

God is our Saviour

3 Weeks



Outcomes:

At the completion of this module students will understand:

- The significance of the Passover meal
- Why Jesus died
- That Jesus is still alive today even though we can't see Him
- The meaning of 'faith' in things we cannot see

Related classroom topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Countries of the world: China

Link between "God is our Saviour" and classroom topics:

John 3:16 For God loved the world so much that He sent his only son so that whoever believes in Him should not die but have everlasting life.

God wants the people of every country in the whole world to come to know Him, so that they can live forever with Him in heaven. People of every nation can come to know the true God by asking Jesus to forgive their sins and then to follow Him. Some people have never heard about Jesus so those who know about Him must tell others.

Values:

faith; respect for truth; cultural understanding, thankfulness

Biographies:

Hudson Taylor; Gladys Aylward

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Week 1 The Passover meal

Bible reference: Luke 22

It was the first day of a special feast that the Israelites celebrated. That feast was called the Passover. The Israelites celebrated the Passover ever since the time of Moses, when the Lord saved all the Israelite babies. This was when the Lord 'passed over' their houses, and they were kept safe. This feast is still celebrated by Jewish people today. During the time of the Passover celebrations the people don't eat bread with yeast in it. Yeast is what makes the bread soft and puffy. Without yeast the bread is flat, and that is called unleavened bread. This is what is eaten at a Passover feast.

The disciples asked Jesus, "Where would you like us to eat the Passover feast?" Jesus replied to them, "Go into the city and you will find a man, and tell him that we would like to come to his house for Passover."

The disciples did just as Jesus asked, and they found a place and got ready for the Passover.

The evening came, and Jesus and the twelve disciples sat to eat the Passover meal. The disciples were eating quietly; they had a lot on their minds. They were worried because some people wanted to kill Jesus because he was getting so popular.

Jesus could see the disciples were worried. He said to them quietly, "I tell you the truth, one of you here will betray me." The disciples looked at each other in shock, and some of them asked Jesus, "It isn't me, is it Lord?"

Jesus replied, "The one who dips his bread into the bowl with me will betray me. I will die, just as it is written, but the man who betrays me will feel sorry forever. The one He was talking about was Judas.

Jesus thanked God for the bread and shared it with the disciples and said, "Take this and eat it. This is my body which is given for you". Then he took a full cup, thanked God for it and said, "This is my blood, which will be poured out for many people so their sins may be forgiven." Then they all took a sip from the cup.

The meal continued after this, it was a long celebration. The disciples took their time, because they enjoyed talking with Jesus and asking Him questions.

After some time Jesus got up from the table and went to a different part of the room. He took off his everyday clothes, and put a large towel around him, making himself look like a servant. After that, He poured water into a large bowl and began to wash the disciples' feet. Then He dried their feet with the towel that was wrapped around Him.

By washing the disciples' feet Jesus was doing something that only a servant would do, even though He was the King of heaven and earth! Just imagine if someone famous came to your house and started to clean your room, even getting down on their hands and knees to clean! It probably would never happen.

When it was Peter's turn to get his feet clean he said to Jesus, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus replied, "You don't understand what I am doing, but you will later."

"No," said Peter, "you will never wash my feet." He said this because he didn't feel right having Jesus wash his feet. He knew Jesus was very special.

Jesus replied back to him, "If I don't wash your feet, you cannot be with me."

"Then, Lord," Peter replied, "don't just wash my feet but my hands and head too." Jesus then explained that He only needed to wash his feet; and that would make his whole body clean.

When Jesus had finished washing all of the disciples' feet, he put his everyday clothes back on and returned to the table. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" Jesus asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and that is who I am. And now that I have washed your feet, you can also wash one another's feet."

Discussion

This is an example of how you should treat others. You don't have to actually wash other people's feet, but by helping others and doing kind things for others we are being servants for Jesus, and that is what He wants us to be.

How can we serve others?

At home? At school? In the community?

What is the meaning of 'humble'?

Why do we say that Jesus was a humble servant?

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Week 2 Jesus dies on the cross

Bible reference: Matthew 26&27

Very early in the morning, the soldiers brought Jesus to Pilate, the governor at the time. Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus replied, "Yes, I am." This upset the chief priests because they were jealous of him and the friends He had made with the Jews.

Pilate listened to the complaints of the people that brought Jesus, but he couldn't find any reason to punish Him. Pilate questioned Jesus, but Jesus didn't stick up for himself (He knew that they wouldn't listen anyway). He had done nothing wrong.

Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people and said to them, "I have talked to Jesus, and I find no reason to kill Him."

After they heard that, all the people shouted, "We want Jesus! Release Barabbas instead!"

Barabbas had been in jail because he had killed someone, and the people wanted him to be free, and Jesus to be punished. (This sounds strange but the chief priests had told lies about Jesus, so that the people would be afraid of Him, and want to kill Him).

Pilate didn't like the idea of killing Jesus and letting Barabbas go free. He wanted to let Jesus go, so he tried to talk to the people but they didn't let him. They just kept shouting, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!"

Pilate tried again, yelling, "What has Jesus done wrong? I can punish Him but then I must let Him go, He doesn't deserve to die!" But the people just shouted louder to crucify Jesus and Pilate wanted to please the crowd so he freed Barabbas and sent Jesus to die.

The soldiers led Jesus into the palace and made Him put on an old royal robe and they twisted together a crown of thorns to put on His head. Then they made fun of Him and said, "Hail, king of the Jews." They didn't understand that He was a king, that's why they made fun of Him.

Next, the soldiers led Jesus toward a hill called Golgotha. They made Him carry the cross on His back. But Jesus couldn't carry it the whole way; he fell down. The soldiers had whipped His back and it hurt so much that Jesus couldn't handle the weight of the cross on His shoulders.

A man named Simon happened to be near Jesus when He fell, and the soldiers grabbed him, and made him carry the cross the rest of the way. The soldiers offered Jesus wine mixed with myrrh. This was supposed to help make it less painful, but Jesus refused to have any.

When they reached the top of the hill they nailed Jesus to the cross. There were three crosses, Jesus was in the middle and there was a criminal on His right and on His left. Pilate made a sign to be put on the cross. It read what He was being punished for: Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.

The soldiers watched Jesus and made fun of him. Some people walked by and shouted, "You saved others, why can't you save Yourself?" Jesus could have saved himself, but he chose not to, He wanted to save us instead.

Jesus ignored the people, but He did see his mother, his aunt, and some other women he knew. Then Jesus saw John, one of his disciples, close to his mother Mary; He told John to take care of her. This he did, from that day on.

Later, the suffering Jesus had done all for His Father in heaven, paying for our sin and the sins of the world. He then said, "It is finished." That is when Jesus bowed His head and went to Heaven. He was truly the obedient servant.

Suddenly, a huge curtain that hung in the temple was torn in half, from top to bottom. And a man that had wanted Jesus to die saw all of this and he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!" He realized he had been wrong about Jesus.

It seems like a really sad story, but its one of the greatest stories of all! Jesus died knowing that we would do things that are wrong (that is what a sin is). Jesus died for everybody's sins, so now when we ask God to forgive us, and we are truly sorry for what we've done, He will act like it never happened. But that doesn't mean we should keep on doing wrong, because by doing that it's like we're hurting Jesus all over again.

This Bible verse helps us remember what Jesus did for us:

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 (NIV)

Discussion

Why did Jesus die?

Who did He die for?

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Week 3 Jesus is alive

Bible references: John 20, Luke 24

After Jesus died a man named Joseph (from a place called Arimathea) put Jesus in his tomb that nobody had ever used. The tombs they used then were cut out of rock, almost like a cave. The bodies weren't buried deep in the ground like they are now. Before Joseph left, he and some men rolled a large heavy stone in front of the tomb.

Mary and Mary Magdalene had waited until Sunday to go to Jesus' tomb, because they couldn't go on the Sabbath. (It was a day of rest). They made spices and oils as a sign of respect to Jesus, and went very early Sunday morning to go see Jesus' body.

As they were just about at the tomb the earth suddenly shook and an angel came down from heaven. He easily rolled away the stone at the entrance of the tomb and sat on top of it.

The women looked at each other and rubbed their eyes, they couldn't believe what they had seen, plus it was very early in the morning, and they were still a little sleepy. The angel was so bright, almost as bright as lightning. His clothes were as white as snow.

There had been guards watching the tomb so no one would steal Jesus' body. When they saw the angel they fell over and they couldn't move or speak because they were so afraid.

Then the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus who has died. But He isn't here; He has risen just as He said He would! Come and see for yourself, the tomb is empty."

The women were confused. How could this happen? They were sure Jesus had died, and now He was alive? They looked in the tomb and the cloths Jesus was wrapped in were lying on the ground, and the tomb was empty. Then the angel spoke again, "If you want to find Jesus He's on his way to Galilee."

So the women hurried away. They were laughing and crying at the same time. They didn't know what to feel, they had been so sad that Jesus was dead and now they were so excited He was alive! They just knew they had to find Jesus, and they had to tell the disciples the good news.

As they were running down the path they turned a corner, and there was Jesus. "Greetings," He said. The ladies fell at His feet and worshiped Him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my disciples to come to Galilee. That is where they will see me."

The disciples came to Galilee, and had heard by this time that Jesus was alive. They were sitting around talking about it, when Jesus walked into the room and said to them, "Peace be

with you." The disciples immediately stopped talking. Even though they had heard He was alive, they were shocked to see Him standing there with them.

Jesus said to them, "Why do you look at me like you've just seen a ghost? Why don't you believe what you're seeing? Look at the scars in my hands and feet. It is really me! Touch me and see, I am not a ghost but a real person."

The disciples were amazed. They were so full of joy, and yet this seemed impossible. Jesus understood what they were thinking, so He said, "This is what I told you would happen, that everything must happen that has already been written in the Bible."

Jesus had told the disciples when they had the Last Supper together. They took the bread at communion and Jesus said, 'this is my body which I have given to you...' but the disciples hadn't understood what it really meant.

Then Jesus told them, "You have seen these things that have happened, so stay in the city and soon I am going to give you what God has promised you, the Holy Spirit."

Jesus had one more person to see. His name was Thomas, and he was one of the disciples that wasn't there when Jesus met with them. Thomas had also heard that Jesus was alive, but would not believe until he saw Jesus with his own eyes.

A week later when Thomas finally saw Jesus, Jesus said to him, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Stop doubting and believe." But Jesus continued, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; but blessed are those who don't see me, and believe anyway."

Discussion

Who was Jesus talking about when He said, "Blessed are those who don't see me, and believe anyway"?

How can we know that Jesus is alive, even though we can't see Him?

What does it mean to have FAITH in Jesus?