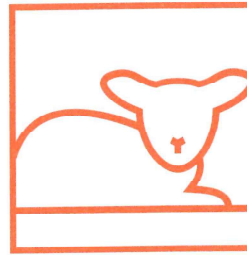


Question 19

Is there any way to escape punishment and be brought back into God's favor?



Answer

Yes, God reconciles us to himself by a Redeemer.

Big Idea

God has made provision to bring people into a right relationship with him.

Aim

To help the children understand that there is a clear way back into God's favor through Jesus the Redeemer.

Bible Passage

Isaiah 53:10–11

Memory Verse

“Yet it was the will of the
LORD to crush him;
he has put him to grief;
when his soul makes an
offering for guilt,

he shall see his offspring; he shall
prolong his days;
the will of the LORD shall
prosper in his hand.
Out of the anguish of his
soul he shall see
and be satisfied;
by his knowledge shall the righteous
one, my servant,
make many to be
accounted righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.”
(Isa. 53:10–11)

Virtue
Gratitude



Leader's Notes

The world appears to be increasingly content to remove God from public life and to ignore the idea that there is a God who is not only intimately involved with his world but who also longs to be in relation with those who have been created in his image and likeness. This lesson will help the children to consider the seriousness of sin. There is amazing joy, hope, and comfort to be found in this lesson for the children. They will be reminded that God is in control, and that God had a plan of how to bring people back into his favor. This lesson aims to give Christian children increased confidence and hope in God and his plan of redemption through Jesus. It will also challenge those who aren't yet believers to consider the reality of their situation very carefully.

Things to remember when planning and teaching:

- Some children will be frightened or overwhelmed at the thought of

God's punishment. Help the children to engage with the question in a sensitive and caring manner.

- The children may not all have a good Bible timeline in their minds. You may need to help them understand the chronology of the Bible and show them where Isaiah fits in.
- Some children will be familiar with the gospel story and may seem to take it for granted. Work hard to engage their hearts and cause them to experience renewed gratitude as they encounter God's redemption plan.
- Remember to mix and match the activities in the lesson to fit your time frame (see p. 12 for some sample outlines). You won't have time to do them all. Feel free to adapt each activity based on your class's strengths and weaknesses.

Leader's Prayer

Redeeming God, thank you that you made a way for unworthy sinners like me to escape punishment and death. Thank you, Jesus, for humbling yourself even to death on the cross so that I might know and enjoy God's favor.

Loving God, please grant understanding to the children who will hear this lesson. May they be amazed at your plan of redemption and incredibly grateful for your loving-kindness. In Jesus's name. Amen.



Leader's Tool Kit

- Ping-pong balls
- Bag or bingo cage
- Blank paper
- Markers
- Cardstock or construction paper

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10 Catechism Recap

Write the numbers five to fifteen onto ping-pong balls and put them into a bag or box. If your budget allows, you could put the balls into a bingo cage or blower to add to the fun—or make your own.

Divide the children into teams, and explain to them that you are going to have a quiz to help them remember some of the catechism questions that they've already learned. Let each team pick a numbered ball out for their opponents. The opposition's task is to

remember the question associated with the number drawn, the answer, and the memory verse. The team will get nine points if they remember all of the elements associated with the number (the question, answer, and memory verse), or three for each correct element. The team with the most points at the end of the time wins. Remember, this is meant to be a fun and engaging activity; it is up to the leaders to ensure that this spirit is fostered among the children.

5 Introduction to Question 19

Ask the children to imagine what it would be like to be sentenced to death and placed on death row to wait for execution. There is no doubt that it would be terrifying! Ask the children to then imagine what it would be like for someone else to take their place just at the last minute, just as they were about to be executed. Exclaim to the children that that would be the most amazing feeling ever! Ask them if they think anybody would ever do that.

Introduce the children to Question 19: "Is there any way to escape punishment and be brought back into God's favor?" Explain to the children that this question is going to consider what it would take to free people from the punishment due to them for disobeying God.

**Activity**

Explain to the children that when people are sentenced to death, they are given the chance to choose their last meal before their execution. Ask the children to draw or list on paper what they would want for their last meal. They can ask for anything they

want! Allow a few children to share their last meals, but don't let it take too much time.

Tell the children that while it is fun to imagine the best meal ever, it would be a very sad meal. We need a Redeemer!

**Teaching Outline**

Begin the teaching time by asking for God's help. Ask that the lesson would be taught faithfully and that the children might listen well.

Introduce this time by explaining to the children that this question is considering whether there is any way for those who are under the judgment of God to escape and be brought back into God's favor. Ask the children if they think a man on death row could save himself. Ask whether sinners under God's judgment can save themselves. The answer is definitely no. Ask the children why men and women and boys and girls cannot save themselves. Clarify that there is no possible way that people can make themselves right with God. Explain to the children that the situation is deadly. It is just like being sentenced to death—the chances of saving oneself are nonexistent!

Read Isaiah 53:10–11. Provide Bibles for the children to read along with you.

Explain that Isaiah was written hundreds and hundreds of years before Jesus left heaven to come to earth as a man, and yet

the words tell a story that is wonderfully familiar. Give the children time to look over chapter 53 and identify who they think the words are referring to.

Explain to the children that this passage of Isaiah is often referred to as a Servant Song because it refers to one who would come as God's Servant to redeem and deliver. The children will hopefully be aware that the passage is referring to Jesus, who is the Redeemer. Point out that this was written hundreds of years before Jesus was born.

Tell them that the amazing truth is that God always had a plan. He had determined a way by which people who deserved judgment and death would know freedom and life.

God always knew that he would send Jesus to earth to live a sinless life in perfect obedience to God's law so that he might become the sin offering. God demanded someone without sin to die in order to satisfy his judgment, and Jesus was the perfect spotless One who was sent to be the Redeemer.

Help the children to realize how amazing this is! Help them to appreciate that



Jesus left the glory of heaven to come humbly to earth in order to do what his Father commanded.

Help the children to observe that Isaiah 53 not only talks about Jesus's death but also his resurrection. Isaiah was talking about an entirely new kind of sin offering. Usually an animal was offered, and once it died, it stayed dead. But verse 10 explains that the One who would die would also live again.

Help the children to understand that Jesus is the One who saves the sinner on death

row. He is the One who steps in to take his punishment and redeem him.

Conclude the teaching time by helping the children commit Question 19 and the answer to memory.

(These notes are just for guidance. Please expand or amend to suit your own children and context.

Write out your talk in your own words and include illustrations and applications that you know will connect with your children.)

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Activity



Invite the children to plan a TV news report that tells the story of the Servant who came to earth to redeem and save. Help the children to explain the significance of

the prophecy and to highlight the fact that God always had a plan of how he would save his people.



Discussion and Question Time

Some of the questions that might arise include:

? Why did Jesus have to die?

Help the children to understand that Jesus died in order to fulfill the prophecy and to be obedient to his Father's command. He trusted his Father and knew he must die in order to bring people into a restored relationship with God.

Also use this opportunity to help the children to think about their own lives and how this question and answer affects them personally.

- Ask the children how their understanding of God's plan is enlarged by this passage.

? How did Isaiah know about Jesus's life and death?

Remind the children that all Scripture is God-breathed and that God caused


- Ask the children if they are confident that they have been rescued from



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their own death sentence and have been brought back into God's favor.

- Ask the children to consider how they might explain this to a non-Christian.

 **Virtue Vision**



Gratitude

You will need blank greeting cards—construction paper folded in half will do—and markers for this activity.

Ask the children how it makes them feel when they think about Jesus taking their death sentence for them. They may list joy, sadness, or other emotions, but wait for

someone to say that they are thankful. Invite the children to design and decorate a card of gratitude to Jesus for being their Redeemer. Display the cards around the classroom.

Help the children to consider how their gratitude to God might flow over into other areas of their lives.

 **Memory Activity**

This memory verse is longer than most, and so the memory activity for this lesson will not work for the catechism answer. If your class is not memorizing the verses, use one of the memory activities from another lesson to reinforce the memorization of Question 19.

Divide the children into four groups, and assign each of them a quarter of the memory verse to learn. Give the children a little time to learn their sentence, then have the groups recite the verses in order.

 **Closing Prayer Time**

Pray that the children may know God's favor because they have put their trust in Jesus.