The Spirit made the believers into a holy fellowship.

Lesson

Do you know what a holy fellowship is? A fellowship is a group of people that care for one another. A holy fellowship is a group of believers. These believers believed in the risen Lord Jesus. A holy fellowship of believers lived in Jerusalem. These believers loved one another. They cared for one another. The Holy Spirit lived in their hearts. It was sad that one husband and wife did not have the Holy Spirit. They tried to lie to the Holy Spirit. Something terrible happened to this couple.

About 5000 people were in the holy fellowship in Jerusalem. They shared the same faith. They believed in the risen Lord Jesus. These believers cared so much for each other that they shared everything. Those who owned land or houses shared with those who didn't. Some of them sold their land and brought the money to the apostles. The apostles then used this money to help others. The people did this because the Holy Spirit lived in their hearts.

One man was very generous. His name was Joses or Joseph. He was probably the first one to sell his land. He was likely the first one to bring the money to the apostles. Because he was so generous, the apostles gave him a new name. They called him Barnabas. Barnabas meant Son of Encouragement. Wasn't that a wonderful name? Barnabas was filled with the Holy Spirit.

A couple named Ananias and Sapphira were part of this fellowship. They did not have the Holy Spirit. They tried to lie to the apostles and to the Holy

Spirit. They wanted the apostles to honor them like they honored Barnabas. But they did not want to give all their money. So, they decided to lie. They sold their land and kept part of the money. They pretended that they brought all of the money to the apostles.

The Holy Spirit helped Peter know what this couple did. Peter asked Ananias why Satan had filled his heart. He asked him why he lied to the Holy Spirit. Peter reminded him that he did not need to sell his land. He did not need to bring the money for the land to the apostles. But he should not pretend that he gave everything if he didn't. Peter told Ananias that he did not lie to men but to God. It is terrible to lie to God.

Do you know what happened to Ananias? He fell down and died. Later, his wife, Sapphira, came to Peter. Peter asked her about the land and the money. Sadly, Sapphira told the same lie as her husband. Peter asked her why she and her husband had agreed to lie. He asked her why they agreed to test the Spirit of the Lord. Then Sapphira also died. This made the people of the holy fellowship afraid.

But they did not have to fear. They just had to remember that they were a holy fellowship. The Lord did away with the ones who lied. Now this fellowship could grow. People of every nation would become part of this fellowship. This holy fellowship began in Jerusalem. Later, it spread to all of Israel and then to the whole world.

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. About (5000 – 3000) people were in the holy fellowship in Jerusalem.
2. The people of this holy fellowship (kept – shared) everything they owned.
3. Probably (Ananias – Barnabas) was the first man to sell his land to share with others.

4. Ananias and Sapphira (agreed – did not agree) to lie to the apostles and the Holy Spirit.

5. Sadly (Hannah – Sapphira) told the same lie as her husband told.

Jerusalem Filled with His Name

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 28

Scripture: Acts 5:12–6:7

Memory Verse: “We ought to obey God rather than men.” (Acts 5:29b)

Lesson Truth: The Holy Spirit filled Jerusalem with Jesus’ name.

Lesson

The number of believers grew in Jerusalem. The apostles were teaching in the name of Jesus. The Jewish leaders did not like this. They wanted the people to forget Jesus. These leaders put the apostles in jail. They wanted them to stop teaching about Jesus. But no one can stop the work of God’s Holy Spirit. One of the leaders wondered if Jesus’ followers were of God. Sadly, he did not really believe that they were from God. Even though the apostles were beaten they were filled with joy. They were happy that they were worthy to suffer for Jesus’ name.

The apostles healed sick people and told them about Jesus. The group of believers became bigger and bigger. This made the Jewish leaders angry. They did not want the people to follow Jesus or His apostles. Do you know what they did? They put the apostles in jail. The leaders thought that they could stop the Lord’s work. But they couldn’t stop it. The Lord sent His angel to the apostles at night. This angel opened the doors of the jail. He told the apostles to teach in the temple again.

The Jewish leaders had a meeting the next morning. At the meeting, they learned that the apostles were no longer in jail. Someone told them the apostles were teaching at the temple. The leaders then brought the apostles to their meeting. They asked them if they remembered that they were not to teach in Jesus’ name. Peter talked for the apostles. He said to the leaders, “We ought to obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29b). Peter told them that

they had killed Jesus. He said that Jesus was in heaven. He said that Jesus could forgive the sins of sinners who repent.

Peter's words made the leaders very, very angry. They did not want to hear about Jesus. They complained that the apostles filled Jerusalem with Jesus' name. Now they planned to kill the apostles.

But one of the leaders said that they should wait. He talked about God's blessing. He reminded the leaders about man's work and God's work. If the apostles were doing man's work, it would die. If they were doing God's work nothing could stop it. The other leaders listened to this man. They did not kill the apostles. But they did beat them and tell them not to teach in Jesus' name.

The apostles rejoiced because they were beaten. They thought it was an honor to suffer for Jesus' name. Now the group of believers grew even bigger. This made the apostles very busy. They could not help the widows who needed help. Do you know what they did? They asked the believers to find seven honest men to help them. The believers found the seven honest men. Then they helped the widows and the apostles taught about Jesus. This is the way Jerusalem became filled with Jesus' name.

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. The (apostles – Jewish leaders) healed the sick people and told them about Jesus.
2. The (group of believes – Jewish leaders) put the apostles in jail.
3. The Jewish leaders reminded the apostles that they were told not to teach in (Peter's – Jesus') name.

4. The apostle (John – Peter) said to the Jewish leaders, “We ought to obey God rather than men.”

5. The Jewish leaders then planned to (kill – help) the apostles until one leader spoke.

In Newness of the Spirit

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 29

Scripture: Acts 6:8–8:4

Memory Verse: “And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God saying, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’” (Acts 7:59)

Lesson Truth: The believers at Jerusalem were given a new spirit. This made their service to God a blessing.

Lesson

What is newness of the Spirit? It is the new way the Spirit works in people’s hearts. The book of Acts tells us about Stephen. The Spirit worked in Stephen’s heart in a new way. The Spirit’s work in Stephen’s heart was different than in Abraham’s or David’s. The Spirit worked in Stephen’s heart to warn God’s chosen people. He had to warn them that God was greater than the temple.

Who was Stephen? Stephen was one of the believers in Jerusalem. He was one of the faithful men chosen to help the widows. The Bible says that he was full of faith and power. Stephen did great wonders and signs among the people. But this made some of the people upset. They thought that Stephen was doing wrong. So they argued with Stephen. But these people found out that he was very wise. They found out that Stephen spoke with love in his heart. What could these bad people do about Stephen?

Do you know what they did? They found men to lie about Stephen. These people said that Stephen spoke evil about Moses and about God. They also said that he spoke evil against the temple. This was not true. These bad people did not like to have Stephen tell about Jesus. They said they heard him say that Jesus would destroy the temple and that Jesus would change the teachings of Moses.

Then the high priest asked Stephen if this was true. Stephen reminded the people about Israel's history. He reminded them how God talked to Abraham and David. He reminded them how God led His people. God brought His people into Egypt. He also delivered them from Egypt. God showed that He would live with His people. He told them how to make a tabernacle. He would live with them in the tabernacle.

Later, David asked God if he could build a temple. This temple would take the place of the tabernacle. Solomon built the temple that David planned. Then a sad thing happened. The people believed that God lived only in the temple. Stephen reminded them that God does not live in a temple made with hands. God lives in the hearts of His people. He also reminded them of the Lord's words to Isaiah. The Lord said, "Heaven is My throne and the earth is My footstool" (Isaiah 66:1).

Stephen knew that God would live in the hearts of people from every nation. He then said that the bad men did not listen to the Holy Spirit. They also rejected the prophets and put Jesus to death. When Stephen said this, it made these men very angry. They threw Stephen out of Jerusalem. They started throwing stones at him. While the people threw stones, Stephen looked up to heaven. He saw God's glory. He also saw Jesus standing at God's right hand. Stephen prayed that God would take his spirit to heaven. He also asked God not to charge the people with sin for stoning him. Then Stephen died.

A young man named Saul was there. He looked after the clothes when they stoned Stephen. Saul also hurt the believers. He helped put some of them in jail. God allowed other people to harm the believers. He did this so they fled to many different places in the world. And the believers told about Jesus wherever they went. That is the way the gospel was spread.

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. Stephen was one of the (unbelievers – believers) in Jerusalem.

2. Bad people found men to (boast – lie) about Stephen.
3. Stephen said that (David – Solomon) asked God if he could build a temple.
4. The bad men threw (Saul – Stephen) out of Jerusalem and threw stones at him until he died.
5. A young man named (Peter – Saul) looked after the clothes when they stoned Stephen.

Victory over Magic

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 30

Scripture: Acts 8:5-25

Memory Verse: “Then they laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 8:17)

Lesson Truth: The believers at Samaria were given the Holy Spirit. Through the Holy Spirit they were set free from the magic of Simon.

Lesson

What is magic? Magic is pretending. It is pretending to make something happen by a secret saying. The story from Acts 8 is about a victory over magic. The Holy Spirit won the victory over the magic of Simon. This happened in the city of Samaria.

Jesus’ followers were being treated very badly in Jerusalem. Some of them were caught and put in jail. This made the Lord’s followers leave Jerusalem. One of the Lord’s followers that left Jerusalem was Philip. He went to the city of Samaria. At Samaria, God used Philip in a wonderful way. Philip told the people of Samaria about Jesus. He also healed many people. Philip even sent evil spirits out of some of the people.

An amazing thing happened when Philip preached. Whole crowds of people believed his message about Jesus. Do you know why this was amazing? It was amazing because these people had been following a man who did magic. This man was Simon. Simon pretended that he had power from God. But all he really did was some magic tricks. That is why it was a surprise that these people believed Philip. They believed what he told them about Jesus.

Many of these men and women who believed were baptized. They were baptized in Jesus’ name. Even Simon the magic man said that he believed.

He was also baptized. But later Peter had to tell Simon that his heart was not right with God.

The apostles in Jerusalem heard about Samaria. They heard that Philip told the people about Jesus. So, they decided to send Peter and John to Samaria. Peter and John would pray for the people of Samaria. They would pray that they might have the Holy Spirit. The apostles prayed for the Holy Spirit to come on the people of Samaria. Peter and John also laid their hands on the people. Then a wonderful thing happened. The Holy Spirit filled the hearts of the people of Samaria.

After that, a sad thing happened. Simon the magic man saw what happened when the apostles prayed. He said that he would give them money for this power. Simon wanted to buy the power of the Holy Spirit. But the power of the Holy Spirit is a gift from God. This power cannot be bought.

Do you know what Peter told Simon? He said that his money should be destroyed with him. Why should both Simon and his money be destroyed? Because Simon thought that he could buy God's gift of the Holy Spirit with money. But Peter also told Simon to repent. He told him to ask God to forgive his wicked thoughts.

Simon asked the apostles to pray for him. Then the apostles went back to Jerusalem. They stopped in villages of Samaria along the way. They told about Jesus, the Redeemer, at these villages. Isn't that a beautiful story? It is the story about the Holy Spirit winning the victory over magic. Now the people in Samaria also knew about the Lord's grace.

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. At (Jerusalem – Samaria) God used Philip to tell the people about Jesus.
2. The man who did magic tricks in Samaria was (Peter – Simon).

3. Many people of Samaria believed what (Peter – Philip) told them about Jesus.

4. The apostles Peter and (John – Simon) prayed that the people of Samaria could have the gift of the Holy Spirit.

5. It was (Simon – Philip) who thought that he could buy the gift of the Holy Spirit with money.

The Way to the Gentiles

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 31

Scripture: Acts 8:26-40

Memory Verse: “Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.” (John 6:69)

Lesson Truth: The Holy Spirit worked in the hearts of Gentiles. They believed that Jesus was the Son of God. Now both Jews and Gentiles were one in God’s covenant.

Lesson

The story today is a special story. It is a story about the way that God brought Gentiles into His covenant. Now both Jews and Gentiles from every nation are in God’s covenant. Our story tells us how one Gentile heard the gospel. It is about the way that this Gentile came to be in God’s covenant.

In this story, God called Philip for a special task. This was the same Philip who told the people of Samaria about Jesus. Now an angel of the Lord told Philip to do a strange thing. The angel told Philip to go to the road that ran from Jerusalem to Gaza. Philip loved the Lord Jesus. So, he obeyed the angel that talked to him. He went to the road that led to Gaza. When he got to this road, Philip saw a beautiful chariot. The chariot belonged to an official from Ethiopia. This official worked for queen Candace of Ethiopia.

Now God’s Spirit talked to Philip. He told Philip to go to that chariot on the road. Once again Philip obeyed. He caught up with the chariot. Then Philip heard a man in the chariot reading. This was the official from Ethiopia. He was reading from the book of Isaiah. The official had been to Jerusalem to worship. He brought the book of Isaiah along from Jerusalem. He was reading about a sheep that was killed. Yet the sheep kept silent. The sheep never opened its mouth.

Philip asked the official if he understood what he was reading. The official was honest. He asked Philip how he could understand if no one helped him. Then the official asked Philip another question. He asked if Isaiah was telling about himself or someone else. Philip knew the answer to the official's questions. He knew that Isaiah was telling about Jesus.

Philip told the official from Ethiopia all about Jesus. He told him what Isaiah's words meant. Isaiah's words meant that Jesus would suffer. Jesus would suffer like a lamb that was killed. Jesus would also be killed. But He would come back from the dead. Philip told the official that this Jesus was the Redeemer. Jesus was the Redeemer for believers from every nation. He was the Redeemer for a man from Ethiopia.

The official believed the things that Philip told him. He asked Philip if he could be baptized. Philip said that he could be baptized if he believed with all his heart. Then the official gave his beautiful confession. He said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God" (Acts 8:37). Wasn't that a wonderful confession? Now he stopped the chariot. Both he and Philip got out and went to a pool of water. In the pool the official was baptized in Jesus' name. As soon as he was baptized the Spirit took Philip away.

Philip was no longer with the official. But the official was not sad. He went on his way rejoicing. The official knew that Jesus was his Redeemer. This was special because the official was a Gentile. Now he knew that God's covenant was for Jews and Gentiles. You and I also know that God's covenant is for all who believe. Jesus is the Redeemer for believers from every nation. They are in God's covenant.

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. God called (Candace – Philip) for a special task.
2. The official from Ethiopia was reading from the book of (Jeremiah – Isaiah).

3. The official was reading about a (sheep – donkey) that was killed.
4. Philip told the official that Jesus was the (King of Israel – Redeemer).
5. It was (the official – the queen) from Ethiopia that confessed, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God?”

Called to Be a Bearer of the Word

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 32

Scripture: Acts 9:1-30

Memory Verse: “As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven.” (Acts 9:3)

Lesson Truth: The Holy Spirit worked in Saul’s heart. The Holy Spirit changed him. Saul tried to harm the Christians. He was changed to become a bearer of God’s Word.

Lesson

A bearer of God’s Word is someone who preaches the gospel. Saul of Tarsus became a bearer of God’s Word. This was a miracle of God’s grace. It was a miracle because Saul hated the Christians. He tried to stop them from telling about Jesus. He did this until Jesus stopped him on the road to Damascus. Jesus opened Saul’s eyes so he could see God’s grace. The Lord tested Saul to make him ready to be a bearer of His Word.

Saul of Tarsus did not like Christians. He did not want them to tell about the Lord’s grace. Saul thought he could be saved if he did good things. He did not understand that only God’s grace could save people. Saul tried to harm the Christians. He asked the high priest for permission to arrest them. The high priest gave Saul letters of permission to arrest Christians. Now Saul was on his way to Damascus to find Christians. He planned to tie them up and bring them back to Jerusalem.

Saul was near the city of Damascus. Then an amazing thing happened. A light shone on him from heaven. It was a bright light that made Saul fall down. Then he heard a voice. The voice said, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” (Acts 9:4). Saul thought that he was harming Christians. He was also hurting Jesus. He asked, “Who are You, Lord?” Then the Lord said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting” (Acts 9:5). To persecute means

to hurt or harm someone. The Lord said that Saul was harming Him. This made Saul tremble. Then he asked, “Lord, what do You want me to do?” (Acts 9:6).

Jesus told him to go into Damascus and wait. But Saul could not see when he got up. Then his friends led him to the city. He was blind for three days. Saul did not eat or drink while he was blind. What would happen to Saul?

The Lord called one of His disciples. His name was Ananias. He told Ananias to go to Saul. He had to lay his hands on Saul. But Ananias was afraid. He remembered that Saul tried to harm the Christians. Jesus told him that he had chosen Saul for His work. Now Ananias obeyed. He went to Saul and laid his hands on him. Saul was then able to see. He was also filled with the Holy Spirit. So, Saul was baptized and became a Christian. Then he went to the synagogues and taught the people. He told them that Jesus was the Son of God.

The Jews became upset because of Saul’s preaching. They made a plan to kill him. This was the way the Lord tested Saul. Thankfully, some of the Lord’s disciples helped Saul escape. These disciples let Saul down over the city wall in a basket. From there he went to Jerusalem. Sadly, at Jerusalem the disciples were afraid of Saul. They did not believe that he was a disciple. Only one man believed that Saul changed. This man was Barnabas. Barnabas brought Saul to the apostles. He told them what happened to Saul on the road to Damascus.

This is the wonderful story about the work of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit changed Saul of Tarsus. He was changed from harming the Christians to helping them. Saul became a bearer of the Word of the Lord.

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. Saul of Tarsus tried to (help – harm) the Christians.

2. Saul planned to (free – tie up) the Christians and bring them back to Jerusalem.
3. On the road to (Jerusalem – Damascus) a light shone on Saul, so he fell down.
4. Saul heard a voice saying, “Saul, Saul, why are you (persecuting – helping) Me?”
5. The Holy Spirit changed Saul so that he became a (destroyer – bearer) of the Lord’s Word.

Everlasting Life

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 33

Scripture: Acts 9:31-43

Memory Verse: “Oh fear the Lord, you His saints! There is no want to those who fear Him.” (Psalm 34:9)

Lesson Truth: Christ Jesus gives believers everlasting life. He does this through the work of the Holy Spirit.

Lesson

Believers know that Jesus gives them everlasting life. They learn this from the story of a lame man and from the story of Dorcas. These stories took place in Lydda and Joppa. The apostle Peter first went to Lydda. There the Lord healed a lame man. He did this when Peter called on His name. Later Peter went to Joppa. At Joppa the Lord Jesus raised Dorcas from the dead. He did this when Peter prayed.

A wonderful thing happened after Saul became a Christian. The believers were no longer being hurt. The churches where Jesus preached had peace. The believers walked in the fear of the Lord. And the Holy Spirit comforted the believers. The apostles visited many of these churches. The apostle Peter went to visit the believers at Lydda. There he found a man that was sick. This poor man had been in bed for eight years. He was not able to walk. The man's name was Aeneas.

Something amazing happened when Peter visited Aeneas. He told Aeneas that Christ Jesus healed him. He said to Aeneas that he could stand up and make his bed. Do you know what happened? Aeneas did stand up. He stood up after being in bed for eight years. Now the believers knew that Jesus could heal sick people. Aeneas believed that Jesus could heal him. Jesus healed through the work of the Holy Spirit. The people in Lydda saw Aeneas walk

around. They saw the power of the Holy Spirit. This helped many people to believe that Jesus was the Christ.

Believers also lived at Joppa. A sad thing happened at Joppa. A woman named Dorcas died. The people in Joppa loved Dorcas. They loved her because she helped so many people. Dorcas made coats for the widows. She made clothes for those who needed them. The people in Joppa were very sad when Dorcas died. They put her body in an upper room. Some of the believers knew that Peter was at Lydda. So, they sent some men to get him. They thought that he could do something for Dorcas.

Peter came right away. He went to the upper room. The widows were standing by Dorcas' body. They were crying. The widows showed Peter the coats that Dorcas made. They showed him other clothes that she had made. Now Peter knew why they were sad. He told all the people to leave the room. Then Peter got on his knees to pray. He prayed that Christ Jesus would make Dorcas live again.

Then Peter looked at Dorcas' body and told her to get up. Then an amazing thing happened. Dorcas opened her eyes. She looked at Peter, and then she sat up. Peter took her by the hand and brought her to her friends. Now the believers knew that Jesus gave Dorcas life. They knew that Jesus gave everlasting life.

Isn't that a wonderful story? Now we also know that Jesus gives believers everlasting life. We must listen to the Spirit of Jesus. Then we will also win the victory over death. We will live for Jesus because we have everlasting life.

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. The apostle (Paul – Peter) visited the believers at Lydda.
2. A sick man named (Joppa – Aeneas) had been in bed for eight years.

3. The apostle Peter told (Aeneas – Lydda) that Christ Jesus healed him.
4. A wonderful woman named (Joppa – Dorcas) died.
5. The believers knew that (Peter – Jesus) gave Dorcas new life.

The Cleansing of the Gentiles

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 34

Scripture: Acts 10–11

Memory Verse: “He is Lord of all.” (Acts 10:36b)

Lesson Truth: Christ Jesus makes believers of every nation clean. Gentiles and Jews are made clean in His blood. Cleansed believers are included in God’s covenant promise.

Lesson

Do you know what it means to be made spiritually clean? It means that Jesus takes away your sins. Jesus is the Redeemer who paid the price for man’s sin. He paid for the sins of both Jews and Gentiles.

The story today tells how the Lord made a Gentile clean. This Gentile was a Roman soldier. His name was Cornelius. God had to help the Jewish people understand. They had to understand that Gentiles were also His people. God talked to Peter in a vision. He told him not to call anything unclean, that the Lord made clean. Peter had to know that the Lord made Cornelius clean. God also used Peter to help the believers in Jerusalem understand. They had to understand that both Jews and Gentiles are in God’s covenant.

Cornelius was a Roman soldier. He believed that Jesus was the Christ. Cornelius and his family prayed every day. He gave money to help the poor. But Cornelius did not know about God’s covenant promises. He was a Gentile. Could Gentiles be part of God’s covenant promise? God spoke to Cornelius in a vision. He told him to send for Simon Peter. Peter would tell him the story of Jesus. Peter would help him understand that God’s covenant promise was also for Gentiles.

Sadly, Peter believed that God’s covenant promise was only for the Jews. How could he be able to help Cornelius? God made it possible for Peter to

help Cornelius because God taught Peter the truth. He came to Peter in a vision. In his vision, Peter saw a large sheet come down from heaven. In this sheet were animals and birds and creeping things. Then Peter heard a voice. The voice told Peter to eat some of these animals. But Peter didn't want to eat these animals. He said that they were unclean. The Jewish law said they were unclean.

The voice then spoke to Peter again. The voice in his vision told Peter the truth. He said that Peter might not call things unclean that the Lord had made clean. This was the truth about the Gentiles. The Lord made the Gentiles clean. So, Peter might not call them unclean. Peter then went to Cornelius's home. He knew that the Lord had made him clean. So, Peter told him the story of Jesus. He told about the Lord's suffering and death. He also told about Jesus rising from the dead. Now Peter and Cornelius both knew that Gentiles were part of God's covenant promise.

The Jewish believers in Jerusalem still did not know. They did not know that Gentiles were in God's covenant. Peter told these believers about the vision God had shown him. Then they understood that Gentiles were also God's people. The story of Jesus spread to other Gentile churches. Barnabas and Saul told the story of Jesus at Antioch. At Antioch the believers were the first to be called Christians. They were called Christians because they followed Christ. Isn't this a beautiful story? It is the story about the way that God made the Gentiles clean. Gentiles are part of God's covenant family.

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. A man named (Barnabas – Cornelius) was a Gentile Roman soldier.
2. God spoke to this Gentile Roman soldier in a (loud voice – vision).

3. In a vision God showed (Peter – Saul) animals and birds and creeping things in a sheet.

4. A voice in this vision told Peter not to call anything (clean – unclean) that the Lord had made (clean – unclean).

5. Both Jews and (Gentiles – animals) are included in God’s covenant with His people.