

Forgiven!

Leader:

Time:

Goal

Students will learn that because Jesus willingly followed God’s plan their sins can be forgiven.

Instructions

- Instruct students to draw a cross outline on a piece of white paper. Outside the cross, they should list things they have done that they regretted and that needed repentance. Tell students they can use code words or drawings if they want.
- Remind students that even Jesus’ good friend Peter sinned. Three times Peter said he didn’t know Jesus, and he cried because of it.
- Ask students what repentance is. (Pause for responses.)
- Ask a volunteer to read Romans 3:23-24 aloud from their Bible. Define “justified” and “redemption.” Explain that on the cross, Jesus paid for all our sin – past, present, and future. When we repent and trust in Christ, God fully forgives us.
- Guide students to use a dark marker or crayon to color over the entire page outside the cross, so the only thing left is the cross. Remind students that because Jesus followed God’s plan, their sins can be forgiven.
- In two minutes or less, share your personal testimony of repentance and salvation. Be open and honest, but also be age appropriate with your story. Jesus’ gift of salvation gives us the freedom to turn from sin and live differently.

Discussion

- ★ Jesus went through terrible suffering and knew what was going to happen next. Why was Jesus willing to go through that to save people – including you – from their sins?
- What attributes of God do you see displayed in this passage?
- How does Jesus’ obedience to God’s plans make you want to live differently?

Summarize

God planned for Jesus to die on a cross and then come alive again to save people from their sins. **No one can change God’s plans.** As God’s Son, Jesus never sinned. He is the only person who could take the punishment for the sins we commit. This was God’s plan from the beginning. Jesus willingly followed God’s plan: He let people arrest Him, beat Him, and spit on Him. Jesus let them send Him to the cross because it was the only way to save people. This truth changes how we live. I’m so glad He saved me!

Extend

Listen to a song on this lesson’s music playlist, and talk about how it relates to trusting Jesus Christ to be our good and wise Savior.

Supplies

- Paper
- Writing utensils
- Dark marker or crayon
- For Extend: device with music playlist

Justification: God declares a sinner righteous because of the perfect life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

Redemption: God buys back His people from the penalty of sin through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Repentance: Recognize your guilt before God, turn from your sin, and trust in Jesus.



Scan, tap, or click the QR code to find media resources for this lesson.



15-20 minutes

Leader:

Time:

Who Is the Redeemer?

Goal

Students will understand how God’s redemption empowers them to live differently.

Instructions

- Before class: Write the four key verses on a whiteboard or large piece of paper in this order: Galatians 4:4-5; John 1:1-2, 14; Romans 3:23-26; Hebrews 2:17.
- In class: Ask students what the word “Redeemer” means. Allow students to answer.
- Place students into small groups. Explain that they will be investigating the question, “Who is the Redeemer?” Direct groups to look up each verse and discuss what it teaches about God’s role in the world. Taking notes will help them in the game.
- Bring the class back together for a matching game. Teams will be asked to guess which of the four verses best supports each phrase of God’s redemption. From the Lesson Extra: Basic Truth, read the four bullet points under “Who is the Redeemer?” one at a time. The first team to stand up gets to guess the matching verse.

Discussion

- If we trust in Jesus Christ by grace through faith, does His death really pay for all of our sins?
- ★ From today’s passage, take a minute to think about what Jesus was going through and the fact that He knew what was going to happen next. What are your thoughts on the truth that He was willing to go through it all in order to redeem people – including you – from their sins?
- God’s sovereign plans required Jesus’ sacrificial death. How does knowing that **no one can change God’s sovereign plans** empower you to live differently?

Summarize

On the cross, Jesus paid for all sin – past, present, and future. When we repent and trust in Christ, God fully forgives us. If you owed someone only five cents and a friend paid your debt, you might thank him but you could have paid yourself. But if you owed someone five million dollars and a friend paid that debt for you, you would be absolutely amazed. Our sin is a huge debt we cannot pay. Jesus paid this enormous debt for you by dying on the cross.

God is just and fair. He will not make you pay again because Jesus gave His life in payment. When Jesus said, “It is finished,” He completed the full payment for sin. Jesus willingly paid the price for the sins of those who believe in Him (Ephesians 1:7); this is redemption. Jesus is the Redeemer who bought back His people from their debt of sin (Galatians 3:13). This truth empowers us to live differently!

Extend

Listen to a song on this lesson’s music playlist, and talk about how it relates to trusting Jesus Christ to be our good and wise Redeemer.



Scan, tap, or click the QR code to find media resources for this lesson.

Supplies

- Lesson Extra: Basic Truth
- For Extend: device with music playlist



15-20 minutes

Lesson Extra

Basic Truth

Who is the Redeemer?

- **God the Son, Jesus Christ, is the Redeemer.**¹
- He is both fully God and fully Man. As God, He has always existed.²
- He became Man, born in fulfillment of the prophets' words. Only God could live and suffer perfectly. Only a perfect person could pay for people's sin.³
- On the cross, He willingly paid the penalty for our sin with His own blood.⁴

Galatians 4:4-5¹; John 1:1-2, 14²; Romans 3:23-26³; Hebrews 2:17⁴

Tough Questions:

- a. If there is only one God, how can God have a Son?
- b. If Jesus is God, how did He die?
- c. If we trust Jesus Christ, does His death really pay for all of our sins?

Speaking Truth:

- a. There is only one God, who has always existed in three Persons. The Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God. There are not three different gods, not three roles of one person, but three persons in one being. Jesus did not become God's Son when He was born. He has always existed as God's Son.
Note: We cannot fully explain the Trinity. It is the very heart of who God is, and God is infinite. These truths are like a rope that keeps us safely within the bounds of what is truth.
- b. On the cross, Jesus the Man felt real physical pain. His real human heart stopped beating. Jesus died, His body was laid in the tomb, but His Spirit went immediately to be with God – just like what will happen to us when we die. Jesus' divine nature could not die. On the cross, Jesus promised the thief He would be with Him that very day in paradise.
- c. On the cross, Jesus paid for all your sin – past, present, and future. When we repent and trust in Christ, God fully forgives us. If you owed someone only five cents and a friend paid your debt, you might thank him but could have paid yourself. But if you owed someone five million dollars and a friend paid that debt for you, you would be absolutely amazed. Our sin is a huge debt we cannot pay. Jesus paid this enormous debt for you with His life's blood. God is just and fair. He will not make you pay again because Jesus gave His life in payment. Jesus said, "It is finished," because payment for your sin was complete.