

Beginning 35 – Activities

- ✓ **Discussion:** Blessed to be a blessing.

Discuss what it means to be blessed to be a blessing.

What are the blessings that come through God to us? Physical life, salvation, provision, generosity, truth, understanding, love, forgiveness, friendship, etc.

What are the blessings that come through us to others? Except for salvation and physical life, the blessings that we can give to others are the ones God gives to us. The more blessings pour out of us, the more room they make for God.

- ✓ **Further Understanding:** Investigation/Reasoning Skills

Christ Our Redeemer

Out of all the people on earth God chose Abraham to be the father of his people Israel through whom he would reveal himself more fully to the world and send his Son to redeem mankind.

What does it mean to redeem something? When you redeem something, you pay off a debt or exchange or convert one thing into something else. If you buy a raffle ticket and become the winner, you have to turn in the ticket to redeem the prize. God sent his Son Jesus to redeem us from the punishment of our sins.

How did Jesus redeem us? Jesus lived a perfect life so he could pay off the debt of our sin. In God's eyes, he exchanged our sinful lives for his sinless one. That means that God looks at those who believe in Jesus as being holy and perfect because Jesus is holy and perfect.

In terms of salvation (how a person enters a relationship with God), what is the difference between Christianity and all other religions? In other religions, it is through one's own good work that a person reaches God. Other religions believe that if you do good deeds then you will go to heaven. In their view, eternity with God is based on what a person can do by himself. People are always building towers, pyramids, monuments, etc., to try to please a god.

What are questions one needs to ask people who believe they can get into heaven by good works? The questions one has to ask are "How good is good enough?" "Can God tolerate any sin?" "Can our good deeds cancel out our bad ones?" "Because God is perfect can he allow anyone who has sinned into heaven?"

What did Jesus do for us when he died on the cross? Through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, he paid the penalty for all our sin. His payment redeems us and allows God to extend his hand of mercy to all people. Those who believe in Christ are lifted out of the condemned state of their own sin by him. It is Christ's work that ushers us into heaven, not our own.

Hebrews 10:14 says, *by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.*

What does it mean that we have been "made perfect forever"? God sees us for all eternity as perfect like Jesus because he died to cover our sin. Jesus has made us holy in the eyes of God by paying the penalty for our sin.

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What does “being made holy” refer to? We know that we aren’t really holy now, but we are in the process of being changed if we believe in Jesus. God sees us as holy through the work of Jesus as God works in us to make us holy by delivering us from the power of sin.

Why do people reject Jesus as their Savior? Men reject Jesus because they are deceived and believe the lies of Satan or have a problem with pride. Either they don’t think they need a savior or they want to come to God in their own way. They want to think they can be good enough on their own to enter heaven. There are others who reject the idea of God altogether.

The Three Views of Salvation

- 1st View: Denial (Either there is no God or there is no need for salvation. No one is held accountable for his or her actions by God.)
- 2nd View: Good Works (People get to God through their own efforts. If a person is good enough he will be saved.)
- 3rd View: Faith in Jesus (People cannot get to God on their own. Their sin separates them from God and they will never be holy. Christ made a way for people to come to God.)

✓ **Craft:** Make an Altar

As a reminder that Abraham believed and trusted God, make an altar either following the instructions below or out of small stones held together with clay.

Materials: Cover stock paper, gray construction paper, glue sticks, crayons,

Preparation: None

Instructions: Draw a large tree on the paper and color it in. Tear up pieces of gray paper to make “stones”. Use them to build an altar in front of the tree.

✓ **Game:** Moving Day Relay

As a reminder that Abraham moved to a new land and took all his possessions with him, engage in a moving day relay

Instructions: Divide into two teams. Establish a starting line and a drop off line. Gather an equal number of objects for each team to move (books, light chairs, clothes, pans, etc.) and place them in a pile in front of each team at the starting line. The first person on a team picks up an object and runs over to the drop-off line where he leaves it. He then runs back to this team and the next person does the same. The first team to move everything in the pile wins.

✓ **Song:** Father Abraham

Father Abraham had many sons, Many sons had Father Abraham
I am one of them and so are you, So let's all praise the Lord.

Right arm!

Right arm: Clench fist, bend and extend arm upward repeatedly throughout song

Right arm, left arm!

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Left arm: Add left arm in same motion as right

Right arm, left arm, right foot!

Right foot: Add right foot stepping up and down

Right arm, left arm, right foot, left foot!

Left foot: Add left foot stepping up and down

Right arm, left arm, right foot, left foot, chin up!

Chin up: Add head nodding up and down

Right arm, left arm, right foot, left foot, chin up, turn around!

Turn around: Add turning in place while continuing other motions

Right arm, left arm, right foot, left foot, chin up, turn around, sit down!