GOD'S HAND IN OUR LIVES

Secondary Student Workbook for Lessons on the New Testament

God's Hand In Our Lives
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Zacharias and the Birth of John

Luke 1:5-25, 57-80

What sorts of things do people promise to one another?

Why do we sometimes add the words "I promise" to what we say?

Are people's promises ever broken?

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, Your promises are the most important truths we have. You promised and sent Your Son who took our sins away. You have promised to be with us always. You have promised to take us to heaven. Help us remember that all Your promises are sure! Amen.

The Story (Luke 1:5-25; 57-80)

There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah. His wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. (6) And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. (7) But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both well advanced in years.

(8) So it was, that while he was serving as priest before God in the order of his division, (9) according to the custom of the priesthood, his lot fell to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord. (10) And the whole multitude of the people was praying outside at the hour of incense.

(11) Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. (12) And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him. (13) But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. (14) And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. (15) For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. (16) And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the

Lord their God. (17) He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

(18) And Zacharias said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well advanced in years."

(19) And the angel answered and said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings. (20) But behold, you will be mute and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time."

(21) And the people waited for Zacharias, and marveled that he lingered so long in the temple. (22) But when he came out, he could not speak to them, for he beckoned to them and remained speechless. (

23) So it was, as soon as the days of his service were completed, that he departed to his own house. (24) Now after those days his wife Elizabeth conceived; and she hid herself five months, saying, (25) "This the Lord hath dealt with me, in the days when He looked on me to take away my reproach among people."

(57) Now Elizabeth's full time came for her to be delivered, and she brought forth a son. (58) When her neighbors and relatives heard how the Lord had shown great mercy to her, they rejoiced with her.

(59) So it was, on the eighth day, that they came to circumcise the child; and they would have called him by the name of his father, Zacharias. (60) His mother answered and said, "No; he shall be called John"

(61) But they said to her, "There is no one among your relatives who is called by this name." (62) So they made signs to his father – what he would have him called. (63) And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, saying, "His name is John." So they all marveled.

(64) Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, praising God.

(65) Then fear came on all who dwelt around them; and all these sayings were discussed throughout all the hill country of Judea. (66) And all those who heard them kept them in their hearts, saying "What kind of child will this be?" And the hand of the Lord was with him.

(67) Now his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying: (68) "Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, For He has visited and redeemed His people, (69) And has raised up a horn of salvation for us In the house of His servant David, (70) As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, Who have been since the world began, (71) That we should be saved from our enemies And from the hand of all who hate us, (72) To perform the mercy promised to our fathers And to remember His holy covenant, (73) The oath which He swore to our father Abraham: (74) To grant that we, Being delivered from the hand of our enemies, Might serve Him without fear, (75) In holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life.

(76) "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, (77) To give knowledge of salvation to His people By the remission of their sins, (78) Through the tender mercy of our God, With which the

Dayspring from on high has visited us; (79) To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace."

(80) So the child grew and became strong in spirit, and was in the desertstill the day of his manifestation to Israel.

Recalling Details - Retell the story in five sentences.

What the Story Tells Us

God sends John as a messenger to prepare for Jesus' coming.

Discussion Questions

1. How do you know that Zacharias and Elizabeth were believers?
2. What did God promise and how did He fulfill it?
3. What was the consequence of Zacharias' doubting?
4. Name two of the main points in Zacharias' song.
5. Compare Mary's Question, "How can this be?" (Luke 1:34) with Zacharias' "How shall I know this?" (Luke 1:18). How are the questions similar and different?

What God Tells Us

God keeps His promises.

Passages

(Matthew 28:20) Jesus said, "Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

(Joshua 1:9) "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

(Romans 8:28) And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

(Hebrews 13:5) Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Hymn

Look at the Lutheran Hymnal 91, 1-4. Find at least three ways it applies to today's lesson.

Prayer

Dear Father in heaven, We have learned that You keep all Your promises to us. When our reason would make us doubt Your Word and our patience wears thin, overcome our doubt and strengthen our faith to believe Your promises will be fulfilled according to Your wise plans. Send Your Holy Spirit on us that we may be bold in believing Your promises of forgiveness, of life and salvation in Jesus and so reach the home You have promised to all who believe in Jesus. Amen.

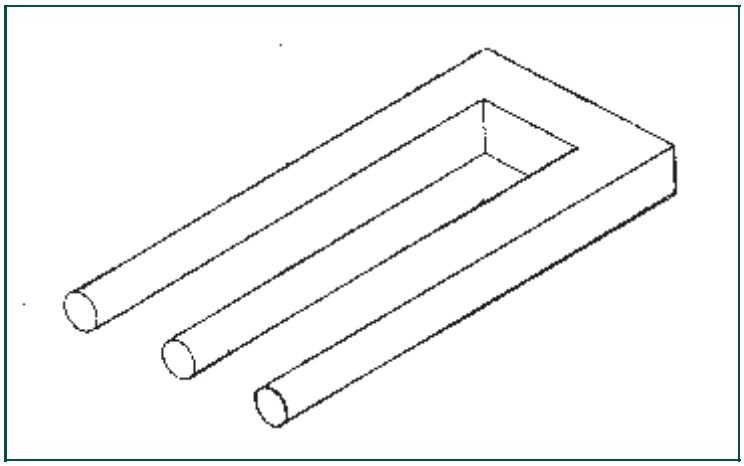
Announcement of Jesus' Birth

Luke 1:26-56; Matthew 1:19-25

Does this picture seem possible?

Is anything in this picture impossible?

Is anything impossible?



Prayer

Dear Lord, You alone are capable of what to us may seem impossible. We thank you for accomplishing the miracle birth of Your Son, true God and true man. Be with us as we study Your Word. Through that Word make our faith strong to believe in our salvation which comes through Your marvelous miracle. Amen.

The Story - Luke 1:26-56

Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, (27) to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. (28) And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"

(29) But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. (30) Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. (31) And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS.

(32) He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. (33) And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

(34) Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"

(35) And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born of you will be called the Son of God.

(36) Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. (37) For with God

nothing shall be impossible."

(38) Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

(39) Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, (40) and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth.

(41) And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. (42) Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! (43) But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? (44) For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. (45) Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord."

(46) And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord, (47) and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. (48) For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. (49) For He who is mighty has done great things for me, And holy is His name. (50) And His mercy is on those who fear Him From generation to generation. (51) He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. (52) He has put down the mighty from their thrones, And exalted the lowly. (53) He has filled the hungry with good things, And the rich He has sent away empty. (54) He has helped His servant Israel, In remembrance of His mercy, (55) As He spoke to our fathers, ToAbraham and to his seed forever."

(56) And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her house.

Matthew 1:19-25

Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.

(20) But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. (21) And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."

(22) So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: (23) "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." (24) Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded Him and took to him his wife, (25) and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

Outer Aim - God announces the miracle of Jesus' birth.

Recalling Details

Tell how Gabriel, Mary, Joseph, and Elizabeth are important to today's lesson. Find and discuss at least three miracles in today's lesson.

Discussion Questions

1. Name four people to whom Gabriel had been sent.
2. Why do you think it was so important that Mary be a virgin?
3. How did Gabriel's message show that Mary's baby would be the Savior promised in the Old Testament?
4. Why might Joseph have been inclined to divorce Mary?
5. See if you can find a hymn in the Lutheran Hymnal that is based on Mary's song. Write a prayer verse of your own.

Inner Aim - Believers show faith in the miracle of Jesus' birth.

Passages

(Isaiah 7:14) "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel."

(Galatians 4:4-5) But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

(I Timothy 3:16) And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh.

Hymn

Look at Hymn 274. Paraphrase each verse in a sentence or two.

Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven, You teach us today that Jesus is both Your only begotten Son and also a human being born of a virgin named Mary. This miracle made Jesus both God and Man, and so our perfect, holy Savior; we know this is a matter of faith. O Lord, strengthen our faith in this and all other mysteries of Scripture, that we may remain Your children now and into eternity. Help us to show our faith with words of praise and deeds of obedience, that blessing may come through us as Your servants. In the name of Jesus, our Savior, we pray. Amen.

The Birth of Jesus

Luke 2:1-20

What type of person do these words signify? We know these are, in fact, names for Jesus. Our glorious Savior was born in the most humble of conditions.

Why was it so important for God's Son to become a lowly human rather than someone with a higher social standing?

Wonderful
Counselor
Mighty God
Everlasting
Father

Prayer

Dear Lord, As we study today about the great sacrifices You made for us by coming to earth as a Baby, open our hearts that they may be filled with awe at the extreme love You have for us. Amen.

The Story - Luke 2:1-20

And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. {2} This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria.

{3} So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. {4} Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, {5} to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child.

{6} So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. {7} And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

{8} Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. {9} And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.

{10} Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. {11} "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is

Christ the Lord. {12} "And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

{13} And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: {14} "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

{15} So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us."

{16} And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. {17} Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. {18} And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

{19} But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. {20} Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

Review - How did God use each of the following people in the working of His plan for our salvation in today's story?

1. Cyrenius

2. Joseph

3. Mary

4. Jesus

5. angels

6. shepherds

Outer Aim

Jesus our Savior is born.

Matching Opposites - The story of Jesus' birth is one that goes beyond our comprehension. God and man are so different that to understand how Jesus **is** God and man is difficult, even impossible for us. Draw a line matching the opposites listed below.

Jesus lived in heaven.●

Jesus sat at God's right hand. ●

Shepherds watched the flock of sacrificial lambs.●

Jesus has all power in heaven and earth.●

Jesus is our King.●

● Shepherds went to see our Sacrificial Lamb.

● Jesus came to earth.

● He came as a servant.

● He lay in a feeding trough.

● He came as a helpless baby.

Passages - What other contrasts do we see in these references?

Micah 5:2

Galatians 4:4-5

Hymn #76

Inner Aim

Jesus, the Promised Savior, is born!

Closing Prayer

Come, Desire of nations, come,
Fix in us Thy humble home;
Oh, to all Thyself impart,
Formed in each believing heart!

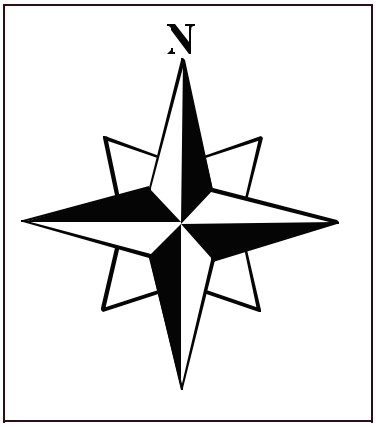
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Thank you, Jesus, for taking my place.
Amen.

The Wise Men and Flight to Egypt

Matthew 2:1-23

If you were given a compass and a map, would you be able to find an address in your town?
How about an address in a state miles away?

Suppose you were given a compass and a piece of paper that held all of the information you need to find a person, but when you look at the paper all you see is the word baby. Would you be able to complete the assignment by finding this specific child?



What kind of questions would you ask to narrow down your search?
Where would you look for the answers?

How about the other side of the story - How would you feel being a parent of a child that: 1) strange people from a different country spent months (maybe even years) to find, and 2) when they arrived gave the child precious and expensive gifts?

Prayer

Dear God,

You have given us the faith to believe in You. Please help us not to take our faith for granted. As we study today about the lengths to which the wise men went in order to worship Your Son, strengthen our faith, and make us truly thankful for the gifts You have given each of us. Amen.

The Story - Matthew 2:1-23

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, {2} saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."

{3} When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. {4} And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

{5} So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: {6} 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.'"

{7} Then Herod, when he had

secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. {8} And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also."

{9} When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was.

{10} When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. {11} And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

{12} Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

{13} Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him."

{14} When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, {15} and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son."

{16} Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men.

{17} Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: {18} "A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, Refusing to be comforted, Because they are no more."

{19} But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, {20} saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead."

{21} Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. {22} But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee.

{23} And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

Review - Read the following statements. If they are correct write **CORRECT** in the blank. If they are incorrect cross out the incorrect word and **WRITE THE CORRECT WORD** in the blank.

1. _____ The wisemen came from Egypt.

2. _____ They first looked for Jesus in Nazareth.

3. _____ Herod was paranoid at the news of this new king.

4. _____ Herod's scribes found their answer from the writings of the prophet Jeremiah.

5. _____ Herod told the wisemen that he wanted to kill Jesus.

6. _____ The star led the wisemen to Jerusalem.

7. _____ The wisemen presented gifts of gold, cloth, and myrrh.

8. _____The wisemen immediately told Herod where Jesus was.

9. _____ God told Joseph through a dream to go to Egypt.

10. _____ Herod ordered that all male children age two and younger be put to death.

11. _____ After Herod's death Joseph returned with Mary and Jesus to Jerusalem.

Hymn Study

Which verses of Hymn #130 best fit the thoughts of today's story?

What does verse six remind us of?

Outer Aim

God led the wisemen to Jesus.

Passage Study - Look up the following passages. How do they apply to today's lesson?

A. Psalm 2:2-4

B. Isaiah 49:6

C. Micah 5:2

D. Isaiah 60:2-3

E. John 5:39

F. Numbers 24:17

Inner Aim

God reveals the Savior of all people.

Closing Prayer

Hail, Thou all inviting Savior!
Gentiles now their offerings bring;
In Thy temples seek Thy favor,
Jesus Christ, our Lord and King.
May we, body, soul, and spirit,
Live devoted to Thy praise,
Glorious realms of bliss inherit,
Grateful anthems ever raise. Amen.

Twelve-year-old Jesus in the Temple

Luke 2:40-52

How is Jesus doing His Father's business in this picture?

How should we regard God's Word?

Twelve-year-old Jesus in the Temple with Teachers

Prayer

Dear Lord, make our hearts willing to hear Your Word. Let us joyfully use the opportunities we are given to learn Your Word. Help us to keep it and remain Your children throughout our lives. In Your Name we pray. Amen.

Twelve-year-old Jesus in the Temple - Luke 2: 40-52

And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him. {41} His parents went to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast.

{43} When they had finished the days, as they returned, the boy Jesus lingered behind in Jerusalem. And Joseph and His mother did not know it; {44} but supposing Him to have been in the company, they went a day's journey, and sought Him among their relatives and acquaintances. {45} So when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him.

{46} Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. {47} And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers.

{48} So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously." {49} And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" {50} But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them.

{51} Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart. {52} And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

Outer Aim

The Boy Jesus came to do His heavenly Father's business.

Recalling Details - Fill in the blanks with the correct word.

1. Jesus and His parents traveled to_____for the_____of the_____.

2. The feast of the Passover lasted for ____ _____. (Ex. 12:12,19)

3. When the feast was over, Jesus stayed in_____.

4. Joseph and Mary searched for Jesus for_____days.

5. They found Him in the_____doing _____ _____ _____.

6. When Jesus spoke of "My Father" He was referring to_____.

7. Jesus returned to _____with His parents.

What God Tells Us

1. How does the Bible tell us that Jesus was paying attention to His teachers?

2. How can we follow the good example that Jesus set for us in the temple? (Check two)
   ( ) By being attentive to the sermon and singing the hymns with joy in church.
   ( ) By helping our neighbor when he is in need.
   ( ) By gladly hearing and learning God's Word at home.

3. Which commandment did Jesus fulfill by learning God's Word?

4. Which commandment did Jesus fulfill by obeying God?

5. Which commandment did Jesus fulfill by obeying His parents?

6. Jesus increased in wisdom. How can we increase in wisdom? (John 5: 39)

Inner Aim

Jesus willingly treasured God's Word perfectly for us.

Commandments and Passages

1st Commandment
You shall have no other gods.

How did Jesus fulfill this commandment in the story?
How can we follow His example?

3rd Commandment
Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.

In this story how did Jesus fulfill this commandment?
How can we follow His example?

Hebrews 4:15 **"For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin."**

Hebrews 7:26 **"For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners."**

How would you explain these passages to someone else and how they relate to this story.

Prayer

Dear Father in heaven, even as a little child, Jesus did Your will and worked for our salvation. Help us to live thankful lives, eager to hear Your Word, and to obey not only You but those whom You have placed over us for our care. And when we fall, bring us back to You in repentance and faith, trusting in Your forgiveness and the salvation that Jesus, Your Son through His perfect obedience, gained for us. We pray, trusting in Jesus, Amen.

The Ministry of John and the Baptism of Jesus

Matthew 3:1-17

About thirty years after Jesus' birth, His cousin John began his ministry in Judea. Isaiah had prophesied about John in chapter 40:3,

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the LORD. Make his path straight."

John preached in the wilderness, where living off the land was difficult to do. His clothing was camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was simple also--locusts (grasshoppers) and wild honey. He called for the people to repent of their sins, and when they did he baptized them in the Jordan River. Many people of Judea and Jerusalem came out to confess their sins and be baptized by this prophet of God. His work was to prepare the people for the coming of the promised Messiah and His ministry.

As John's ministry continued he drew not only the attention of the people, but also of the chief religious leaders, namely, the Pharisees and the Sadducees. When he saw them coming he confronted them by calling them a "brood of vipers!" Some Pharisees and Sadducees thought that since they were descendants of Abraham, they were assured of salvation. John warned them that without true repentance for sins they would be like a tree that does not bear good fruit and is thrown into the fire. Many people consulted John on how to bear fruits of faith. When speaking to tax collectors, John advised them not to collect more than was due them. John counseled soldiers not to intimidate anyone, falsely accuse anyone, or complain about their wages.

Many people wondered if John was the Christ. John humbly rejected this expectation, preaching that the One coming after him was mightier and greater than he. John believed he was not even worthy to untie Jesus' sandals. John baptized with water, but the coming Christ would baptize with the Holy Spirit.

The Baptism of Jesus

Jesus journeyed from Galilee to John at the Jordan so He could be baptized. When John saw Jesus approaching, he declared Him to be "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." At first, John was reluctant to baptize Jesus, thinking that he was not worthy to baptize Him. Jesus told John to baptize Him, and John obeyed. Immediately after the baptism the

heavens were opened and the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, flew down and landed on Jesus. The Father's voice from heaven declared, "This is My beloved Son in who I am well pleased."

After Jesus' baptism, He began His ministry. Many people listened and believed. As Jesus' following grew, those that followed John became fewer and fewer. King Herod, upset that John had rebuked him for a public sin, imprisoned John. Eventually, as a favor to his daughter, he had John beheaded.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for showing us that through His baptism Jesus is Your Son sent to be our Savior. Help us to picture in our hearts Jesus' baptism and how He kept the Law for us to be our perfect Savior. When we sin, call us to repentance and faith that Jesus Christ, Your Son, washes us clean from all our sin, just as our baptism reminds us. We ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Outer Aim **Jesus was baptized to publicly begin His ministry as our Savior.**

Answer the Questions

1. Where did John the Baptist preach? (Mt. 3:1)
2. Which two Old Testament prophets foretold John's coming? (Mk. 1:2-3)
3. What did Malachi call John? (2)
4. What did Isaiah call John? (3)
5. What was John's message to the people? (4)
6. What did John wear? Eat? (Mt. 3:4)
7. Who went to hear John preach? (5)
8. How did many people respond? (6)
9. Which two groups of skeptics also came to hear John? (7)
10. What did John call these people? (7)
11. What did John tell them to do? (8)
12. What did they think was their automatic ticket to heaven? (9)

13. What warning did John give them? (10)

14. Whose coming did John announce? (11)

15. When Jesus arrived, what did He want John to do? (13)

16. How did John try to prevent this? (14)

17. Why did Jesus want to be baptized? (15)

18. What happened after the baptism? (16)

19. What did a voice from heaven say? (17)

20. How did all three Persons of the Trinity appear in this story?

Inner Aim

God declared Jesus to be the Promised Messiah, our Savior.

Discuss It

What is repentance?

How does this story support the biblical truth that our God is triune?

What God Tells Us - Mark each statement (T)rue or (F)alse.

1._____John the Baptist lived and preached in the city.

2._____John the Baptist preached about repentance.

3._____John the Baptist wanted Jesus to baptize him.

4._____Jesus baptized John.

Passages

John 3:16 - "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."

1 John 1:7, 9 - "The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

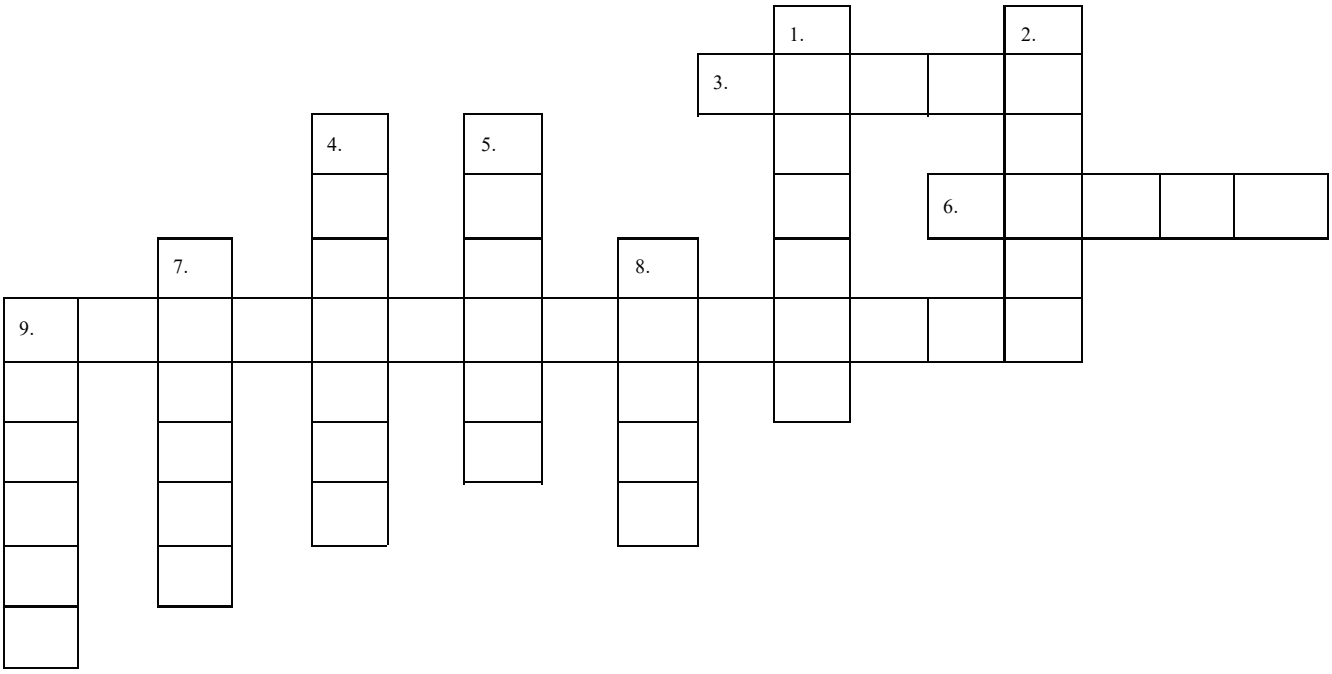
Ephesians 5:25-26 - "Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word."

Galatians 4:4-5 - But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

Crossword Fun

ACROSS
3. The form of God the Father
6. He was baptized by John
9. He preached repentance in wilderness

DOWN
1. John ate these insects
2. Be sorry for sin, have faith in Christ's forgiveness.
4. The application of water along with God's Word
5. Poisonous snakes
7. Jesus' age when He began His ministry
8. John's coat was made from hair of this animal
9. The river in which Jesus was baptized by John



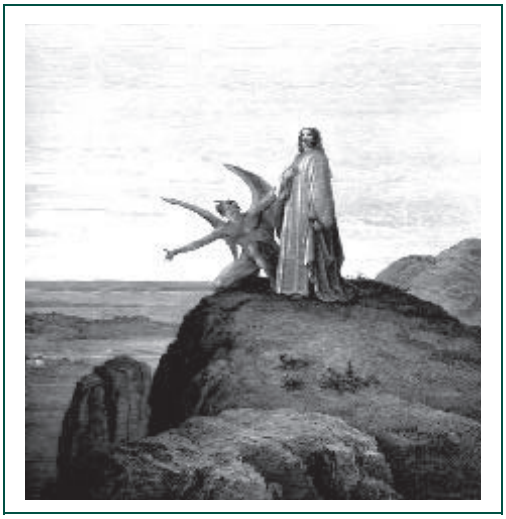
Hymn - Read through Hymn 63 v. 1-3 "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry." Use this hymn as a closing prayer.

The Temptations in the Wilderness

Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13

The Story

After Jesus had been baptized, the Holy Spirit led Him into the wilderness. Jesus was to be tempted by the devil at this time. Jesus fasted for forty days and nights and lived among the wild beasts. During these forty days, Jesus was constantly tempted by Satan. Although there were many other temptations, Scripture only reveals three of them for learning and application.



In one temptation the tempter came to Jesus and said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." Jesus used Scripture saying, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" (Deut. 8:3)

A different temptation had the devil taking Jesus up to the pinnacle of the temple. Satan deceitfully misquoted Scripture, trying to get Jesus to sin. The devil said, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge concerning you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus fought this temptation using the Word of God. He said, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'" (Deut. 6:16)

In another temptation, the devil took Him to a very high mountain. He showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. Satan said, "All these things I will give You if You well fall down and worship me." Jesus answered once again from Deuteronomy saying, "Get behind me, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only shall you serve.'" (Deut. 6:13)

When the devil finished trying to lure the Son of God into sin, he departed from Jesus, waiting for another opportunity to tempt Him. The angels came and took care of Jesus. After these ordeals, Jesus began His public ministry.

Passages To Study

1 Corinthians 10:13 - No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.
Matthew 26:41 - "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

1 Peter 5:8 - "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."

Hebrews 4:15 - "(Jesus) was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin."

Questions - Answer these questions about the lesson. The Bible reference in ( ) parentheses will help you.

1. Where did the Spirit lead Jesus? Why? (Mt. 4:1)_____

2. How long did Jesus fast? What effect did this have? (2)_____

3. Who came to Him when He was in this condition? (3)_____

4. What did the tempter want Jesus to doubt? (3)_____

5. How long did Satan suggest that Jesus prove who He was? (3)_____

6. What weapon did Jesus use to fight Satan?_____

7. What specific Word of God was Jesus' weapon? (4) _____

_____

8. Where did Satan then take Jesus for another temptation? (5) _____

9. What did Satan tempt Jesus to do here? (6)_____

10. What did Satan use to back up his suggestion? (6) _____

11. What important words did Satan leave out? (check Ps 91:11-12) _____

_____

12. How did Jesus again combat the devil? _____

13. What specific Word of God did Jesus use? (7)_____

14. What did Satan show Jesus from a mountain top? (8) _____

15. What deal did Satan offer Jesus? (9)_____

16. What did Jesus tell Satan to do? (10)_____

17. What weapon did Jesus again use against Satan? _____

18. What did Jesus say? _____

19. What did Satan finally do after this? (11)_____

20. Who came to serve and comfort Jesus? (11)_____

True or False

_____1. It is possible for a Christian to escape all temptations in life.

_____2. If a person has a lot of self-confidence, he can overcome any temptation.

_____3. God's Word and prayer are effective weapons against temptation.

_____4. Repentance is the way of recovery after falling into temptation.

_____5. Temptation involves deciding between God and my own sinful desires.

Discuss

1. Why was it necessary for Jesus to be tempted by Satan?

2. What does it mean to you that Jesus was able to resist temptation during this, the most vulnerable time of his life?

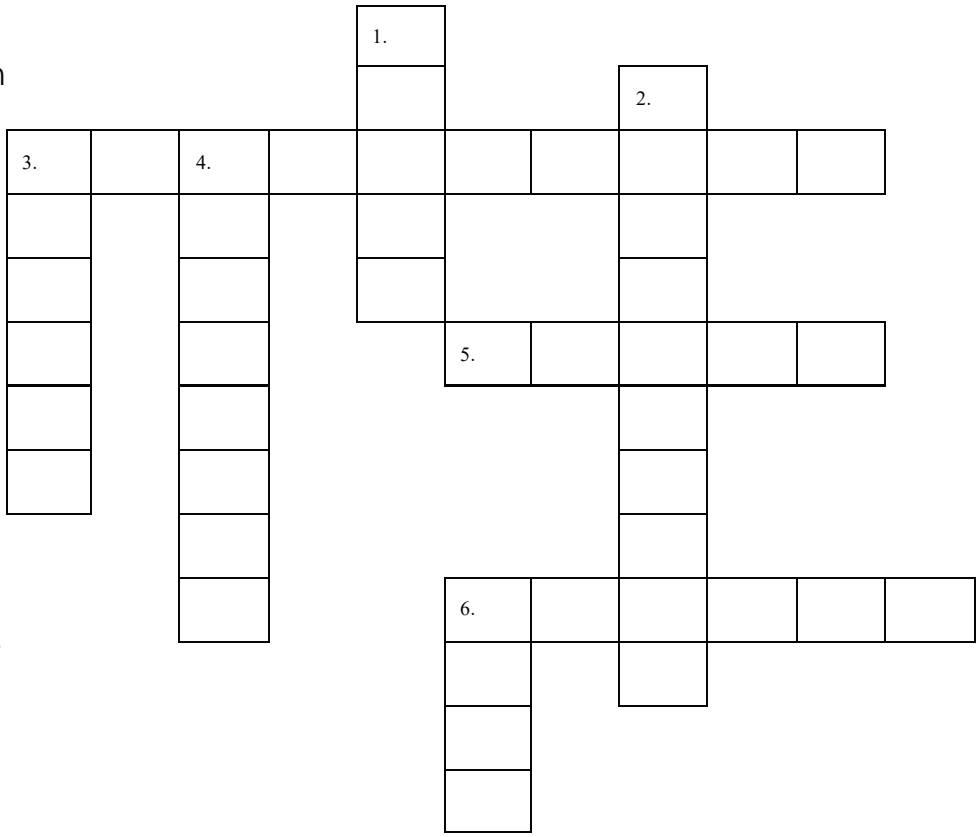
Crossword Fun

ACROSS

3. What Satan leads us into
5. Satan suggested Jesus turn stones into_____.
6. Went without food

DOWN

1. "The tempter"
2. Where Satan tempted Jesus
3. Satan told Jesus to jump from here
4. Where Satan showed Jesus all kingdoms
6. Number of days and nights Jesus fasted.



Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, even as we pray in the Lord's Prayer, "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil," so deliver us from temptation and evil. Strengthen our faith and increase our knowledge of Your Word so that we, by Your Grace, may overcome the Devil through Jesus' victory for us. Help us to see and use the escape from temptation that You have promised to provide us. Forgive us where we have fallen. And may we be thankful when You give us each victory. So that when our battles are ended, You will have brought us through this life to share in the Victory that Jesus won for us. We pray, believing in the name of Jesus our Victorious Savior, Amen.

The Wedding at Cana

John 2:1-11

If you saw someone wearing this uniform, what would it tell you that they were?

How might you feel if you saw this man when you were in danger?

Why would you feel this way?

Prayer

Dear God, Our Father in Heaven, through this awesome miracle that He did, help us to see that Jesus was not only a good man but also the Son of God come to earth to be our Savior. Teach us to turn to Jesus for our needs. Help us to know that He will meet those needs in the way that is best for us. O Lord, bless our homes with Your presence and strengthen our trust in You for forgiveness of sins and all that we need. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

The Wedding at Cana - John 2:1-12

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. {2} Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. {3} And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no more wine." {4} Jesus said to her, " Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come." {5} His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it."

{6} Now there were set there six water pots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece.{7} Jesus said to them, "Fill the water pots with water." And they filled them up to the brim. {8} And Jesus said to them, "Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast." And they took it.

{9} When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made 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. {10} And he said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then that which is inferior; but you have kept the good wine until now."

{11} This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him. {12} After this He went down to Capernaum, He, His mother, His brothers, and His disciples; and they did not stay there many days.

Notes

Recalling Details - In the space provided, retell the story in your own words.

What the Story Tells Us- Outer Aim

Jesus changed water into wine to show He is God.

Discussion Questions

1. What from the story points out that Jesus approves of and blesses marriage?
2. Look up Genesis 2:22-24 and explain what God says about marriage here.
3. Why did Jesus rebuke His mother Mary when she wanted Him to help with the

problem at the wedding?
4. What should this teach us about how God answers prayer?
5. What from the miracle of Jesus changing water into wine shows us that when Jesus helps us, He does so abundantly?
6. At the end of this story, what two reasons are given for Jesus performing this His first miracle?
7. Think of some other miracles Jesus performed. How do these miracles strengthen our faith in Jesus as God?
8. Because we believe Jesus is God, what do we know that He did and can do for us?

What God Tells Us - Inner Aim
Jesus' miracles support our faith that He is God and will take care of our needs.

Passages - Circle only the passages that apply to today's lesson. Explain how they apply.

Psalm 50:15 - Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.

Genesis 2:24 - Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

I Timothy 2:5 - For there is one God and one Mediator between God and man, the Man Christ Jesus.

John 20:30-31 - And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

Romans 1:16 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.

Hymn
Look at hymn 520:1,4, 5-9. Choose two of those stanzas and explain how they apply to our lesson today.

Prayer

Besides the Inner Aim, two other ideas were expressed in today's lesson: that marriage is blessed by God, and that Jesus provides exactly what we need at exactly the right time. Write a short prayer that expresses these three thoughts.

Peter's Catch of Fish and Jesus' Call of the Apostles

Luke 5:1-11, 6:12-16; Matthew 4: 18-22, 10: 1-10; Mark 3: 13-14

What does this man do?

What might make a pastor feel like he isn't able to do his job?

Prayer

Dear Jesus in Heaven, thank you for calling people to serve You by teaching us Your Word. We know that You have given each of us a calling for our lives, to serve You. Help us to spread Your Word so that many will become believers in You and be saved. When we fail to serve You, send others to us to call us to repent and to bring us Your Word and forgiveness which You won for us by Your redeeming death on the cross. In Your saving name we pray, Amen.

Peter's Catch of Fish and Jesus' Call of the Apostles

Now so it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their nets.

Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat.

Now when He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."

But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net." And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their net was breaking.

So Simon and Andrew his brother signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.

When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon.

And Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all, including their boats, their nets, and their father, and followed Him.

Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day, He called His disciples to Him, those whom He Himself wanted; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles. He appointed them that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach.

Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: Simon, whom He also named Peter, and Andrew his brother;

James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alpheus; Thaddeus; Simon called the Zealot; and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him.

Recalling Details

1. Where did this story take place?
2. Why did Jesus have to get into Simon's boat and preach from the lake?
3. What did Jesus tell Simon to do?
4. Why did Simon find this request unusual?
5. What were the results of their attempt?
6. What was Simon Peter's reaction when he saw this?
7. What did Jesus tell them after the miracle? What did this mean?
8. What did the men do in response to what Jesus said?
9. List the twelve apostles.

Outer Aim - Jesus called some fishermen to preach the Gospel.

Discussion

1. Imagine yourself as one of the fishermen. You had just witnessed this amazing miracle of Jesus, and now He tells you that you will be "fishers of men" if you follow Him. How would what you had just seen help strengthen your faith and help you believe that you would truly be able to do what He just asked you to do?

2. The Lord has chosen pastors and teachers to be special "fishers of men". Explain how pastors and teachers are important to the work of the Lord.

3. How can all Christians, no matter what their calling, be comforted by this story?

Passages - Explain how each of these passages fits the story.

**Matthew 6:33 - But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,
and all these things shall be added to you.**

**Matthew 16:24-25 - Then Jesus said to His disciples,
"If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself,
and take up his cross, and follow Me.
For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life
for My sake will find it."**

**Philippians 1:6 - Being confident of this very thing,
that He who has begun a good work in you
will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.**

**Ephesians 4:8, 11-12 - Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high,
He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men."
…And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets,
some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,
for the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry,
for the edifying of the body of Christ.**

Inner Aim - Jesus gives those He calls the power to preach the Gospel.

Hymn

Look at hymn 16.

Explain how this hymn expresses the Inner Aim of this lesson.

Prayer

Use the main ideas of both the Outer and Inner Aims, write a short prayer that fits our story today.

Jesus and Nicodemus

John 3:1-21

Almost everyone in the world came into the world by being born. Adam and Eve are the only people who were not born. Everyone who has been born into the world has only been born once. Jesus tells us that those who are believers are born twice! It is hard for us as humans to understand this, but Jesus explains it to us in the Bible. He explains it to a man named Nicodemus, a man who was a Rabbi, or a teacher in the church. Today, we will learn how a person can be born twice, as we study Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus.

Prayer

Let me learn of Jesus; He is kind to me.
Once He died to save me, Nailed upon the tree.
Let me think of Jesus; He is full of love,
Looking down upon me From His throne above. Amen.

The Story - John 3:1-21

There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. {2} This man came to Jesus 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."

{3} Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

{4} Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

{5} Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. {6} "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. {7} "Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' {8} "The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

{9} Nicodemus answered and said to Him, "How can these things be?"

{10} Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not

know these things? {11} "Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness. {12} "If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? {13} "No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. {14} "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, {15} "that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

{16} "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. {17} "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. {18} "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. {19} "And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. {20} "For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. {21} "But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

Outer Aim - Jesus reveals the nature of the Kingdom of God to Nicodemus.

What the Story Tells Us - Fill in the blanks and then find those words in the WORD SEARCH. The words may be vertical, horizontal, diagonal, and even backwards.

1. _____ had a conversation with a _____ named _____.

2. Nicodemus was a member of the _____.

3. That which is born of the flesh is _____, and that which is born of the Spirit is _____.

4. You cannot hear the sound of the _____, and it blows where is wishes.

5. And as _____ lifted up the _____ in the wilderness, even so must the _____ _____ _____ be lifted up.

6. Unless one is _____ _____ he cannot see the _____ ____ _____.

7. _____ means to be born again.

8. Unless one is born of _____ and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.
9. God so loved the world that he gave His only _____ Son, the whoever believes in Him shall not _____ but have _____ _____.

10. Jesus is my _____ from sin.

RABBI	NICODEMUS	KINGDOM OF GOD	SERPENT	WATER
FLESH	REGENERATE	EVERLASTING LIFE	SPIRIT	MOSES
JESUS	SANHEDRIN	BORN AGAIN	PERISH	SAVIOR
WIND	SON OF MAN	BEGOTTEN		

S A S I J K R D J E B S S E Q P L I X
O R A B B I U T S B O A F J E S U S O
N E V A W N N M K O R N T D E R T H S
O R I F L E S H A A N H E F G H B B S
F T O F P E R I S H A E D O I G E U F
M H R R E E N K I N G D O M O F G O D
A V E J O E T A N W A R P O Y H O T G
N S G U S K C I R R I I R N F X T Y U
R E G E N E R A T E N N F W J Z T H E
D S Q W E R O H J K O O D T A L E G S
E O A S D T I R I P S V B S J T N B S
S M S D T B N J T W O D Y S R M E N J
R E E F I L G N I T S A L R E V E R D

Inner Aim - Jesus has made me a part of His Kingdom by water and the Spirit.

Your Turn - Answer the following question.

Nicodemus is mentioned in the Bible at Jesus' death and burial. When the disciples fled, he stepped up to claim the body of Christ. From these two lessons of Nicodemus, how can we be like Nicodemus?

What God's Word Tells Us - Answer the following questions.

1. What metaphor did Jesus used when describing everyone who is born of the Spirit?

   (v. 8)

2. Why do you suppose Jesus told Nicodemus the story of Moses and the serpent?

3. What did Jesus mean when He said a man must be born again? (v. 5)

4. For what reasons did God send His Son into the world, and for what reasons didn't He send Him.(v.15,16,17)

5. What is the only way of salvation? (v. 5,16)

Passages

John 3:5 - Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."

John 3:16 - 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.

Titus 3:4-7 - But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Hymn - TLH #245

God loved the world so that He gave
His only Son the lost to save.
That all who would in Him believe,
Should everlasting life receive.

Christ Jesus is the Ground of faith,
Who was made flesh and suffered death;
All that confide in Him alone
Are built on this chief Cornerstone.

God would not let the sinner die,
His Son with saving grace is nigh,
His Spirit in the Word doth teach
How man the blessed goal may reach.

Be of good cheer, for God's own Son
Forgives all sins which thou hast done,
And justified by Jesus' blood,
Thy Baptism grants the highest good.

If thou be sick, if death draw near,
This truth thy troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves my soul from death;
That is the firmest ground of faith.

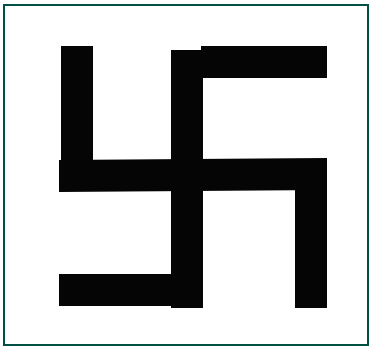
Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To Thee, O blessed Trinity,
Be praise now and eternally! Amen.

Prayer

Grant us Thy peace upon our homeward way
With Thee began with Thee shall end the day.
Guard Thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
That in this house have called upon Thy name. Amen (TLH #47 v 2)

Jesus and the Samaritan Woman

John 4



We recognize this symbol to represent the Nazis, one of the most notorious and wicked groups that ever existed. Would you have seen Jesus sit down with a member of this group, if He had lived in that time? Did He suffer and die on the cross for them?

Prayer

Dear Jesus, Help us to understand Your perfect love for all people. We thank You that You came to seek and to save those who were lost. We ask that You would bless our study this morning so that we may understand Your grace in our lives. Help us never to look down on or despise any other person. Thank You. Amen.

The Story

Therefore, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John {2} (though Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples), {3} He left Judea and departed again to Galilee. {4} But He needed to go through Samaria.

{5} So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. {6} Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

{7} A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." {8} For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.

{9} Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.

{10} Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."

{11} The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? {12} "Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?"

{13} Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, {14} "but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

{15} The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw."

{16} Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here."

{17} The woman answered and said, "I have no husband."

Jesus said to her, "You have well said, 'I have no husband,' {18} "for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly."

{19} The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. {20} "Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship."

{21} Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. {22} "You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. {23} "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. {24} "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

{25} The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will tell us all things."

{26} Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He."

{27} And at this point His disciples came, and they marveled that He talked with a woman; yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why are You talking with her?"

{28} The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, {29} "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" {30} Then they went out of the city and came to Him.

{31} In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." {32} But He said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know."

{33} Therefore the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought Him anything to eat?"

{34} Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. {35} "Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! {36} "And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. {37} "For in this the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.' {38} "I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors."

{39} And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all that I ever did."

{40} So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. {41} And many more believed because of His own word.

{42} Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world."

{43} Now after the two days He departed from there and went to Galilee.

Outer Aim - Jesus came to seek and to save all sinners, including the Samaritan woman and the other Samaritans.

What the Story Tells Us - Answer the questions.

1. Why was it unusual for Jesus, a Jew, to be talking to a Samaritan woman?

2. Read verse 11 again. How can you tell that the Samaritan woman didn't understand who Jesus was?

3. Why did Jesus ask the woman to get her husband? Didn't He already know everything about her?

4. In which verse does Jesus reveal His true identity to the woman? _____ Write the passage:

5. The disciples were concerned that Jesus needed to eat. What was Jesus more concerned with?

6. Why did the people of the village believe in Jesus?

What God's Word Tells Us - Answer the following.

1. There should be no racism among Christians. How does this story illustrate this?

2. Because of what Jesus has done for us on the cross, we should be eager to join the "laborers" in the harvest. Sometimes the world makes it hard for us to witness. List some barriers that might prevent us from reaching out with the Gospel:

3. Even though these barriers exist, we know that Jesus will help us. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13. List two or three additional passages that assure us we're not in this alone. Use your concordance to help you.

Inner Aim - Jesus came to seek and to save all sinners, including me.

Passages - Look these up in your Bible. Fill in the missing words.

Luke 19:10- For the Son of _____ has come to _____ and to _____ that which was lost.

John 4:14- But whoever drinks of the _____ that I shall give him will never _____. But the water that I shall give him will _____ in him a _____ of water springing up into _____ life.

Luke 10:2 - Then He said to them, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

Hymn - TLH #496

Hark! the voice of Jesus crying,
"Who will go and work today?
Fields are white and harvest waiting,
Who will bear the sheaves away?"
Loud and long the Master calleth,
Rich reward He offers thee;
Who will answer, gladly saying,
"Here am I, send me, send me"?

If you cannot speak like angels,
If you cannot preach like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus,
You can say He died for all.
If you cannot rouse the wicked
With the judgment's dread alarms,
You can lead the little children
To the Savior's waiting arms.

If you cannot be a watchman,
Standing high on Zion's wall,
Pointing out the path to heaven,
Offering life and peace to all,
With your prayers and with your bounties
You can do what God demands;
You can be like faithful Aaron,
Holding up the prophet's hands.

Let none hear you idly saying,
"There is nothing I can do,"
While the souls of men are dying
And the Master calls for you.
Take the task He gives you gladly,
Let His work your pleasure be;
Answer quickly when He calleth,
"Here am I, send me, send me!"

Prayer

Dear Savior Jesus Christ, You have commanded us, with Your disciples, to spread Your Word to all nations. Let us never forget that You died for all people of every race and country. Help us to be willing workers in Your kingdom, for the harvest is truly great. We ask this in Your saving name. Amen.

Jesus Heals the Man at Bethesda

John 5

What is Jesus doing in this picture?
Why do you think that He is doing this?

Prayer

Dear Jesus, You are able to help us when no one else can. You have revealed Yourself as Lord over sickness and disease. According to Your will, help us when we are sick. You have revealed Yourself through the Bible. Help us learn more about You as we search the Scriptures for there we will find You. Amen.

The Story - John 5:1-15 text, 16-47 summarized

After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. {2} Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches. {3} In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. {4} For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had.

{5} Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. {6} When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?"

{7} The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me."

{8} Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." {9} And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath.

{10} The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, "It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed."

{11} He answered them, "He who made me well said to me, 'Take up your bed and walk.'"

{12} Then they asked him, "Who is the Man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk'?" {13} But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in that place.

{14} 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." {15} The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

When they heard this they began to persecute Jesus and planned to kill Him because they thought that by healing the man on the Sabbath He had intentionally broken the Sabbath laws.

Jesus responded by saying, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working." This only made the Jews even more angry because now they thought that He was speaking blasphemy; He was making Himself equal to God.

Jesus continued by saying that the way to achieve eternal life is by going through God's Son. If someone rejects God's Son as the way to achieve salvation then they are turning their back on the only chance they have to be free of sin.

Jesus then pointed out some of the ways that people should be able to recognize that He is the Messiah. First of all John the Baptist went before Him preaching about Jesus' coming.

Secondly Jesus said that there are many prophecies in the Old Testament that point to Him. The miracles that Jesus performed pointed to the fact that He is the Son of God, and finally Jesus said to the Jews that if they really believed what Moses had said, they would believe in Him because even Moses wrote about Him

Jesus is able to take care of not only man's physical weaknesses but also his spiritual disease. Because of man's faith in Jesus his sins are forgiven. Jesus explained this very thing to the Jews when they came to Him. However, they rejected Jesus as their only way of salvation from sin.

What God's Word Tells Us - Fill in the blank using the words in the box.

believe	disease	heaven	miracle	sickness
casually	eventually	Jesus	react	sin
claimed	faith	kill	Scripture	testifies
dig	healed	leaders	search	

Jesus h_____ the sick man by His divine power. Disease is a result of s_____. Even those people Jesus healed e_____ died. The final healing from d_____ will not take place until we are with Jesus in h_____.

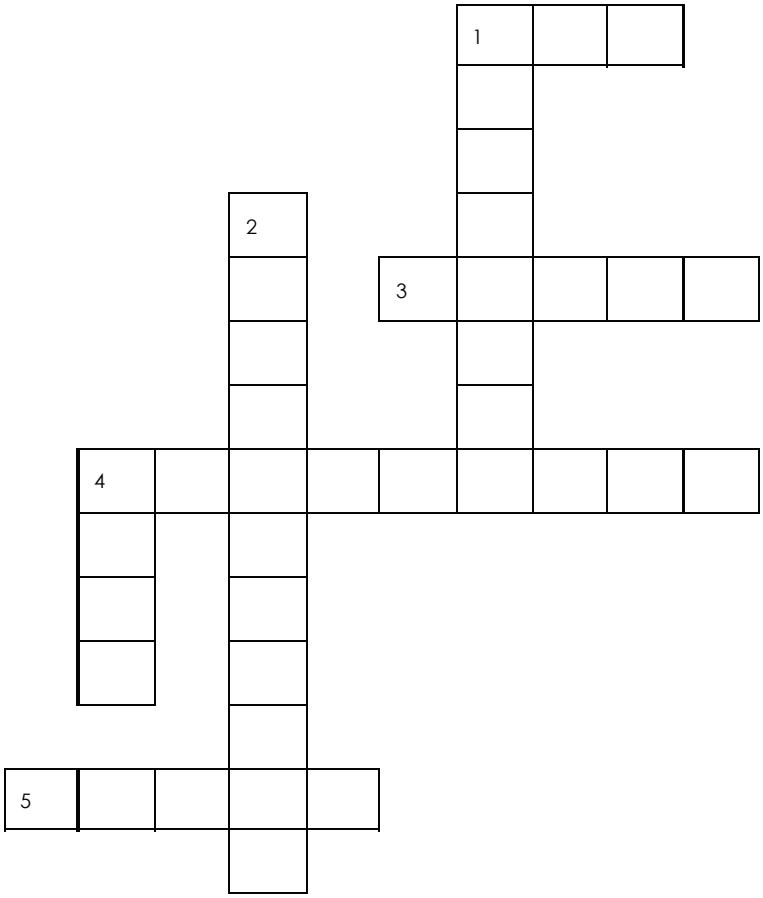
J_____ heals us too. However He does not heal all diseases nor does He always do so with a m_____ like He did at the pool. Even a s_____ has a purpose in strengthening our f_____ and bringing us closer to Jesus.

The Jewish l_____ rejected Jesus and even wanted to k_____ Him, not because He healed on the Sabbath Day, but because Jesus c_____ to be the Son of God. (John 5:18) People today also r_____ strongly to Jesus' claim to be the Son of God.

Jesus is revealed in the S_____. The Old Testament t_____ concerning Him. Jesus encourages us to s_____ the Scriptures. We are not to c_____ read the Bible just on Sundays. We are to d_____ into the Bible daily. If someone does not b_____ the words of God in the Bible, he will not believe Jesus.

What the Story Tells Us - Fill in the Crossword Puzzle using the words in the box.

Jesus	Jerusalem
Sabbath	angel
Bethesda	Jews
infirmities	bed



Across
1. Jesus told the man to pick up his ___.
3. ____ healed the man.
4. This took place in _____.
5. An ___ stirred up the water.

Down
1. The name of the pool.
2. The man was healed of his ____.
4. The ____ scolded the man for carrying his bed.

Outer Aim - Jesus took away the man's sickness and revealed Himself as the Son of God.

Passages

2 Timothy 3:15-16 - And that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

John 5:39 - You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

Inner Aim - Jesus takes away my sins and reveals Himself through the Holy Scriptures.

Hymn - TLH #290 v. 1, 3, 4

We have a sure prophetic Word
By inspiration of the Lord;
And tho' assailed on ev'ry hand,
Jehovah's Word shall ever stand.

Lo, what the Word in times of old
Of future days and deeds foretold
Is all fulfilled while ages roll,
As traced on the prophetic scroll.

Abiding, steadfast, firm, and sure
The teachings of the Word endure.
Blest he who trusts this steadfast Word;
His anchor holds in Christ, the Lord.

Prayer

Dear Lord,
Thank You for allowing us to gather together in order to study Your Word. Thank You for this reminder that You will always take away our infirmities, whether by healing us or by taking us to be with You in heaven where there will be no more sickness or death. Let not our will but Your's be done. Amen.

Jesus Heals the Paralyzed Man

Mark 2:1-12

How does it feel to be sick?

What does your family do when you or a family member is sick?

Prayer

Dear Father in heaven, send your Holy Spirit into our hearts so we will gladly hear and study your Word. Help us today as we learn how Jesus, Your Son, has power to forgive sins and help in all our needs. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Story (Mark 2:1-12)

And again He entered Capernaum after some days, and it was heard that He was in the house. {2} Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them.

{3} Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. {4} And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying.

{5} When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you."

{6} And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, {7} "Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

{8} But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, "Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? {9} "Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk'? {10} "But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"; He said to the paralytic, {11} "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."

{12} Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!" *(Teacher's Note: Older students could also read this story from Matthew 9:1-8.)*

Recalling Details

1. In what town did this story take place?
2. How was the paralyzed man able to come to Jesus?
3. Why did they have a problem getting into the room?
4. How did they get the paralyzed man into the room?
5. What did Jesus tell the paralyzed man?
6. Who thought Jesus was speaking blasphemies?
7. Why did the scribes believe Jesus spoke blasphemies?
8. How could Jesus know the thoughts of the scribes?
9. What did Jesus say the Son of Man has power to do?
10. How did the paralyzed man show he was made well?
11. What did the people do after seeing this miracle?

What the Story Tells Us - Jesus heals a paralyzed man.

Discussion Questions

1. Why did the four men bring the paralyzed man to Jesus?

2. Why did Jesus say, "Son, your sins are forgiven you," before He made him well?

3. How did Jesus have power to forgive sins?

4. What does He mean when He says, "The Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins?"

5. Read Matthew 9:2. Why did Jesus say, "Son, be of good cheer," as He granted the paralyzed man forgiveness of sins?

6. What do we learn from Mark 2:12?

7. Read Matthew 9:8 and John 20:23. What is the power God has given to men?

8. Read 1 Peter 5:7. What does the Lord want us to do?

What God Tells Us
Jesus has the power and authority to forgive sins.

Passages - Read each passage and tell how it applies to you.

1 Peter 5:7 Casting all your care upon Him; for He cares for you.

1 John 1:7 the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

Matthew 11:28-29 "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give your rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

Romans 3:23-24 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Hymn

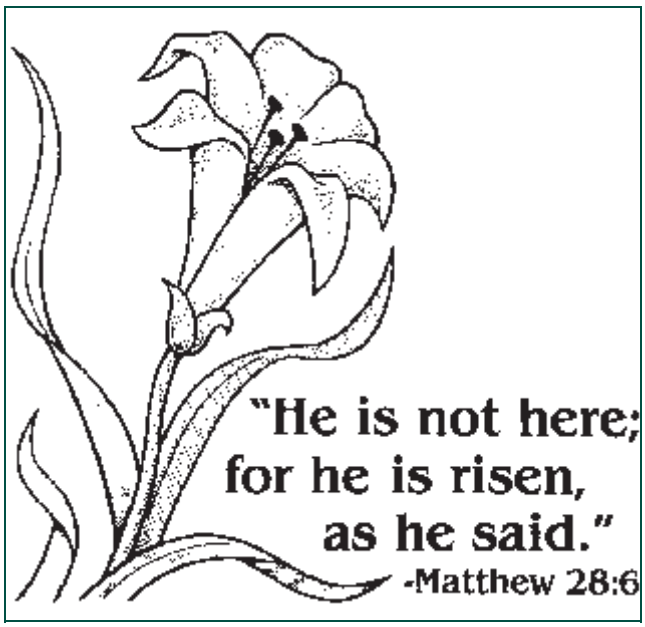
Look at the Lutheran Hymnal 522 and match the verses to the verses in Mark 2:1-12.

Prayer

Dear Lord, Jesus, You show us through Your Word today Your great power over sin and sicknesses. When our sins trouble us, draw us in faith to You for the forgiveness that You alone can give so that we may find peace and joy through sins forgiven. When sickness comes upon us, give us a patient faith that continues to seek your strength and healing through prayer. When we are healed, may Your name be glorified before those who doubt You. We pray, trusting in Your grace and mercy, Amen.

Jesus Raises the Daughter of Jairus

Luke 8:40-56



What does this lily remind you of?

Why is Easter such an important day for us?

Learn from our lesson how Jesus showed His power over even death itself.

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, be present now,
Our hearts in true devotion bow,
Thy Spirit send with grace divine,
And let Thy truth within us shine. Amen.
(TLH #3)

Jesus Raises the Daughter of Jairus
Luke 8:40-56

So it was, when Jesus returned, that the multitude welcomed Him, for they were all waiting for Him.

{41} And behold, there came a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue. And he fell down at Jesus' feet and begged Him to come to his house, {42} for he had an only daughter about twelve years of age, and she was dying.

But as He went, the multitudes thronged Him. {43} Now a woman, having a flow of blood for twelve years, who had spent all her livelihood on physicians and could not be healed by any, {44} came from behind and touched the border of His garment. And immediately her flow of blood stopped.

{45} And Jesus said, "Who touched Me?" When all denied it, Peter and those with him said, "Master, the multitudes throng and press You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?'" {46} But Jesus said, "Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me."

{47} Now when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before Him, she declared to Him in the presence of all the people the reason she had touched Him and how she was healed immediately. {48} And He said

to her, "Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace."

{49} While He was still speaking, someone came from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying to him, "Your daughter is dead. Do not trouble the Teacher." {50} But when Jesus heard it, He answered him, saying, "Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well."

{51} When He came into the house, He permitted no one to go in except Peter, James, and John, and the father and mother of the girl. {52} Now all wept and mourned for her; but He said, "Do not weep; she is not dead, but sleeping." {53} And they ridiculed Him, knowing that she was dead. {54} But He put them all outside, took her by the hand and called, saying, "Little girl, arise." {55} Then her spirit returned, and she arose immediately. And He commanded that she be given something to eat. {56} And her parents were astonished, but He charged them to tell no one what had happened.

Identification - Who said the following?

"Who touched Me?"_____

"If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well." _____

"My daughter is at the point of death." _____

"Your faith has made you well."_____

"Your daughter is dead." _____

"Little girl, I say to you, arise." _____

"She is not dead, but sleeping." _____

Using Your Bibles

Match the passage with the description by putting the correct letter in the blank.

1._____John 14:1-2

2._____1 Cor. 15:20

3._____1 Cor. 15:54-55

4._____1 Thess. 4:13-14

5._____Revelation 21:4

6._____John 11:25

A. All who believe in Jesus will live eternally after they die.

B. Death cannot hurt us. We will overcome death.

C. This is what heaven will be like.

D. Jesus has prepared a place for us and will come again.

E. Death is like falling asleep. We will awaken.

F. Because Jesus rose from the dead, we will live also.

Some Things to Think About

1. How do you feel when you think about dying?

2. Why don't we have to be afraid of dying?

3. Is it all right to sing joyful songs at a believer's funeral? Why?

4. To whom should we go for help in times of sickness or any other trouble?

5. Does God always heal our sickness or diseases? Explain.

Hymn - Read the words of Hymn 206 (verse 2) and explain these phrases:

> **Jesus, my Redeemer lives; I, too, unto life shall waken.**
> **Endless joy my Savior gives; shall my courage, then, be shaken?**
> **Shall I fear, or could the Head rise and leave His members dead?**

"I, too, unto life shall waken."

"...could the Head rise and leave His members dead?"

Memory Passage

John 11:25 - Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live."

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, teach us to come to You with all our needs just like Jairus did. Give us a faith that trusts that You will take care of us in times of sickness. We know that because You died for us and rose again on Easter, we do not need to fear death. Help us to believe that our death will be just the beginning of everlasting life with You in Heaven. We thank You for conquering sin and death for us. Keep us faithful until death. Amen.

The Centurion's Servant

Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10

Do you know what religion has these items?

Do you know the name for those people who are not Jewish?

Which group, Jew or Gentile, is more likely to go to heaven? (Be careful here.)

Today we will hear about a faithful Gentile soldier.

Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven, Help us to learn from Your Holy Bible the lesson today. Make our faith grow stronger through the study of that Word. Thank you for giving us faith to trust in Your Son, Jesus, for the forgiveness of sins. Amen.

The Story - Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10

Matthew 8: 5 - Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, {6} saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented."

{7} And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him."

{8} The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. {9} "For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

{10} When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! {11} "And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. {12} "But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." {13} Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you." And his servant was healed that same hour.

Luke 7:1 - Now when He concluded all His sayings in the hearing of the people, He entered Capernaum. {2} And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear to him, was sick and ready to die. {3} So when he heard about Jesus, he sent elders of the

Jews to Him, pleading with Him to come and heal his servant. {4} And when they came to Jesus, they begged Him earnestly, saying that the one for whom He should do this was deserving, {5} "for he loves our nation, and has built us a synagogue."

{6} Then Jesus went with them. And when He was already not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to Him, saying to Him, "Lord, do not trouble Yourself, for I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof. {7} "Therefore I did not even think myself worthy to come to You. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. {8} "For I also am a man placed under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

{9} When Jesus heard these things, He marveled at him, and turned around and said to the crowd that followed Him, "I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!" {10} And those who were sent, returning to the house, found the servant well who had been sick.

Outer Aim - Jesus heals a Centurion's servant

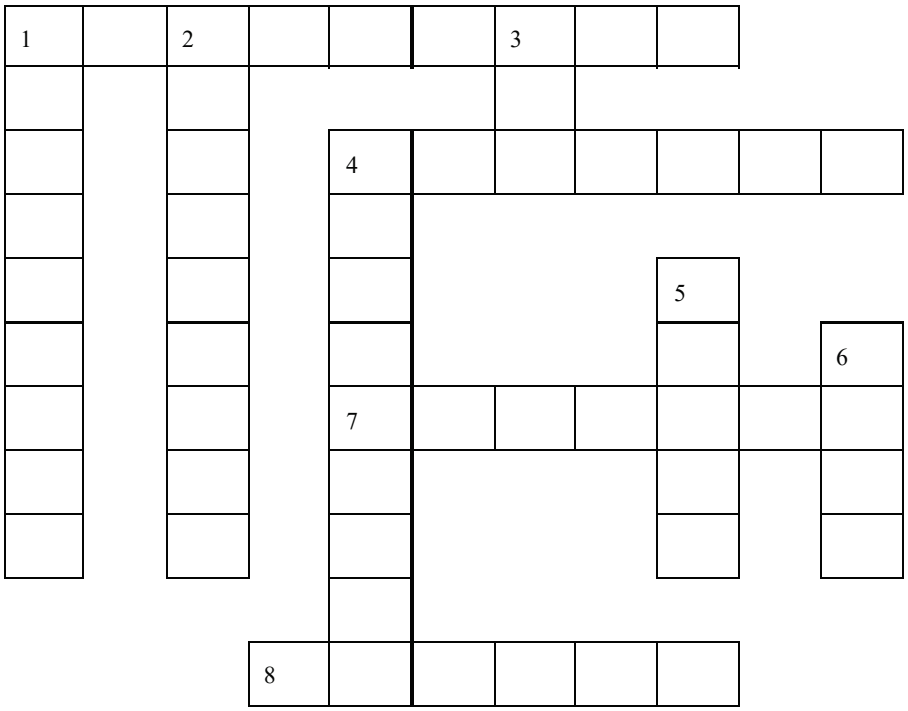
Review - Use the words from the story to fill in the crossword puzzle.

Across

1. What city did Jesus enter?
4. The centurion's ____ needed help.
7. The centurion was not a Jew, but a ___.
8. Jesus ____ the servant without even seeing him.

Down

1. A captain of 100 men.
2. The servant was ____ and needed help.
3. We breath ___.
4. The centurion built a ____ for the Jews in which to worship.
5. Jesus said the centurion had great ___.
6. Not Gentiles.



Inner Aim - God gives faith to trust in Him.

What God's Word Tells Us - Use the words in the box twice. Use them once to fill in the blanks about the centurion and then use the words to fill in the blanks about Christians.

confident	love	humble

How the centurion showed his faith...

... _____ for his servant.
... _____ before Jesus.
... _____ of Jesus' power to heal.

How a Christian shows his/her faith...

..._____ for our neighbor.
... _____ before Jesus.
... _____ of Jesus' power to save us.

Hymn TLH #518 v. 1, 7

If thou but suffer God to guide thee
And hope in Him thro' all thy ways,
He'll give thee strength, whate'er betide thee,
And bear thee thro' the evil days.
Who trusts in God's unchanging love
Builds on the Rock that naught can move.

Sing, pray, and keep His ways unswerving,
Perform thy duties faithfully,
And trust His Word' though undeserving,
Thou yet shalt find it true for thee.
God never yet forsook in need
The soul that trusted Him indeed.

Bible Passages - Use the Bible passages to answer the questions

Psalm 50:15 "Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me."

What does God promise to do for us when we need help? (Circle the words in the passage.)
How will we show our thanks? (Underline the words in the passage.)

† † †

Psalms 130:3-5 "If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You, that You may be feared.
I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I do hope."

Underline the word that means sins.
Circle the word for what Christ has done for us.
Put a box around what helps us wait for the LORD.

† † †

Isaiah 55:11 "So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."

Underline what God's Word will not do.
Circle the two things God's Word will do.

† † †

Prayer

Jesus Christ, My Savior, thank You for bringing Your Word to us and to people of every nation. Help us to trust Your Word with humble and courageous hearts that we may lay hold of all your precious promises. For we know that You have the power and the love to do all that You have promised. When we call upon You, we know that You will answer in a way that is best for all. Because of what Jesus has done for us, we know we will be saved. We come to You, Jesus, in Whom we trust! Amen!

The Young Man of Nain

Luke 7:11-17

What could have made this woman so upset?

What sometimes makes you upset?

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, grant us Your Holy Spirit as we gather together to study Your Word. Lead us to a true appreciation of the life we have been given through Your Word. As we study today's lesson, show us the power You have over death. In Jesus, Your Son's name, we pray. Amen

The Young Man of Nain - Luke 7:11-17

Now it happened, the day after, that He went into a city called Nain; and many of His disciples went with Him, and a large crowd. (12) And when He came near the gate of the city, behold, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother; and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the city was with her.

(13) When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." (14) Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried him stood still. And He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." (15) So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother.

(16) Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen up among us"; and, "God has visited His people."

(17) And this report about Him went throughout all Judea and all the surrounding region.

Notes:

Recalling Details

1. In what town did this story take place?
2. Who was with Jesus?
3. Why was there such a large crowd?
4. Whom did Jesus meet at the edge of town?
5. Why were they sad?
6. How did Jesus feel toward the mother? Why?
7. What did Jesus tell her?
8. What did Jesus do after talking to the woman?
9. How did Jesus raise the man from the dead?
10. How do we know the man was truly made alive?
11. How did the people react to the miracle?
12. Whom did they think Jesus was?

Outer Aim

Jesus raises the young man of Nain from the dead.

Discussion Questions

1. Why did Jesus choose to raise this man, at this city, at this time?
2. Why were the people mourning the death of this young man?
3. What should our view of death be as Christians?
4. In what ways can our funeral services reflect our view of death?
5. Why could the crowd not see Jesus as the Messiah even after such an impressive miracle?
6. Compare this account to I Kings 17:17-24. How is this resurrection different from the account in Luke?
7. At what other times did Jesus' Word accomplish miracles?

Inner Aim

Jesus' Word of life has the power over even death.

Passages - Read each passage and tell how it applies to the story.

(1 Corinthians 15:55-57) O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory? {56} The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. {57} But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

(Revelation 21:4) And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.

(Matthew 10:28) And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

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

Hymn

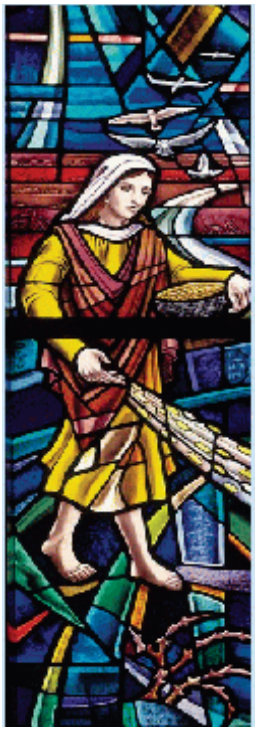
Look at Hymn 193:1,4-6 and tell how these verses apply to our story today.

Prayer

Write a short prayer that fits our story today. Include the ideas of both the Outer Aim and the Inner Aim.

The Parable of the Sower and the Seed

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23



This stained glass window shows "The Sower and the Seed".

Do you remember that parable?

Why would it be a good picture for display in a church?

Prayer

Dear Lord, we know that we are sinful people. Help us to be good listeners today when we read the story or parable You told about the sower and the seed. Please do not let anything distract us while we learn about You. Thank You for sending Your Son to earth so we can go to heaven. Amen.

The Story - Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

On the same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the sea. {2} And great multitudes were gathered together to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore.

{3} Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: "Behold, a sower went out to sow. {4} "And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. {5} "Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth.

{6} "But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away.

{7} "And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them.

{8} "But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. {9} "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

(18) "Therefore hear the parable of the sower: {19} "When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.

{20} "But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; {21} "yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.

{22} "Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

{23} "But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

Outer Aim - Jesus told a parable that describes the enemies working against the Word of God.

What the Story Tells Us - Review the lesson by answering these questions.

1. What did Jesus do when the multitudes gathered around Him?

2. What is a parable?

3. What parable did we study today?

4. Where did the seeds fall?

   a.

   b.

   c.

   d.

5. What is the meaning of this parable?

a.

b.

c.

d.

6. What is meant by Jesus' words in verse 9?

Inner Aim - Jesus has taken away my sins and reveals Himself through the Holy Scriptures.

What God's Word Tells Us - Look up the following Bible passages , fill in the blanks and answer the questions about them.

Romans 10:17 So then _____ comes by _____, and _____

by the _____ _____ _____.

How do we get faith according to this passage?

1 Samuel 3:9 ... 'Speak, _____ , for _____

_____ _____."

Who gives us our instructions for life according to this passage?

John 8:31-32 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you _____

_____

_____

What command does God give us in this passage?

What will the "truth" which Jesus speaks of do for us?

Passages - Use the 3 passages above for study, discussion and memorization.

Hymn - TLH #49

Almighty God, Thy Word is cast
Like seed into the ground;
Now let the dew of heav'n descend
And righteous fruits abound.

Let not the foe of Christ and man
This holy seed remove,
But give it root in ev'ry heart
To bring forth fruits of love.

Let not the world's deceitful cares
The rising plant destroy,
But let it yield a hundredfold
The fruits of peace and joy.

Oft as the precious seed is sown,
Thy quickening grace bestow
That all whose souls the truth receive
Its saving power may know.

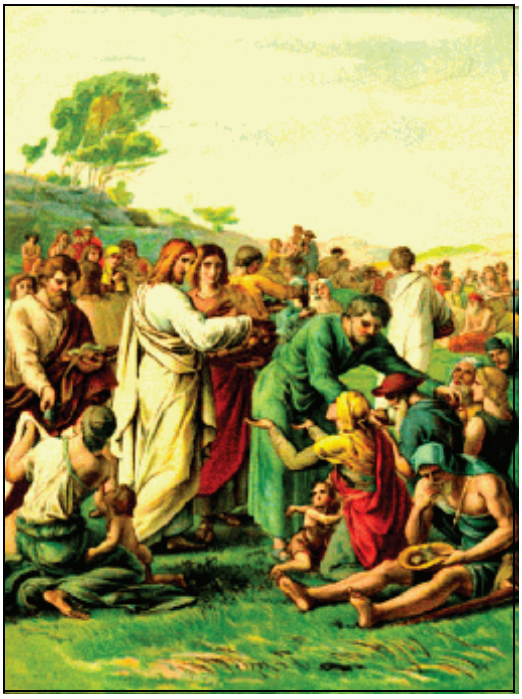
Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven,

We ask You for a strong faith which grows in a heart filled with Your love. Thank You for sending Jesus to forgive our sins and for sending the Holy Spirit into our hearts through Your Word. Please help us spread the Word of forgiveness and salvation to others. In Jesus' name we ask. Amen.

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:34-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-15



Jesus and His disciples are giving food to this crowd in the picture.

With what else did Jesus feed this crowd that day? *(His Word)*

Prayer

We thank You, Heavenly Father, for sending Jesus, Your Son, to be our Savior. We praise You for revealing to us the identity of Your Son and the truth of His teachings by the miracles He performed. Help us, we pray, always to trust in Him for our salvation, and for all our needs. Strengthen our faith by the working of the Holy Spirit as we study Your Holy Word, Amen.

The Story - John 6:1-15

Introduction If you were born in India, the odds are that your religion would be Hindu. If you had been born in Iraq, you would probably be a Moslem. Or again, if you had been born in modern-day Israel, you would probably be a Jew. The fact that most people's religion is determined by their culture and upbringing has led some people to challenge the very concept that any one religion is right, and all others wrong. How can you answer this challenge, when it is presented to you?

Christians believe that there is only one true God, and that the true God is Triune in nature (that is, consists of three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). Furthermore, Christians believe that mankind has been reconciled to God by the perfect life and atoning death of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. We also believe that although Jesus has won salvation for all people, only those who have genuine faith in Him will have eternal life in heaven. How can we answer those who say that all religions are equally valid, and that all religions are just different paths to the same destination?

Today's Bible lesson presents the account of a miracle performed by Jesus of Nazareth. Like His other miracles, this one provided indisputable proof that Jesus was Who He claimed to be: the Son of God, and the Savior of the World. No other religion

has such undeniable proof of its authenticity. The miracles Jesus performed, His fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy, and also His Resurrection all provide proof that Christianity is the only true religion.

(1) After these things Jesus went over the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. (2) Then a great multitude followed Him, because they saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased. (3) And Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat with His disciples. (4) Now the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was near.

(5) Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" (6) But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do.

(7) Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little."

(8) One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, (9) "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?" (10) Then Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. (11) And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed them to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted.

(12) So when they were filled, He said to His disciples, "Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost." (13) Therefore they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten.

(14) Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world." (15) Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone.

Outer Aim - Jesus showed his love and mercy to more than 5000 people by feeding them both body and soul.

What the Lesson Tells Us - Discuss some of the following questions in class, based on the Bible story for today. Ask questions about parts you may not understand.

1. According to verse 2, what was the reason for the popularity of Jesus in Galilee? Does this mean that the people recognized Him as the Savior, or just that they desired the material benefit of His miraculous works?

2. If the primary purpose of the miracles Jesus performed was not to meet temporary, earthly needs, what was it? (John 20:30-31 is a key to understanding the purpose of miracles)

3. Jesus provided a test of faith for His disciples, by asking them how the crowds of people could be fed (vv. 5&6). He wanted them to recognize that although meeting this need was beyond human ability, they could simply turn to Him Whom they recognized to be the Messiah (cf. John 1:45), confidently looking to Him to supply any genuine need. In this connection, they might even have remembered the example of Mary, Jesus' mother, who at the wedding in Cana simply brought the need to Jesus, and left it to Him to do what was best. The disciples failed this test of faith.

   What application of this lesson about trusting in Jesus to meet all our needs can we make in our own lives?

4. Although Jesus had only two fish and five loaves of barley bread, He was able to provide more than enough to satisfy 5,000 men. Afterwards, twelve baskets full of leftovers were gathered up. Why do you suppose these details are included in the inspired account? (hint: one possibility has to do with the principle of good stewardship of gifts, and another with the fact that some people claim that miracles are simply the result of people thinking something had happened, when it really didn't)

5. In verse 14, the people said of Jesus, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world." This term showed that they saw Jesus as the Messiah. They even wanted to make Jesus their leader. However, there was a BIG problem with this. What was it?

Inner Aim God provides for our physical and spiritual needs

Think It Through - (You may wish to do this exercise in small groups, and then have each group report its findings to the whole class after five minutes of work) Look up the following passages, and apply what they say to answer the questions.

1. John 1:45, I Kings 17:10-16, and II Kings 4:42-44 - Based on these passages, what conclusion should Philip (and the other apostles) have come to, in answer to Jesus' question, "Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" Note: Jesus was not asking about the location of a bakery, He was asking how this need for food might possibly be met.

2. Mark 6:37 and Numbers 11:22 - How are these passages similar, and what do they reveal about the people speaking?

Review Supply short answers to the following questions.

1. Where did Jesus and His disciples go, in order to have a period of rest?

   _____

   _____

2. When Jesus and the disciples arrived there, what kept them from being able to rest?

   _____

   _____

3. How did Jesus test the faith of the disciples?

   _____

   _____

4. What miracle did Jesus perform in this place?

   _____

   _____

Passages

Jesus answered them, "... The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me." John 10:25

"...the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." Matthew 20:28

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him! Psalm 34:8

Hymn - TLH#355

Thou art the Way; to Thee alone
From sin and death we flee;
And he who would the Father seek
Must seek Him, Lord, by Thee.

Thou art the Truth; Thy Word alone
True wisdom can impart;
Thou only canst inform the mind
And purify the heart.

Thou art the Life; the rending tomb
Proclaims Thy conqu'ring arm;
And those who put their trust in Thee
Nor death nor hell shall harm.

Thou art the Way, the Truth, the Life;
Grant us that Way to know,
That Truth to keep, that Life to win,
Whose joys eternal flow. Amen.

Prayer - Think of what this story reveals about Jesus, and compose a prayer that includes thanks for something, and a request for something, based on this lesson. This may be a group exercise.

1. Where did Jesus and His disciples go, in order to have a period of rest?

2. When Jesus and the disciples arrived there, what kept them from being able to rest?

3. How did Jesus test the faith of the disciples?

4. What miracle did Jesus perform in this place?

Jesus Walking on the Sea

Matthew 14:22-33; Mark 6:45-52; John 6:15-21

If you know a storm is coming, where should you be? Where is it safest?

In this story, the Lord caused the disciples to be out on a boat in a storm to teach them and us a lesson.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, Your Word calls us to believe in Your promises. Your Word gives us many examples of Your power to do the humanly impossible in order to help those who trust in You. Strengthen our faith in You and Your Son Jesus Christ our Savior, that we may firmly believe all that You have told us and promised us without doubting. When we are afraid, remind us of Your protection; when You ask us to do difficult things, give us courage to step forward without doubts, knowing that You alone can be trusted in every need. If doubts distract our faith, rescue us when we call for Your help. We pray with trust in You, who spared not Your own Son but delivered Him up to be our Savior. Amen.

The Story

Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He immediately made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, to Bethsaida. Jesus sent the multitudes away, and departed again to the mountain by Himself to pray.

Now when evening came, the boat was in the middle of the sea; and He was alone on the land. The boat was being tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. Jesus saw them straining at rowing, for the wind was against them.

Now about the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea, and would have passed them by. They had rowed about three or four miles when they saw Jesus walking on the sea drawing near to the boat. When they saw Him, they supposed it was a ghost, and were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."

And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."

So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"

And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him,

"O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

The disciples willingly received Him into the boat, and immediately the wind ceased. Immediately the boat was at the land where they were going. And they were greatly amazed in themselves beyond measure, and marveled. Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God." For they had not understood about the loaves, because their heart was hardened.

What the Story Tells Us - Answer these questions about the story.

1. What did the people want to make Jesus?

2. To what city were the disciples going?

3. What was Jesus doing on the mountain?

4. What kind of boat were the disciples using?

5. At what time is it during the fourth watch?

6. What did the disciples think Jesus was?

7. Which disciple asked to walk on the water with Jesus?

8. Why did he start to sink?

9. What happened when Jesus got into the boat?

10. Where were they when Jesus entered the boat?

11. What did the disciples say to worship Him?

Outer Aim

Jesus walked on water to help His disciples.

Discussion Questions

1. Why did Jesus go alone to the mountain to pray?

2. Why should we pray?

3. Why do you think Jesus came to them this way–walking on the water?

4. What does this miracle of stopping the waves show about Jesus?

5. How should we feel when we are in a dangerous situation? How should we act?

6. What can we learn from this story?

Passages

Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me. Psalm 50:15

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be removed,
and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;
though its waters roar and be troubled,
though the mountains shake with its swelling. Psalm 46:1-3

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?
He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all,
how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Romans 8:31-32

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities
nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,
nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing,
shall be able to separate us from the love of God
which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39

Inner Aim

Believe in Jesus without a doubt.

Hymn

Look at Hymn 528. Look carefully at the upper left corner of the page. You will see this hymn is based on Romans 8:31-39. Read these verses in Romans. Give reasons how this hymn explains these verses from Romans.

Your Turn - List the six miracles of Jesus in this story. Write the reference of the verse in Matthew, Mark, or John in which you find the miracle.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

Prayer - Write a prayer that fits our story today.

The Woman of Canaan

Matthew 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-30

What are some reasons people pray?

When are some times we pray?

Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven. We pray You will send the Holy Spirit to us, so we will gladly hear and study Your Word. Help us as we learn to come to You in prayer and trust in You for everything. In Jesus name. Amen.

The Story

(Matthew 15:21-28) Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. {22} And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed."

(Mark 7:26) The woman was a Greek, a Syro-Phoenician by birth, and she kept asking Him to cast the demon out of her daughter.

{23} But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us."

{24} But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

{25}Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!"

{26} But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs."

{27} And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table."

{28} Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

Recalling Details

1. Near what cities did this story take place?

2. Who came to help?

3. What words show she believed in Jesus as her Savior?

4. What two things did she pray for?

5. At first what did Jesus do?

6. What did Jesus tell her?

7. How did the Greek woman show her faith?

8. What did Jesus say about the Gentile woman?

9. How did Jesus help the woman?

10. What power did Jesus show by healing the demon-possessed girl?

Outer Aim

A Gentile woman persevered in seeking help from Jesus.

Discussion Questions

1. What did the Gentile woman pray for?

2. When should we go to Jesus in prayer?

3. From our story, what do we learn to do if God does not answer our prayers?

4. How are we like the Gentile woman?

5. How did Jesus test the woman's faith?

6. How did the woman show her strong faith?

7. How do we show our faith?

8. In what ways does God answer prayers?

Inner Aim

Our faith looks expectantly to God for all of our needs.

Passages

Matthew 11:28-30 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls, For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.

What is the rest Jesus promises to give us?

1 Peter 5:6-7 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him for He cares for you.

What do these Bible verses tell us to pray about?

1 Corinthians 10:12-13 Therefore, let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall, no temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with temptation will also make the way of escape, that you many be able to bear it.

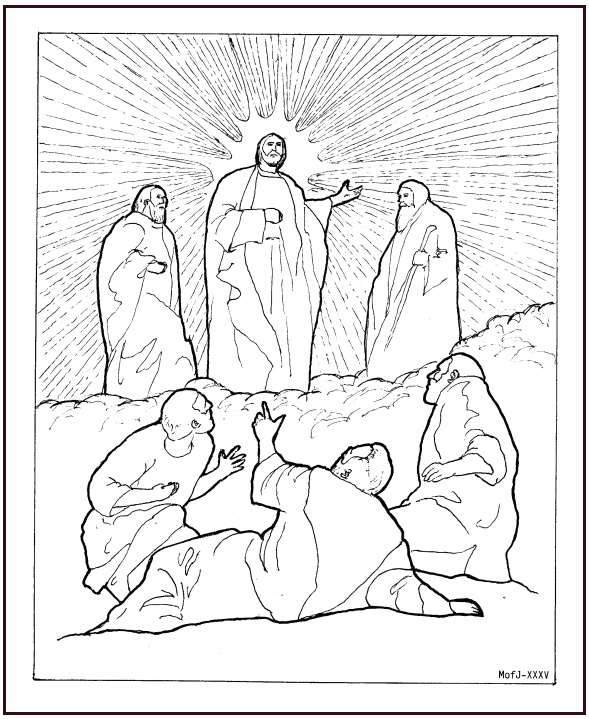
Because God is faithful, what will He do?

Hymn and Prayer

Read Hymn 446 vs. 1, 5, and 6. Use the hymn verses to write a closing prayer for today's lesson. Include the ideas from both the OUTER and INNER AIMS.

The Transfiguration

Matthew 17:1-9; Mark 9:2-10; Luke 9:28-36



Why did some people think Jesus was an earthly savior?

Do you know of any human who has shined like a light?

Why is it important to understand that Jesus is a heavenly Savior?

Prayer

Dear Father in heaven, we thank You that You sent Jesus to be our heavenly Savior. We know that You are pleased in Him because He saved us from our sins. Help us to remember that Jesus is Your Son. Help us also to be Your children and to do the things that please You. Amen

The Story - Matthew 17:1-9

Jesus was teaching the disciples that He was a heavenly Savior and not an earthly one. One question He asked them concerned whom they thought He was. Peter summed it up by saying through the Holy Spirit that Jesus was the Christ, the anointed Savior.

(1) Six days later, Jesus took Peter, James and John up into a high mountain to pray. While Jesus prayed, His appearance started to change. (2) He was transfigured. Instead of reflecting light, His face started to shine and give off light like the sun does. His robe also became white and glistening, whiter than snow, whiter than any laundry could possibly make it. (3) Soon, Elijah and Moses stood next to Jesus. They were having a conversation about Jesus' departure and all the other things that would soon be happening in Jerusalem.

The disciples became sleepy as they listened. When they fully woke up, they saw Jesus' glory and the two men who stood with him. As Moses and Elijah were leaving, (4) Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles, one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

(5) While he was saying this, a cloud came and covered the disciples and Jesus. The disciples were fearful as they entered the cloud. The voice of God the Father came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!"

(6) And when they heard the voice, they were afraid. They fell down and covered their faces. (7) But Jesus came and touched them and said, "Arise, and do not be afraid."

(8) When they looked up, the cloud, Elijah, and Moses were all gone. They started down the mountain. Many people thought Jesus would be an earthly Savior, so (9) Jesus told His disciples to not tell about what they had seen until Jesus had risen from the dead.

The disciples did as Jesus asked. Even so, they wondered what He meant about rising from the dead.

What the Story Tells Us

1. Jesus took the three disciples, _____, _____, and _____ with Him to a high mountain to pray.
2. While He prayed, _____ and _____ suddenly appeared with Him.
3. Peter said he wanted to build _____ for them.
4. God's voice came out of a _____.
5. Jesus told His disciples to tell _____ what had happened.

Outer Aim - Jesus shows us the disciples He is the true God.

Discussion Questions - Mark each as (T)rue or (F)alse

_____ 1. Jesus will still be an earthly savior.

_____ 2. Only God's Son could die and take away our sins.

_____ 3. People are fearful in God's presence.

_____ 4. We don't need to be afraid of God.

_____ 5. Jesus truly is the Son of God.

Inner Aim - Jesus shows us He is our God and our Savior.

Passages

John 1:14 - And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Hebrews 12:1-2 - Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Philippians 2:9 - Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is the Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Hymn - Read Hymn 135. What do we ask Jesus to do in stanza six?

Your Turn - Use ideas from the story, passages and hymn to help you complete the following questions.

How should you react when people remark about something you have done well?
How should your actions during the church service compare to how you live your life?

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, our imaginations try to grasp in a limited way what You must look like in all Your glory. We know that as sinners we would be terrified of Your holiness and how we have failed to be holy. But we also know Your great love. You laid aside Your glory to come to this earth as a human being and give Your holy life as payment for our sins. By faith, we glimpsed Your great love for us as we see You preparing for that expensive sacrifice for us. As You prepared and strengthened Your disciples to face the difficult months ahead, so strengthen our faith before and as we face the many tests in our lives so that our faith in You doesn't waver. Keep the image of Your love and the heavenly goal You have won for us before our eyes. As You have nourished us in faith, in the end we will see Your glory without the fear of our sins and may worship You for all eternity. We pray trusting in Your name, and in all You have revealed to us. Amen.

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

Matthew 18:21-35

What if your friend lied to you and you found out about it?
What if your friend told someone else your secret?
What if that friend made fun of you or hurt you in some way?
How would you feel toward them?
Would it be easy to forgive them?
What if your friend kept sinning against you? Should you still keep forgiving them?

In our parable today, Peter asked Jesus a similar question. Jesus told Peter the parable of the unforgiving servant. In this parable Jesus demonstrates how the Lord reveals a most forgiving heart in contrast to the hardness of human nature.

Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven, Bless our study of Your Word today and help us to apply the lessons we will learn through our study. Thank You for loving us so much that You sent Your only Son, Jesus, to pay for our sins, even though we do not deserve Your mercy and forgiveness. Because of the love and forgiveness You showed to us, let that motivate us to forgive and love others. In Jesus' name. Amen.

The Story - Matthew 18:21-38

Matthew 18:21 Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"

{22} Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

{23} "Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. {24} "And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. {25} "But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made.

{26} "The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' {27} "Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.

{28} "But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!'

{29} "So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.'

{30} "And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. {31} "So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done.

{32} "Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant!

I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. {33} 'Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' {34} "And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.

{35} "So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."

Outer Aim - Jesus told a parable about the forgiveness of sins.

What the Story Tells Us - Go over these discussion questions.

1. How many times did Peter think he should forgive his brother?
2. What was Jesus' response to Peter?
3. What was Jesus really saying by this response?
4. In the parable, who represents the king?
5. What did the king do for the servant who owed him a debt?
6. What has God done for each of us?
7. Did we earn this forgiveness?
8. When this servant found a fellow servant who owed him a debt, the servant was not merciful or forgiving. Did this show that he was appreciative of the king's mercy in canceling his debt?
9. When the king found out about how the servant treated his fellow servant, what did the king do?
10. The king asked the wicked servant, "Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?" What is the correct answer.
11. Why should we be willing and eager to forgive?
12. Who should we be willing and eager to forgive?

Inner Aim - We are to forgive others as God in Christ has forgiven us.

What God's Word Tells Us - Fill in the blanks with the appropriate word that completes the sentence. One letter in each word has been given to you. Take these given letters and write them below to begin the passage that Jesus spoke on the cross.

1. The master F __ __ __ __ __ __ the servant his debt.
2. The servant owed his master 10,000 __ A __ __ __ __ __ .
3. __ __ T __ __ asked Jesus the question about forgiveness.
4. God wants us to forgive our brother from the H __ __ __ __ .
5. Peter thought we should forgive our neighbor __ E __ __ __ times.
6. The second servant owed a debt of a hundred __ __ __ __ R __ __ .
7. The wicked servant was __ __ F __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ .
8. The king in the parable represents __ O __ .
9. The king sent the wicked servant into __ R __ __ __ __ .
10. When we are unforgiving it __ __ G __ __ __ God.
11. God has forgiven our __ I __ __ .
12. Forgiveness should be a daily part of our __ __ V __ __ .
13. We should forgive even our __ __ E __ __ __ __ .

UNFORGIVING
ENEMIES
GOD
SINS
FORGAVE
HEART
LIVES
PRISON
TALENTS
PETER
ANGERS
DENARII
SEVEN

"_____ , _____ them; for they do not know that they do."
Luke 23:34

Passages

Matthew 5:44 - But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.

John 20:23 - "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

The Fifth Petition © Sydow Catechism 2000

"And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."

What does this mean?

We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look on our sins or deny our prayer because of them. We are not worthy of things for which we are asking, neither have we deserved them. However, we ask that our Father would by His grace give us what we ask; even though we sin often every day and indeed deserve nothing but punishment. We, too, will from our hearts gladly forgive and do good to all those who sin against us.

Your Turn - Draw the following picture below. A man carrying a huge burden on his back. the bag says "SINS AGAINST GOD". The man, however, is staring at a very small bag that he is holding in front of his face. This bag is labeled "MY BROTHER'S SINS AGAINST ME."

Tell how this picture demonstrates the truths of this lesson.

Hymn - TLH #458 v. 1, 6, 9

Our Father, Thou in heav'n above,
Who biddest us to dwell in love,
As brethren of one family,
To cry in ev'ry need to Thee,
Teach us no thoughtless words to say,
But from our inmost heart to pray.

Forgive our sins, Lord, we implore,
Remove from us their burden sore,
As we their trespasses forgive
Who by offenses us do grieve.
Thus let us dwell in charity
And serve our brother willingly.

Amen, that is, So shall it be.
Confirm our faith and hope in Thee
That we may doubt not, but believe
What here we ask we shall receive.
Thus in Thy name and at Thy word
We say: Amen. Oh, hear us, Lord!

Prayer - The Lord's Prayer

Pharisee & Publican

Luke 18

How would you feel if a homeless person or a drug addict came into your church on a Sunday morning and sat next to you? Would you feel like moving to different place, or would you be glad that he/she had come to your church? Sometimes Christians feel that they are better than other people.

Today we will hear a parable in which Jesus showed the Pharisees that they could not be saved by the outwardly good lives they lived. True righteousness comes only through faith in Jesus and His death which paid for our sins.

Prayer

Just as I am without one plea but that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
Just as I am and waiting not to rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come. Amen

The Pharisee and the Publican Luke 18: 9 -14

Luke 18:9 Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:
{10} "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. {11} "The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men; extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. {12} 'I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.'

{13} "And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!'

{14} "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

What the Story Tells Us - Fill in the blank with the correct word.

1. Jesus told this parable to _____ people.
(righteous, poor, self-righteous)

2. Most people thought the Pharisees were _____ people.
(God-fearing, wicked, humble)

3. Most people thought that all tax collectors were _____.
(honest, wicked, good)

4. In his prayer, the Pharisee asked God for _____.
(mercy, forgiveness, nothing)

5. The Pharisee fasted twice a _____.
(week, month, year)

Outer Aim - The Pharisee trusted in himself. The Publican looked to Jesus for salvation.

What God's Word Tells Us - Use your Bible to answer the following.

1. What does the Bible way to people like the Pharisees and even some Christians who are proud of their works? *James 4:6b.*

2. Which of the following Bible passages describes people like the tax collector? Explain your choice.

Matthew 5:6 *Proverbs 10:14* *Psalm 51:17* *Romans 2:11*

3. Which of the following Bible passages expresses the same thought as the last few words of the parable - Luke 18:14b? Defend your choice.

1 Peter 5:5b *Proverbs 16:8* *Matthew 5:8*

Inner Aim - Believers rely only on Jesus for salvation.

Your Turn

Why do you think the Pharisee did even more that God had commanded?

What did the Pharisee think of himself in comparison with others such as the tax collector?

How did the tax collector show that he knew he was a sinner? Name three things that he did.

On what did the tax collector base his hope of forgiveness?

_____ his good works _____ the mercy of God _____ his humility

Passages

1 John 1:8 - If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

Psalm 51:17 - The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart - these, O God , You will not despise.

Romans 3:23 -24 - For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Hymn - TLH #370

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in Him be found,
Clothed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne.
On Christ the solid Rock I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, teach us to be humble and aware of our sinfulness and need of a Savior just like the tax collector. Keep us from trusting in ourselves and help us to look to You for forgiveness and salvation. Every day we need to come to You and say, "Lord be merciful to me a sinner." Amen

Jesus and the Children

Matthew 18:1-6; Mark 10:13-16; Luke 9:46-48

Who is gathered around Jesus in the picture ?

Whom would people think are more important - the disciples or the children?

How do you think Jesus feels about all children?

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, today You will comfort us with a story about children. Often people don't think that children are very important. Today we learn how important all children are to You. Help us to hear Your words and to learn how we should act as your children. We ask this in Your name and are sure that our Father will hear and answer our requests. Amen.

The Story - Jesus and the Children:

Jesus Teaches With Children - Luke 9:46-48; Matthew18:1-6,10; Mark 10:13-16

Then a dispute arose among them as to which of them would be greatest. Jesus perceived what they were thinking and asked them about it.

The disciples asked Him, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

Then Jesus called a little child to Him, and took him in His arms. Then He set him down and said, "Assuredly I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me. For he who is least among you will be great. But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea.

Jesus Blesses Them - Luke 18:15-17; Matthew 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16

Another time, they also brought infants to Him that He might put His hands on them and pray, but the disciples saw it and rebuked them.

But when Jesus saw this He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven. Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it." He laid His hands on them and blessed them.

What the Story Tells Us

1. What were the disciples fighting about?

2. How did Jesus know what the disciples were fighting about?

3. What did Jesus say would happen to them if they didn't change?

4. What warning did Jesus give if you do not have faith like a child?

5. Who kept the infants from Jesus?

6. How did Jesus show His love for the children?

Outer Aim

Jesus taught His disciples to be child-like in faith.

What God Tells Us - Answer each question.

1. Who is greatest in the kingdom of God?

2. Whom do people treat kindly when they treat little children kindly?

3. Why were little children brought to Jesus?

4. How did Jesus show He loved the children?

5. What are parents to do for their children (Ephesians 6:4)?

Passages - Read the passages and answer the questions that are after the passages.

2 Timothy 3:15 - And that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 - All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Psalms 19:7 - The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;

Psalms 19:8-10 - The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.
More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them Your servant is warned, and in keeping them there is great reward.

Psalms 19:12-14 - Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults.
Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins;
let them not have dominion over me.
Then I shall be blameless, and I shall be innocent of great transgression.
Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.

1. What converts the soul?

2. How much of Scripture is inspired by God?

3. What is more desirable than gold?

4. When are we to start learning the things that make us wise for salvation?

Inner Aim

A child-like faith looks to Jesus for all things.

Hymn

Read Hymn 299. In stanza two, why do "we bring this little child to thee"?

In stanza four, what are the two things that cleanse the child?

Your Turn - Use ideas from the story, passages, and hymn to help you complete the following activities.

What ways should a person who has a childlike faith act?

How should people feel about little children even when they cry during the church service?

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus,
In the lesson today You are telling me how precious I am to You. You assure me that Your angels are watching over me. And that I too can receive the great blessings of forgiveness and Salvation that You have purchased for me. I ask Your blessing upon me today also. Help me to be and remain humble and trusting in You, now as I grow older. Do not let me think that I don't need You for everything that is good for me. Let me never forget how important the "little ones" of life are to You. Thank You, oh Lord, for giving also to me all these many blessings and more besides. I trust in You, My Lord.
Amen.

The Good Samaritan

Luke 10:25-37

How do you define "neighbor"?

When are we to be neighbors to others?

Name some opportunities that you have taken and missed to be a neighbor to others.

Prayer

Lord, open Thou our hearts to hear,
And through Thy Word to us draw near;
Let us Thy Word e'er pure retain,
Let us Thy children and heirs remain.

The Parable of the Good Samaritan - Luke 10:25-37

And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

{26} He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?"

{27} So he answered and said, " 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.'"

{28} And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live."

{29} But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

{30} Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.

{31} "Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

{32} "Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side.

{33} "But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion.

{34} "So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

{35} "On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you

spend, when I come again, I will repay you.'

{36} "So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?" {37} And he said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Outer Aim

Jesus showed how a man was a neighbor to a stranger.

Recalling Details - Find the answers to the questions in the puzzle.

H	K	M	G	L	B	A	N	D	A	G	E	D	Z
K	N	M	H	F	T	E	A	W	M	I	O	P	L
J	K	T	C	P	A	L	T	M	X	E	Q	F	S
M	H	T	K	K	A	M	I	G	T	E	S	L	O
K	I	S	Y	C	W	R	R	L	O	H	W	Q	Z
D	I	E	N	V	A	H	A	L	V	T	M	R	D
P	O	I	M	Y	L	I	M	B	F	G	T	R	K
L	T	R	N	I	G	B	A	M	L	N	G	O	W
K	E	P	E	H	C	F	S	E	V	E	I	H	T
B	Y	V	L	R	E	Y	W	A	L	R	C	D	E
L	O	S	I	T	K	R	I	L	Z	T	B	Y	H
L	M	G	Q	T	L	K	I	X	Z	S	W	E	I
P	C	V	M	H	E	A	R	T	U	D	H	J	Y

1. A _____came to test Jesus.
2. He asked what he should do to _____ eternal life.
3. Jesus directed him to the _____.
4. The man quoted, "Love the Lord your God with all your _____, with all your soul, with all your _____ and with all your mind."
5. Jesus shared a _____ with this lawyer.
6. A man was attacked by _____ .
7. The _____and _____passed by on the other side.
8. A _____ had compassion on him.
9. He _____his wounds and cared for him.
10. The neighbor was the one who showed _____.

Discussion Questions - Answer these questions from the Bible lesson.

1. How did Jesus direct the lawyer to the law?

2. What did this man think he could do?

3. What was Jesus trying to show this man?

4. What did the parable show this man?

5. Where does love first come from?

6. How did God show His love for us?

7. How do we respond to this good news?

8. How can we thank God?

9. How can we praise Him in relation to our neighbor?

Inner Aim
God's love prompts us to love all men as neighbors.

Passages - Look up the following Bible passages. Why were these Bible passages chosen with this story?

Luke 10:27

John 15:5

Ephesians 2:8-10

Matthew 9:13

Hymn - Look at the following hymns. Which would you choose for today's lesson? Why?

Hymn 287: 1,6,11,12 "That Man a Godly Life Might Live"

Hymn 235: 1-3, 6-8 "O Holy Spirit, Enter In"

Hymn 405 "I Gave My Life for Thee"

Hymn 501 "Soldiers of the Cross, Arise"

Prayer

Write a short prayer using the ideas of the lesson, Bible passages, and/or hymns. Use the ideas of both the Outer and Inner Aims.

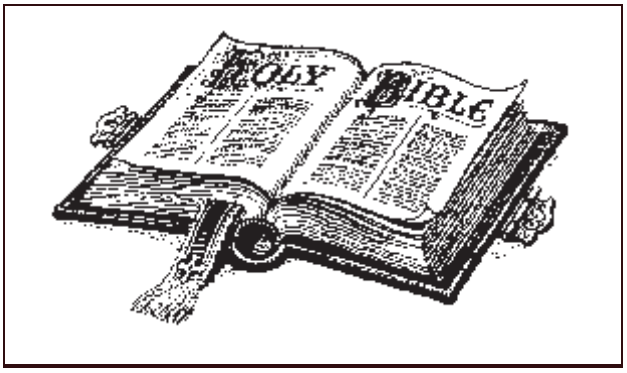
Mary & Martha

Luke 10:38-42

If Jesus came to visit you, what would you do?

Would you clean the house, cook a fancy meal, or just sit and talk with Him?

In our story today you will meet two sisters who invited Jesus to their home. They both loved Him and wanted to serve Him. Let's find out which one chose the best way to serve her Lord.



Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, as we study Your Word today, help us to be like Mary, eager to hear every word and happy to have this opportunity to learn more about You. We pray that You would open our hearts as Your Word is taught so that our faith will grow and be strengthened. Bless our study today. In Your name we pray. Amen

The Story

Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house.

{39} And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. {40} But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me."

{41} And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. {42} "But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."

Outer Aim - Hearing God's Word was the most important thing for Mary.

What the Story Tells Us - Discuss the following questions.

1. Was it wrong for Martha to spend time preparing a meal for her Lord? Why or why not?

2. Was it wrong for Martha to become angry at Mary for not helping her? Why or why not?

3. Do you think that Martha was surprised that Jesus didn't make Mary help her?

4. When do we sit at Jesus' feet and have a chance to hear and learn His Word?

5. What are some of the things that might keep us from gladly hearing Jesus' word?

6. Why is the study of God's Word more important than anything else?

What God's Word Tells Us - Cross out the wrong word in each sentence, and write the correct word on the line.

1. Jesus went to visit Mary and Martha who lived in Bethlehem. _____

2. When Jesus started teaching the Word of God, Mary sat and slept._____

3. Martha didn't listen to Jesus because she was busy eating a meal. _____

4. Martha thought that Mary should be listening. _____

5. Jesus said, "Martha, there is only one thing that is very important, and that is my dinner." _____

6. Jesus said, "Mary has chosen the bad part which shall never be taken away from her." _____

7. It is hard for us to watch TV instead of reading and studying God's Word._____

8. God wants us to sleep late or to go fishing on Sunday mornings rather than going to church. _____

9. God says that hearing His Word is less important than other things. _____

10. Through the Word of God the Holy Spirit works doubt in our hearts._____

Your Turn - Use your Bibles to look up the following Bible verses and match them to the phrase that fits them best. Put the correct letter in the blank.

A. 1 Peter 2:2 **B**. 2 Timothy 3:15 - 16 **C**. Romans 10:17 **D**. Luke 11:28

_____ You will be happy if you hear the Word of God and also hold on to it.

_____ The Word of God creates faith in the hearts of hearers.

_____ The Bible is the word of God, not just the words of men.

_____ We should be hungry for the Word of God.

Some Things to Think About - We need to learn from Mary and make the right choices in our lives. Talk about what we should choose in each of these situations in order to be more like Mary.

1. My baseball team has a game tonight, but we also have a Lenten service at church. What should I do?

2. My favorite TV show is on tonight, but I still haven't learned my memory work for school (or Sunday school). What should I do?

3. My friend asked me to spend the night at his house on Saturday, but his/her family doesn't attend church. What should I do?

4. I like to sit with my friends in church, but sometimes we talk or write notes instead of listening to the sermon. What should I do?

5. I have a chance to go camping with my friend this summer, but it is the same week that VBS is scheduled. What should I do?

Inner Aim - Hearing God's Word is the most important thing for His people.

Passages

Luke 11:28 - Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!

2 Timothy 3:15 - From childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Romans 10:17 - So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Hymn - TLH 366

Wilt thou find this one thing needful, Turn from all created things
Unto Jesus and be heedful of the blessed joy He brings.
For where God and Man both in one are united,
With God's perfect fulness the heart is delighted;
There, there is the worthiest lot and the best,
My One and my All, and my Joy and my Rest.

How were Mary's tho'ts devoted Her eternal joy to find
As intent each word she noted, At her Savior's feet reclined!
How kindled her heart, how devout was its feeling,
While hearing the lessons that Christ was revealing!
For Jesus all earthly concerns she forgot,
And all was repaid in that one happy lot.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, make us eager to serve You as Mary and Martha did. Forgive us for the times we have neglected to hear and learn Your Word as we should. Help us realize how important Your Word is, so that we will choose it above other things as Mary did. Send Your Holy Spirit to strengthen our faith through the hearing of Your Word so that we will always put You first in our lives. Make us faithful hearers of Your Word. Amen.

The Prodigal Son

Luke 15:11-32

How did the Pharisees and Scribes show that they were self-righteous?

Which gives Jesus more joy, a sinner that repents or 99 that need no repentance?

Prayer

Dear Father, in this parable, You show me how much I am loved by You. I do not deserve Your love, yet You give it freely because of Your son's death on the cross. Help me to remember at all times that no matter what I have done wrong, You have freely forgiven me all my sins. Please give me now a spirit that is not jealous of this love and forgiveness, but one that makes me eager to share it with my neighbors, friends and family. In Jesus' name I ask this. Amen.

The Prodigal Son (The Wasteful Son) - Luke 15:11-32

Then He said: "A certain man had two sons. {12} "And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood. {13} "And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living.

{14} "But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. {15} "Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. {16} "And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything.

{17} "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! {18} 'I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, {19} "and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.'"

{20} "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. {21} "And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

{22} "But the father said to his

servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. {23} 'And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; {24} 'for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry.

{25} "Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. {26} "So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. {27} "And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.'

{28} "But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came outand pleaded with him. {29} "So he answered and said to his father, 'Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. {30} 'But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.'

{31} "And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. {32} 'It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.'"

Outer Aim - Jesus tells the parable of a foolish son who was lost and then found.

Recalling Details

1. What wicked things did the younger son do?

2. How did he do when the famine came?

3. How was the famine a good thing for the son?

4. What did he decide to say to his father?

5. Why was he happy?

6. What did he tell the older son?

7. Who did Jesus mean was the father in the parable?

8. Who did Jesus mean was the younger son?

9. Who did Jesus mean was the older son?

Inner Aim - Jesus wants us to know we are forgiven and to forgive others.

What God Tells Us

1. How are we like the prodigal son?
2. What can we do with our sins every day?
3. How does God feel about us even though we have sinned?

Passages - The following passages, hymn verse and Petition will help you answer the questions that follow.

What punishment so strange is suffered yonder!
The Shepherd dies for sheep that loved to wander;
The Master pays the debt His servants owe Him,
Who would not know Him. TLH #143 v. 4

2 Thessalonians 3:10 - "For even when we were with you, we commanded you this:
if anyone will not work, neither shall he eat."

Romans 6:23 - "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

1 John 4:19 - "We love Him because He first loved us."

The Fifth Petition

"And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."

What does this mean?

We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look on our sins or deny our prayer because of them. We are not worthy of things for which we are asking, neither have we deserved them. However we ask that our Father would by His grace give us what we ask; even though we sin often every day and indeed deserve nothing but punishment. We, too, will from our hearts gladly forgive and do good to all those who sin against us.

Your Turn - Use the hymn verse, passages and Petition to answer these questions.

1. What does this parable tell us about the direction we naturally would go? (Hymn 143 v.4)

2. How does God feel about working? (2 Th. 3:10)

3. How does God feel about the seriousness of the sins that the son committed? (Rom. 6:23)

4. Did the father forgive the son because of something inside him or because of something inside his son? (1 John 4:19)

5. How should we react differently than the older son? (5th Petition)

Hymn - TLH #388

Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am; Thy love unknown
Has broken every barrier down.
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Prayer

Psalm 103:2-5 "Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, Who satisfies your mouth with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. " Amen.

The Rich Man and Poor Lazarus

Luke 16:19-31

1. ***Why is the Word of God so important in your life?***

2. ***Why is it so important to hear, learn, and study God's Word?***

3. ***What does God's Word have the power to do?***

The Rich Man and Lazarus

Prayer

Dear Father in heaven, Your Word is so very powerful. Please bless our study of it today. Please continue to spread Your Word to the lost souls in this world. Make me a missionary of Your Word. Help me to spread the precious Gospel to my friends and relatives who do not know of Your saving Word. In Jesus' name. Amen.

The Rich Man and Poor Lazarus
(Luke 16:19-31)

19 "There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. 20 But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate,
21 desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.

22 "So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. 23 "And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

24 "Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.'

25 "But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. 26 'And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.'

27 "Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him

to my father's house, 28 'for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.'

29 "Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.'

30 "And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.'

31 "But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'"

Outer Aim

Jesus tells us a story about true riches.

What the Story Tells Us

- Luke 16:19 says that the rich man "fared sumptuously every day," what does this mean?
- According to Luke 16:22 what happened to the beggar when he died?
- Luke 16:23 says that the rich man was "in torments in Hades." Where is Hades and what does this passage mean?
- What did the rich man want Father Abraham to do? (See Luke 16:24, 27-31)
- What is a parable? What can we learn from this parable?

Passages - Read each passage and tell how it applies to you and the lesson.

Luke 4:4 - But Jesus answered him saying, 'It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God."'

Isaiah 55:11 - So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

2 Timothy 3:15 - From childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 4:12 - For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thought and intents of the heart.

Inner Aim **Jesus teaches us about the power of His Word, which alone can convert and save sinners.**

Hymn

Read Hymn #264 stanzas 1 and 5. Tell how these stanzas apply to this story. Illustrate the hymn (or part of the hymn) below or on a separate sheet of paper.

Prayer - Write a class prayer thanking God for His saving Word. Ask God to be with you as you work to spread His Word to the unbelievers of this world.

Lazarus Raised from the Dead

John 11:1-54

When is this flag given out? *(The death of a soldier)*
What is death?
Why do people die?
How can we overcome death?

Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven, You have sent Your Son into this world so that our sins would be forgiven. Even though we may die physically and be separated from our bodies, we pray that You give us faith to overcome spiritual death. Keep us in Your Word, so that when we die, we may live eternally with You in heaven. Amen.

The Story - John 11:1-7, 11-46

Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. {2} It was that Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. {3} Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick."

{4} When Jesus heard that, He said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

{5} Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. {6} So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was. {7} Then after this He said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again."

{11} ... After that He said to them, "Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up."

{12} Then His disciples said, "Lord, if he sleeps he will get well." {13} However, Jesus spoke of his death, but they thought that He was speaking about taking rest in sleep.

{14} Then Jesus said to them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. {15} "And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, that you may believe. Nevertheless let us go to him."

{16} Then Thomas, who is called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with Him."

{17} So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days. {18} Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles away. {19} And many of the Jews had joined the women around Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother.

{20} Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met Him, but Mary was sitting in the

house. {21} Then Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. {22} "But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You."

{23} Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

{24} Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

{25} Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. {26} "And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

{27} She said to Him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

{28} And when she had said these things, she went her way and secretly called Mary her sister, saying, "The Teacher has come and is calling for you." {29} As soon as she heard that, she arose quickly and came to Him. {30} Now Jesus had not yet come into the town, but was in the place where Martha met Him. {31} Then the Jews who were with her in the house, and comforting her, when they saw that Mary rose up quickly and went out, followed her, saying, "She is going to the tomb to weep there."

{32} Then, when Mary came where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying to Him, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died."

{33} Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled. {34} And He said, "Where have you laid him?"

They said to Him, "Lord, come and see."

{35} Jesus wept. {36} Then the Jews said, "See how He loved him!"

{37} And some of them said, "Could not this Man, who opened the eyes of the blind, also have kept this man from dying?"

{38} Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. {39} Jesus said, "Take away the stone."

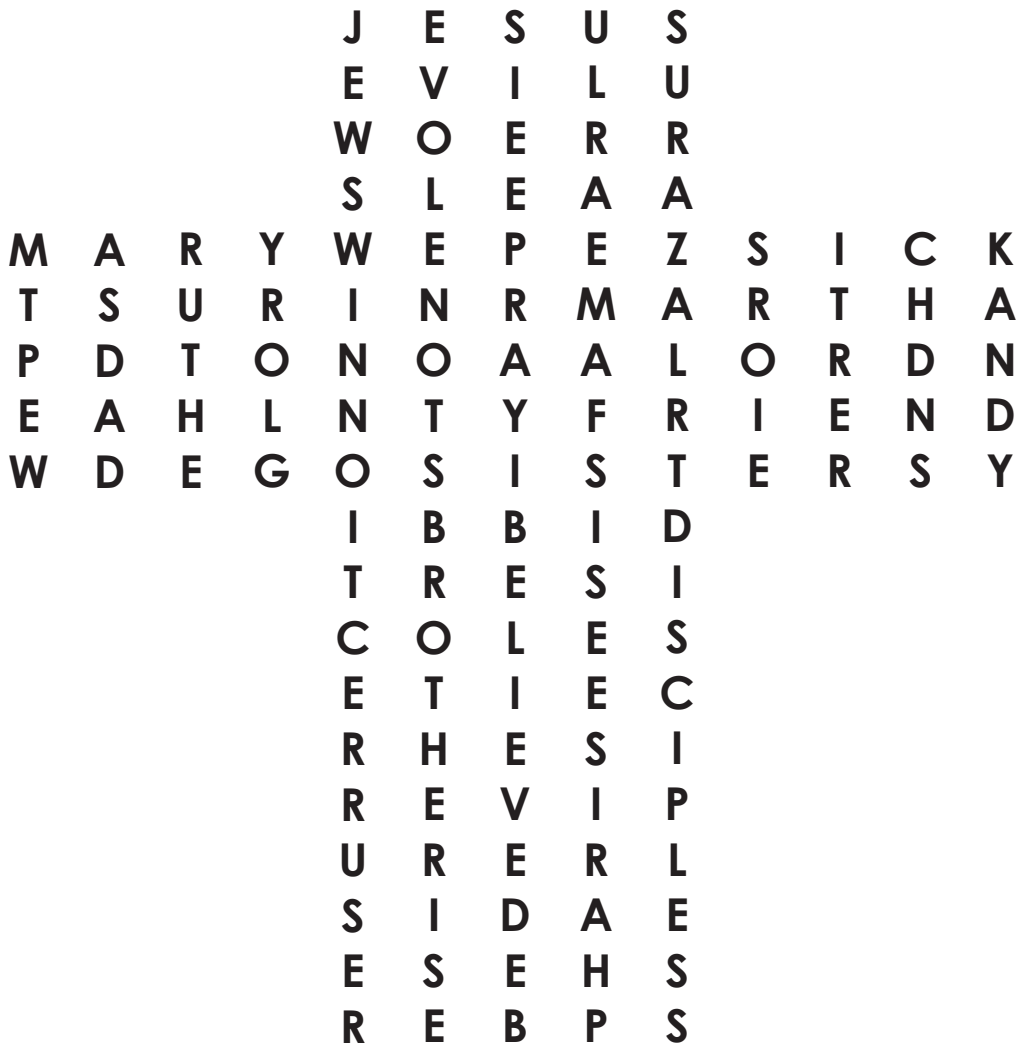
Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days."

{40} Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?" {41} Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. {42} "And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me." {43} Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" {44} And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go."

{45} Then many of the Jews who had come to Mary, and had seen the things Jesus did, believed in Him. {46} But some of them went away to the Pharisees and told them the things Jesus did.

Outer Aim Jesus resurrects a man who has been dead for four days.

Recalling Details - Find the words from the story in the cross puzzle. Then use the words to retell the story.



Discussion Questions

1. How do we know Mary and Martha believed in Jesus?
2. Why did Jesus wait before He came to help?
3. What is death?
4. Why do people die?
5. How do we overcome death?
6. Can we be certain of our own resurrection?

Passages

Job 19:25-27 - For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; and after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another.
How my heart yearns within me!

Romans 5:12 - Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.

John 11:25 - Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live."

Inner Aim Jesus, God's Son, has power over death.

Hymn - TLH #201 "Jesus Lives, The Victory's Won" v. 1, 2 show us that because Jesus overcame death, we also will overcome death.

Jesus lives! The vict'ry's won!
Death no longer can appal me;
Jesus lives! Death's reign is done!
From the grave Christ will recall me.
Brighter scenes will then commence;
This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! To Him the throne
High o'er heav'n and earth is given.
I shall go where He is gone,
Live and reign with Him in heaven.
God is faithful, doubtings, hence!
This shall be my confidence.

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, Through this lesson You call us to believe that You are the Lord of life with power over even death itself. Because of sin within us, we fear death. But You suffered death for us and the punishment of sin that we fear in death. You have taken away the sting of death and replaced it with the assurance that those who believe in You will rise from death to live again, with You, forever. Help us to view death though the eyes of faith in You and Your promises of a joyful resurrection. We ask this, trusting in You as our Lord of Life and Savior. Amen.

Palm Sunday

Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-40; John 12:12-19

The Story

Jesus and the disciples drew near to Jerusalem. And it came to pass, when He came near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mountain called Olivet, that He sent two of His disciples saying, "Go into the village opposite you, where as you enter you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her on which no one has ever sat. Loose them and bring them here. And if anyone asks you, 'Why are you loosing them?' thus you shall say to him, 'Because the Lord has need of them' and immediately he will send them here."

All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: "Tell the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your King is coming to you, lowly, and sitting on a donkey, the colt, the foal of a donkey.'"

So those who were sent departed and found the colt tied by the door outside on the street, just as He had said to them. But as they were loosing the colt, the owners of it said to them, "Why are you loosing the colt?"

And they said, "The Lord has need of him." And they let them go.

Then they brought them to Jesus. And they threw their own garments on the colt, and they set Jesus on him. And as He went, a very great multitude came out to meet him, spread their garments on the road; others cut down leafy branches from the palm trees and spread them on the road.

Then, as He was now drawing near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen, saying:

"Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!
Blessed is the kingdom of our father David
That comes in the name of the Lord!
The King of Israel!
Hosanna in the highest!"

And some of the Pharisees called to Him from the crowd, "Teacher rebuke Your disciples."

But He answered and said to them, "I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out."

And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, "Who is this?" So the multitudes said, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee."

And Jesus went into the temple. So when He had looked around at all the things, as the hour was already late, He went out to Bethany with the twelve.

Recalling Details - Answer these questions.

1. What city was Jesus going to?

2. What job did he assign to two of his disciples?

3. How did Jesus ride into Jerusalem?

4. What did the disciples use for a saddle?

5. What two things did the people put on the road?

6. What does "Hosanna" mean?

7. What did the Pharisees want Jesus to do?

8. What would have happened if the people had not praised Jesus?

9. Why is this day called "Palm Sunday"?

Outer Aim
Jesus entered Jerusalem in humility.

Discussion Questions

1. How did Jesus know that the donkeys would be tied in the village?

2. Why was Jesus going to Jerusalem at that time?

3. Why did Jesus come to Jerusalem riding on the colt of a donkey? (There are two big reasons.)

4. Why were the owners of the donkeys happy to provide them to Jesus?

5. Why did the people come out to honor Jesus?

6. What does it mean that Jesus is our king?

7. How can we honor Jesus?

--in our homes

--at school

--with our friends

--at church

--privately

8. The devil, the world and our flesh often make it difficult for us to honor Jesus. Because of this, we are often not willing to make any sacrifices for Him. He went to Jerusalem, knowing that He would suffer all the torments of hell for us--and He went willingly. what are some situations where you have found it difficult to honor Jesus, and what are some good ways to handle those situations?

Inner Aim

Jesus, the Son of God, came as a humble servant to save all mankind.

Passages - Read each passage and tell how it applies to the story.

Psalm 24:9-10 - Lift up your heads, O you gates! Lift up, you everlasting doors!
And the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory?
The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory.

Hebrews 12:2 - Look unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith,
who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross,
despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Zechariah 9:9 - Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you;
He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.

Matthew 26:64 - I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man
sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming of the clouds of heaven.

Hymn

Look at Hymn 604 and tell how it applies to our story today.

Prayer

"Hosanna in the highest!" That ancient song we sing,
For Christ is our Redeemer, The Lord of heav'n our King.
Oh, may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice
And in His blissful presence Eternally rejoice!

The Parable of the Ten Virgins

Matthew 25:1-13

Do you remember the customs of weddings during Jesus' time and in His country?

They had what we might call a parade going to the wedding and wedding feast. There would be unmarried young women waiting to take the Bridegroom to the wedding.

Let's study this parable Jesus told and find the meaning for our lives.

Prayer

Dear Lord, Help us to study the lesson of the 10 virgins today and learn to be prepared for our death. May we be willing listeners and take to heart the lesson of faith. Amen.

The Story - Matthew 25:1-13

"Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. {2} "Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. {3} "Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, {4} "but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. {5} "But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.

{6} "And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!'

{7} "Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. {8} "And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.'

{9} "But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.'

{10} "And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.

{11} "Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!'

{12} "But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.'

{13} "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

Outer Aim - Jesus told a parable or story explaining Judgment Day.

What the Story Tells Us - True or False

1. _____ When Christ comes He will come at midnight.
2. _____ We will be warned when Christ is coming.
3. _____ Believers are wiser than unbelievers.
4. _____ Those without oil will be damned.
5. _____ Believers are wise and unbelievers are foolish.
6. _____ Be prepared for Christ means we are going about His work.
7. _____ Only women can go to heaven.
8. _____ No one knows the exact time of Christ's second coming.
9. _____ In this parable Christ is condemning sloth.
10. _____ Everyone who believes is ready for Christ coming.

What God's Word Tells Us - Discuss the following.

Look at Matthew 7:21 -

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven."

According to this passage who is ready for the coming of Christ?

What is the will of His Father?

Is this Law or Gospel?

Read Matthew 7:22

Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'

What do the unbelievers claim in an attempt to gain Heaven?

If their claim was valid, would they have been received into bliss (compare Matthew 25:34-36 below)?

Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: {35} 'for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; {36} 'I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'

Since this passage so clearly portrays the Law as the key to heaven how does it fit with the passage "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- not by works, so that no one can boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9)? (be sure to look at the context of the passages)

Who then is truly prepared for the Coming of our Lord?

Inner Aim - When we die our soul will go to heaven to be with Jesus.

Passages

Matthew 24:44 - Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Matthew 26:41 "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Matthew 24:42 - Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.

Hymn - TLH #609 v. 1, 3

"Wake, awake, for night is flying,"
The watchmen on the heights are crying;
"Awake, Jerusalem, arise!"
Midnight hears the welcome voices
And at the thrilling cry rejoices:
"Oh, where are ye, ye virgins wise?
The Bridegroom comes, awake!
Your lamps with gladness take! Hallelujah!
With bridal care yourselves prepare
To meet the Bridegroom, who is near."

Now let all the heav'ns adore Thee,
Let men and angels sing before Thee,
With harp and cymbal's clearest tone.
Of one pearl each shining portal,
Where, dwelling with the choir immortal,
We gather round Thy radiant throne.
No vision ever brought,
No ear hath ever caught, such great glory;
Therefore will we eternally
Sing hymns of praise and joy to Thee. Amen

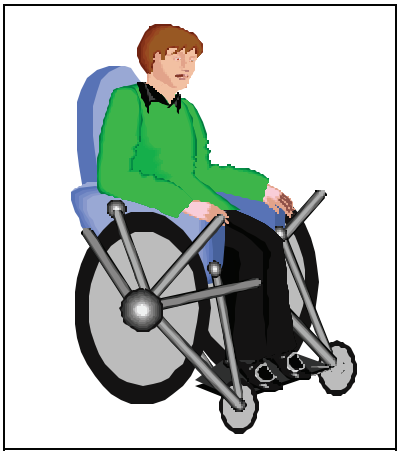
Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,
Thank You for sending Jesus to live a perfect life and to die for our sins on the cross. Thank You also for sending the Holy Spirit into our hearts to give us faith. Please keep that lamp of faith full of oil from Your Word so that we are ready to meet You. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

Jesus Heals the Ten Lepers

Luke 17:11-19

This young man has a serious illness. He has a terrible sickness. We have a serious illness, too. It can not, however, be seen on the outside of us.
What is that sickness in our heart?
Who has taken away that sickness? We'll read how Jesus takes care of sickness in our lesson today.



Prayer (TLH #149 v. 2)

Come in poverty and meanness,
Come defiled without, within;
From infection and uncleanness,
From the leprosy of sin,
Wash your robes and make them white;
Ye shall walk with God in light. Amen

The Story - Luke 17:11-19

Now it happened as He went to Jerusalem that He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. {12} Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. {13} And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"

{14} So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed.

{15} And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, {16} and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan.

{17} So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? {18} "Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?"

{19} And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."

Outer Aim - Jesus healed ten men of leprosy and only one returned to thank Him.

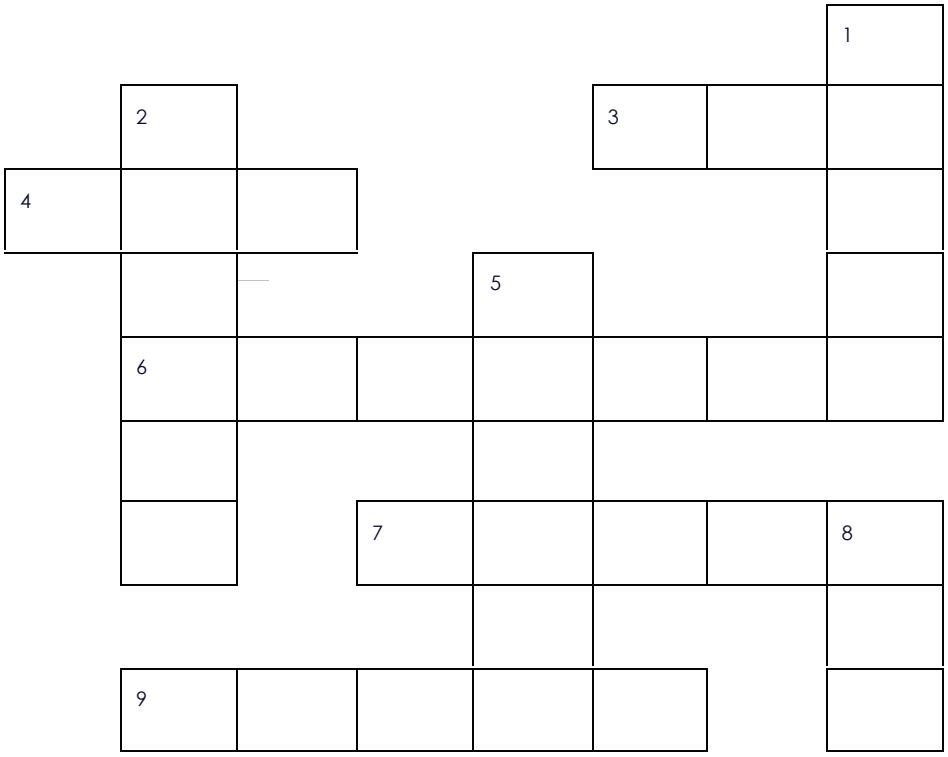
What The Story Tells Us - Fill in the CROSSWORD PUZZLE.

ACROSS

3. Only _____ leper came to Jesus to thank Him.
4. Jesus healed ____ lepers.
6. This is the disease the men had.
7. _____ healed them.
9. Jesus said, "Your _____ has made you well."

DOWN

1. They said, "Master, have _____ on us!"
2. Jesus _____ them of their disease.
5. Jesus told them to show themselves to the ____(s).
8. We have the leprosy of _____, but Jesus has healed us by dying on the cross.



Inner Aim - I give thanks because Jesus has healed me from the leprosy of sin.

What God's Word Tells Us - Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. How were the Old Testament Israelites similar to the lepers who walked away?

2. What is leprosy?

3. What qualities does this story illustrate about Jesus?

4. Why did the nine others not return?

5. What did Jesus mean when He said, "Your faith has made you whole?"

Your Turn - Make a list of 4 things that you did this morning (i.e.,eat breakfast, brushed your teeth) What do you find in each thing that you can give thanks and praise to God for? (The deeper you look, the more you will find.)

1.

2.

3.

4.

Passages

Psalms 136:1 - Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.

Philippians 4:6 - Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

Psalms 103:1-5 - Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, Who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Hymn - TLH #36 or Worship Supplement 2000 #792

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
To God the Creator triumphantly raise,
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
Who still guides us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us; His light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
Till shadows have vanished and darkness is bansihed,
As forward we travel from light into light. Amen.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

O, Divine Healer. Thank You for caring for our every bodily need and holding us in Your comforting hand. Help us to turn to You in all our times of need, no matter how great or small. Help us to remember daily how You have healed us of our greatest disease – the disease of sin—through Your Son, Jesus Christ. To You may all praise and glory be given. In Jesus Name we pray. Amen.

Jesus Speaks of Taxes & Offerings

Mark 12:13-17, 41-44

One of your classmates tells you, "That church stuff is OK for Sunday morning, but I don't want to be bothered with it Monday through Saturday!" Is there a problem with this kind of attitude? How might you respond to this person?

Prayer

Dear Lord, help us to realize that our relationship with You is more than just a two hour commitment on Sunday morning. Help us to realize that You committed Your whole life to us to bring about our salvation. Please move our hearts to want to serve You at all times with our time, talents, material blessings and abilities. Amen

The Story - Mark 12:13-17, 41-44

Then they sent to Him some of the Pharisees and the Herodians, to catch Him in His words. {14} When they had come, they said to Him, "Teacher, we know that You are true, and care about no one; for You do not regard the person of men, but teach the way of God in truth. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not? {15} "Shall we pay, or shall we not pay?"

But He, knowing their hypocrisy, said to them, "Why do you test Me? Bring Me a denarius that I may see it." {16} So they brought it. And He said to them, "Whose image and inscription is this?"

They said to Him, "Caesar's."

{17} And Jesus answered and said to them, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." And they marveled at Him.

(41) Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much. {42} Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans.

{43} So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; {44} "for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood."

Outer Aim - We should fear, love and trust in God above all things. (Fear – stand in awe of, give glory to, respect, hate evil for God's sake)

What the Story Tells Us - Discuss the following questions and their answers.

1. How did the Pharisees and Herodians think they had trapped Jesus with their question?
2. Who is "Caesar?"What do we owe to "Caesar?" (Rom. 13:7 will give you more clues.)
3. What should we render to God? (The 1st Commandment with Luther's explanation can answer this.)
4. If we fear (stand in awe of, give glory to, respect, hate evil for God's sake), love and trust in God above all things, what will that move our hearts to render unto God?
5. Jesus was reading the hearts of the hypocrites. Were they showing fear, love, and trust to Jesus? How were they showing a lack of fear? Lack of love? Lack of trust?
6. The rich people gave much money to the temple treasury. Were they showing God they were putting Him first in their lives?
7. Were widows able to get jobs in Jesus' day, or did they have life insurance policies? How were widows taken care of in Jesus' day?
8. In spite of her poverty, what did the widow in the lesson give the Lord?
9. The action of giving all her money showed that she gave herself completely to the Lord. How did the widow show fear for God? How did she show love for God? How did she show trust in God?
10. The widow showed that God was the most important one in her life. Who had worked this faith in her heart?
11. Do you think she ever broke the 1st Commandment by worrying? Who had forgiven her sins?
12. In what way had Jesus made the widow rich? What could she look forward to some day?

What God's Word Tells Us - Look at the following verses and explain how Jesus gave completely of His whole life for you.

1. In His life - Romans 5:19, Hebrews 4:15
2. In His ministry - Matthew 4:23, John 8:31-32, John 6:68
3. In His death - Isaiah 53:5-6, 1 John 1:7
4. In His resurrection - Romans 4:25, John 14:19
5. In His ascension - 2 Timothy 4:18, Luke 17:21, 1 John 2:1-2

What have we done to deserve Christ's committing His entire life to us?
Then why did He do it?
How can we thank Jesus for giving Himself completely for us?

Inner Aim - Because Jesus gave Himself completely for me, I want to give myself completely to the Lord and serve Him.

Your Turn - The Jews in the land of Israel were experiencing famine. Other churches in other parts of the world were collecting money to send to Jerusalem to help their Christian brothers in their time of need. St. Paul was writing to the Corinthians to encourage them in their gift giving. He cited the Macedonian Church as an example for the Corinthians to follow in their gift giving.

Read 2 Corinthians and then answer the following questions together.

2 Corinthians 8:1-9

1. What had God first bestowed on the churches in Macedonia? (v. 1)
2. How did God show His grace to His Church?
3. In spite of trials of affliction and poverty, how did the Macedonians give? (v. 2)
4. How much did they give? (v. 3)
5. With what kind of attitude did they give? (v. 4)
6. To whom did they give themselves before they gave their gift? (v. 5)
7. What does it mean to give yourself to the Lord?
8. What did the Corinthians already have that was necessary to have before they could give a gift? (v. 7)
9. In the Old Testament tithing, giving 10% of your income, was a commandment for the people of Israel. If a farmer got 100 new lambs in the spring he was required to give 10 of them to the Lord as an offering. The Lord does not command His New Testament believers to tithe. In verse 8 St. Paul made it clear that it was not a commandment that they collect money for the Jews. Rather it was a test. What was it a test of? Their love for whom?
10. How did Christ prove the sincerity of His love for us? (v. 9) How did Christ become poor? How do we become rich?

2 Corinthians 9:6-7

1. It makes sense that if we put only a few seeds in the ground we will get a small crop. If we sow lots of seeds we will reap a big harvest. How does this apply to our giving of offerings? (Mal. 3:8-12 may help to explain this.)
2. So giving our offerings to the Lord, especially if we have little to begin with, is not only a test of our love for God, but of what else?
3. What should <u>not</u> be the attitude of our heart as we give our gifts? (9:7)
4. What <u>should</u> be the attitude of our heart as we give our gifts? (9:7)
5. There are other ways to give our lives to the Lord aside from money. Can you think of any?

Your Turn Again - Look at the examples below and think of what gift is being given to the Lord.

_____ Mr. Brown is very poor and has little money to give for an offering. He decides he wants to mow the church lawn each week and help fix things on the church property.

_____ Mr. Jones is a certified public accountant. He volunteers to be the church treasurer.

_____ Even though it takes time each Saturday to prepare her Sunday School lesson, Mrs. Smith eagerly does so because she loves her students and wants them to have faith in Jesus as their Savior.

_____ Roy's co-worker is very distressed over the death of his brother. Roy gives him some Scripture passages to consider.

_____ Many of the players on Sam's baseball team are poor sports. He decides he'll set a good example and encourage his teammates to improve their behavior.

_____ Nancy doesn't understand why God allowed her to go blind from her accident, but she is willing to trust that God will work out this blindness for her good. She keeps a cheerful attitude.

_____ Stan is a talented musician. He enjoys playing the organ for church and directing the church choir.

_____ Jan feels sorry for the family next door. The mother has just had surgery and can't get out of bed to care for her family. Jan decides to help them by babysitting and fixing meals for them.

_____ Since their congregation was small and still didn't have a church building, the Johnsons offered to have the church services in their home.

_____ Pastor Smith has the call to be a missionary to Africa. After much prayer he is convinced that his is what the Lord wants him to do. Even though he knows he'll miss his family and friends, he's still excited about sharing the Gospel.

What are your special talents?
What are your special interests?
How could you use these to serve the Lord?

Passages

2 Corinthians 8:9 - For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

2 Corinthians 9:7 - So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

Colossians 3:23-24 - And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

Hymn - TLH #442 v. 1-4 (also WS#788)

Lord of Glory, who hast bo't us
With Thy life-blood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones
That tremendous sacrifice;
And with that hast freely given
Blessings countless as the sand
To th' unthankful and the evil
With Thine own unsparing hand;

Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to yield Thee
Gladly, freely, of Thine own;
With the sunshine of Thy goodness
Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures,
Warmed by Thee, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed
' Tis to give than to receive.

Wondrous honor has Thou given
To our humblest charity
In Thine own mysterious sentence,
"Ye have done it unto Me."
Can it be, O gracious Master,
Thou dost deign for alms to sue,
Saying by Thy poor and needy,
"Give as I have giv'n to you"?

Yes, the sorrow and the sufferings
Which on every hand we see
Channels are for gifts and offerings
Due by solemn right to Thee;
Right of which we may not rob Thee;
Debt we may not choose but pay,
Lest that face of love and pity
Turn from us another day.

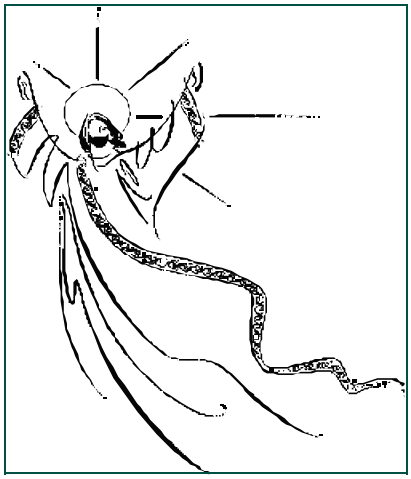
Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, We thank and praise You that in Your love You perfectly lived, died and rose again for us. Please forgive us for the times when we don't put You first in our lives. By Your Holy Spirit, stir up our hearts through Your Word to be hearts filled with gratitude and love for You. Help us by Your Spirit to live each day to glorify and serve You. Amen.

Jesus Speaks of His Second Coming

Luke 21:25-36; Matthew 25:31-46

When has Christ promised to come again?
Where are we told what it will be like?
What should we do while we're waiting?
Let's find the answers in our lesson today.



Jesus will say, "Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

Prayer - TLH #446 v. 1, 5

Rise, my soul, to watch and pray, from thy sleep awaken;
Be not by the evil day unawares o'ertaken.
For the Foe, well we know, oft his harvest reapeth
While the Christian sleepeth

But while watching, also pray to the Lord unceasing.
He will free thee, be thy Stay, Strength and Faith increasing.
O Lord, bless in distress and let nothing swerve me
From the will to serve Thee. Amen.

The Story - Luke 21:25-36 & Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus spoke to His disciples on the Tuesday before His death. He said, (Luke 21:25-36) "And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; {26} men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. {27} Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. {28} Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."

{29} Then He spoke to them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. {30}"When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near. {31}"So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. {32} Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place. {33} Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away. {34} But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. {35} For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. {36} Watch therefore, and pray always, that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand

before the Son of Man."

Jesus again spoke to His disciples that Tuesday evening. He was seated with them at the Mount of Olives before He went to Bethany.

(Matthew 25:31-46) "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. {32} All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. {33} And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. {34} Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: {35} for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; {36} I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' {37}Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? {38} When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? {39} Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' {40} And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' {41} Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: {42} for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; {43} I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' {44} Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' {45} Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' {46} And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Outer Aim - Jesus tells us about the signs of His second coming to judge the earth.

What the Story Tells Us - Answer the following questions using the verses in ( ) for help.

1. What are some of the signs listed in Luke 21 that will be given before Judgment Day?
   a. (25a) signs in _____
   b. (25b) distress _____
   c. (25b) the sea _____
   d. (26a) men's _____
   e. (26b) powers of _____
2. How will the Son of Man come? (27)
3. What should we Christians do while waiting? (36)

4. According to Matthew 25:31 on what will the Son of Man sit?

5. What will He do when all are gathered before Him? (32)

6. Who will be on His right hand? (34)

7. Who will be on His left hand? (41)

8. According to verse 46...

   a. ...where will the cursed go?

   b. ...where will the righteous go?

Your Turn - Look up the Bible passage to fill in the blanks.

1 Thessalonians 4:16 - For the Lord Himself will _____ from _____ with a _____, with the _____ of an _____, and with the _____ of God. And the _____ in Christ will rise _____.

Use the SECRET CODE below to find the passage.

secret code:

A	C	D	E	F	H	L	N	O	P	R	S	T	W	Y
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15

Luke 21:36a

___	___	___	___	___		___	___	___	___	___	___	___	___	___	
14	1	13	2	6		13	6	4	11	4	5	9	11	4	
___	___	___		___	___	___	___		___	___	___	___	___	___	
1	8	3		10	11	1	15		1	7	14	1	15	12	

Inner Aim - The Holy Bible tells us to watch for signs of Judgment Day and to be prepared.

What God's Word Tells Us - Fill in the chart below using the text from Luke 21:29-31.

What was the parable Jesus told?	What was its meaning?

Passages

Job 19:25-27 - For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; and after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God, Whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!

2 Corinthians 5:10 - For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Hymn & Prayer - TLH #611 v. 1, 2, 5, 6

1) The day is surely drawing near
When God's Son, the Anointed,
Shall with great majesty appear
As Judge of all appointed.
All mirth and laughter then shall cease
When flames on flames will still increase,
As Scripture truly teacheth.

2) A trumpet loud shall then resound
And all the earth be shaken.
Then all who in their graves are found
Shall from their sleep awaken;
But all that live shall in that hour
By the Almighty's boundless pow'r
Be changed at His commanding.

5) O Jesus, who my debt didst pay
And for my sin wast smitten,
Within the Book of Life, oh, may
My name be also written!
I will not doubt; I trust in Thee,
From Satan Thou hast made me free
And from all condemnation.

6) Therefore my Intercessor be
And for Thy blood and merit
Declare my name from judgment free
With all who life inherit,
That I may see Thee face to face
With all Thy saints in that blest place
Which Thou for us hast purchased.
Amen.

Jesus Institutes the Lord's Supper

Matthew 26:17-29, Mark 14:10-25, Luke 22:14-23, John 13:18-30

Look at the picture on the left. What special meal did Jesus give us?

What is the relationship between these two pictures?

Prayer

Dear Father in heaven, thank You for the gift of Your only Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. His death assures us that all our sins are paid for in full. Help us through Your Holy Spirit to understand and appreciate Your wonderful plan for our salvation. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

The Story

A Harmony of the Gospels

Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them. And when they heard *it,* they were glad, and promised to give him money. So he sought how he might conveniently betray Him.

Now on the first *day* of the *Feast of* the Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying to Him, "Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?" And He sent out two of His disciples and said to them, "Go into the city, and a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him. Wherever he goes in, say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says, "Where is the guest room in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples?" ' Then he will show you a large upper room, furnished *and* prepared; there make ready for us." So His disciples went out, and came into the city, and found it just as He had said to them; and they prepared the Passover.

When evening had come, He sat down with the twelve. Now as they were eating, He said, "Now I tell you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe that I am *He*. Most assuredly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me." When Jesus had said these things, He was troubled in spirit, and testified and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me." And they were exceedingly sorrowful, and each of them began to say to Him, "Lord, is it I?"

Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped *it*." And having dipped the bread, He gave *it* to Judas Iscariot, *the son* of Simon. Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him.

"The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born." Then Judas, who was betraying Him, answered and said, "Rabbi, is it I?" He said to him, "You have said it."

Then Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly." But no one at the table knew for what reason He said this to him. For some thought, because Judas had the money box, that Jesus had said to him, "Buy *those things* we need for the feast,"or that he should give something to the poor. Having received the piece of bread, he then went out immediately. And it was night.

Jesus said to them, "With *fervent* desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; "for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." And as they were eating, He took bread, blessed and broke *it,* and gave *it* to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave *it* to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom." And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Story Details

This is the last time Jesus would eat with His disciples before He would suffer and die. It was a special night of special actions and words.

Jesus took bread, _____ and _____ it, and gave _____, and gave it to His disciples saying, "Take eat, this is _____ _____."

Then Jesus took the cup, _____ _____, and gave it to them saying, "Drink from it, _____ _____ _____. For this is _____ _____ of the new _____ which is shed for _____ for the _____ _____ _____."

Outer Aim

Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper as a Means of Grace. The Means of Grace is the Gospel as it is found in Word and Sacraments.

How Does This Apply To Us

The Means of Grace is the Gospel as it is found in the Word and Sacraments. Gospel means "Good News." The Gospel of sins forgiven is assured and given to us in this Sacrament. What are the three criteria for a Sacrament?

Hymn

Jesus and His disciples were celebrating the Feast of the Passover. They never asked if they should celebrate. They just asked where they should celebrate. Every day we continue to sin, so our Savior Jesus gives us this Sacrament to assure and give us the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.

Review Hymn 32 v. 1. Which word(s) are used that help give the key points of this story?

Inner Aim

Holy Communion gives and assures us of the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.

Passages

Ephesians 1:7 – In [Christ] we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.

Matthew 26:28 – For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

Romans 6:22 – But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.

What God Says To Us - Review 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 regarding the Lord's Supper.

" For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes."

1. In Jesus' words of institution He reminds us that this is a new covenant. What is a covenant?

2. The blessing given is for the forgiveness of sins, but why are we to celebrate this sacrament on a regular basis?

3. What should we do prior to partaking of this sacrament?

4. Why do you think Jesus instituted this sacrament?

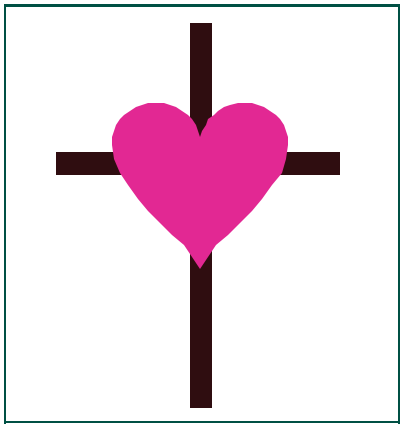
5. Why did He say "...in remembrance of me?"

Prayer

Use Hymn 163 vs. 6-9 as today's closing prayer.

Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane
His Betrayal and Arrest

Matthew 26:14-16, 36-56; Mark 14:10-11, 32-50;
Luke 22:39-53; John 18:1-11



The cross and heart have a very important part in today's story.

What do you think they symbolize?

The Story - Gospel Harmony

Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Him to them. And when they heard *it,* they were glad, and promised to give him 30 pieces of silver. So he sought how he might conveniently betray Him.

Then Jesus went out with His disciples over the Brook Kidron, to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, "Sit here while I go and pray over there." And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me."

He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You *will*." Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. When He rose up from prayer, and had come to His disciples, He found them sleeping from sorrow, and said to Peter, "What? Could you not watch with Me one hour? Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak."

Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done." And He came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy. So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.

Then He came to His disciples and said to them, "Are *you* still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand."

Then Judas, having received a detachment *of troops,* and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, came there with

lanterns, torches, and weapons. Now His betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him. Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward and said to them, "Whom are you seeking?" They answered Him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am *He*." And Judas, who betrayed Him, also stood with them. Now when He said to them, "I am *He,*" they drew back and fell to the ground. Then He asked them again, "Whom are you seeking?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus answered, "I have told you that I am *He*. Therefore, if you seek Me, let these go their way," that the saying might be fulfilled which He spoke, "Of those whom You gave Me I have lost none."

Then Judas went up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed Him.

But Jesus said to him, "Friend, why have you come?" They came and laid hands on Jesus to take Him. Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus. So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into the sheath. Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me? Permit even this." He touched Malchus's ear and healed him. Then He said, "Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?"

Jesus said to the multitudes, "Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? I sat daily with you, teaching in the temple, and you did not seize Me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness. But all this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled."

The detachment *of troops* and the captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound Him. All the disciples forsook Him and fled.

Story Details

1. Jesus prayed to God the Father in the garden. What did He ask of His Father?
2. After finding His disciples asleep, Jesus asked them to watch with Him. How many times did Jesus return to find His disciples asleep?
3. Judas led a troop of Roman soldiers into the garden. What did Jesus do when He saw them?
4. How did Judas indicate which of the men in the garden was Jesus?
5. Peter comes to the rescue with his sword. What was Jesus response to Peter's quick actions?
6. Which of the disciples remained with Jesus when He was arrested in the garden?

Outer Aim -Jesus prayed in the garden, was betrayed by Judas and arrested.

How Does This Apply To Us

Jesus taught us about prayer with the Lord's Prayer. In today's story Jesus again teaches us about prayer. What are the lessons on prayer this story teaches?

Jesus also taught us about His mission here on earth with His prayer and with the way He greeted the Roman soldiers. From the words Jesus said to Peter, why do you think Jesus did not fight for His own life?

Inner Aim - Jesus submitted to His Father's will to save mankind.

What God Says To Us - Look up the following passages and use them for discussion.

1 Peter 5:6-71 John 5:14 Romans 8:27-32 1 John 3:1

How do these passages fit today's story?

For what part of the story does each passage apply?

What new meaning does the cross and heart have after this lesson?

Prayer

What love Jesus had for us to willingly suffer the humiliation, the pain, and to die for us. This story begins Jesus' long journey to the cross. A journey He would take alone. This He did in obedience to God and in love for us. We pray...

> Dear Jesus,
> I can't even imagine how much You suffered for me in the Garden of Gethsemane and on the cross of Calvary. I'm sorry that my many sins made it necessary for You to have to suffer as You did, but with all my heart I thank You for doing it. I could never have done what You did, and You surely did not deserve to suffer in my place. Thank You, dear Jesus, for suffering the punishment of hell for my sins. Amen.

Jesus Before the High Priest
Peter's Denial

Matthew 26:57-75; Mark 14:53-72; Luke 22:54-71; John 18:12-27

Think of two words that together describe the pictures' relationship together.

_____ and _____
(sin & forgiveness)

The Story - A Harmony of the Gospels

And they led Him away to Annas first, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas who was high priest that year. Now it was Caiaphas who advised the Jews that it was expedient that one man should die for the people. Peter followed Him at a distance to the high priest's courtyard. And he went in and sat with the servants and warmed himself at the fire.

The high priest then asked Jesus about His disciples and His doctrine. Jesus answered him, "I spoke openly to the world. I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where the Jews always meet, and in secret I have said nothing. Why do you ask Me? Ask those who have heard Me what I said to them. Indeed they know what I said." And when He had said these things, one of the officers who stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying, "Do You answer the high priest like that?" Jesus answered him, "If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil; but if well, why do you strike Me?" Then Annas sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Now the chief priests, the elders, and all the council sought false testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, but found none. Even though many false witnesses came forward, they found none. But at last two false witnesses came forward and said, "This *fellow* said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.' " Not even then did their testimony agree. And the high priest arose and said to Him, "Do You answer nothing? What *is it* these men testify against You?" But Jesus kept silent.

And the high priest answered and said to Him, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!" Jesus said to him, "*It is as* you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven." Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, "He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy! What do you think?" They answered and said, "He is deserving of

death." Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck *Him* with the palms of their hands, saying, "Prophesy to us, Christ! Who is the one who struck You?" Now the men who held Jesus mocked Him and beat Him. And having blindfolded Him, they struck Him on the face and asked Him, saying, "Prophesy! Who is the one who struck You?" And many other things they blasphemously spoke against Him.

Now as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came. And when she saw Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, "You also were with Jesus of Nazareth." But he denied it, saying, "I neither know nor understand what you are saying." And he went out on the porch, and a rooster crowed. And the servant girl saw him again, and began to say to those who stood by, "This is one of them." But he denied it again.

And a little later those who stood by said to Peter again, "Surely you are *one* of them; for you are a Galilean, and your speech shows *it*." Then he began to curse and swear, "I do not know this Man of whom you speak!" A second time *the* rooster crowed.

And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." So Peter went out and wept bitterly.

As soon as it was day, the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, came together and led Him into their council, saying, "If You are the Christ, tell us." But He said to them, "If I tell you, you will by no means believe. And if I also ask *you,* you will by no means answer Me or let *Me* go. Hereafter the Son of Man will sit on the right hand of the power of God." Then they all said, "Are You then the Son of God?" So He said to them, "You *rightly* say that I am." And they said, "What further testimony do we need? For we have heard it ourselves from His own mouth."

Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." And they said, "What *is that* to us? You see *to it*!" Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself.

But the chief priests took the silver pieces and said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because they are the price of blood." And they consulted together and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in. Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of Him who was priced, whom they of the children of Israel priced, and gave them for the potter's field, as the LORD directed me."

Outer Aim

Jesus was tried and abused by the Jews and denied by Peter.

Story Details - The arrest of Jesus was the beginning of many events that led to Jesus' death. Put these events in order as to when they happened.

_____ Jesus led to the Council of the Elders
_____ Jesus before Caiaphas, the High Priest
_____ Peter denies knowing Jesus
_____ Jesus accused of blasphemy
_____ False witnesses sought against Jesus
_____ Peter weeps bitterly
_____ Jesus turns toward Peter
_____ Judas throws down the silver pieces
_____ Jesus in front of Annas
_____ Rooster crows for the second time
_____ Jesus asked to prophesy who struck Him
_____ Judas hangs himself

Matching - Match to whom Jesus said these words by drawing lines between items.

To Peter•	•Jesus said, "I spoke openly to the world..."
To Caiaphas•	•Jesus said, "It is as you said..."
To the Council of Elders•	•Jesus said, "Before the rooster crows..."
To Annas•	•Jesus said, "If I tell you, you will by no means believe..."

Passage

Isaiah prophesied of Jesus' arrest and trial in Isaiah 53:7 -

"He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth."

How does this prophesy fit in today's story?

Inner Aim

Though forsaken and abused by all mankind, Jesus chose to lay down His life for us all.

How Does This Apply To Us

The trial continued and Jesus was pronounced guilty of blasphemy which is punishable by death. The Jewish leaders were willing to go against their own laws. They wanted to get rid of Jesus that badly. List some things and ways that the world tempts us to the point that we sin to get them.

What God Says To Us

Peter and Judas both betrayed Jesus, one with words and the other with money. Peter felt deep sorrow for what he had done and repented. Judas felt sorrow for what he had done and tried to correct the sin by returning the silver. When the council didn't care because they had what they wanted, Judas went out in despair and hung himself. Peter was forgiven because he believed Jesus' promise of forgiveness and salvation. Judas relied on himself to fix the situation and failed in life and in eternity.

Today's world is very tempting and we daily sin and need forgiveness. There are many false thoughts regarding sin. Name a few of these false thoughts and explain why they are false.

Prayer

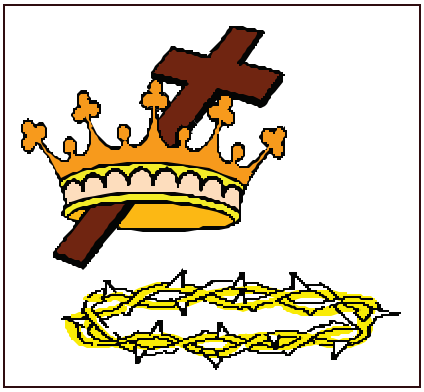
End with Hymn 151 vs. 1 and 7.

Christ the Life of all the living,
Christ the Death of death, our foe,
Who, Thyself for me once giving
To the darkest depths of woe -
Thro Thy suff-rings, death and merit
I eternal life inherit:
Thousand, thousand, thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Then, for all that wrought my pardon,
For Thy sorrows deep and sore,
For Thine anguish in the Garden,
I will thank Thee evermore,
Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing,
For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,
For that last triumphant cry,
And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

Jesus Before Pilate

Matthew 27:1-2, 11-31; Mark 15:1-20; Luke 23:1-25; John 18:28-19:16



What words of Jesus in today's story do the symbols in the box portray?

The Story - A Harmony of the Gospels

When morning came, all the chief priests and elders of the people plotted against Jesus to put Him to death. And when they had bound Him, they led Him away and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate the governor. But they themselves did not go into the Praetorium, lest they should be defiled, but that they might eat the Passover. Pilate then went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this Man?" They answered and said to him, "If He were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered Him up to you." Then Pilate said to them, "You take Him and judge Him according to your law." Therefore the Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death," that the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled which He spoke, signifying by what death He would die.

Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called Jesus, and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered him, "Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning Me?" Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here." Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say *rightly* that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, "I find no fault in Him at all."

And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing. Then Pilate said to Him, "Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?" But He answered him not one word, so that the governor marveled greatly. They began to accuse Him, saying, "We found this *fellow* perverting the nation, and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ, a King." But they were the more fierce, saying, "He stirs up the people, teaching

throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee to this place."

When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked if the Man were a Galilean. And as soon as he knew that He belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent Him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time. Now when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceedingly glad; for he had desired for a long *time* to see Him, because he had heard many things about Him, and he hoped to see some miracle done by Him. Then he questioned Him with many words, but He answered him nothing. And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused Him. Then Herod, with his men of war, treated Him with contempt and mocked *Him,* arrayed Him in a gorgeous robe, and sent Him back to Pilate. That very day Pilate and Herod became friends with each other, for previously they had been at enmity with each other.

Then Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people, said to them, "You have brought this Man to me, as one who misleads the people. And indeed, having examined *Him* in your presence, I have found no fault in this Man concerning those things of which you accuse Him; no, neither did Herod, for I sent you back to him; and indeed nothing deserving of death has been done by Him. I will therefore chastise Him and release *Him*".

At the feast the governor was accustomed to releasing to the multitude one prisoner whom they wished. And at that time they had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas, who was chained with his fellow rebels; they had committed murder in the rebellion. Therefore, when they had gathered together, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release to you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" For he knew that they had handed Him over because of envy. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent to him, saying, "Have nothing to do with that just Man, for I have suffered many things today in a dream because of Him."

But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitudes that they should ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. The governor answered and said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" They said, "Barabbas!" Pilate said to them, "What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" *They* all said to him, "Let Him be crucified!" Then the governor said, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they cried out all the more, saying, "Let Him be crucified!" Pilate, therefore, wishing to release Jesus, again called out to them. But they shouted, saying, "Crucify *Him,* crucify Him!" Then he said to them the third time, "Why, what evil has He done? I have found no reason for death in Him. I will therefore chastise Him and let *Him* go." But they were insistent, demanding with loud voices that He be crucified. And the voices of these men and of the chief priests prevailed.

When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather *that* a tumult was rising, he took water and washed *his* hands before the multitude, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see *to it* ." And all the people answered and said, "His blood *be* on us and on our children." Then he released Barabbas to them.

So then Pilate took Jesus and scourged *Him*. And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put *it* on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe. Then they said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they struck Him with their hands. Pilate then went out again, and said to them, "Behold, I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no fault in Him."

Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And *Pilate* said to them, "Behold the Man!" Therefore, when the chief priests and officers saw Him, they cried out, saying, "Crucify *Him,* crucify *Him*!" Pilate said to them, "You take Him and crucify *Him,* for I find no fault in Him." The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God."

Therefore, when Pilate heard that saying, he was the more afraid, and went again into the Praetorium, and said to Jesus, "Where are You from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. Then Pilate said to Him, "Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?" Jesus answered, "You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin." From then on Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews cried out, saying, "If you let this Man go, you are not Caesar's friend. Whoever makes himself a king speaks against Caesar."

When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus out and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called *The* Pavement, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha. Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" But they cried out, "Away with *Him,* away with *Him*! Crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar!" Then he delivered Him to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus and led *Him* away.

Outer Aim - Jesus was tried by the Roman governor and, though found to be innocent, was condemned.

Story Details - Make the following false statements regarding the story true.

1. Pilate was delighted that the people came to him as judge of Jesus.
2. Jesus never told Pilate He was a king but that He was born to lead the fight for the kingdom.
3. Pilate heard the accusations of the priests and elders and Jesus answered every accusation.
4. Herod requested Pilate to send Jesus to him.
5. Herod wanted to get to the truth of why the elders wanted Jesus to die.
6. Pilate, after hearing all the witnesses, found Jesus deserving of death.

7. Pilate was told to adhere to the custom of releasing one prisoner of his choice, so he chose Barnabas.
8. When Pilate couldn't decide on the punishment, he had Jesus killed by the sword.
9. The soldiers were kind to Jesus believing that He was the King of the Jews.
10. Jesus knew that Pilate had the power to kill Him and Jesus asked for mercy.

Inner Aim - Jesus willingly suffered under Pontius Pilate on His way to the cross.

What God Says To Us

Knowing Jesus had our salvation as His agenda throughout His life and during these last few hours, review what Isaiah prophesied to Israel about Jesus' purpose here on earth.

"He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed." Isaiah 53:5

Pick out the different parts of the story that fulfills this prophesy.

How Does This Apply To Us

We can be confident that Jesus made payment in full for our sins. Scripture tells us many times over about the love God has for us. Review the following passages for how they apply to today's story.

John 3:16-17 **Ephesians 2:8-10** **Hebrews 9:12-15**

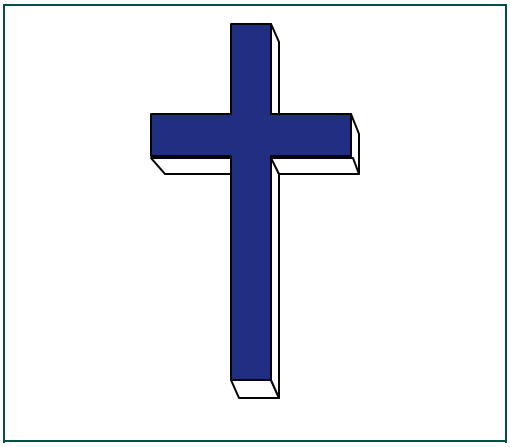
What does the world need to realize before they can accept this good news of God's love, salvation?
List ways that we can share this wonderful news with others.

Student Prayer - Let us always remember what Jesus had to go through to pay the price for our sin and be grateful to Him for such deep love.

Dear Jesus, I'm sorry that my sins caused You so much pain. Thank You for willingly suffering all that You did to pay for those sins, especially Your crucifixion on the cross. Please help me now to tell everyone I know what You have done for all of us. Amen.

The Crucifixion of Jesus

Matthew 27:32-56; Mark 15:21-41; Luke 23:26-49; John 19:17-30



What did the cross mean to the people of Jesus' day?

What does the cross mean to you?

Why is the cross the symbol for Christianity?

Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank you for sending Your Son Jesus to suffer and die on the cross for our sins. As we hear about the suffering and death of Jesus, help us to realize the seriousness of sin in our lives. Make us truly sorry for our sins and help us to look to Jesus and the cross for forgiveness. Bless our study of Your Word today. Amen.

The Crucifixion of Jesus
(Matthew 27:32-56; Mark 15:21-41; Luke 23:26-49; John 19:17-30)

Pilate was afraid of what the people would do so he handed Jesus over to them to be crucified. The soldiers led Jesus out of the city to a hill called Golgotha which means "The Place of the Skull." Jesus had to carry the cross on which He would be nailed, but He was so weak from the terrible beating the night before that He collapsed under the weight of the cross. A man in the crowd named Simon from Cyrene was made to carry the cross.

Jesus was offered sour wine mixed with gall to help numb the pain of the crucifixion, but He refused to drink it.

After the soldiers nailed Jesus to the cross, He prayed, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."

The soldiers that had put Jesus on the cross divided His garments among themselves. His inner robe didn't have a seam in it so they cast lots (like throwing dice) to see who would get it.

Pilate had a sign put on the cross to tell the people why Jesus was being punished. These words were written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek - *Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.*

Two other criminals were crucified with Jesus, the one on His right side and the other on His left. The one criminal mocked Jesus and said, "If You are the Christ (Messiah), save Yourself and us." But the other one scolded him and said, "Don't you fear God at all? We deserve to die for

our crimes, but this Man has done nothing wrong." Then he turned to Jesus and said, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." Jesus answered, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

Jesus also showed His love and concern for His mother when He saw her at the foot of the cross with His disciple John. He said to her, "Woman, behold your son!" Then He said to John, "Behold your mother!" Then John took Mary to his home.

At noon darkness fell over the whole world. The darkness lasted until 3:00 p.m. At the height of Jesus' suffering, He cried out, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken me?" At this time He was suffering the punishment of hell for the sins of the whole world.

When Jesus knew that His suffering had paid for the sins of the world, He called out, "I thirst!" One of the soldiers filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick and put it in His mouth.

Then Jesus shouted, "It is finished!" This was a cry of victory. Jesus had completed the work of paying for the sins of the world.

After that He said, "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit." Then He bowed His head and died.

When Jesus died, the heavy curtain in the temple was torn in half. There was also an earthquake. Rocks were split apart and graves were opened. Many believers who had died came out of their graves and appeared in Jerusalem. When the Roman Captain saw these things, He said, "Surely, this was the Son of God!"

Outer Aim

Jesus, the Son of God, was crucified.

Discussion Questions

1. Where is Cyrene located? Why do you think Simon was in Jerusalem at this time?

2. How was Scripture fulfilled when the soldiers cast lots for Jesus' clothing? (Matthew 27:35)

3. How was it possible for the thief on the cross to receive eternal life?

4. What did Jesus say to show that He was suffering the pain of hell?

5. Why could only the sinless Son of God pay the price for the sins of the world?

6. What was the significance of the veil in the temple being torn in half?

7. What did Jesus mean when He said, "It is finished"?

8. How do you feel about your sins when you think of what they cost Jesus?

Inner Aim

Jesus allowed Himself to be crucified to pay for the sins of the world.

Using Your Bibles - Find the Scripture reference for each of the seven "words" that Jesus spoke from the cross.

Father forgive them..... _____

Today you will be with Me in Paradise. _____

Woman behold your son. _____

My God, My God..... _____

I thirst. _____

It is finished. _____

Father into Your hands..... _____

Passages - Read each passage and tell how it applies to the story.

Matthew 20:28 -

John 1:29 -

Ephesians 1:7 -

1 Peter 1:18-19 -

Hymn - Read the words of Hymn 179. Tell what these words mean to you. Try to put it into your own words.

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, when I hear again how You suffered and died for my sins, it makes me feel very sorry for all the wrong I have done. You took the punishment that I should have suffered and willingly died for me. Forgive me for all the sins I have committed and help me to follow in Your footsteps daily. Help me to show my thankfulness to You by my words and actions. Help me to love others as You love me. Keep me faithful to You and Your Holy Word. In Your name I pray. Amen.

The Death and Burial of Jesus

Matthew 27:45-66; Mark 15:33-47; Luke 23:44-56; John 19:28-42

Why did God have the believers rise from the dead when Jesus died?

If you had been one of those believers, how would you have witnessed to people about what happened to you?

Prayer

I am ready and willing to search the Scriptures today for the truth about my Savior, and to reflect on who I am in His sight. I want to know Jesus first, myself second, and then everyone else as people You have loved so unselfishly. Amen

The Death and Burial of Jesus - A Harmony of the Gospels

And it was about the sixth hour (12:00 noon). Then the sun was darkened. From this hour darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour (3:00 P.M.).

And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani!" Which is translated, "My God, My God, why have You (hast Thou) forsaken Me?"

And when some of those who stood by heard that, they said, "Look! This Man is calling for Elijah."

After this, Jesus, seeing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst."

Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there. Then immediately someone ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed, on hyssop, and put it to His mouth and offered it to Him to drink. He and the others said, "Let Him alone! Let us see if Elijah will come to save Him and take Him down."

So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!"

And when Jesus had cried out again with a loud voice, He said, "Father, into Your (Thy) hands I commend My spirit." And having said this, He bowed His head and gave up His spirit, and breathed His last.

Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom, and the earth quaked; and the rocks were split, and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and, coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.

Now when the centurion, who stood opposite Jesus, saw what had happened and that He cried out like this, he glorified God, saying, "Certainly this was a righteous Man." When the centurion, and those with him who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, "Truly this Man was the Son of God."

And the whole crowd who came together to that sight, seeing what had been done, beat their breasts and returned. But all His acquaintances and many women also were there, standing at a distance, looking on from afar, watching these things. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James the Less and of Joses, and Salome, the mother of Zebedee's sons. When Jesus was in Galilee, they followed Him and ministered to Him, and they had followed Him from Galilee, ministering to Him. And there were many other women who had accompanied Him from Galilee and came up with Him to Jerusalem.

Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. Then the soldiers came, and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who was crucified with Jesus; but when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs; but one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.

And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe. For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, "Not one of His bones shall be broken." And again, another Scripture says, "They shall look on Him whom they pierced."

And after these things, when evening had come, because it was the Preparation Day, that is, the day before the Sabbath, behold, there came a rich man from Arimathea, a city of the Jews, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews. He was a good and just man, who himself was also waiting for the kingdom of God. He was a prominent council member, but he had not consented to their counsel and deed.

This man took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus, that he might take it away. And Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and, summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time. And when he found out from the centurion, Pilate gave him permission and commanded the body to be given to Joseph.

Then Joseph bought fine linen and came and took the body of Jesus down. And Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds. Then they took the body of Jesus and wrapped and bound it in strips of linen with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to

bury.

Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden, Joseph's own new tomb, that was hewn out of the rock, in which no one had yet been laid. Therefore, because of the Jews' Preparation Day—that day was the Preparation, and the Sabbath drew near—because the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

And the women who had come with Him from Galilee followed after. And Mary Magdalene was there, and the other Mary, the mother of Joses, sitting opposite the grave. They observed the tomb, and where and how His body was laid. And Joseph rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb and went away. And the women returned and prepared spices and fragrant oils. And they rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment.

On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate, saying, "Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise.' Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead.' So the last deception will be worse than the first."

Pilate said to them, "You have a guard; go your way, make it as secure as you know how."

So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard.

Recalling Details

1. What happened for three hours?
2. What did Jesus cry out at the ninth hour?
3. What had Jesus been suffering during those hours?
4. What was Jesus given to drink?
5. What were Jesus' final words?
6. What happened when Jesus died?
7. What confession did the centurion make?
8. Why weren't Jesus' legs broken?
9. What did the soldiers do to Jesus?
10. What did Pilate permit Joseph to do?
11. Who helped Joseph bury Jesus?
12. How was the door of the tomb closed?
13. What prophesy of Jesus bothered the chief priests and Pharisees?

Outer Aim
Jesus suffered, died, and was buried.

Discussion Questions

1. What commandment was Jesus keeping for us by committing the care of His mother to John? How was He keeping that commandment?
2. What did Jesus mean when He said, "It is finished."?
3. What shows us that the leaders of the Jews were still afraid of Jesus after He was dead?
4. Discuss what was dangerous about what Joseph and Nicodemus did.
5. Find and discuss some Bible passages that should help us to confess Christ even when it may be uncomfortable or dangerous to do so.

Inner Aim
God's plan for our redemption required that One Substitute must die for the sins of the world. And we are happy that Jesus died for us.

Passages - Read each passage and tell how it applies to the story.

John 12:32 "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself."

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hebrews 9:12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

I Corinthians 15:56-57 The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Hymn

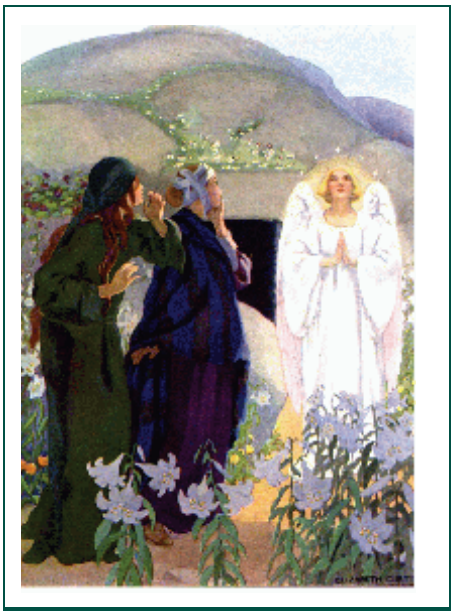
How does Hymn #186 apply to this story? In the last verse, how is heaven described?

Prayer

Lord, please help me to appreciate all that You did for me by dying on the cross for all my sins. Fill me with Your Spirit so that I will confessYou always. InYyour name we pray. Amen.

The First Appearance of Our Lord

Matthew 28:1-15; Mark 16:1-11; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-18



Television and movies have created images that equal our imaginations. Of course, movies make anything *look* real and they dream up explanations for what seems impossible. But the Bible states that a real person saw Jesus, someone that was declared dead and buried.

Can you imagine seeing someone alive on the street, whose body you saw in a casket at a funeral not three days before?

What would be the first thing you would say to him or her?

Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven, bless our study of Your Word with the gift of Your Holy Spirit. Please guide and direct us in the study of Your saving truths in this story. We thank You for the assurance that Your Word will never return to You void, but always accomplish Your good will. In Jesus' name. Amen.

The First Appearance of Our Living Lord after His Death
Matthew 28:1-15, Mark 16:1-11, Luke 24:1-12, John 20:1-18

Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. And now, as the first day of the week began to dawn, while it was still dark, they came to see the tomb, bringing the spices which they had prepared.

And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone from the door of the tomb and sat on it. His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow; and the guards shook for fear of him and became like dead men.

Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other women came to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they said among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door to the tomb for us?" But when

they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away from the tomb, for it was very large.

When Mary Magdalene saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb, she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him."

The other women entered the tomb; but when they went in, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments, one young man clothed in a long white robe, sitting on the right side. And the women were alarmed and afraid and bowed their faces to the earth.

And the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid or alarmed; for I know that you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. Why do you seek the Living among the dead? He is not here, but He is risen, as He said. Behold, here is the place where they laid Him. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, saying, "The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again."

And they remembered His words.

And he said to them, "But go quickly and tell His disciples and Peter that He is risen from the dead: and indeed, He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you. Behold, I have told you."

So they went out quickly and fled from the tomb with fear and great joy, for they trembled and were amazed; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid. And they ran to report it to His disciples.

Peter therefore arose and went out, and the other disciple, and they ran to the tomb. So they both ran together; and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first; and he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying there; yet he did not go in.

Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. Stooping down and looking in, he saw the linen cloths lying by themselves; and the handkerchief, that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself.

Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also, and he saw, and believed. For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. Then the disciples went away again to their own homes, and Peter marveled to himself at what had happened.

Now when Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons. Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping; and, as she wept, she stooped down and looked into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.

Then they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?"

She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him."

Now when she had said this, she turned around, and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, Woman, why are you

weeping? Whom are you seeking?

She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away."

Jesus said to her, "Mary!"

She turned and said to Him, "Rabboni," which is to say, Teacher.

Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me; for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren, and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples who had been with Him, as they mourned and wept, that she had seen the Lord, and He had spoken these things to her. And when they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they did not believe.

And as the other women went to tell the disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, "Rejoice." So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me."

And they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary, the mother of James, and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles. And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them.

Now while these women were going, behold, some of the guards came into the city and reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened. When they had assembled with the elders and counseled together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, saying, "Tell them, 'His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept.' And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will appease him and make you secure."

So they took the money and did as they were instructed; and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.

Recalling Details

1. What three women went to anoint Jesus?
2. Who rolled back the stone from the door of the tomb?
3. To whom did Mary run back and tell the news?
4. Who did the other women see in the tomb?
5. What did the angel say to the women?
6. what did Peter and John find in the tomb?
7. Who was the first person to see Jesus alive?
8. Why didn't the disciples believe the women?
9. What did the guards report to the chief priests?
10. What was given to the guards and what were they told to say?

Outer Aim - Jesus, who died on Friday, appeared alive on Sunday as He had promised.

Discussion Questions

1. Why did Jesus forbid Mary to cling to Him, while He encouraged the other women to touch Him?

2. Faith accepts what cannot be proven, while unbelief rejects, at times, even that which can be proven. How was this true of the chief priests?

3. Explain why Jesus had to rise again in order to redeem the world.

4. What will our bodies be like when Jesus takes us to heaven on the last day? How will they be different from what they are like now?

Passages - Read each passage and tell how it applies to the story.

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

John 14:19 "A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also."

Inner Aim - To recognize God's hand in our lives: Jesus, who died to save us, arose from death as our living Savior.

Hymn

Hymn #211 vs. 4. The hymn writer mentions the power of death being broke in twain. To what is this also a reference?

Prayer

Lord, give me ears to hear Your Word and a heart that believes Your Word. You died to save me, You live to lead me. Teach me to follow You. Amen.

Jesus Appears to the Emmaus Disciples

Mark 16:12, 13; Luke 24:13-35

Does this picture remind you of a Bible lesson?

Today two disciples will go from sorrow to joy in only a few hours because they listen to and speak with Jesus, whom they thought was dead.

How do we know that Jesus is alive and has kept His Word? (See John 5:39 for the answer.)

Prayer

Abide, O dearest Jesus, among us with Thy grace
That Satan may not harm us nor we to sin give place.

Abide, O dear Redeemer, among us with Thy Word
And thus now and hereafter true peace and joy afford.

The Story - Luke 24:13-25

Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem. {14} And they talked together of all these things which had happened. {15} So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. {16} But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him.

{17} And He said to them, "What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?"

{18} Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, "Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?"

{19} And He said to them, "What things?"

So they said to Him, "The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, {20} "and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. {21} "But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened. {22} "Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us. {23} "When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive. {24} "And certain of those who were with us

went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but Him they did not see."

{25} Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! {26} "Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" {27} And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

{28} Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther. {29} But they constrained Him, saying, "Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent." And He went in to stay with them.

{30} Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. {31} Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight.

{32} And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"

Outer Aim

Jesus gladdened the hearts of two disciples by telling them about their risen Savior.

Review - Make these incorrect sentences true by crossing off the incorrect word and writing the correct word above it.

1. Two disciples were traveling to Bethlehem.
2. That village is fifty miles from Jerusalem.
3. They were discussing the events leading to Easter and were joyful.
4. Peter came and walked with them but they did not recognize Him.
5. The writings of the New Testament were used to teach these two disciples.
6. John and the other disciple asked Jesus to abide or stay with them.
7. Jesus took the bread, broke it and spread it before He gave it to the disciples.
8. Their ears were opened and they recognized Jesus.
9. They said their hearts calmed when they heard Jesus speak of the Scriptures.
10. Much later they went to Jerusalem to tell the eleven disciples that they had seen Jesus.

Inner Aim
God's Word makes us certain that Jesus is our risen Savior.

Time for Discussion

1. List places where you hear God's Word. Use specific names like *Bethel Church*.

2. List ways you can share God's Word now and when you are older. Share your ideas with your classmates.

Passages - Fill in the blanks of these passages. Do as many as you can before you find them in the Bible.

Romans 10:17 - "So then _____ comes by _____, and hearing by the _____ _____ _____."

John 5:39 - "You _____ the _____, for in them you think you have eternal _____; and these are they which _____ of Me."

Matthew 16:16 - "You are the _____, the _____ of the _____ _____."

1 Corinthians 12:3 - "No one can say that _____ is _____ except by the _____ _____."

Hymn - TLH #552 v. 1, 3, 6, 8 Discuss each stanza's meaning together as a class.

Abide with me! Fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me!

Not a brief glance I beg, a passing word,
But as Thou dweltst with Thy disciples, Lord,
Familiar, condescending, patient, free.
Come not to sojourn, but abide with me.

I need Thy presence every passing hour;
What but Thy grace can foil the Tempter's power?
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, oh, abide with me!

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes,
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me!

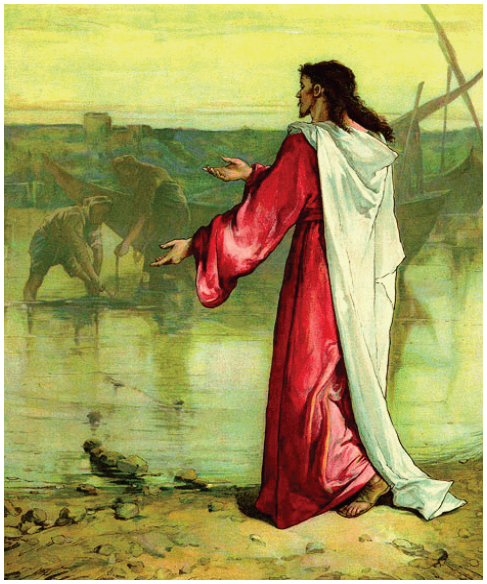
Prayer

Lord Jesus, I thank You that You died for my sins and rose again with the victory over death. In You I have life! Thank You for giving me parents, pastors and teachers to teach me Your Word. Make me a faithful witness of this Good News to all people. Amen.

Jesus Appears to the Disciples in Galilee

John 21:1-17

"Do you love Me?"
What would you answer Jesus if He asked you that question.
What would you answer if Jesus asked that same question three times?
What command does Jesus give Peter and all of us?



Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven,
Be with us today during our Sunday School class as we study Your Holy Word. Help us to listen, learn and take to heart all that Your Holy Scripture teaches in this lesson found in John 21. Cause Your Holy Spirit to work in our hearts that we, too, can say, "Yes, Lord, we love You!" Amen.

The Story - John 21:1-17

After these things Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and in this way He showed Himself: {2} Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together. {3} Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing."

They said to him, "We are going with you also." They went out and immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing. {4} But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. {5} Then Jesus said to them, "Children, have you any food?"

They answered Him, "No." {6} And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish.

{7} Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea. {8} But the other disciples came in the little boat (for they were not far from land, but about two hundred cubits), dragging the net with fish. {9} Then, as soon as they had come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and bread. {10} Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish which you have just caught."

{11} Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not

broken. {12} Jesus said to them, "Come and eat breakfast." Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, "Who are You?"; knowing that it was the Lord. {13} Jesus then came and took the bread and gave it to them, and likewise the fish.

{14} This is now the third time Jesus showed Himself to His disciples after He was raised from the dead.

{15} So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?"

He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You."

He said to him, "Feed My lambs."

{16} He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?"

He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You."

He said to him, "Tend My sheep."

{17} He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?"

And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You."

Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep.

Outer Aim - The resurrected Savior appeared to His disciples at Galilee as He promised. There, He reminds them of His loving care and forgiveness in directing His called shepherds to, "Feed My lambs and feed My sheep."

Passage

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside the still waters.
He restores my soul;
He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;
for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. Psalm 23

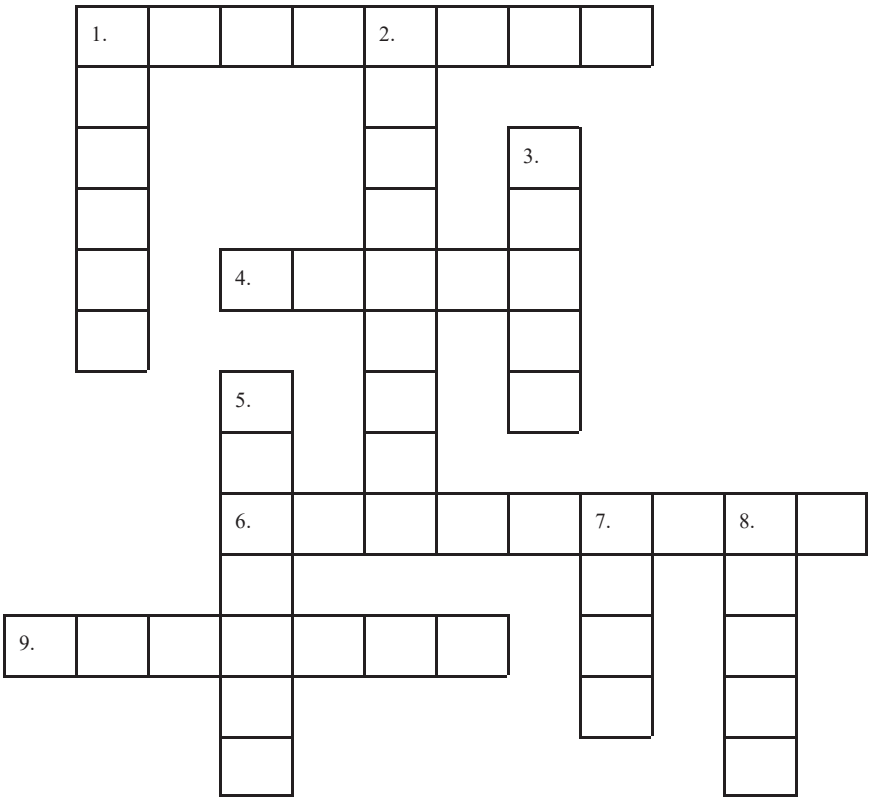
Review - Fill in the Crossword Puzzle with the correct answers from John 21.

Across

1. Jesus showed Himself at the Sea of ___.
4. Jesus said, "Cast your net on the ___ side of the boat."
6. Jesus made ___ for the disciples to eat.
9. The disciples had one ___ and fifty-three fish in the net.

Down

1. ___ called the Twin was fishing with the others.
2. The disciples did not ___ Jesus at first.
3. ___ plunged into the water when he heard that Jesus was the stranger on shore.
5. The sons of ___ were also fishing.
7. Jesus said to Peter, "___ My lambs."
8. Jesus also said, "Tend my ___."



Inner Aim - We recognize God's hand in our lives - the forgiving love and the life-giving care of Jesus for His disciples and all people.

What God Tells Us - Choose the correct letter to fill in the blank.

1. _____ The ___ works through God's Word to bring us to faith.
2. _____ The ___ shows us our sin.
3. _____ The ___ shows us our Savior.
4. _____ We have ___ because of Jesus' death and resurrection.
5. _____ Jesus commands us to, "Go into all the world and ___the Gospel to all creatures."
6. _____ As God's lamb I look forward to ___ in heaven.

A. forgiveness
B. eternity
C. gospel
D. Holy Spirit
E. preach
F. law

Your Turn

What job or jobs might you consider so that you can, "Feed God's Lambs", and "Tend God's Sheep"? Share and discuss your answer with the class.

Hymn - TLH #428

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus,
Trusting only Thee;
Trusting Thee for full salvation,
Great and free.

I am trusting Thee for pardon;
At Thy feet I bow,
For Thy grace and tender mercy
Trusting now.

I am trusting Thee for cleansing
In the crimson flood;
Trusting Thee to make me holy
By Thy blood.

I am trusting Thee to guide me;
Thou alone shalt lead,
Ev'ry day and hour supplying
All my need.

I am trusting Thee for power;
Thine can never fail.
Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me
Must prevail.

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus;
Never let me fall.
I am trusting Thee forever
And for all.

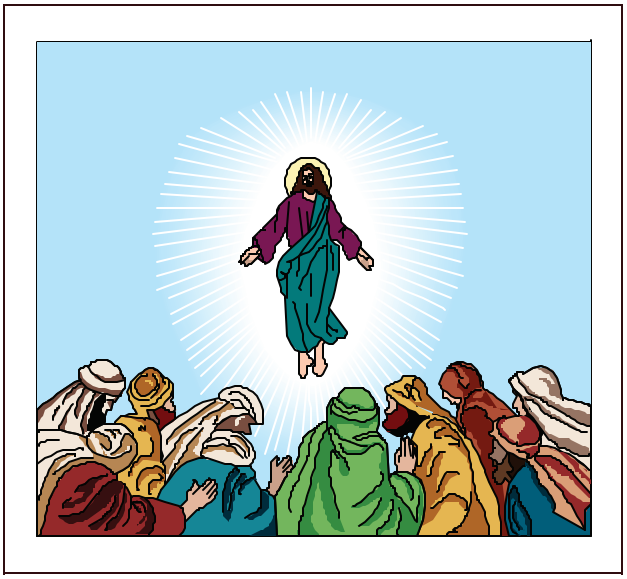
Prayer

Lord Jesus,
We too have often sinned by denying You. Thank You for forgiving us and for being our Good Shepherd. Please help us to consider being a pastor or teacher to feed Your lambs. Lead us safely home to You. Amen.

The Ascension of Jesus

Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:19, 20; Luke 24:44-53; Acts 1:1-12

Have you ever seen a movie that showed a king's triumphal entry into a city? The loyal subjects shout and cheer for joy at their king's return.



Jesus had such a triumphal entry when He returned to heaven. May the Holy Spirit bless our study of Jesus' ascension.

Prayer

Dear Father in heaven, send us Your Holy Spirit that we may rightly understand Your Word. Teach us the importance of Jesus' ascension and the mission He has prepared for us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

The Story - A Harmony of the Gospels

After Jesus had shown Himself alive to many of His followers, He spoke to the eleven. "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me."

Then Jesus opened the disciples' minds so they could understand the Scriptures.

"Thus it was written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead…that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations."

Then Jesus commanded that the disciples were to remain in Jerusalem "until you are endued with power from on high." By this, Jesus meant the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Then Jesus took the disciples out near Bethany. He reminded them that He had all authority in heaven and on earth. Now He wanted the disciple to be His witnesses to all the world. "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature," Jesus told them. He instructed His disciples to make new disciples of all the nations. They should baptize in the name of the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Jesus also promised to be with His disciples as they carried out His work. "Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Jesus lifted up His hands in blessing over His disciples and an amazing thing happened! He began to ascend into the air. Jesus rose until a cloud took Him from view, and still the disciples stood staring!

Suddenly, two angels in white appeared and reminded the men that Jesus would return one day. "This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

Jesus was then triumphantly received into heaven and sat down on the right had of God, the Father.

Then the disciples worshiped Jesus and returned to Jerusalem full of joy. They praised and blessed God for all that He had done for them and they awaited the promise of the Holy Spirit.

Recalling Details

1. Where did Jesus meet with His disciples?
2. What authority did Jesus claim to be his?
3. How did the disciples understand the Scriptures about Jesus?
4. Why did Jesus have to suffer and die?
5. Where and why were the disciples supposed to wait?
6. What instructions did Jesus have for His disciples?
7. How did Jesus visibly leave this earth?
8. Who appeared after Jesus' ascension?
9. What message did they have for the disciples?
10. Why is this message also a comfort for us?
11. What does Jesus want us to do while here on earth?
12. How do we know that Jesus is still here, though we can't see Him?

What the Story Tells Us

Jesus ascended into heaven triumphantly, having completed all that was necessary to save mankind. He instructed His disciples to spread this saving message to all the world by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Review - Match the statement with the passage reference from the box that best fits.

A. Matt.28:18	B. Mark 16:19	C. John 24:46
D. John 24:52-53	E. Matt. 28:19	F. Matt. 28:20

1. _____ Jesus had to suffer and die.
2. _____ Jesus reclaimed His rightful authority.
3. _____ Jesus is sitting at the right hand of God the Father.
4. _____ The disciples were given clear instructions by Jesus.
5. _____ The disciples appreciated the blessings they had received.
6. _____ The disciples could be comforted that Jesus had left them only visibly.

What God Tells Us

Our Lord Jesus has commanded us to spread the Good News that He has conquered sin and death. He has promised to be with us as we carry this message to all the world.

Passages

Matt. 28:18 – Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matt. 28:20b – And lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

Acts 1:11 – This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.

Hymn - Read or sing Hymn 215 1-5.

Prayer

Dear Father in heaven, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to live and die for us. Make our faith strong, reassure us by Your Word that the Holy Spirit will guide us as we spread the Good News of Jesus' salvation to all we meet. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Pentecost

Acts 2:1-42

Have you ever heard of anyone speak of a "burning desire" to say or do something?

Burning usually gives the sense of urgency. Let's find out what urgent desire the Lord would have us carry out.

Prayer

Dear Father in heaven, we know it is through the Holy Spirit that we have been brought to saving faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. We also know it is this same Spirit that gives us both the desire and ability to witness to others about Jesus. Please grant us the courage and strength to rely on the Holy Spirit as we seek out witness opportunities as your apostles did. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

The Story - Acts 2:1-42

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. {2} And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. {3} Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. {4} And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

{5} And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. {6} And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. {7} Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? {8} And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? {9} Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, {10} Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, {11}

Cretans and Arabs; we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God."

{12} So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?"

{13} Others mocking said, "They are full of new wine." {14} But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. {15} For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day.

{16} But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: {17} And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. {18} And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy. {19} I will show wonders in heaven above And signs in the earth beneath: Blood and fire and vapor of smoke. {20} The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. {21} And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved.'

{22} "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know; {23} "Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; {24} "whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.

{25} "For David says concerning Him: 'I foresaw the LORD always before my face, For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken. {26} Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; Moreover my flesh also will rest in hope. {27} For You will not leave my soul in Hades, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. {28} You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence.'

{29} "Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. {30} "Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, {31} "he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. {32} "This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. {33} "Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.

{34} "For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: 'The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, {35} Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.'"

{36} "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

{37} Now when they heard this, they

were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

{38} Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. {39} "For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

{40} And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." {41} Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. {42} And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Recalling Details

1. For what festival had the believers gathered?

2. With what sound did the Holy Spirit come?

3. In what form did the Holy Spirit appear?

4. What special gift did the apostles receive?

5. For what was this gift used?

6. How did the mockers explain this gift?

7. Of what sin did Peter accuse his listeners?

8. How did Peter explain God's "Holy One" not seeing corruption?

9. What was Peter's response to the question, "What shall we do?"

10. What was promised to all who repented and were baptized?

11. What was the visible result of Peter's sermon?

12. Who gets the credit for adding to the church?

What the Story Tells Us

The Holy Spirit was poured out on His believers to enable them to witness about Jesus Christ.

Review - Mark each statement as (T)rue or (F)alse. Cross out the word that makes the statement incorrect and correct it.

1. _____ The apostles did not know that the Holy Spirit was going to be given to them.

2. _____ We should not expect the same outward signs of the Spirit's coming that the apostles had.

3. _____ We can bring others to faith.

4. _____ Unbelievers should be shown they are sinful and need a Savior before we present the Gospel to them.

5. _____ We should trust that the Holy Spirit will give us the right words to say when we witness to others.

6. _____ If a baby is baptized the Holy Spirit will enter his heart when he is older and can confess his sin's.

7. _____ We can know if someone is a true believer or not.

What God Tells Us

The Holy Spirit has called us through baptism and God's Word to be witnesses for Jesus Christ.

Passages - Read each passage and tell how it applies to the work of the Holy Spirit in us.

I Cor. 12:3 b - No one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.

Rom. 8:16 - The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

Titus 3:5b – According to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit.

Hymn

Read or sing Hymn 224:1-3. See if you can tell in your own words what we are asking the Holy Spirit to do.

Prayer

Dear Father in heaven, thank You for sending Your Holy Spirit to turn our sinful hearts into believing hearts, cleansed and ready to serve as witnesses. May the Spirit bless my witness of Your Word, by working faith in unbelieving hearts. This is Your good will, Your will be done! In Jesus' name. Amen.

Answers

Recalling Details

1. For what festival had the believers gathered? – The feast of Pentecost
2. With what sound did the Holy Spirit come? – A rushing, mighty wind
3. In what form did the Holy Spirit appear? – Divided tongues, as of fire
4. What special gift did the apostles receive? – To speak in other languages
5. For what was this gift used? – To speak God's Word
6. How did the mockers explain this gift? – They are full of new wine (drunk)
7. Of what sin did Peter accuse his listeners? – Crucifying Jesus, the Lord and Christ
8. How did Peter explain God's "Holy One" not seeing corruption? – Jesus rose from the dead and reascended to God's right hand
9. What was Peter's response to the question, "What shall we do?" – Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ
10. What was promised to all who repented and were baptized? – Remission of sins and the Holy Spirit
11. What was the visible result of Peter's sermon? – Three thousand souls were added to the church
12. Who gets the credit for adding to the church? – The Lord added to the church (through the work of the Holy Spirit)

Review - True or False – Words in parentheses should be removed, similar words to those in bold should be added.

1. __F___ The apostles did (not) know that the Holy Spirit was going to be given to them.
2. __T___ We should not expect the same outward signs of the Spirit's coming that the apostles had.
3. __F___ (We) can bring others to faith. – The Holy Spirit
4. __T____ Unbelievers should be shown they are sinful and need a Savior before we present the Gospel to them.
5. __T___ We should trust that the Holy Spirit will give us the right words to say when we witness to others.
6. ___F__ If a baby is baptized the Holy Spirit will enter his heart (when he is older and can confess his sin's.)
7. ___F__ (We) can know if someone is a true believer or not. – Only God

Ananias and Sapphira

Acts 4:31-5:11

Does going to church for the sake of pleasing others please God?

Should we be concerned about why we attend church and why we are Christians?

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, Send Your Holy Spirit among us today that through You we may come to a greater understanding and love for Your will. Lead us as we study Your word and learn why our number one goal in our lives is You. Through Jesus Christ, Your Son and our Savior. Amen

The Story - Acts 4:31-5:11

{31} And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

{32} Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. {33} And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all. {34} Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, {35} and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.

{36} And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus, {37} having land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

{5:1} But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. {2} And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet.

{3} But Peter said, "Ananias,

why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? {4} "While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."

{5} Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things. {6} And the young men arose and wrapped him up, carried him out, and buried him.

{7} Now it was about three hours later when his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. {8} And Peter answered her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?" She said, "Yes, for so much." {9} Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out."

{10} Then immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. And the young men came in and found her dead, and carrying her out, buried her by her husband. {11} So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things.

Recalling Details

1. As the assembly was studying God's Word and praying, what happened?
2. What caused the "shaking?"
3. About what event did the apostles preach?
4. Out of love for the Lord, what did Joses do?
5. What did the apostles do with the proceeds from the sale?
6. What was the motivation that drove Ananias and Sapphira to sell their land?
7. What encouraged this type of motivation among Ananias and Sapphira?
8. What impression did Ananias give to the apostles and those gathered when he brought in the gift and laid it before the apostles?
9. Why did Peter continue to question Ananias about his gift?
10. Peter pointed out to Ananias that when you lie to your fellow Christian you lie to _____ .
11. Did Sapphira know what had happened to her husband?
12. As with Ananias, Peter questioned Sapphira about the sale of the land. Why?
13. Did Ananias and his wife Sapphira die because they didn't give everything to the Lord, or because they were deceitful toward the Lord?

Outer Aim

Ananias and Sapphira lied to Peter and to the Holy Spirit.

Discussion Questions

1. Why was it important that this young Christian congregation be taught this very important lesson so early in their Christian fellowship?

2. Early in the story we are told of the excitement that the Gospel brought to those who were members of this congregation. What caused the excitement? Does that excitement still occur in our Christian congregations today?
3. Satan looks for ways to turn us away from the truth of the Lord. Satan constantly seeks to devour us, especially when we think we are safe within the walls of our churches and congregations. Name several ways that he may use to distract us from the Gospel while gathering with our fellow Christians.

4. What name do we give to individuals who come to church and go through the outward motions of being Christians while gathered with Christians, yet alone, or in the world, they lie, cheat, steal, and live worldly lives?

5. Many times it becomes discouraging when we are caught in our lies and others are not. What does God promise about everyone who lies? See Proverbs 19:5b.

6. Lying is wrong. According to Ephesians 4:25, how should we speak to one another?

7. Ananias and Sapphira were bringing their worldly gifts to worship the Lord. They wanted to have their fellow Christians look at their gift, not why they gave it. Where does God look when we bring our gifts and talents to Him? See Matthew 15:8.

8. We daily sin and continually fall short of the Lord's will. What has God done for us that allows us to even allow us to approach Him with gifts?

9. How should the gift of the Savior motivate us in our giving to the Lord?

10. Why does the Lord accept the gifts of a cheerful giver?

Inner Aim

God, the Holy Spirit, gives us the power to be truthful in our dealings with one another.

Passages

Proverbs 19:5b - A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who speaks lies will not escape.

Ephesians 4:25a - Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another.

Matthew 15:8 - These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me.

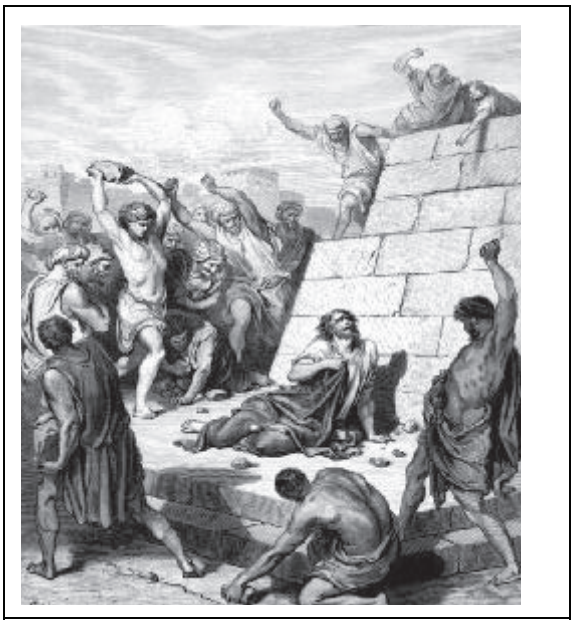
Hymn

Study hymn 323 TLH. Notice how the hymn writer tells us how we are to approach the Lord.

Prayer

Write a prayer that fits our story today. Be sure to include how we should come before the Lord and ask that He lead us in our daily struggle with our weak faith, our daily lives in this unbelieving world, and our daily fight from Satan who constantly seeks to devour us.

Stephen
Acts 6-7



Why does the truth sometimes hurt?

Where should I turn when I feel that I have been wronged?

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father: As we review Your word and study the early Christian church, guide us to a better understanding of Your will. Help us to understand what it takes to be Your disciple and strengthen our love so that we may be Your children for life. Through Jesus Christ Your Son and our Savior. Amen.

The Story - Acts 6-7

6:1 Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying..... 8 And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. 9 Then there arose some from what is called the Synagogue of the Freedmen (Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and those from Cilicia and Asia), disputing with Stephen. 10 And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke.

11 Then they secretly induced men to say, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." 12 And they stirred up the people, the elders, and the scribes; and they came upon him, seized him, and brought him to the council. 13 They also set up false witnesses who said, "This man does not cease to speak blasphemous words against this holy place and the law; 14 "for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs which Moses delivered to us." 15 And all who sat in the council, looking steadfastly at him, saw his face as the face of an angel.

7:1 Then the high priest said, "Are these things so?"

(From verses 2-50 Stephen delivers his defense before the high priest and the Jews. Using Scripture Stephen proves his defense namely "...that the Savior, Jesus, had come into the world, as promised." Stephen concludes his remarks by pointing to the Jews and reminding them that they did believe in the fulfillment of all of God's promises.)

51 "You stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you. 52 "Which of the prophets did your fathers not

persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers, 53 "who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it."

54 When they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with their teeth.

55 But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, 56 and said, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"

57 Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; 58 and they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul.

59 And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. 60 Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Recalling Details

1. Why did the Jewish leaders continue to persecute the young Christian congregation?

2. Describe Stephen's character?

3. Through the wonders and miracles that the Lord allowed Stephen to perform, what happened?

4. What were the charges brought against Stephen?

5. Before what group of leaders was Stephen to defend himself?

6. What did Stephen use as his defense?

7. What did Stephen ask the leaders to do?

8. How did the Lord provide encouragement to Stephen while he was on trial?

9. What did the Jewish leaders do that showed that they could not listen to any more of the truth?

10. What last request did Stephen make of Jesus before he died?

Outer Aim

Through the example of His young Christian congregation the Lord strengthens us by reminding us that those who stand with Him will be saved no matter what man tries to do to them.

Discussion Questions

1. In our society, are Christians protected by law from being attacked as Stephen was? Since Satan and his crew do their dirty work anyhow, what might happen to a Christian in any of the following situations,....and how would YOU handle a bad response?

   > A Christian student shows disapproval of the dirty talk and jokes of other students.
   > A Christian student has a quiet moment of prayer at the lunch-table.
   > A Christian is asked his opinion on socially-acceptable sins such as abortion, alcoholism, gambling, drug abuse, living together without marriage, etc.
   > A Christian business-person makes the Savior known among the other office personnel.
   > Co-workers enjoy discussing a subject that God answers in the Bible.
   > A Christian delivery van drive shares Bible testimony with customers on his route.

2. How do you, as a young Christian, feel about your parents (or your pastor or teacher) talking with you about something you did that needs correcting?

3. If you get into trouble because of your own sinfulness, might you feel "persecuted"? What causes a person to become angry -- such as the council members were -- when you are scolded or disciplined?

Inner Aim

We should look to our Lord in everything we think, we do, and we say -- no matter the situation.

Passages

Luke 12:8 Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God.

Matthew 5:44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.

I Thessalonians 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

Luke 2:29-32 "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word; For my eyes have seen Your salvation, Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel."

2 Timothy 4:18 And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!

Hymn/Prayer

Hymn 447 verses 1,2,4

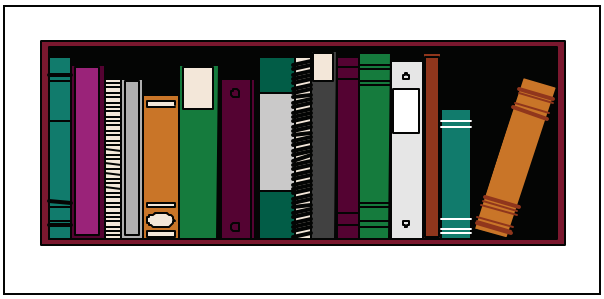
Fight the good fight with all thy might;
Christ is thy Strength and Christ thy Right.
Lay hold on life, and it shall be
Thy joy and crown eternally.

Run the straight race thro' God's good grace;
Lift up thine eyes and seek His face.
Life with its way before us lies;
Christ is the Path and Christ the Prize.

Faint not nor fear, His arms are near;
He changeth not, and thou art dear.
Only believe, and thou shalt see
That Christ is All in all to thee. Amen.

Philip and the Man from Ethiopia

Acts 8:5-8, 26-39



What kind of books do you have in your library?

Do you have a Bible at home?

Do you read your Bible at home?

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, bless our study of Your word as You blessed the study of the eunuch of Ethiopia. May Your Spirit work in our hearts that we may grow in knowledge and understanding and in a willingness to share Your word with others. In our Savior Jesus' name. Amen

Philip and the Man from Ethiopia--Acts 8:26-39

Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is desert.

{27} So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship, {28} was returning. And sitting in his chariot, was reading Isaiah the prophet. {29} Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go near, and overtake this chariot."

{30} So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?" {31} And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him.

{32} The place in the Scripture which he read was this: "He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so He opened not His mouth. {33} In his humiliation His justice was taken away. And who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth."

{34} So the eunuch answered Philip and said, "I ask you of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?"

{35} Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. {37} Now as they went down the road they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?"

{38} Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he

answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

{38} So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.

{39} Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing.

Recalling Details - Fill in the blank with the words from the WORD LIST

WORD LIST (Some words will be used more than once.)

rejoiced, Philip, eunuch, Ethiopia, baptized, believe, baptizing, Jesus, Christ, Isaiah, Son, sheep, God, slaughtered, believed

1. Philip was sent to the _____o f _____.
2. The _____ was reading the book of _____ where it talks about the _____ being _____.
3. The _____invited _____ into his chariot to explain to him what he was reading.
4. _____told the _____ about _____.
5. The _____wanted to be _____.
6. _____ was willing to baptize him if he _____.
7. The _____ said, "I_____ that _____ _____ is the _____ of _____."
8. After _____ the eunuch, _____ disappeared.
9. The eunuch _____ as he rode home.

Outer Aim

God saved a non-Jewish foreigner through Philip, a Christian missionary.

What Can We Do?

List five things you can do to help bring the word of God to people who do not know about Jesus.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

What did Philip need to know in order to help the eunuch of Ethiopia?

How do we prepare to help others know about Jesus?

Inner Aim

God sends us to preach the gospel to all people.

Passages

(Acts10:42-43) And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead. To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.

Who is "He" in this passage?

How do people receive forgiveness of their sins?

(Eph. 2:11-13) Therefore remember, that . . . at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been made near by the blood of Christ.

What is a person's relationship with God like if they do not believe in Jesus?

(Acts4:12) Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

About whom is this passage talking?

What would you say to people who think that it doesn't matter what you believe about God as long as you believe there is a god?

Hymn

Read hymn 283. Which line in particular fits this lesson? Why are the thoughts of the last two lines also very important to our mission work?

Prayer

Write a short prayer based on this lesson., Include a thank you and a request.

Peter Heals the Lame Man

Acts 3-4

Would you be able to help someone who couldn't walk? Would you be able to make them walk again? Peter was able to do that in today's lesson. How could he do that? Let's find out.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, Please send your Holy Spirit into my heart through Your Word that we are about to study. Help me to be learn about preaching Your name to others. In Jesus' name. Amen.

The Story - Acts 3-4

Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. {2} And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple; {3} who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms. {4} And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look at us." {5} So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them.

{6} Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." {7} And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. {8} So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them; walking, leaping, and praising God. {9} And all the people saw him walking and praising God. {10} Then they knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

(paraphrase) The lame man who was healed held on to Peter and John; all the people ran together to them greatly amazed. When Peter saw it, he responded to the people, "Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? Jesus, whom you delivered up and killed and whom God raised from the dead, we are witnesses of Him. His name and through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all. "

"Repent and be converted. Think of the writings of Moses, Samuel and all the prophets which tell of a Prophet who is Jesus. Anyone who does not listen to those words that Jesus is the only way of salvation will go to hell at the end of the world."

(Acts 4) Now as they spoke to the

people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came upon them, {2} being greatly disturbed that they taught the people and preached in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. {3} And they laid hands on them, and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. {4} However, many of those who heard the word believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand.

{5} And it came to pass, on the next day, that their rulers, elders, and scribes, {6} as well as Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the family of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem. {7} And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, "By what power or by what name have you done this?"

{8} Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders of Israel ... let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. {11} "This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' {12} "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

{13} Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus. {14} And seeing the man who had been healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it. {15} But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, {16} saying, "What shall we do to these men? For, indeed, that a notable miracle has been done through them is evident to all who dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. {17} "But so that it spreads no further among the people, let us severely threaten them, that from now on they speak to no man in this name."

{18} And they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. {19} But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. {20} "For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."

{21} So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way of punishing them, because of the people, since they all glorified God for what had been done. {22} For the man was over forty years old on whom this miracle of healing had been performed.

{23} And being let go, they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. {24} So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord...

{31} And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

{32} Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common...

Outer Aim - God gave Peter the gift of healing and the boldness to preach and to spread the message of the Word of God.

What the Story Tells Us - Answer the following questions from the lesson.

1. What was wrong with the man in the temple?

2. What two things had the lame man been healed from through the power of Christ?

3. How did the lame man show his thankfulness?

4. To whom did Peter give the credit for this miracle?

5. What two things did Peter tell the people to do in order for their sins to be taken away?

6. Who did not like what Peter and John were preaching?

7. What did they do to Peter and John?

8. What did they tell Peter and John not to do anymore?

9. Peter and John refused to listen to the church leaders but kept on preaching the Gospel. How did they preach the word of God?

10. Who gave them the strength to preach the Word of God?

Your Turn - Discuss the following questions. Use your Bible to help answer them.

1. From what great disease in our lives has our Great Physician healed us?
2. What did God do for us that would heal us from this horrible disease?
3. What should we want to do for God because of this wonderful gift of healing He has given us?
4. Who put Jesus on the cross? Why should the answer be us?
5. How do we receive forgiveness from our sins?
6. If we have faith in Jesus, what will be our inheritance at the end of our life?
7. Who does not like to hear the message of the Gospel?

What God's Word Tells Us - Read the passage and discuss the statements that follow. Use your story above to find the passage from Acts 4.

Matthew 10:32-33 - Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

- When we read this passage, we realize the importance of speaking out about Jesus.
- Can you think of times in your future when you may have to speak out for Jesus.
- Each of the class think of one situation and share it.
- Write down Acts 4:12. That could be a good start for a possible message of salvation.

Inner Aim - Since we have been healed from the disease of sin, we should desire to spread this message of salvation.

Passages

Psalm 50:15 - Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.

Romans 10:17 - So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Hymn & Prayer - TLH #360 v. 1-3, 5-7

Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace!

My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread thro' all the earth abroad,
The honors of Thy name.

Jesus! - the name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life and health and peace.

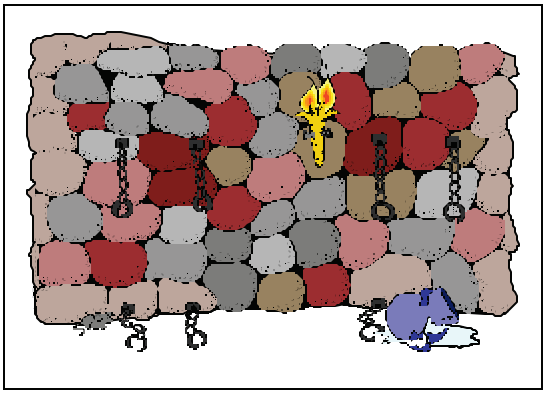
Look unto Him, ye nations; own
Your God, ye fallen race,
Look and be saved through faith alone,
Be justified by grace.

See all your sins on Jesus laid;
The Lamb of God was slain;
His soul was once an offering made
For every soul of man.

Glory to God and praise and love
Be ever, ever given
By saints below and saints above,
The Church in earth and heaven. Amen.

Peter Delivered From Prison

Acts 12



The picture shows a prison. Most people who went to prison did not expect to get out soon. Today's lesson tells of a miraculous rescue by an angel. Let's read more about how God sent his angel to deliver Peter.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, We will learn today how You saved Peter when he was put in jail for believing in You. Each day, because of sin, we are tempted to not trust that You will help us in all kinds of trouble. Please help us to put all our trust in You and remember that You loved us so much that You sent Jesus to die for our sins so we can look forward to Heaven. Thank You for sending Jesus and helping us in all our troubles. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

The Story - Acts 12

Acts 12 Now about that time Herod the king stretched out his hand to harass some from the church. {2} Then he killed James the brother of John with the sword. {3} And because he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to seize Peter also. Now it was during the Days of Unleavened Bread. {4} So when he had arrested him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to keep him, intending to bring him before the people after Passover.

{5} Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church.

{6} And when Herod was about to bring him out, that night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were keeping the prison. {7} Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, "Arise quickly!" And his chains fell off his hands.

{8} Then the angel said to him, "Gird yourself and tie on your sandals"; and so he did. And he said to him, "Put on your garment and follow me." {9} So he went out and followed him, and did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision.

{10} When they were past the first and the second guard posts, they came to the iron gate that leads to the city, which opened to them of its own accord; and they went out and went down one street, and immediately the angel departed from him.

{11} And when Peter had come to himself, he said, "Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent His angel, and has delivered me from the hand of Herod and from all the expectation of the Jewish people."

{12} So, when he had considered this, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, where many were gathered together praying. {13} And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a girl named Rhoda came to answer. {14} When she recognized Peter's voice, because of her

gladness she did not open the gate, but ran in and announced that Peter stood before the gate.

{15} But they said to her, "You are beside yourself!" Yet she kept insisting that it was so. So they said, "It is his angel."

{16} Now Peter continued knocking; and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished. {17} But motioning to them with his hand to keep silent, he declared to them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, "Go, tell these things to James and to the brethren." And he departed and went to another place.

{18} Then, as soon as it was day, there was no small stir among the soldiers about what had become of Peter. {19} But when Herod had searched for him and not found him, he examined the guards and commanded that they should be put to death. And he went down from Judea to Caesarea, and stayed there.

{20} Now Herod had been very angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon; but they came to him with one accord, and having made Blastus the king's personal aide their friend, they asked for peace, because their country was supplied with food by the king's country.

{21} So on a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat on his throne and gave an oration to them.

{22} And the people kept shouting, "The voice of a god and not of a man!"

{23} Then immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give glory to God. And he was eaten by worms and died.

{24} But the word of God grew and multiplied.

{25} And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had fulfilled their ministry, and they also took with them John whose surname was Mark.

What God's Word Tells Us - Fill in the blanks.

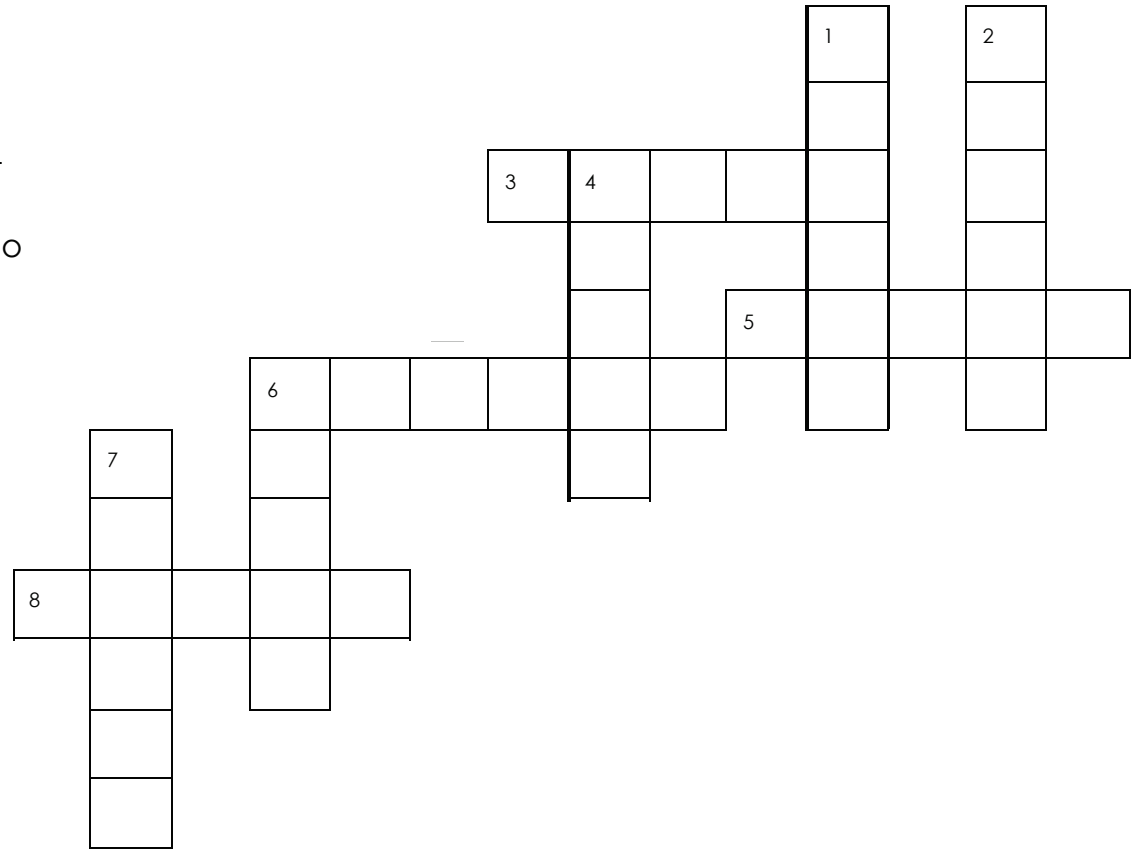
Matthew 18:20 - "For where _____ or _____ are _____ together in _____ _____ there am _____ in the midst _____ _____."

Matthew 24:35 - "_____ and earth will _____ away, but _____ _____ will by _____ _____ pass _____."

How do these passages relate to Peter, his fellow believers, and to you?
Is the Lord with us right now?

Outer Aim - God delivered Peter from prison.

What the Story Tells Us - Crossword Puzzle.



ACROSS
3. She answered the door.
5. An ____ was sent to rescue Peter.
6. Peter was put into ____.
8. John's brother who was killed.

DOWN
1. Peter was put into ____ while in prison.
2. The church was in constant ___ for Peter.
4. The wicked king.
6. ___ was put into prison.
7. There were ___ at the prison door.

Passages

Mark 8:34-38 When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

What is God telling us about our whole lives as Christians?
How can we practice this passage's message daily?

Inner Aim - God delivers His chosen ones from all evil.

Your Turn - Discussion Questions - This story takes place when the persecution of Christians was on the rise. We learned Peter was delivered from prison by an angel of God. The disciple James was killed. Does this mean that James was ignored by God? How do you know?

A friend of yours is having troubles. It can be hard to know what to say right on the spot. Choose one of the areas he/she may be struggling in and think of what you may say to him to comfort him/her. Use passages and ideas from today's lesson to guide your remarks. After thinking it through, write them down.

Being bullied at school
Difficulties with a family member or teacher
Illness or death in their family
Personal illness

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Hymn - TLH #658 v. 1, 3

Onward, Christian soldiers,
Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus going on before.
Christ, the royal Master,
Leads against the Foe;
Forward into battle
See His banners go!
Onward, Christian soldiers,
Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus going on before.

Crowns and thrones may perish,
Kingdoms rise and wane,
But the Church of Jesus constant will remain.
Gates of hell can never
'Gainst that Church prevail;
We have Christ's own promise,
And that cannot fail.
Onward, Christian soldiers,
Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus going on before.

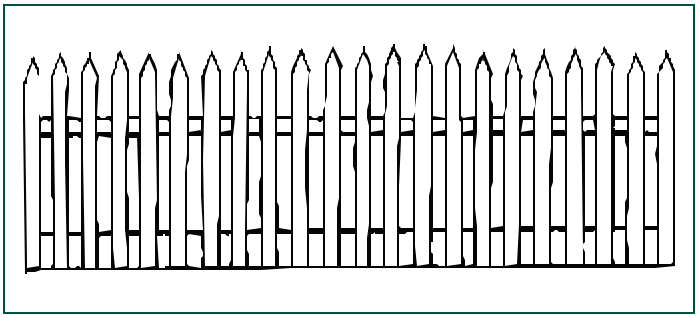
Prayer

Lord, You have taught us that he who would lose his life for Your sake will find it; that is, gain eternal life in heaven. Grant us the faith and spiritual strength never to waiver in our faith in You regardless of the severity of the trial and troubles. Grant us a double portion of the Spirit of James and Peter that we too may spend eternity with You because of Your sacrifice for our sins. Grant us complete remission of all our sins. We trust You for our salvation. Amen.

Cornelius and Peter

Acts 10

Why do people build fences?
What is done with a fence when it is no longer necessary?



Prayer

Dear Father in heaven, in Your great love for us You have given us faith through the Holy Spirit in Your Son, Jesus Christ. As we study Your Word today show us any barriers we have in our lives that keep us from sharing the truth about Jesus with other people. Help us to take down these barriers. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Acts 10

There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, {2} a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always. {3} About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, "Cornelius!"

{4} And when he observed him, he was afraid, and said, "What is it, lord?"

So he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God. {5} "Now send men to Joppa, and send for Simon whose surname is Peter. {6} "He is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea. He will tell you what you must do." {7} And when the angel who spoke to him had departed, Cornelius called two of his household servants and a devout soldier from among those who waited on him continually. {8} So when he had explained all these things to them, he sent them to Joppa.

{9} The next day, as they went on their journey and drew near the city, Peter went up on the housetop to pray, about the sixth hour. {10} Then he became very hungry and wanted to eat; but while they made ready, he fell into a trance {11} and saw heaven opened and an object like a great sheet bound at the four corners, descending to him and let down to the earth. {12} In it were all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air. {13} And a voice came to him, "Rise, Peter; kill and eat."

{14} But Peter said, "Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean."

{15} And a voice spoke to him again the second time, "What God has cleansed you must not call common." {16} This was done three times. And the object was taken up into heaven again.

{17} Now while Peter wondered within himself what this vision which he had seen meant, behold, the men who had been sent from Cornelius had made inquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate. {18} And they called and asked whether Simon, whose surname was Peter, was lodging there.

{19} While Peter thought about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are seeking you. {20} "Arise therefore, go down and go with them, doubting nothing; for I have sent them."

{21} Then Peter went down to the men who had been sent to him from Cornelius, and said, "Yes, I am he whom you seek. For what reason have you come?" {22} And they said, "Cornelius the centurion, a just man, one who fears God and has a good reputation among all the nation of the Jews, was divinely instructed by a holy angel to summon you to his house, and to hear words from you."

{23} Then he invited them in and lodged them. On the next day Peter went away with them, and some brethren from Joppa accompanied him. {24} And the following day they entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them, and had called together his relatives and close friends. {25} As Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him. {26} But Peter lifted him up, saying, "Stand up; I myself am also a man."

{27} And as he talked with him, he went in and found many who had come together. {28} Then he said to them, "You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. But God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean. {29} "Therefore I came without objection as soon as I was sent for. I ask, then, for what reason have you sent for me?" {30} So Cornelius said, "Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing, {31} "and said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard, and your alms are remembered in the sight of God. {32} 'Send therefore to Joppa and call Simon here, whose surname is Peter. He is lodging in the house of Simon, a tanner, by the sea. When he comes, he will speak to you.' {33} "So I sent to you immediately, and you have done well to come. Now therefore, we are all present before God, to hear all the things commanded you by God."

{34} Then Peter opened his mouth and said: "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. {35} "But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him. {36} "The word which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ; He is Lord of all; {37} "that word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: {38} "how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

{39} "And we are witnesses of all

things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on a tree. {40} "Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly, {41} "not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, even to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. {42} "And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead. {43} "To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins." {44} While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. {45} And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. {46} For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, {47} "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" {48} And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.

Recalling Details - Mark each statement(T)rue or (F)alse.

_____ 1. Cornelius believed in Jehovah, the God of the Jews.

_____ 2. Cornelius was told to send for Simon Peter by an angel.

_____ 3. Peter was eager to eat meat from the animals in the sheet.

_____ 4. God told Peter to go with the men sent from Cornelius.

_____ 5. Cornelius wanted all his friends and relatives to hear Peter.

_____ 6. Peter never figured out what the vision meant.

_____ 7. Peter told Cornelius and the other people there about himself.

_____ 8. Cornelius and the other people who heard about Jesus received the Holy Spirit and believed.

_____ 9. Cornelius and the other people who believed did not want to be baptized.

Outer Aim - God wanted Peter to tell Cornelius and the others about Jesus their Savior, so they could be saved.

Discussion Questions

1. What was the Jewish attitude toward Gentiles?

2. How did God show Peter this was not the attitude God wanted him to have?

3. How do we sometimes show a bad attitude about other people?

4. What can be done about that?

Inner Aim - God's love is for all people. He wants His believers to show and tell the love of Jesus Christ to everyone.

Passages

1 Timothy 2:3-4 - "God our _____ ... desires _____ men to be _____ and to come to the knowledge of the _____. *(all, Savior, truth, saved)*

2 Peter 3:9 - " The Lord ... is _____ toward us, not willing that _____ should _____ but that _____ should come to _____.
(all, repentance, any, perish, longsuffering)

Ephesians 2:13 - "But now in Christ _____ you who once were _____ off have been made _____ by the _____ of _____.
(Jesus, near, Christ, blood, far)

1 Thessalonians 2:13 - " When you _____ the word of _____ which you heard from us, you _____it not as the word of _____, but as it is in truth, the _____ of God. *(received, men, God, welcomed)*

Hymn - How does each of the following hymn stanzas fit this lesson?

Hymn #377, stanza 1

Hymn #225, stanza 5

Hymn #373, stanza 3

Hymn #510, stanza 3

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for saving Cornelius and his friends and relatives. Thank You for a love that sees past all the things that sometimes keep us from caring whether someone knows about You, their Savior, or not. Lord, we know that no one is saved without faith in You. Help us to love more so that we do care about the salvation of others and do share the truth about You. Amen.

The Conversion of Saul

Acts 9:1-19

What is this man doing? If he is praying, to whom may this man be praying?

Will a false god be able to forgive his sins?

How will he find out about the True God?

Today we will read about Saul, who also was following the wrong religion. How did he find out about the True God?

Prayer

Dear Father in heaven, thank You for calling us to faith through the work of the Holy Spirit in our baptism. Through the death of Jesus, Your Son, You have overlooked the sin in our hearts. Please continue to work faith in the souls of unbelievers through the Holy Spirit in Your Word. Amen.

The Story - Acts 9:1-19

Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest {2} and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

{3} As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. {4} Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"

{5} And he said, "Who are You, Lord?"

Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads *(a pointed stick used to drive cattle*)."

{6} So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?"

Then the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

{7} And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one.

{8} Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one. But they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. {9} And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

{10} Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, "Ananias."

And he said, "Here I am, Lord."

{11} So the Lord said to him, "Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. {12} And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hand on him, so that he might receive his sight."

{13} Then Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem. {14} And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name."

{15} But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. {16} For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake."

{17} And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." {18} Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized. {19} So when he had received food, he was strengthened. Then Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus.

Outer Aim - When God brought Saul to know Jesus as Savior, He also prepared him to be the great Christian apostle and missionary Paul.

Review - Write the correct letter in the blank to complete this summary.

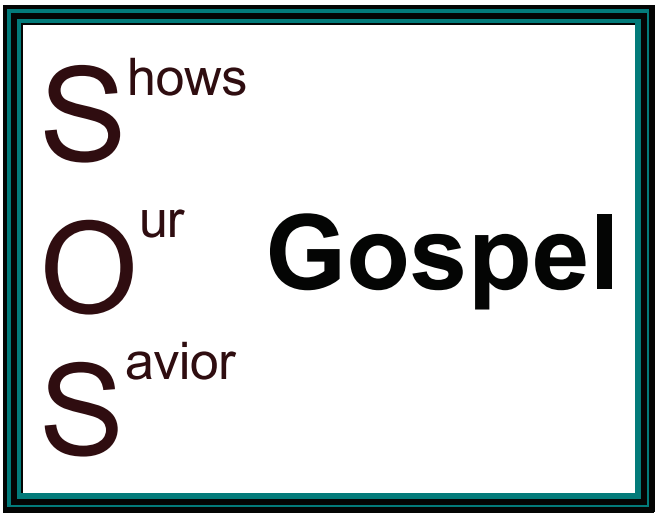
1. _____ asked to be allowed to capture Christians in _____.
2. As he traveled there, a _____ came from heaven and a voice said, "Saul, Saul, why are you _____ Me?"
3. Saul asked who was speaking, and the voice said, "I am _____."
4. The Lord told Saul to go into the city and _____.
5. Saul was then _____.
6. _____ was told by the Lord to go to Saul.
7. After Saul was able to see he was _____.
8. Saul spent some days with the _____ at Damascus.
9. He would later be known as _____.

a. disciples
b. wait
c. light
d. Paul
e. Ananias
f. persecuting
g. blind
h. Saul
i. Damascus
j. Jesus
k. baptized

Inner Aim - God's love is for all people, the Jew and the Gentile.

Discussion - Discuss the following with your classmates and teacher.

- Describe the spiritual problem of everybody.
- What does the Law show us?
- When we realize we are sinful, what are we led to do?
- What does the Gospel then shows us?
- What Person of the Triune God works through the Bible to convert?
- When did you become a child of God?



Hymn

Chief of sinners though I be,
Jesus shed His blood for me;
Died that I might live on high,
Lived that I might never die.
As a branch is to the vine,
I am His and He is mine.

Oh , the height of Jesus' love!
Higher than the heav'ns above,
Deeper than the depths of sea,
Lasting as eternity.
Love that found me - wondrous tho't!
Found me when I sought Him not. TLH 342 v. 1-2

Passages - Use the passages below to answer the questions.

I Corinthians 6:11 - "But you were washed, but you were sanctified,
but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus
and by the Spirit of our God."

1 Timothy 1:15 - "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief."

Ephesians 1:3-5 - "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world...having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will.

1. Underline the three words in the 1 Corinthian passage that tell what has happened to you because of Jesus and the working of the Holy Spirit.

2. What are you called by God in the 1 Timothy passage and Hymn 342, stanza 1?

3. According to God's Word in Ephesians 1, when were you chosen to be children of God?

4. Whose child were you before God brought you into His family?

Prayer

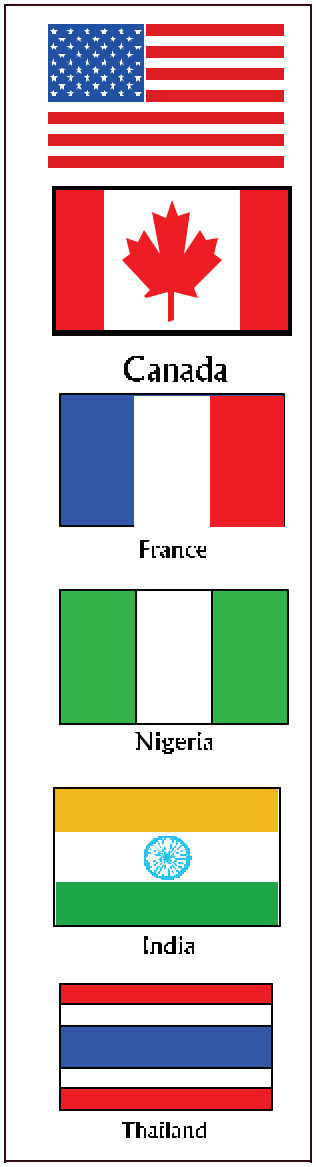
Dear Father, thank You for changing my life by calling me out of darkness into light through my baptism. Please continue to strengthen my faith so that I will not be afraid to suffer for Your name's sake. Strengthen Your Church so that it may continue to grow even though the devil and the world continue to persecute It. May You do this for the sake of Your Son, Jesus. Amen.

Paul and the Jailer at Philippi

Acts 16:9-40

These flags show the countries our church has workers spreading God's Word.

How can you help these missionaries?



Prayer

Dear Father in heaven, we thank You for sending Your Son Jesus on that great mission to save us from our sins. Thank You for showing us the importance of needing a Savior. Please open the hearts of unbelievers in all places to recognize the fact that they are powerless to save themselves. Finally, please continue to provide pastors and teachers of Your Word so that all may be brought to repentance and the knowledge of their salvation. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Acts 16:9-40

And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." {10} Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.

{11} Therefore, sailing from Troas, we ran a straight course to Samothrace, and the next day came to Neapolis, {12} and from there to Philippi, which is the foremost city of that part of Macedonia, a colony. And we were staying in that city for some days. {13} And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met there. {14} Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul. {15} And when she and her household were baptized, she begged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." So she persuaded us.

{16} Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us,

who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. {17} This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." {18} And this she did for many days.

But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour. {19} But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities.

{20} And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, "These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city; {21} "and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe." {22} Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. {23} And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. {24} Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

{25} But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. {26} Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. {27} And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. {28} But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here."

{29} Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. {30} And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

{31} So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." {32} Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. {33} And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. {34} Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.

{35} And when it was day, the magistrates sent the officers, saying, "Let those men go."

{36} So the keeper of the prison reported these words to Paul, saying, "The magistrates have sent to let you go. Now therefore depart, and go in peace."

{37} But Paul said to them, "They have beaten us openly, uncondemned Romans, and have thrown us into prison. And now do they put us out secretly? No indeed! Let them come themselves and get us out."

{38} And the officers told these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Romans. {39} Then they came and pleaded with them and brought them out, and asked them to depart from the city. {40} So they went out of the prison and entered the house of Lydia; and when they had seen the brethren, they encouraged them and departed.

Outer Aim - God used Paul to bring Jesus to a prison warden and then to his family.

Review - Fill in the letters of the missing words. The numbers under some of the letters will complete the answer to the bottom question.

1. Paul had a vision which called him to ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
   22 18 16 14 25
2. The Holy Spirit worked faith in the heart of ___ ___ ___ ___ ___, a seller of purple.
   13 4
3. Paul, using the name of Jesus, caused the evil spirit to leave the ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ girl.
   6 7
4. Because of this _P_ ___ ___ ___ and _S_ ___ ___ ___ ___ were beaten and sent to prison.
   20 3 19 21
5. God sent an ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ to loosen the
   12 15 27 23 5
   prisoners' ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ and open their doors.
   11 26
6. The jailer was brought to faith and he and his household were
   ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ .
   1 10 2
7. Paul and Silas made the magistrates publically apologize because they were
   ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ citizens.
   24 8 9

What must I do to be saved?

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

___ ___ ___ ___ _J_ ___ _S_ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27

Inner Aim - God sends believers into the world with the Gospel message in order to rescue those lost in sin.

Discussion Questions - Share your answers with your teacher and classmates.

1. How might you be able to help spread God's Word in foreign missions?
2. How is Lydia a good example of living the command to, "love your neighbor as yourself?"
3. What is wrong with using psychics or fortune tellers?
4. What does the Bible tell us about suicide?

Passages

Matt. 28:18 - All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

What two commands does God give us in this passage?

Gal.6:6 - Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches.

How should we treat those who bring us God's Word?

Mt. 5:11 - Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.

How should we feel about standing up for God's Word even if bad things happen?

Rom. 2:15a: - Who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness.

What is in each person's heart telling them the law?

Hymn - TLH #179

On my heart imprint Thine image, blessed Jesus, King of Grace
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures have no pow'r Thee to efface.
This the superscription be: Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my Life, my hope's Foundation, and my Glory and Salvation. Amen

Prayer

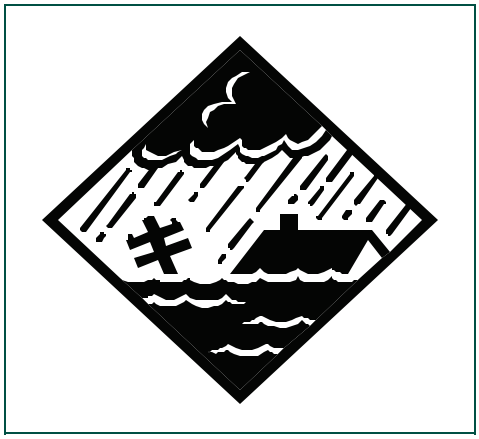
Dear Lord,

Thank You for blessing us with the wonderful news of our salvation. Please grant us the Holy Spirit to give us the strength and courage to proclaim this good news wherever and whenever You give us the opportunity. Allow the Holy Spirit to carry out that great work through humble individuals like us. In all things let Your will be done. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Paul's First Missionary Journey

Acts 13 - 14

What would you do if a friend was caught here?
Evreryone in the world are caught in something much more dangerous than this.
What is it?
What can you do about it?



Prayer

Dear Lord, We know that we are sinful people. Help us to be good to each other and to be more like You. Please do not let anything distract us while we learn about how You used Paul and Barnabas to preach Your Word. Thank You for sending Jesus to save us. Amen.

Acts 13-14 (excerpts)

Now in the church that was in **Antioch** there were certain prophets and teachers: {2}As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

In **Cyprus.** {6}Now when they had gone through the island to Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew whose name was Bar-Jesus, {7}who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man. This man called for Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. {8}But Elymas the sorcerer (for so his name is translated) withstood them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. {9}Then Saul, who also is called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him {10}and said, "O full of all deceit and all fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord? {11}"And now, indeed, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you shall be blind, not seeing the sun for a time."

And immediately a dark mist fell on him, and he went around seeking someone to lead him by the hand. {12}Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had been done, being astonished at the teaching of the Lord.

In Pisidia. {14}…They came to **Antioch in Pisidia**, and went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and sat down. {15}And after the reading of the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent to them, saying, "Men and brethren, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, say on."

(Paul stood up and told the history of the children of Israel, including prophesies of Jesus and forgiveness of sins through His death and resurrection. He finished with a call to repentance.)

{42}And when the Jews went out of the synagogue, the Gentiles begged that

these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath.

{44}And the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God. {45}But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy; and contradicting and blaspheming, they opposed the things spoken by Paul.

{46}Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, "It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles."

{48}Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.

{49}And the word of the Lord was being spread throughout all the region. {50}But the Jews stirred up the devout and prominent women and chief men of the city, raised up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region. {51}But they shook off the dust from their feet against them, and came to Iconium.

In Iconium. {1}Now it happened in Iconium that they went together to the synagogue of the Jews, and so spoke that a great multitude both of the Jews and of the Greeks believed. {5}And when a violent attempt was made by both the Gentiles and Jews, with their rulers, to abuse and stone them, {6}they became aware of it and fled to Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and to the surrounding region.

In Lystra. {8}And in Lystra a certain man without strength in his feet was sitting, a cripple from his mother's womb, who had never walked. {9}This man heard Paul speaking. Paul, observing him intently and seeing that he had faith to be healed, {10}said with a loud voice, "Stand up straight on your feet!" And he leaped and walked.

{11}Now when the people saw what Paul had done, they raised their voices, saying in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!" {12}And Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker.

{14}But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard this, they tore their clothes and ran in among the multitude, crying out {15}and saying, "Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you, and preach to you that you should turn from these vain things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them, {18}And with these sayings they could scarcely restrain the multitudes from sacrificing to them.

{19}Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and having persuaded the multitudes, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead. {20}However, when the disciples gathered around him, he rose up and went into the city. And the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.

In Derbe. {21}And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, {22}strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God." {23}So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they believed.

{26}…They sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work which they had completed. {27}And when they had come and gathered the church together, they reported all that God had done with them, and that He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.

Outer Aim - The Lord called Paul and Barnabas to preach the Gospel in far-off lands.

What the Story Tells Us - Unscramble the places visited and then match each place went with what happened there.

1. _____ SRYPUC _____
2. _____ YTALSR _____
3. _____ MUONCII _____
4. _____ BEEDR _____
5. _____TINHCAONI IDAIIPS_____
6. _____ NACITHO _____

A. Bar-Jesus was struck with blindness.

B. The people thought Paul and Barnabas were gods.

C. The Holy Spirit told Paul and Barnabas to preach.

D. Paul preached a long sermon about Jesus.

E. Paul and Barnabas preached here awhile.

F. Paul and Barnabas heard they were going to be stoned and ran away.

What God's Word Tell Us - Discussion Questions.

1. How did the different people in this story receive Paul and Barnabas' preaching?

2. Why did Paul say God's Word would be spread to the Gentiles more (Acts 13:46-47)?

3. Why can we be just as bold as Paul and Barnabas in preaching God's Word (Isaiah 55:11)?

4. What are some ways we can help spread the Gospel?

Your Turn - Take turns naming 2 people you know who haven't heard about Jesus. Write their names below.

_____ _____

Prayer - Make up a prayer asking for the Holy Spirit to guide you to talk to the people you listed above. You may make the prayer together as a class.

Inner Aim - The Lord calls all believers to preach the Gospel to everyone.

Passages

Mark 16:15 - "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

Romans 10:13 - "For whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

Isaiah 55:11 - So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

1 Timothy 2:4 - (God Our Savior) desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Hymn - TLH #507

Spread, oh, spread, thou might Word,
Spread the kingdom of the Lord,
Wheresoe'er His breath has giv'n
Life to beings meant for heav'n.

Tell them how the Father's will
Made the world and keeps it still,
How His only Son He gave
Man from sin and death to save.

Tell of our Redeemer's love,
Who forever doth remove
By His holy sacrifice
All the guilt that on us lies.

Tell them of the Spirit giv'n
Now to guide us up to heav'n,
Strong and holy, just and true,
Working both to will and do.

Up! The ripening fields ye see.
Mighty shall the harvest be;
But the reapers still are few,
Great the work they have to do.

Lord of Harvest, let there be
Joy and strength to work for Thee
Till the nations far and near
See Thy light and learn Thy fear. Amen.

Paul's Second Missionary Journey

Acts 15:36 - 18:22

List some events you remember about Paul's first missionary journey?

Why might God want Paul to make another missionary journey?

Why were these journeys of Paul so important to you and me?

Prayer

O dearest Jesus, the great Shepherd of the Sheep, bless the preaching of the Gospel, both near and far. Be with all our missionaries, pastors, and teachers wherever they labor. Bless their efforts according to Your good and gracious will. Increase our faith. Move us to pray, "Thy Kingdom come." Enable us to do all that we can to help bring Your saving Gospel to lost, dying sinners. Amen.

The Story

The year is 50 A.D. It has been about 17 years since the Lord Jesus ascended to His Father. Here we find Paul setting out on a journey to revisit the congregations he had helped establish between the years 46 and 48 A.D. He wanted to "{36} go back and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they are doing." He did visit and strengthen and encourage the young church on earth. But, even better, during this second journey the history of Europe and, ultimately, America, was determined. Paul of Tarsus is credited with bring Christianity to Europe! His chosen companion was Silas, a distinguished member of the mother church at Jerusalem. Silas was a powerful preacher who, {32} "being a prophet also, had exhorted and strengthened the brethren with many words."

But it was not an easy journey. The Holy Spirit led them first to Macedonia, a colony that had not heard of Jesus Christ. Here Paul began preaching, and both were thrown into jail. As a result, Paul and Silas met and converted the jailer in Philippi. The jailer's words are well-known. "What must I do to be saved?" Paul's words are even more important. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved, you and your household." (See the Lesson entitled, *Paul and the Jailer of Philippi*.)

From here Paul and Silas went on their way and headed to Thessalonica, which had a powerful Jewish synagogue. Here they spent three weeks, preaching, explaining, and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus who I preach to you is the Christ." Some of the Jews, a great multitude of the Greeks, and not a few of the leading women joined Paul and Silas. But Paul's words were poison to many of the Jews. Their ears heard the same ideas that Jesus of Nazareth had spoken! And they thought they were rid of him.

These Jews gathered a mob, harassed the man who was hosting Paul and Silas, and caused the believers there to send Paul and Silas away. They moved to the town of Berea, and here too was a strong Jewish synagogue. But these Jews were {17:11} "more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica." The Word was received with all readiness, and the Jews there searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

When word got back to the Jews at Thessolonica, they rushed to Berea, and again stirred up a mob. Immediately the believers there sent Paul away by sea. And his transporters took him all the way to Athens, Greece.

When Paul walked into Athens he was walking into the heart of Greece, "the cradle of Western civilization." For fifteen hundred years these people had woven a complex religion based on the god Zeus, the goddess Hera, Apollo, Aphrodite, and countless others. There were temples everywhere. Temples set on hills, with mighty columns and statues of gold. Indeed, only 150 kilometers to the west, in the ancient city of Olympia was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world; the temple of Zeus, the king of gods, which would have made our Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. look tiny and

insignificant.

Paul was horrified. So he reasoned with the Jews in the synagogue and with the Gentile worshipers. He went to the marketplace daily. And there, one day, he did an incredible thing. He stood at the center of a great plaza and said, "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD."

He got everyone's attention! Remember, this was the city of Socrates and Aristotle, the great philosophers. Men prided themselves in intellectual speech. Most of the city's inhabitants spent every day in the city center, discussing the "Newest Ideas."

Paul continued, "Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.' Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising. Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man who He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

When the Athenians heard of the resurrection from the dead, some mocked, while others said, "We will hear you again on this matter." So Paul departed from among them. However, some men joined him and believed, among them Dionysius, a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

After these things Paul departed from Athens and went to Corinth. There he found another tentmaker named Aquila, a believer, and worked hard making tents during the week. But every Sabbath he went to the synagogue to persuade the Jews and the Greeks that Jesus was the Christ. Paul spent a year and a half at Corinth and many of the Corinthians believed and were baptized.

What the Story Tells Us - Use the map on page one to complete the following items.

1. Draw a circle around the city at which a jailer and his family were brought to faith.

2. Draw a triangle around the city whose people searched the Scriptures to make sure that Paul and Silas were teaching correctly.

3. Draw a square around the city were Paul preached about the "unknown God."

4. Draw an X on the city whose people threatened Paul and Silas and then followed them to another city and threatened them.

5. Draw a line under the city where Paul lived with Aquila for a year and a half preaching and making tents.

6. What message did Paul and Silas bring to the people in each of these cities?

7. Go to the paragraph surrounded with a box. List six things that Paul says that God has done or will do.
   a.

   b.

   c.

   d.

   e.

   f.

Outer Aim

The Lord sent Paul and Silas to revisit old churches and open new ones.

What God's Word Tells Us

"And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there shall be one flock and one shepherd." - John 10:16

1. How did Paul's life show that He understood the idea presented in this passage? Use examples from the story in your answer.

2. What could you do to show that you understand the idea presented in this passage? Give specific examples.

"And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly Kingdom." - *2 Tim. 4:18*

3. What comfort could Paul take from the message found in this passage?

4. What comfort can you take from the message found in this passage?

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

5. What encouragement regarding the results his work could Paul (and all those who spread God's Word) gain from the message of this passage?

Your Turn

Write your own definition of a "Christian" person.

Compare your definition to Paul's definitions in the following verses from Ephesians:

2:10 A Christian is a person who...

4:2-3 A Christian is a person who...

4:20-32 A Christian is a person who...

5:17-21 A Christian is a person who...

Inner Aim

The Lord uses believers to fulfill the truth that "The Lord gives the increase."

Hymn - TLH #505

Find one phrase or idea in each stanza below and apply it in some way to our story. There are many possible applications.

Applications

1. O'er the gloomy hills of darkness,
Cheered by no celestial ray,
Sun of Righteousness, arising,
Bring the bright, the glorious day.
Let the morning of Thy blessed Gospel dawn.

2. Kingdoms wide that sit in darkness,
Grant them, Lord, the glorious light;
And from eastern coast to western
May the morning chase the night
And redemption, freely purchased, win the day!

3. Fly abroad, eternal Gospel;
Win and conquer, never cease.
May Thy lasting, wide dominions
Multiply and still increase!
May Thy scepter sway th'enlightened world around!

Prayer

O dearest Jesus, today we studied another of the missionary journeys of the Apostle Paul. Help us remember this dedicated worker of Yours and how he served You. Create in us a similar desire to serve You to the best of the abilities You have given us. Comfort us with the realization that our job is to tell people about You. You will cause Your Word to prosper and lead people to faith in You. We make these requests in Your blessed name. Amen.

Paul's Third Missionary Journey

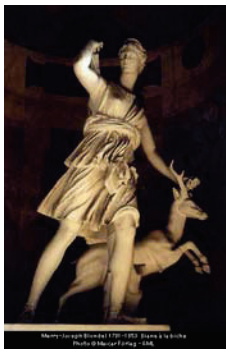
Acts 18:23-21:14

Prayer

Oh Almighty God in heaven, since the beginning of time man has created gods to replace You. There is no comparing those idols to your power and majesty. Today we will be studying a famous missionary who took this wonderful Gospel message of Your love and carried to those who knew only false gods. Help us take heart and gain courage from this story that we, too, become missionaries for You. We pray this in Jesus name. Amen.

The Story

The third missionary journey of Paul lasted about four years. Three of those years were spent in Ephesus, one of the largest cities of Asia Minor. Ephesus was 1,000 years old by the time Paul reached it. While Paul was there, Ephesus was at the height of its glory, being the most prosperous commercial center of that time.



Diana (Artemis)

In those days of wickedness, cities claimed false gods as their own. The chief goddess of Ephesus was Diana, daughter of Zeus, sister to Apollo. Ephesus enjoyed a sort of "sacredness" because the great temple to the goddess Diana lay just outside the city and was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. This temple attracted tourists by the thousands. Those tourists bought souvenirs, mostly small statues of Diana, made by silversmiths whose shops were everywhere in the city. Those silversmiths made a living through these sales.

Paul had not been in Ephesus very long before he had those silversmiths so angry that they started a panic city-wide.

Acts 19:23-27 "And about that time there arose a great commotion about the Way. For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Diana, brought no small profit to the craftsmen. He called them together with the workers of similar occupation, and said: "Men, you know that we have our prosperity by this trade. Moreover you see and hear that not only at Ephesus, but throughout almost all Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people, saying that they are not gods which are made with hands. So not only is this trade of ours in danger of falling into disrepute, but also the temple of the great goddess Diana may be despised and her magnificence destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worship." Now when they heard this, they were full of wrath and cried out, saying, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!"

They convinced the citizens that Paul's ideas would overthrow not only their religion but also their government. Everyone gathered in the streets, shouting and fighting. So the whole city was filled with confusion. Paul and his companions were in danger of being seized by the mob and harmed. Finally the city clerk quieted the crowd because he was afraid that the Roman army would come to restore order if he did not. *"For we are in danger of being called in question for today's uproar, there being no reason which we may give to account for this disorderly gathering!"* And when he had said these things, he dismissed the assembly.

But Paul was not intimidated by this outbreak. He saw this great city as a field full of ripe grain, ready to be picked. He stayed for nearly three years for one reason: to bring the gospel to the Gentiles. One of his strongest characteristics was his eagerness to take advantage of every opportunity to promote Christianity. He never passed up a chance to proclaim the news of the risen Lord and wrote in 1 Corinthians that *"a window was opened there."*

Inner Aim Paul preached to the people in Ephesus and many became believers.

Activity One - Summarize the story in two sentences. Use the following words in your summary: **Paul, Ephesus, Diana, greedy, riot, missionary, example, troubles**

Activity Two - Explain the following expressions and ideas from today's story.

1. In the second paragraph of the story, why is "sacredness" in quotation marks?

2. What was the real reason that the riot over Paul and his followers started?

3. In the last paragraph the city was described as , "as a field full of ripe grain, ready to be picked. "

4. In th e last paragraph, "...a window was opened there."

Passages

Read 1 Corinthians 3: 1-13. (page 4) Paul writes from Ephesus to the believers in Corinth as their pastor. Here God reveals, through Paul, a true pastor's heart. Write a paragraph that summarizes what God says of the work he (and all pastors) is doing. Conclude the paragraph by writing down, as a quote, the most important verse in this group.

Hymn - Answer the following questions about the stanzas of Hymn #502 (TLH)

1. Saints of God, the dawn is bright'ning, Token of our coming Lord; O'er the earth the field is whit'ning; Louder rings the Master's word: Pray for reapers, Pray for reapers, In the harvest of the Lord!	Who are the "reapers"? What is the "harvest of the Lord"?
2. Now, O Lord, fulfil Thy pleasure, Breathe upon Thy chosen band, And with Pentecostal measure Send forth reapers o'er our land, Faithful reapers, Faithful reapers, Gath'ring sheaves for Thy right hand.	What is happening when God "breath(es) upon Thy chosen band"? What is happening when reapers are "gath'ring sheaves for They right hand?
3. Soon shall end the time of weeping, Soon the reaping time will come, Heav'n and earth together keeping God's eternal Harvest-home. Saints and angels, saints and angels, Shout the world's great Harvest-home.	When is the "end (of) the time of weeping"? Where is "God's eternal Harvest-home"?

Prayer

Lord God in heaven, You know that we often fail when You give us opportunities to talk to others about You. Please help us to overcome our fear and to speak of You and Your mercy and love in sending Your Son Jesus to die for all of us. It is only with Your help that we can get the Gospel message out to rescue people from death in Hell. Give us that courage, we pray. In the name of that Son Jesus we pray. Amen.

1st Corinthians 3:1-13

1Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly—mere infants in Christ. 2I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. 3You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men? 4For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere men?

5What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. 6I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. 7So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. 8The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. 9For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.

10By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. 11For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, 13his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work.

PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

<u>Lower</u>
Mark 16:15 - "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature."
Rom. 10:13 - "For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

<u>Middle</u>
Prov. 3:5 - "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding."
Prov. 3:6 - "In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."

<u>Upper</u>
Is. 55:11 - "So shall My Word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."
Matt. 9:37-38 - "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."
John 15:16 - "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give it to you."

Paul the Prisoner

Acts 21:15 - 26:32

Many people are persecuted for what they believe. Christians were persecuted to the point that they were thrown in jail and even killed.

Paul used to be someone who persecuted Christians, but God called him to preach to the Gentiles.

Now we read of him being taken to prison where he must defend himself against the Jews.

Prayer - TLH #498 1,5

Rise, thou Light of Gentile nations,
Jesus bright and Morning Star;
Let They Word, the gladsome tidings,
Ring out loudly near and far,
Bringing freedom to the captives,
Peace and comfort to the slave,
That the heathen, free from bondage,
May proclaim Thy power to save.

May our zeal to help the heathen
Be increased from day to day,
As we plead in true compassion
And for their conversion pray.
For the many faithful heralds,
For the Gospel they proclaim,
Let us all be cheerful givers
To the glory of Thy name. Amen.

The Story - Acts 21-26 (paraphrased)

When Paul had come to Jerusalem, the brethren gladly received him. On the following day, Paul went to James. He told them all about the work God had given him to do with the Gentiles and how the Word of God was spread to them. When they heard it, they glorified the Lord.

Paul went to the temple to bring an offering, but some of the Jews stirred up the crowd, dragged him out of the temple and tried to kill him. The commander of the army stopped the beating and took Paul away in chains amid the shouting of the crowd.

Paul asked the commander if he could speak to the crowd; and when he said, "Yes," Paul told the people about his former life of persecuting the Christians and also his conversion on the way to Damascus where Jesus Christ appeared to him and asked why he was persecuting Him. He told them about his work of spreading the Gospel to the Gentiles. The Jews did not want to hear this about the Gentiles and became furious. The guards led him away and were going to beat him to find out why the crowd hated him. Paul stopped them by saying he was a Roman citizen.

The next day Paul was brought before

the chief priests, Sadducees and Pharisees. They could not agree if Paul was speaking the truth and argued among themselves. Paul was taken away to protect him from these angry men. The following night he was told by the Lord, "Be of good cheer, Paul; for as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome."

The Jews hated Paul and his message so much that they formed a conspiracy and made an oath together. They would not eat until they had killed Paul. Forty of the Jews were planning an ambush for the next day, but Paul's nephew heard about the plot and told Paul who told one of the centurions.

Paul was escorted to Caesarea early in the morning to Felix, the Roman governor, with 370 soldiers for protection. The Jewish high priest and elders came and gave testimony against Paul telling lies about him and how he caused problems in the temple and broke Jewish laws.

Paul defended himself before Felix saying he was innocent of the charges brought against him, and the charges could not be proven true. He also talked about the Word of God.

When Felix heard these things, having heard about Christianity, he adjourned the proceedings and said, "I will make a decision on your case." So he commanded the centurion to keep Paul and to let him have liberty, and told him not to forbid any of his friends to provide for or visit him. Paul was kept here for two years. Felix often brought Paul to him to hear about faith in Christ. He also hoped Paul would give him money to be released.

After two years, Festus succeeded Felix as governor. The high priest and chief men from Jerusalem now pleaded with Festus to hand Paul over to them so they could kill him. But Festus, wanting to do the Jews a favor, asked Paul, "Are you willing to go up to Jerusalem and there be judged before me concerning these things?"

So Paul said, "I was born a Roman citizen in Tarsus and therefore appeal to Caesar."

After some days King Agrippa and Bernice came to Caesarea to greet Festus. When they had been there many days, Festus laid Paul's case before the king, saying, "There is a certain man left a prisoner by Felix, about whom the chief priests and the elders of the Jews are asking for a judgment against him."

Then Agrippa said to Festus, "I also would like to hear the man myself."

"Tomorrow," he said, "you shall hear him."

So the next day, when Agrippa and Bernice had come with great pomp, and had entered the auditorium with the commanders and the prominent men of the city, at Festus' command Paul was brought in.

Festus said, "King Agrippa and all the men who are here present with us, you see this man about whom the whole assembly of the Jews petitioned me that he was not fit to live any longer. But I found that he had committed nothing deserving of death."

Then Agrippa said to Paul, "You are permitted to speak for yourself."

So Paul answered for himself and told of his life and his conversion to faith in Jesus Christ. He told of his ministry to the Gentiles teaching repentance and forgiveness of sins through Jesus.

Now as he thus made his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, "Paul, you are beside yourself! Much learning is driving you mad!"

But Paul said, "I am not mad, but speak the words of truth. King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you do believe."

Then Agrippa said to Paul, "You almost persuade me to become a Christian."

Paul said, "I would to God that not only you, but also all who hear me today, might become believers in Christ."

When he had said these things, the king stood up, as well as the governor and Bernice and those who sat with them. They talked among themselves, saying, "This man is doing nothing deserving of death or chains."

Then Agrippa said to Festus, "This man might have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar."

After this Paul was taken to Rome.

Outer Aim - Paul suffered much for the sake of the Gospel.

What the Story Tells Us - Fill in the blanks and then find those words in the WORD SEARCH. The words may be vertical, horizontal, diagonal, and even backwards.

1. _____ was spared being imprisoned and beaten because he was a _____ citizen.

2. Paul was converted on his way to _____.

3. _____ _____ appeared to Paul in the sky and asked him why he was _____ Him.

4. Paul was told to preach to the _____ the Word of God.

5. Some Jews formed a _____ to kill Paul.

6. Paul was originally from _____ .

7. Paul was sent to the governor _____ in _____ .

8. Paul was placed before the next governor, _____, when he was granted his appeal to _____.

9. _____ _____ heard Paul's preaching and said to Paul, "You almost persuade me to become a _____."

PAUL	CAESAREA	CONSPIRACY	TARSUS	ROMAN
FELIX	CHRISTIAN	JESUS CHRIST	CAESAR	GENTILES
FESTUS	PERSECUTION	KING AGRIPPA	DAMASCUS	

R E P C O N S P I R A C Y P G E Y
F P E W O D Y S R M C F G L E A U
G A R B S U C S A M A D T O H J J
Y U S F D G J A H P E X C K T E K
N L E E R S G F P G S Z G A N S I
J N C L G D M I F M A J H Y A U L
R H U I T R R J T A R S U S I S O
O J T X H G S D J H E H Y O T C S
M U I G A O P I Y T A G D W S H J
A I O G E N T I L E S H S Y I R K
N O N G Y T F E S T U S S Y R I I
S I G H G H E J H S D F J D H S U
K S F B M K S G R A S E A C C T T

What God's Word Tells Us - Look up Romans 8:28, Romans 10:17, and 1 Peter 5:6-7. Fill in the blanks then discuss the meaning of these passages.

- Romans 8:28 - And we know that _____ _____ work _____ for _____ to those who _____ _____, to those who are the _____ according to His _____.
- Romans 10:17 - So then _____ come by _____ and _____ by the _____ of _____.
- 1 Peter 5:6-7 - Therefore _____ yourselves under the _____ hand of _____. that He may _____ you in due _____, casting _____ your _____ upon Him, for He _____ for you.

Inner Aim - The Lord used Paul to advance His Kingdom

Your Turn

Paul was persecuted by being thrown in jail and beaten. We are blessed by being in a country that does not persecute Christians in that way. In what ways can Christians still be persecuted today? Have you ever been persecuted? Tell about your experiences.

Passages

Matthew 16:24 - Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me."

Acts 14:22 - "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."

1 Peter 1:5 - who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Hymn - TLH #511 v. 1, 2, 4, 6

Jesus shall reign where-er the sun
Does his successive journeys run,
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

For Him shall endless prayer be made,
And endless praises crown His head;
His name, like sweet perfume, shall rise
With ev'ry morning sacrifice.

Blessings abound where'er He reigns;
The pris'ner leaps, unloosed his chains,
The weary find eternal rest,
And all the sons of want are blest.

Let every creature rise and bring
Peculiar honors to our King;
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud Amen.

Prayer

You are the Rock of my salvation; You are the strength of my life.
You are my Hope and my Inspiration, Lord unto You will I cry.
I believe in You, believe in You, for Your faithful love to me.
You have been my Help in time of need; Lord unto You I cleave. Amen.

Paul is Taken to Rome

Acts 27-28

Roman citizen

Yes or No: *A Roman citizen in Paul's time was a lot like an American* citizen in our time.
(Don't look at the clothes but their rights.)

- Roman soldiers protected Roman citizens all over the world. American embassies protect American citizens all over the world.
- Roman citizens could plead their case before the king in Rome. American citizens can plead their case to the highest court.
- These American privileges can help us go all over the U.S.A. and all over the world to preach the Gospel to every creature.

Lady Justice of USA

Prayer

Spread, oh, spread, thou mighty Word, spread the kingdom of the Lord.
Wheresoe'er His breath has giv'n life to beings meant for heav'n. Amen.
(TLH#507:1)

Paul is Taken to Rome

Acts 27-28 *(condensed)*

The Voyage to Rome Begins

The soldiers of **Caesarea** delivered Paul and some other prisoners to a *centurion* (a captain of 100 men) named Julius, to sail to Rome.

God gives Luke the following words to write, "So, entering a ship we put to sea, meaning to sail along the coasts of Asia. The next day we landed at **Sidon**. Julius, the captain, treated Paul kindly and let him go to his friends and receive care. We sailed under the shelter of **Cyprus** and over the sea which is off **Cilicia** and **Pamphylia**, we came to **Lycia**. There the centurion found another ship sailing to Italy, and he put us on board.

When we had sailed slowly many days we arrived with difficulty off **Cnidus**, the wind not permitting us to proceed, we sailed under the shelter of **Crete**. Passing it with difficulty, we came to a place called **Fair Havens**."

Paul's Warning Ignored

"Now when much time had been spent, and sailing was now dangerous, Paul advised them, saying, 'Men, I perceive that this voyage will end with disaster and much loss, not only

of the cargo and ship, but also our lives.' Nevertheless the centurion was more persuaded by the majority to set sail."

In the Tempest

"The south wind blew softly and they sailed close by Crete. But not long after, a tempest arose. When the ship was caught by the great winds the sailors gave up trying to drive it. They tried to lighten the ship and even threw the ship's tackle overboard. They couldn't see the sun or moon for many days so they were lost at sea.

They went many days without food. Then Paul stood in the midst of them and said, 'Men, you should have listened to me. But now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. For there stood by me this night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve, saying, "Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you." Therefore take heart, men, for I believe God that it will be just as it was told me. However, we must run aground on a certain island.'

And as day was about to dawn, Paul implored them all to eat so that they would have energy to survive. He took bread and gave thanks to God and began to eat. Then they were all encouraged, and also took food themselves. In all we were 276 persons on the ship."

Shipwrecked on Malta

"When it was day, they did not recognize the land; but they observed a bay with a beach, onto which they planned to run the ship aground if possible.

Some of the soldiers' plan was to kill the prisoners, lest any of them should swim away and escape. But the centurion, wanting to save Paul, kept them from doing that and commanded that those who could swim should jump overboard and the rest could float on boards from the ship. So it was that they all escaped safely to land."

Paul's Ministry on Malta

"The island was called **Malta**. The natives showed us unusual kindness. They made a fire for us because it was cold. When Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and laid them on the fire, a snake came out and fastened on his hand. When the natives saw the snake hanging from his hand, they said to one another, 'No doubt this man is a murderer. He has escaped the sea, yet justice does not allow him to live.' But Paul shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm. However, they were expecting that he would swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But after they had looked for a long time and saw no harm come to him, they changed their minds and said that he was a god.

We stayed three days with a leading citizen of the island. His father became sick with a fever and Paul went in to him and prayed, and he laid his hands on him and healed him. So when this was done, the rest of those on the island who had diseases also came and were healed. They also honored us in many ways; and when we departed, they provided such things as were necessary."

Arrival at Rome

"We sailed to **Syracuse** and then to **Rhegium** and on to **Puteoli**, where we found fellow Christians, and were invited to stay with them seven days. And so we went toward **Rome** where we met with other Christians who came to meet us. When Paul saw them, he thanked God and took courage.

Now when we came to Rome, the centurion delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard, but Paul was permitted to live by himself with the soldier who guarded him."

Paul's Ministry at Rome

"After three days Paul called the leaders of the Jews together. He told them all about how he became a prisoner. They were interested in what he had to say and came to his lodging. Paul preached about Jesus from the Bible from morning till evening and some believed and others didn't believe God's Word. The Old Testament prophet Isaiah had written about the Word of God being rejected by the Jews and then given to the Gentiles who would hear it and believe. The Jews left Paul's home arguing with each other.

Paul lived two years in his own rented house, and received all who came to him, preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one stopped him."

Map Study

Your teacher will help you fill in the names of the cities (found in **BOLD** print) and the path Paul took to get to Rome.

Paul was a "prisoner" of Jesus Christ.

Fill in the Blank - "All things work together for good to those who love God." Romans 8:28. Fill in the blank with words that tell how God turned the "Bad" into "Good" for Paul and for the spread of the Gospel.

Bad	Good
Paul arrested	Taken into the care of by soldier, _____, who kept him safe and have _____, his friend, go with him.
Tempest at sea	God sends Paul a _____ to let him know all people would live.
Shipwreck	God kept everyone safe and they landed on _____.
Paul was a prisoner	In Rome Paul lived on his own with only a guard and was able to _____ God's Word and have visitors.

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." Acts 16:31 Name the people from this lesson that could have heard Paul's message of Jesus.

Memory Passages

The Son of Man has come to save that which was lost. Matt. 18:11

Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among man by which we must be saved. Acts 4:12

For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. Romans 10:4

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 1 Cor. 1:18

"Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature."
Mark 16:15 There are two mission programs for you to consider now or when you are older .

Mission Helper Program sends you overseas.

Traveling Vacation Bible School uses your talents in the United States.

Prayer

Tell of our Redeemers love, Who forever doth remove
By His holy sacrifice all the guilt that on us lies.

Lord of Harvest, let there be joy and strength to work for Thee
Till the nations far and near see Thy light and learn Thy fear. Amen (TLH 507:3, 6)