

Promise and Deliverance

Student Workbook

Volume 17

Level 2

Harvey De Groot

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Preface

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

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

The levels are divided according to the following grades:

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

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

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

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

Lesson 1
Alone

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 76

Scripture: Luke 23:26-31

Memory Verse: “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.” (Luke 23:28b)

Lesson Truth: Jesus suffered all alone. He suffered that so that His people could know Him again.

Lesson

Pilate, the Roman governor, set Barabbas, the murderer, free. But he gave Jesus to the Jews who wanted to crucify Him. In His suffering on the way to the cross, Jesus was alone. Even though some of the women that knew Him wept for Him, He was alone. He was alone because they did not understand His suffering. They wept about some of the cruelty they saw. But they did not weep for the sins of mankind. The women’s tears were empty because they wept about the wrong things. At the same time Jesus showed His genuine sorrow. His sorrow was for the destruction that would come to unbelievers.

Jesus was given to the Jews to be crucified. The soldiers made Him carry His own cross. But the cross was too heavy for Jesus to carry. So, the soldiers made a man named Simon carry it for Him. Simon was from Cyrene. He did not know Jesus, and he did not want to help Him. He only carried the cross because the soldiers made him do it. It was sad that no one wanted anything to do with Jesus. But the saddest thing of all was that they did not want Jesus in Jerusalem. They did not want the Redeemer in their midst. The people sent their only hope for eternal life out of the city.

A great multitude of people followed Jesus and the soldiers. In that crowd were some women who felt sorry for Jesus. They thought that it was terrible that He struggled under the cross. These women began to weep and mourn for Him. They cried because Jesus was treated very cruelly. But sadly, the women did not really understand what was happening. They did not understand that it was Jesus who could bring God’s grace. This Jesus was being sent away from Jerusalem. Because of their feelings of pity the women did not understand the true rejection of Jesus. For that reason, their tears added to Jesus’ sufferings. Their tears added to His agony because they wept for the wrong reason. Jesus knew that He had to suffer to atone even for their tears.

That is why He stopped and turned to the women. He called them the daughters of Jerusalem. Jesus knew what the daughters of Jerusalem would suffer. Jesus knew that Jerusalem would be destroyed. He knew that it would be a terrible grief for mothers to see the destruction of their children. Even worse they would be lost to God's Kingdom. Because of their sins and rejection of the Redeemer they would be lost forever. The women should weep because of that destruction. That is why Jesus told them not to weep for Him. Instead, they should weep for themselves and for their children. Jesus knew the terrible destruction would come because of their sins. It would be so terrible that the women who never had children would be considered blessed.

Do you know how terrible the suffering would be? It would be so terrible that mothers would cry to have mountains fall on them. They would pray for hills to cover them. Then they would not have to look upon the awful suffering. That was the destruction that Jesus said should cause the women to weep. They should weep because the people rejected God's grace.

Then Jesus said something about green wood and dry wood. Green wood still has life in it, but dry wood is dead. Jesus, who is the green wood, had to suffer. What then would happen to the dry branches, the sinners? They would surely be destroyed. Jesus suffered alone as He went to the cross. He suffered because His people did not understand that sin must be punished. He suffered alone to atone for the sins of His people. Pray that our tears will be because of the sin of mankind. May we know that by His grace, Jesus atoned for our sins!

Questions

Fill in the blanks.

1. "Now as they led Him away, they laid hold of a certain man, _____ a Cyrenian, who was coming from the country, and on him they laid the cross that he might bear it after Jesus." (Luke 23:26)
2. "And a great multitude of the people followed Him, and _____ who also mourned and lamented Him." (Luke 23:27)
3. "But Jesus, turning to them, said, 'Daughters of _____ do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children.'" (Luke 23:28)

4. “For indeed the days are coming in which they will say, _____
are the barren wombs that never bore, and breasts which never nursed!” (Luke
23:29)

5. “Then they will begin to say to the _____ ‘Fall on
us!’ And to the hills, ‘Cover us!’” (Luke 23:30)

6. “For if they do these things in the _____ _____ what
will be done in the dry?” (Luke 23:31)

Lesson 2
His Sacrifice

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 77

Scripture: Luke 23:32-56

Memory Verse: “They also gave me gall for my food, and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.” (Psalm 69:21)

Lesson Truth: Jesus suffered and died to atone for our sins. He offered Himself as a sacrifice for the sins of His people.

Lesson

Jesus is the Lamb of God. He is the Lamb that was sacrificed to atone for the sins of His people. Christ Jesus died for the sins of all believers. Still, in this lesson we learn that He sacrificed Himself for the sins of ignorance and wasted lives. He offered Himself to the Father as the sacrifice for sin. The Father accepted His sacrifice when he rose from the dead.

The Lord Jesus urged the women who followed Him to the cross not to weep for Him. He told them to weep for themselves and for their children. They should weep because God’s judgment was coming. This judgment would be so terrible that mothers would ask the mountains to fall on them. They would ask the hills to cover them. Now Jesus was led with two criminals to the place called Calvary.

At Calvary they crucified the Lord Jesus and the two criminals. The criminals were crucified, one on each side of Jesus. As He and the criminals were crucified, Jesus prayed. He prayed a prayer of deep compassion, saying, “Father forgive them, for they do not know what they do” (Luke 23:34). Truly, the chief priests and elders did not know what they were doing. They should have known because Jesus told them that He was the Redeemer. They should have known what the prophets said about Jesus. But they did not know God’s Word. They were guilty of being ignorant of the truth of God’s Word. Their eyes were blinded because of unbelief. That is why Jesus prayed that the Father would forgive them. Jesus knew that if God would touch them with His grace; they would no longer be ignorant. Then they would know what they were doing. Then they would confess their sin of ignorance and ask for forgiveness.

Jesus knew that the leaders and the people did not know what they were doing. He knew it because they jeered and mocked Him. They said with a sneer, “He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the chosen of God” (Luke 23:35). The soldiers

also mocked Him by giving Him a sour wine to drink. They said, “If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself” (Luke 23:36). Even the sign they put over the cross that said THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS was mocking Him. That is why Jesus prayed for the Father to forgive their ignorance. He wanted them to know He was the Redeemer.

Then one of the criminals joined in mocking Jesus. He talked about the Son of God with hatred, when he said, “If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us” (Luke 23:39). Thankfully the grace of God was also seen. It was seen when the second criminal asked, “Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation?” Then he said with a heart of faith, “Lord remember me when you come into Your kingdom” (Luke 23:40-42). Jesus then answered him with the most beautiful words ever heard. He said, “Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise” (Luke 23:43). Jesus our Lord and Redeemer sacrificed Himself to save the wasted life of this criminal. He offered Himself as the sacrifice for the sins of His people.

As Jesus hung on the cross, darkness covered the earth for three hours. The veil of the temple was torn from the top to the bottom. This showed that the sacrifices of animals had come to an end. Jesus was the sacrifice for the sins of His people. Then in the moment of His death, Jesus offered Himself to His Father. He said, “Father into Your hands I commit My spirit” (Luke 23:46). He was the perfect, obedient sacrifice for sin. The Lord’s death was so unusual that the Roman centurion glorified God. He said, “Certainly this was a righteous Man!” (Luke 23:47).

For three days, Jesus’ body waited in the grave. He was in the grave where Joseph had placed Him. Joseph was a member of the council and a believer. He took the Lord’s body down from the cross and put it in a new tomb. After three days, the Father raised Jesus from the dead. His resurrection showed that the Father accepted the Lord’s sacrifice. Now, Jesus again communed with His Father. His sacrifice made it possible for us to commune with God in Jesus’ name.

Questions

Fill in the blanks.

1. “There were also two others, _____ led with Him to be put to death.” (Luke 23:32)
2. “And when they had come to the place called _____ there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right and the other on the left.” (Luke 23:33)

3. “Then Jesus said, ‘Father _____ them, for they do not know what they do.’” (Luke 23:34a)

4. “The _____ also mocked Him, coming and offering Him sour wine, and saying, ‘If You are the King of the Jews save Yourself.’” (Luke 23:36-37)

5. “And Jesus said to him, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, _____ you will be with Me in Paradise.’” (Luke 23:43)

6. “And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said ‘ _____ into Your hands I commit My spirit.’” (Luke 23:46)

Lesson 3

The Redemption of Life

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 3, Lesson 78

Scripture: Luke 24

Memory Verse: “When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.” (John 20:20)

Lesson Truth: Jesus rose from the dead on the third day. The risen Lord is the Redeemer of life.

Lesson

Christ Jesus is our Lord and Redeemer! When He was raised from the dead, He redeemed human life. The Lord Jesus is the Redeemer of all believers. His disciples could hardly believe that Jesus came back from the dead. To assure the disciples that He rose from the dead, He showed them His hands and feet. Jesus told His disciples that they were His witnesses. As His witnesses, they were called to tell the story of His resurrection to all nations. Jesus then ascended into heaven. In heaven He makes it possible for believers to have new life in Him.

Joseph of Arimathea had placed Jesus’ body in a new tomb. Now on the first day of the week something unbelievable happened. Some women went to Jesus’ tomb to anoint His body with spices. When they came to the tomb the huge stone was rolled away from the entrance. When they looked in, they could not find the Lord’s body. Just as the women were wondering what to do, they saw two men. These men were in shining garments. They were angels sent to talk to the women. This made the women so afraid that they didn’t dare to look. The angels then asked the women, “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” (Luke 24:5). Then they told the women something they could hardly believe. They said that Jesus was not in the tomb because He was alive. To help the women believe that Jesus was really alive they told the women to remember what Jesus said to them. Jesus had said, “The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again” (Luke 24:7). Then the women remembered Jesus’ words. So, they hurried back to Jerusalem to tell the other followers of Jesus. When the others heard the women, they thought they made up a story. But Peter ran to the tomb to check.

Later that day, two of the Lord’s followers were going to the village of Emmaus. As they walked and talked, a stranger joined them. He asked them why they were so sad as

they talked. The men could not believe that He hadn't heard about Jesus' crucifixion. They told Him about their hopes that Jesus would redeem Israel. But now their hopes were crushed. Then they also told Him about the report they heard from the women that Jesus was alive. But they did not believe it.

Then the stranger, who was Jesus, told the men how foolish they were. He felt hurt that they were so slow of heart to believe what the prophets had said. Then Jesus reminded them of everything the Scriptures had said about the coming Redeemer. By that time, they were at Emmaus and Jesus was going to go on. But the men urged Him to stay with them for the night. Jesus agreed to stay with them, and they sat down eat. Jesus then took some bread and blessed it and broke it. As He gave it to the men something wonderful happened. Their eyes were opened, and they knew it was Jesus who ate with them. At that instant the Lord disappeared. Immediately the men rushed back to Jerusalem to tell the others. Imagine their surprise when the others told them that Jesus was alive. He was alive because Simon Peter had seen Him. Then the men from Emmaus told what had happened to them.

As they were talking, Jesus suddenly appeared. He greeted them with words of peace. But the whole group was terrified. They thought that they were seeing a ghost. Jesus asked them why they were troubled and why they doubted. He told them to look at His hands and feet. He even told them to touch Him to show that He had bones and flesh. He was not a ghost! He was the Lord Jesus their Redeemer! He had truly arisen from the dead. Jesus had won the victory over sin and death. The power of death was broken. Now believers would not perish but would have eternal life!

Jesus then showed His grace as He opened their eyes. Now they could understand the Scriptures as He told them what the God's Word said. Jesus told His followers that they were His witnesses. They were the ones who had to preach the message of repentance and forgiveness. His followers had to bring this message to every nation. Still they had to begin to share this message in Jerusalem. Before Jesus ascended into heaven He promised them God's power from on high. His followers were to wait in Jerusalem for this power from God's Spirit. The Lord then went up to heaven to present His sacrifice for sin to His Father. Because Jesus arose from the dead, He has become the Redeemer of life!

Questions

Fill in the blanks.

1. "Then they were _____ and bowed their faces to the earth, they said to them, 'Why do you seek the living among the dead?'" (Luke 24:5)

2. “He is not here, but is _____! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee.” (Luke 24:6)
3. “Now behold two of them were traveling that same day to a village called _____ which was seven miles from Jerusalem.” (Luke 24:13)
4. “Then He said to them, ‘O _____ and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!’” (Luke 24:25)
5. “And he said to them, ‘Why are you _____? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself.’” (Luke 24:38-39a)
6. “Then he said to them, ‘Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the _____ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning in Jerusalem.’” (Luke 24:46-47)

Lesson 4
The True Light

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 1

Scripture: John 1:1-34

Memory Verse: “In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.” (John 1:4-5)

Lesson Truth: Jesus is the True Light. He is the Light, which gives light to every man coming into the world.

Lesson

We all need light to see where we are going. Without light we stumble and fall. Without light we are in darkness. Real darkness is to be separated from God. The Gospel of John tells us that Jesus was the true light. Jesus is the light that shines in the darkness of separation from God. He is the Word of God that became a man. Jesus is the King that Isaiah told about. He is the Lamb of God that lived with His people. Sadly, His people did not know that Jesus was the Redeemer.

John wanted the people to know who Jesus was. He told them that Jesus was the Word of God. This meant that He was God’s message to men. Jesus was in the beginning. He was the Creator that made everything. John said that life came from Jesus. This life that came from Jesus was the light of men. And this is the light that shines in the darkness. Mankind was in darkness when he fell into sin. This caused him to be separate from God. Jesus is the light that lights the way back to God. John the Baptist said that Jesus was the True Light.

Then John told us something very sad. He told us that Jesus was the Light that made the whole world. But the people in the world did not know Him. John said that Jesus came to God’s people. These who were people in God’s covenant, but they did not receive Jesus. Still, God showed His grace because others did receive Jesus. Those who received Jesus were given the right to become children of God. These were the ones who believed in Jesus’ name.

Jesus had to become a man. He had to be a man to do what the first man, Adam, did not do. Adam the first man did not obey God. His disobedience made all men to be sinners. That is why Jesus had to become man. He would be obedient to His Father in heaven. By His obedience Jesus would make all those who believe right with God. John told us in a special way that Jesus became a man. He said the Word became flesh. Jesus

became flesh and lived among people. He was full of grace and truth. Then John told us another wonderful thing. He told us there is only one way we can know God. That one way is to know and believe Jesus. Do you know and believe that Jesus is the Redeemer, the True Light?

John the Baptist said that he was sent to tell about Jesus. He said that he was the voice that the prophet Isaiah told about. Isaiah said there would be a voice in the wilderness. This voice would tell the people to make a way for the Lord. They had to make a straight path for a King. This King was Jesus.

Some priests and Levites asked John if he was the Christ. These priests were sent from the Pharisees. John said that he was not the Christ. He said that he was not Elijah or another prophet. But John told them that there was a prophet among them. He was so much greater than John. John baptized with water, but this prophet would baptize with the Holy Spirit. John then told them who this prophet was. He was the Lamb of God. Jesus was called the Lamb of God. He was called the Lamb of God because He was sacrificed for mankind's sins.

How did John come to know Jesus? He came to know Him because Jesus came to John to be baptized. At Jesus' baptism John saw the Spirit rest on Him. The Spirit came in the form of a dove and rested on Jesus. The Spirit said that Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit. That is how John knew Jesus. He knew that Jesus was the Son of God. He was and is the Redeemer. Is He your Redeemer?

Questions

Fill in the blanks.

1. "In the beginning was the _____ and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (John 1:1)
2. "All things were made through _____ and without Him nothing was made that was made." (John 1:3)
3. "In Him was life, and the life was the _____ of men." (John 1:4)

4. “That was the _____ which gives light to every man coming into the world.” (John 1:9)

5. “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become _____ of God, to those who believe in His name.” (John 1:12)

6. “The next day John saw _____ coming toward him, and said, ‘Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!’” (John 1:29)

Lesson 5
Confessors

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 2

Scripture: John 1:35-51

Memory Verse: “He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, ‘We have found the Messiah.’” (John 1:41)

Lesson Truth: Jesus called men to be His disciples. Because of His call they confessed that He was the Messiah, the Son of God.

Lesson

John the Baptist said that Jesus was the Lamb of God. After that some of his disciples followed Jesus. Jesus called these disciples with a special call. Because Jesus called them, they confessed His name. They confessed that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God. Andrew and his companion confessed His name. Later Simon, Philip, and Nathanael confessed that He was the Messiah. Our lesson today is about these confessors.

God gave John the Baptist the grace to recognize Jesus. When Jesus came to him, John said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29). The next day John was standing with two of his disciples and he saw Jesus. He said again, “Behold the Lamb of God!” (John 1:36). This time his two disciples decided to follow Jesus. They were Andrew and his companion. When Jesus saw them following, He stopped. He asked them what they were seeking. Sadly, Andrew and his companion didn’t know what they were seeking. Yet they knew that they had a strong desire to be with Jesus. So, they asked Jesus, “Rabbi, where are you staying?” (John 1:38). They did not know that God placed this desire to be with Jesus in their hearts. So, Jesus told them to, “Come and see” (John 1:39). In His grace Jesus would help them understand who He was. Then they would confess that Jesus was the Messiah, the Redeemer.

Andrew and his companion did confess that they had found the Messiah. They confessed this to Andrew’s brother, Simon Peter. They went to find Simon and told him, “We have found the Messiah” (John 1:41). Then they brought him to see Jesus. Jesus knew Simon before He saw him. He knew that Simon was quick to respond. He would sometimes answer before he would think. But Jesus also knew that God would use Simon to build His church. So, He said to Simon, “You are Simon son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas” (John 1:42). Jesus knew Simon so well the He changed his name to Cephas. Cephas is another name for Peter, which means “rock.” Later, Jesus

would say that Peter was the rock on which He would build His church. God had also given Peter a desire to be with Jesus. So, he was ready to follow the Lord.

On His way to Galilee Jesus saw Philip. Jesus looked at him and said: “Follow Me” (John 1:43). This must have surprised Philip. But he believed that Jesus was the Messiah. He knew that Jesus’ command to follow Him was not an ordinary command. This was a command from Christ, the Son of God. So, he followed Jesus. He then went to find Nathanael. And when he found him, he confessed Jesus’ name. Philip told Nathanael they found the Messiah. He was the One that Moses and the prophets spoke about. He was Jesus of Nazareth the son of Joseph. This made Nathanael wonder who Jesus really was. He asked, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” (John 1:46). Philip answered Nathanael by saying, “Come and see” (John 1:46). He was certain that if Nathanael saw the Lord Jesus he would know.

Jesus saw Nathanael coming and He knew that God had worked in his heart. He said, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit” (John 1:47). The Lord knew that Nathanael was one of His disciples. But Nathanael wondered how Jesus knew him. Jesus told him before Philip called him, he knew him. He saw Nathanael under a fig tree. Now Nathanael was ready to confess the Lord’s name. He said to Jesus, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” (John 1:49). Jesus then told Nathanael that he would see greater things than these. He told him of His coming glory.

Each of these disciples confessed Jesus’ name. Because Jesus called them, they confessed that He was the Messiah. They confessed that He was the Son of God. Our prayer should be that Jesus would also call us. Then we too would be confessors. We would confess that Jesus is the Messiah. We would confess that He is the Son of God, our Savior and Lord!

Questions

Fill in the blanks.

1. “Again the next day, _____ stood with two of his disciples. And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, ‘Behold the Lamb of God!’” (John 1:35-36)
2. “One of the two who heard John speak and followed Him, was _____ Simon Peter’s brother.”(John 1:40)

3. “He first found his own brother _____ and said to him: ‘We have found the Messiah.’” (John 1:41)

4. “Philip found _____ and said to him, ‘We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.’” (John 1:45)

5. “Jesus saw _____ coming toward Him, and said of him, ‘Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!’” (John 1:47)

6. “Nathanael answered and said to Him, ‘_____, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!’” (John 1:49)

Lesson 6
Life's Renewer

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 3

Scripture: John 2:1-12

Memory Verse: “Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.” (II Cor. 4:16)

Lesson Truth: At the wedding feast at Cana Jesus showed that He restored the joys of life. Life for us is renewed because He atoned for our sins.

Lesson

Because Jesus was ready to pay for our sins, our life can be made new. He showed this renewed life at a wedding at Cana. Jesus restored communion with God and His people. At the hour that the Father appointed, He showed that He was the Redeemer. Jesus changed water to wine as a sign that He has power over all things. Through His grace the Lord brought His disciples to believe.

A number of Jesus' disciples had confessed that He was the Messiah. Nathanael said that He was the Son of God. Now these disciples went with Him to Galilee. At Cana in Galilee Jesus and His disciples were invited to a wedding feast. John the Baptist's disciples must have wondered why Jesus would go to a wedding feast. John had lived a life of fasting and prayer. He gave up everything in life and lived on locusts and wild honey. John preached the need to be sorry for sin. He urged the people to repent and be baptized. But Jesus was different. He showed that He came to restore the joy of life. He showed that He came to atone for the sins of His people. When people's sins are atoned for the joy of life is renewed. God's people can again live in the joy of communion with God. God's people can bring a thank offering of joy for His grace. Jesus showed that He was the One who renewed life for believers.

The Lord's mother was also at this wedding feast. She was the one who noticed that the host ran out of wine. So, she went to Jesus and told him that they were out of wine. Jesus' mother knew that He had power over all things. She knew that He could work a miracle to supply the wine. But was this the time that the Father wanted Jesus to reveal Himself? That is why the Lord asked His mother a harsh question. He asked, “Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? Then he added, “My hour has not yet come” (John 2:4). Still, His mother did not believe that He would ignore her request. So, she told the servants to do whatever He instructed them to do. Jesus' mother was

convinced that He would find a solution to the wine problem. Jesus then saw that the Father had given Him an opportunity to reveal who He was. He would show that He was the Redeemer. He would show that He had power over all things.

Jesus saw six empty water jars standing there. He told the servants to fill these large jars with water. Jesus then told them to bring some of this water to the master of the feast. When they did so, an amazing thing happened. The master tasted very good wine instead of water. He then asked the bridegroom why he changed the custom. The custom was to serve the best wine first. Then when the people were filled with wine, they would serve the second best. What the master tasted was the very best.

By the power of His grace, the Lord had changed the water into wine. He could do this because He is the Lord. He has power over everything that He created. It is also by His power of grace that His people are renewed. His grace restores communion between God and His people. His people can now live in the joy of that communion. Jesus showed that grace when He attended the wedding feast. He showed that He was the One who renewed life.

When Jesus' disciples saw this miracle, they believed. These were the disciples that Jesus had brought to confess Him. They had confessed that He was the Messiah. They confessed that He was the Son of God. Now they saw His miracle. They saw him change water into wine. This made them certain that their confession was right. The disciples believed that He was the Messiah. They saw now that the Messiah came to renew life. We should praise God that Jesus came to renew our life. By His grace we can believe just as His disciples believed!

Questions

Fill in the blanks.

1. "On the third day there was a _____ in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. (John 2:1)
2. "And they ran out of wine and the _____ of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine."" (John 2:3)
3. "Jesus said to them, 'Fill the _____ with water.' And they filled them to the brim." (John 2:7)

4. “When the master of the feast had tasted the _____ that was made into wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom.” (John 2:9)

5. “And He said to him, ‘Every man at the beginning sets out the _____, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!’” (John 2:10)

6. “This the beginning of _____ Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.” (John 2:11)

The Kingdom as a Revelation

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

Scripture: John 3:1-21

Memory Verse: “No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up.” (John 3:13-14)

Lesson Truth: Jesus told Nicodemus about the Kingdom of God. The only way to enter the Kingdom of God is to be born again.

Lesson

Nicodemus a ruler of the Jews came to see Jesus. Jesus told him about the Kingdom of God. He said that the only way to enter God’s Kingdom is to be born again. This new birth comes from the Spirit. Faith is the only way we can come to know God’s Kingdom. This Kingdom comes from God’s love.

Jesus came to Jerusalem to teach at the temple. At the temple He drove out the merchants who bought and sold livestock. The Lord used His authority not only to cleanse the temple, but also to teach. The people were amazed at his teaching. They were astonished by the miracles He did. Many believed in His name because of the signs they saw. Even some of the rulers were amazed at His teaching. One of those rulers was a Pharisee named Nicodemus. He came to Jesus one night to learn who He was. Nicodemus believed that Jesus was a teacher that came from God. Still, he did not believe that He was the Redeemer. He came at night because he didn’t want the people to know that he talked with Jesus. Nicodemus knew that Jesus did miracles and that He taught with authority. Still, he was not ready to believe everything that Jesus said. The things Jesus taught were the opposite of what the Pharisees taught. Nicodemus was not ready to turn his life around and follow Jesus.

Nicodemus called Jesus Rabbi, which means teacher. He also said that only someone who came from God could do miracles like Jesus did. The Lord knew that Nicodemus needed to be changed. So, he told him about the Kingdom of God. Jesus said something that must have shocked Nicodemus. He said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God” (John 3:3). This was the way Jesus told Nicodemus that he had to be made new. Nicodemus did not understand this. He asked Jesus if he could be born from his mother a second time. And Jesus told him that

He was talking about a spiritual birth. Only the Spirit could bring this rebirth and a new life. And only by this rebirth could Nicodemus enter the Kingdom of God. Because of sin, every person must be born again in order to enter God's Kingdom. Every person must be born of the Spirit so he will trust only in God's grace.

This ruler of the Jews was not yet ready to listen in faith. He still believed in the teaching of the Pharisees. He believed people had to earn their salvation by keeping the law. Nicodemus did not understand the gift of God's grace. Because he believed that he had to earn a place in heaven, he was blind to God's grace. Jesus told Nicodemus that he could only know of God's Kingdom by faith. It was like the wind. People do not know where the wind comes from or where it goes, but they know it is there. That is the way God's people know God's Kingdom. What Jesus said about God's Kingdom was true. It was true because He was the One that came from heaven to share this truth. He was the Son of Man that came from heaven to do what the serpent in the wilderness did. Just as the serpent in the wilderness was lifted up, so the Son of Man must be lifted up. Jesus would be lifted up on the cross to die for sinners. Only those who looked to the serpent in the wilderness were saved. In that same way only those who look to the crucified Savior will be saved.

Why was God willing to have His only begotten Son die for sinners? It was because of His love! Jesus told Nicodemus, and all His people, "For God so loved the World that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). The joy for all believers is that God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world. He sent His Son that through Him the world might be saved! Sadly, there were some who did not believe. They did not believe because they loved darkness rather than light. They did not believe because their deeds were evil. Our prayer should be that we might be born again. Pray that this birth of the Spirit would bring us to see God's Kingdom.

Questions

Fill in the blanks.

1. "There was a man of the Pharisees named _____, a ruler of the Jews." (John 3:1)
2. "This man came to _____ by night and said to Him, 'Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.'" (John 3:2)

3. “Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is _____ again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God.’” (John 3:3)
4. “Jesus answered, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the _____, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God.’” (John 3:5)
5. “And as _____ lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up. (John 3:14)
6. “For God so loved the _____ that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)

Lesson 8
The Bridegroom

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 5

Scripture: John 3:22-36

Memory Verse: “For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” (John 6:33)

Lesson Truth: Jesus Is the Bridegroom. The church is His bride. John introduced the Bridegroom to His bride.

Lesson

John the Baptist talked about Jesus as the Bridegroom. He did this to help his disciples. John’s disciples were upset because the people went to Jesus instead of John. Instead of being upset, John told them they should rejoice. They should rejoice because God’s people saw the Bridegroom, Jesus. God’s people are the bride of Christ. They are His church. John said that he was the friend who introduced the Bridegroom to the bride. He told his disciples that Jesus must increase but he must decrease. John assured his disciples that Jesus was from heaven above. Because He was from above, He was above all. John urged his disciples to believe the Lord’s testimony that He was the Redeemer!

Jesus told Nicodemus that he had to be born again. He said that unless he was born of the Spirit, he could not see the Kingdom of God. Now Jesus left Nicodemus and Jerusalem and came to the land of Judea. He and His disciples went to the same place where John was baptizing. It wasn’t long before many people went to Jesus instead of to John. Jesus’ disciples then baptized many of these people. This made John’s disciples upset. They were upset because the people followed Jesus. And they were upset because Jesus’ disciples did not keep some laws of the scribes. John’s disciples argued with some Jews about these laws. The Jews thought people had to wash with water to be clean. But Jesus taught that baptism was the sign of being entirely clean.

After their argument with the Jews, John’s disciples went to him to complain. They complained that all people were going to Jesus to be baptized. John’s disciples thought it was bad that the people would leave John to go to Jesus. But these disciples were mistaken. So John had to tell them the truth. John said that Jesus came from heaven. He then asked them to remember what he said to them. He told them that he was not the Christ. But he was sent to announce that Christ was coming. John then used the example of a Bridegroom. He said that the friend rejoices when he hears the

Bridegroom's voice. That is why John rejoiced to see Jesus. He rejoiced because the Bridegroom came to receive His bride. The people are the bride of Christ. They are His church. John was the friend who introduced the Bridegroom to His bride. He wanted his disciples to rejoice that the people went to Jesus. John said, "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30).

John then assured his disciples that Jesus was the Messiah. He told them that He came from above and was above all. The Lord was not like John. John was from the earth and talked about the things of the earth. With these words John urged his disciples to believe the testimony of Jesus. This would show that they believed God was true.

It did not upset John that the people went to Jesus. He rejoiced that some people saw Jesus as the Redeemer. But it did upset John that many did not believe the Lord's testimony. John assured the people that Jesus spoke the words of God. He spoke the words of God because He had the Spirit of God. God the Father gave His Spirit to His Son without limit.

John then shared words of encouragement and warning. He encouraged the people by saying, "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life." And he warned them saying, "He who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him" (John 3:36). Pray that God will fill us with His grace so that we believe in the Son.

Questions

Fill in the blanks.

1. "Now _____ was also baptizing in Aenon near Salim because there was much water there." (John 3:23a)
2. "Then there arose a _____ between some of John's disciples and the Jews about purification." (John 3:25)
3. "And they came to _____ and said to him, 'Rabbi, He who was with you beyond Jordan, to whom you have testified – behold He is baptizing, and all are coming to Him!'" (John 3:26)
4. "You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the _____, but, I have been sent before Him.'" (John 3:28)

5. “He who has the bride is the _____; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice.” (John 3:29a)

6. “He must _____, but I must decrease.” (John 3:30)

Lesson 9
The Gift of God

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 6

Scripture: John 4:1-42

Memory Verse: “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4:24)

Lesson Truth: Christ Jesus talked to the woman of Samaria at Jacob’s well. He referred to Himself as the gift of God. Jesus is the gift that was given to all nations.

Lesson

Christ Jesus traveled through Samaria as He went from Judea to Galilee. Near Sychar He met a Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well. Jesus told this woman about the living water that He was able to provide. When she confessed that the Messiah was to come, He said, “I that speak to you am He” (John 4:26). Jesus then told His disciples that fields of souls were white unto harvest. An interim harvest took place as many Samaritans believed and confessed Jesus as the Christ.

The Pharisees in Jerusalem heard that the people were leaving John the Baptist. They also heard that these people were now following Jesus. They even learned that the Lord’s disciples were baptizing many of them. This was a real threat for the Pharisees. If the people began to follow Jesus, they would lose their authority. This made the Pharisees ready to confront the Lord. But this was not the Lord’s time for a conflict with the Pharisees. That is why Jesus decided to leave Judea and return to Galilee. The route that Jesus chose to go to Galilee was through Samaria. This was remarkable because the Jews usually avoided Samaria. They despised the Samaritans because they were a mixed race. To avoid them they would go around Samaria. But we are told that Jesus needed to go through Samaria. He had to bring His message about living water to a Samaritan woman.

As Jesus and His disciple traveled through Samaria, they came to the city of Sychar. Located outside of Sychar was the well that Jacob dug years before. When they came to this well Jesus sat down to rest while His disciples went for food. About noon a woman from Sychar came to the well to draw water. This was unusual because noon was the hottest time of the day. Most of the women came to draw water toward evening when it was cooler. But this woman was very likely an outcast and tried to avoid the other women. The woman was surprised when Jesus asked her for a drink. She asked

Him why He, a Jew, would ask for a drink from a Samaritan. In response Jesus looked at this woman with His grace and compassion. He stirred her interest by talking about the water that she drew.

He said to her, you think of this water from Jacob's well as a gift from God. But if you really knew the gift of God, you would be asking for a drink. If you knew who it is that asked for a drink, you would ask Him for living water. Jesus reminded her that anyone who drinks water from the well would become thirsty again. But those who drink of His living water would never again be thirsty. The woman knew that Jesus was not talking about water from the well. But she was not ready to have Jesus uncover her sinful life. So, she asked Him to give her this living water. Then she would not need to return to the well because she wouldn't be thirsty.

Now Jesus wanted her to submit to His word. The Father had made her sinful life known to Him. So, He asked her to call her husband and bring him to Jesus. Because the Lord's grace was working in her heart she could no longer resist. She told Him that she did not have a husband. Jesus then assured her that she had told the truth. He told her that she had five previous husbands. But the man with whom she was living was not her husband. Then the woman tried to talk about something else. She said that she knew Jesus was a prophet. Could He tell her where people had to worship? Must they worship at Jerusalem or Mount Gerizim? Jesus now showed His grace. He said the day is coming when people will not worship at either place. Instead, they will worship Father in spirit and in truth. "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth" (John 4:24) The woman was now ready to confess her faith. She said, "I know that Messiah is coming" (John 4:25). Jesus then assured her that He was the Messiah.

By that time His disciples returned and saw Him talking to the woman. She then left and told the people of Sychar to come and see. This was the Man that she thought was the Christ. This brought the people out from Sychar to see Jesus. The Lord then told His disciples that the harvest for souls was ready. Because many of the Samaritans believed in Jesus an interim harvest had begun.

Questions

Fill in the blanks.

1. "So He came to a city of Samaria which is called _____ near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph." (John 4:5)

2. “Now _____ well was there. Jesus therefore being wearied from His journey sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.” (John 4:6)

3. “A woman of _____ came to draw water. Jesus said to her, ‘Give Me a drink.’” (John 4:7)

4. “Then the woman of _____ said to Him, ‘How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?’ For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.” (John 4:9)

5. “Jesus answered and said to her. ‘If you knew the gift of _____, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked of Him, and He would have given you living water.’” (John 4:10)

6. “But the hour is coming and now is, when the true _____ will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.” (John 4:23)

Lesson 10
The Opening Up of Galilee

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 7

Scripture: John 4:43-54

Memory Verse: “So the father knew that it was the same hour in which Jesus said to him, ‘Your son lives.’ And he himself believed, and his whole household.” (John 4:53)

Lesson Truth: Jesus brought the nobleman from Capernaum to believe in Christ as Lord. In this way Galilee was opened up to the gospel.

Lesson

The Lord Jesus grew up in Galilee. As Jesus began His public ministry the Galileans believed that He was a miracle worker. But sadly, they did not believe that He was the Redeemer. The people from Galilee were closed to the gospel of grace. They were closed to the gospel of grace until Jesus opened up Galilee. He did this when He brought a nobleman to surrender in faith to His grace. Not only was the nobleman brought to faith, but also his whole family believed. They believed that Jesus was their Lord and Redeemer.

Jesus spent two days at Sychar with the Samaritans. Many of the Samaritans believed that Jesus was the Christ. They believed that He was the Savior of the world. After His stop at Sychar Jesus went on to Galilee. This was the country where Jesus grew up. Sadly, as He went to Galilee, Jesus testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country. He knew that the people in Galilee were closed to the truth. They did not yet believe that Jesus was the Messiah. Still the Galileans were glad to see Jesus. They were glad because they wanted Him to do some miracles. Many of the Galileans had been to Jerusalem for the Passover Feast. At Jerusalem they saw Jesus perform miracles. Now they hoped that He would perform miracles in Galilee. It was sad that the excitement of a miracle closed their hearts to the gospel.

When Jesus came to Galilee He went to the village of Cana. It was at Cana that Jesus changed the water into wine at a wedding feast. While Jesus was at Cana a nobleman from Capernaum heard He was there. This nobleman had a son who was very sick. His son was so sick that he was at the point of death. This nobleman hurried to Cana and asked Jesus to come and heal his son. Jesus answered the nobleman sharply. He wanted to make sure that he really believed that Jesus was more than a miracle worker. So, He said, “Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe” (John

4:48). But God's grace was working in the heart of this nobleman. So, he asked Jesus again to come and heal his son before he died! Now Jesus decided to test the nobleman's faith. He said to him, "Go your way, your son lives" (John 4:50). Thankfully God's grace touched the nobleman. He believed the words of Jesus that his son was living. He also began to believe that Jesus was the Redeemer.

It was the following day before the nobleman returned to Capernaum. While he was still on the way his servants met him with a joyful message. They said, "Your son lives!" (John 4:51). The nobleman then asked at what time his son got better. The servants told him it was the previous day at the seventh hour. Now the nobleman knew that this was the exact time that Jesus had said, "Your son lives!" (John 4:51). Through this miracle God strengthened his faith. The nobleman became a believer. Not only did he believe, but his household also believed. They believed in God's grace for Israel and for the whole world.

Do you know what the real joy of this story was? It was that now there was a family in Galilee who believed that Jesus was the Redeemer. Christ Jesus had opened up Galilee to the gospel! The grace of the Lord Jesus had worked in the heart of this nobleman. He believed that his son was healed when Jesus spoke the word. He believed even when he had no proof that it was true. In that same way you and I must hold fast to God's grace. Pray for the gift of faith to believe that Jesus is your Redeemer!

Questions

Fill in the blanks.

1. "Now after two the days He departed from there and went to _____."
(John 4:43)
1. "So when He came to _____ the Galileans received Him, having seen all the things He did in Jerusalem at the feast; for they had also gone to the feast." (John 4:45)
2. "So Jesus came again to _____ of Galilee where He had made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman whose son was sick at Capernaum."
(John 4:46)

3. “When he heard that Jesus had come out of _____ into Galilee, he went to Him and implored Him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death.” (John 4: 47)

4. “Jesus said to him, ‘Go your way, your _____ lives.’ So the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way.” (John 4:50)

5. “So the _____ knew that it was at the same hour in which Jesus said to him, ‘Your son lives.’ And he believed, and his whole household.” (John 4:53)

Lesson 11

The Everflowing Spring

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 8

Scripture: John 5:1-18

Memory Verse: “Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, ‘See you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you.’” (John 5:14)

Lesson Truth: At the pool of Bethesda, Jesus healed the man with an infirmity. God’s grace is an ever-flowing spring much greater than Bethesda.

Lesson

The story today is about an infirm man at the pool of Bethesda. This man did not know about the spring of God’s grace. The Lord Jesus showed him this grace when He healed him of his infirmity. Jesus healed this man on the Sabbath Day. That is why the Jews accused Him of breaking the Sabbath laws. In answer to the Jews, Jesus said that He worked with His Father. Both He and His Father share an ever-flowing spring of grace. This spring of grace flows every day, including the Sabbath.

Jesus had been in Galilee for some time. Now He returned to Jerusalem for a Jewish feast. While He was in Jerusalem, Jesus stopped at the pool of Bethesda. The pool of Bethesda was a special pool. It was special because people could be healed from diseases at Bethesda. Many blind, lame, and paralyzed people came to Bethesda. They waited at Bethesda for the water to be stirred. When the spring of water erupted in the pool, people could be healed. But only those who got into the water first were healed. They were healed of whatever disease they had.

On this Sabbath Day Jesus saw a man by the pool of Bethesda. This man had an infirmity for thirty-eight years. He very much wanted to get into the pool and be healed. But because of his infirmity he never got into the pool on time. Each time he tried to get into the pool someone would get ahead of him. By the time he got into the pool, the waters were finished erupting. His body was never healed. Now Jesus saw him. He asked the man an amazing question. Jesus asked, “Do you want to be made well?” (John 5:6). Jesus asked this question to awaken the man’s faith. Of course, the man wanted to be made well. He waited at the pool of Bethesda for years. But the man could only think of healing that came from the pool. He did not know of the spring of healing that comes from God’s grace. So, Jesus shared with him the healing that comes from grace. He said to the man, “Rise, take up your bed and walk” (John 5:8). The spring of God’s grace

worked a miracle of healing in the man's body. He was able to stand up and pick up his bed. The Lord Jesus showered this man with His grace on the Sabbath Day.

This was a problem for the Jewish leaders. They saw the man carry his bedroll as he walked. In the spirit of their rigid rules, they stopped him. They told him it was not lawful to carry a bedroll on the Sabbath Day. He responded by saying the Man who made me well told me to do so. Then they asked who it was that had made him well. The man said honestly that he did not know. Jesus had lost Himself in the crowd after he healed this man. Still later, Jesus saw the man in the temple and reminded him of his healing. Jesus instructed the man to, "Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you" (John 5:14). It would be much worse to refuse the gift of God's grace. Now the man knew that it was Jesus who made him well. So, he found the Jewish leaders and told them that it was Jesus who had made him well.

Instead of rejoicing that the man had been made well the Jewish leaders were angry. They were angry because they thought that Jesus broke the Sabbath rules. They were so angry that they wanted to kill Jesus. But Jesus answered them that He and His Father worked on the Sabbath. They both showered the infirm man with the ever-flowing spring of God's grace. But this made these unbelieving leaders even more upset. They said that He not only broke the Sabbath laws, but He also made Himself equal with God. The Jewish leaders rejected the word of the Redeemer. They said it was blasphemy for Jesus to make Himself equal with God. That is how sin closed the hearts of these unbelievers. You and I must pray that God will open our hearts. Then we will see the ever-flowing spring of His grace!

Questions

Fill in the blanks.

1. "After this there was a _____ of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem." (John 5:1)
2. "Now there is in _____ by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in the Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches." (John 5:2)
3. "Now a certain man was there who had an _____ thirty-eight years." (John 5:5)

4. “When _____ saw him lying there and knew that he already had been in that condition along time, He said to him, ‘Do you want to be made well?’” (John 5:6)

5. “Jesus said to him, _____, take up your bed and walk.’ And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath.” (John 5:8-9)

6. “Afterward Jesus found him in the _____ and said to him, ‘See you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you.’” (John 5:14)

The Bread of Life

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 9

Scripture: John 6

Memory Verse: “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.” (John 6:47)

Lesson Truth: Jesus said: “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst” (John 6:35).

Lesson

Jesus fed five thousand people with five barley loaves and two small fish. In this way He showed the power of grace. Yet, He talked about a miracle of food much greater than multiplying bread and fish. Jesus said, “I am the living bread which comes down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever” (John 6:51). His claim to be the bread of life forced people to decide. In this crisis many no longer followed Him. Others confessed, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (John 6:69)

Something happened after Jesus healed the man at the Pool of Bethesda. The leaders in Judea wanted to put Him to death. So, Jesus left Judea and went to Galilee. In Galilee crowds of people followed the Lord. They wanted to see more of His miracles of healing. To get away from the crowds for a time, Jesus crossed the Sea of Galilee. But the people were so determined to see Jesus that they walked around the lake to the other side. There they found Jesus and His disciples.

It was evening by the time the people found Jesus. The Lord knew that they did not have anything to eat all day. So, He asked Philip, “Where shall we buy bread, that they may eat?” (John 6:5). Philip never thought about Jesus showing the power of His grace. He only thought about the amount of money they had. So, he said two hundred coins could not buy enough bread for such a crowd. At the same time Andrew checked to see if the people brought food. The only thing he found was a boy who had five barley loaves and two small fish. So, Andrew told the Lord about the loaves and the fish.

Jesus knew what He was going to do. He only asked about buying bread to test His disciples He told the crowd of about five thousand people to sit on the grass. Jesus then gave thanks as He held the loaves and the fish. After He had given thanks, He told the disciples to feed the people. Do you know what happened? They were able to feed five thousand people with five loaves and two small fish. The people ate as much as they

wanted. Even more, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftovers. This was the way the Lord Jesus showed the power of His grace. He wanted the people to know that God provides for all things by His grace.

How did the people feel about this miracle? They said, “This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world” (John 6:14). Sadly, they did not understand the power of God’s grace. Instead, they saw Jesus as a possible king. When the Lord Jesus sensed that they wanted to make Him king, He went away. Later that night He walked on the Sea of Galilee and joined the disciples on the boat. The next day the people again crossed the lake to find Jesus.

When they found Him, the Lord warned them. He told the people the only reason they wanted Him was because He fed them. Jesus told them not to work for bread that perishes. Instead, they should work for food that will be everlasting. Because Jesus talked about food, they thought He meant food like manna. They said that Moses provided manna for the Israelites in the wilderness.

Now Jesus tried to help them understand. He said that Moses did not give bread from heaven. But God the Father gives bread from heaven. When they asked for this bread from heaven, Jesus said something amazing. He said, “I am the bread of life. He who come to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst” (John 6:35). Sadly, the Jews complained that Jesus said He was the bread of life. They asked how He could say that He came down from heaven. Wasn’t this the son of Joseph? Then Jesus told them again that He was the bread of life. He added, “Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life and I will raise him up at the last day” (John 6:54).

The people’s minds were closed to God’s grace, so they did not understand. Jesus asked if they were offended. Did it offend them that He said He came down from heaven? He then reminded them that the Spirit needed to open their hearts. The words He spoke were from the Spirit. Only those whom the Father had given Him would understand.

After that, many of the people no longer followed Jesus. He then asked the twelve disciples, “Do you also want to go away?” Thankfully, Peter spoke for the twelve. He said, “Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life” (John 6:67-68). He also said that the twelve had come to believe that Jesus was the Christ. He was the Son of God. Jesus reminded them that He had chosen the twelve. Yet one of them was a devil. This was Judas who later betrayed Jesus. Have you seen the power of God’s grace? Do you believe that Jesus is the bread of life?

Questions

Fill in the Blanks.

1. “Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a great _____ coming toward Him, He said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat? (John 6:5)
2. “One of His disciples, _____ Simon Peter’s brother, said to Him, “there is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many? (John 6:8-9)
3. “And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given _____ He distributed them to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise the fish, as much as they wanted.”(John 6:11)
4. “Therefore they gathered them up, and filled _____ baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten.” (John 6:13)
5. “And Jesus said to them, ‘I am the _____ of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.’” (John 6: 35)
6. “Whoever eats My _____ and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up the last day.” (John 6:54)