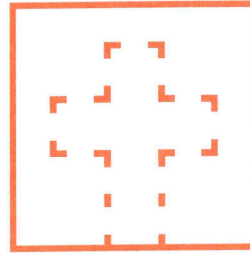


Question 20

Who is the Redeemer?



Answer

The only Redeemer is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Big Idea

Every person is a slave to sin. In order to be freed, we must be redeemed; a price must be paid in order to secure a release.

Aim

To help the children understand that Jesus Christ is the Redeemer and that he alone can secure their freedom from sin.

Bible Passage

1 Timothy 2:1–7

Memory Verse

“For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.” (1 Tim. 2:5)

Virtue
Humility





Notes

Leader's Notes

Today's world is deeply affected by pluralistic thought. Many believe that there is one God, but that there are many ways to reach him. Children will be breathing in pluralistic air in schools and absorbing it as a worldview from many different media influences. This question will clarify for the children that there is only one God and there is only one way to God: through the God-man Jesus Christ. The children will understand that to enjoy a restored relationship with God and to be freed from the burden of sin, they must put their faith and trust in the saving work of Jesus on the cross. The children need to clearly understand that Jesus is not simply the Christian route to God, but that he is the one and only Redeemer. He alone, in his life and death, made reconciliation with God possible.

Things to remember when planning and teaching:

- Children may be affected by pluralism and relativism and be resistant to saying Jesus is the only Redeemer.
- Children may struggle with the concept that someone had to suffer because of their sin.
- Children may have difficulty understanding the concept of the incarnation. Help them to understand that the fact that Jesus was both God and man made him uniquely appropriate to act as the Redeemer.
- 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

Righteous Father, I owed you a debt I could never have paid. Thank you for sending Jesus to take my place and pay my debt. Forgive me for the times I've thought I was self-sufficient and did not need a Redeemer.

Grant the children understanding of the debt that they owe to you because of their sin, but give them joy in accepting Jesus as their Redeemer. In Jesus's name. Amen.

Leader's Tool Kit

- Q20 Catechism Clues (RB)
- Sticky notes in two different colors
- Whiteboard and marker (or chalkboard and chalk)
- Plastic cups
- Paper



- Markers
- Index cards

- *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* (book)
- Q20 Opportunities for Humility (RB)

Notes

10 Catechism Recap

Draw a grid on the whiteboard that is seven spaces across and six spaces down. Give each team a cup with a selection of clues from Q20 Catechism Clues (RB). Each clue is a scrambled version of a catechism question. Also give each team four sticky notes in one color; each team should have a different color.

Divide the children into teams. Give each team a cup with clues based on the various catechism questions. Invite the children to draw one clue from their cup. The children

must try to work out which catechism question their clue relates to. If they unscramble the words correctly, they can place one of their sticky notes on the grid. The idea of the game is to get four matching sticky notes in a row. Each team is able to block their opponents, however! Every time a team gets a question right, they can place a sticky note on the grid or move one of their sticky notes. This game will simply allow the children to recall the questions and answers in a different way.

5 Introduction to Question 20

Explain to the children that people borrow money from others for many different reasons. A person who borrows money is called a *debtor*. Usually debtors pay back the money they borrow, but sometimes people get into situations where they cannot pay it back. They may spend all the money they have borrowed and have no way to repay it.

Tell the children that, in earlier times, if people were deeply in debt, they would have to go to debtor's prison. They would be locked up until the debt was paid. Ask them if they see any problem with putting someone in debtor's prison. (Give them hints

until they realize that someone in prison can't work and so will never pay off a debt.)

Debtor's prison was not a pleasant place to be. People often got sick and died there. Ask the children if they can think of a way people could get out of debtor's prison. Someone would need to pay their debt for them. A person who pays another person's debt to set them free is a redeemer.

Introduce Question 20: "Who is the Redeemer?" Explain to the children that the reality of everyone who lives on earth is that they owe a debt they can never repay and have become slaves to sin. The Bible

describes each human being as someone who is captive to sin. Ask the children what they think is needed in order for us to be freed

from sin. The answer is a Redeemer, someone to purchase our freedom.



Activity



Give each child an index card.

Ask each child to draw on the card his or her favorite possession. Don't take long. Have the children give you their drawings and tell you what the possession is and why it is precious to them.

Now tell the children to imagine that you have stolen their prized possession. They cannot call the police. They must pay a ransom to get it back. Tell the children

to think about how much money they have. Start low and ask if they would give twenty-five cents to redeem their favorite possession. Move up in increments. Would they pay one dollar? Five dollars? Ten? See if you can find each child's limit, but cut off the bidding once most children have reached their limit.

Give back the drawings, and tell the children that sometimes redemption is costly!



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.

Ask the children to imagine what it would be like to be held in debtor's prison.

Explain to the children that because God is our maker, we owe him obedience. Because of our sinful nature, we do not always obey him. Our sin has put us in debt to God. The debt gets greater and greater because we cannot stop sinning. Everyone who has not trusted Christ is a slave to sin! If we can't pay that debt of obedience, we will be sentenced to something even worse

than debtor's prison. Tell the children that we deserve death.

Tell the children that it's a pretty awful situation, which appears to have no way out. People are slaves to sin and are powerless to save themselves, so what they need more than anything is a Redeemer. Explain to the children that a Redeemer is someone who can pay a price—a ransom—in order for a debt to be paid and a slave to be freed.

Read 1 Timothy 2:1–7. Provide Bibles for the children to read along with you.

Tell the children that now Paul is writing a letter to Timothy, and to the churches that Timothy is caring for. In this passage, Paul



is encouraging the church to be concerned for all people. Why? Because they are slaves to sin, and God wants everyone to be saved from the consequences of sin.

Tell the children that there is something remarkable in verses 5 and 6. Explain that God has provided a way out of captivity. God has provided a Redeemer! The Redeemer is Jesus Christ.

Ask the children if they noticed that Paul says there is only one God and one Mediator. That implies that there is only one possible way to be freed from sin and to have a restored relationship with God.

Explain to the children that God is both loving and just. In his great love he wants to save people, but justice demands that someone must bear the punishment and pay the price for sin.

Jesus Christ is a unique and perfectly qualified Redeemer. He is the only one who can redeem a people for God.

What makes him unique and perfectly qualified? Remind the children that he is God who left heaven and came to earth as a man. He is God, the eternal Son, and he is man. He can perfectly mediate between God and us. Jesus lived an earthly life that perfectly obeyed God in every way.

Ask the children to reflect on how amazing Jesus's perfect life was. Encourage them to recall all the various ways they sin against God day by day. Highlight for the children that Jesus always honored his father God above everything else, that he always trusted God and followed his instructions for life.

Jesus did not pay money to God to redeem Christians, though. Despite the fact that he lived a perfect life and never sinned against God, he willingly went to die on the cross. In doing so, he paid the price to set Christians free. The price that Jesus paid was his own life; he died a horrific death, so that Christians could know freedom. The remarkable thing is that Jesus humbled himself and did what his Father requested. He made himself nothing. He gave up everything for the sake of those called to faith in God.

Finish the teaching time by helping the children commit Question 20 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.)

Notes

**Activity**

Bring out a copy of The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.

Ask the children if they are familiar with the story of Edmund and Aslan from *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. What was Edmund's problem? (He betrayed his siblings. According to the ancient laws of

Narnia, he must be executed as a traitor.) How was Edmund's problem solved? Why wasn't he put to death?

Ask the children whether Aslan was a Redeemer. How was his redemption of Edmund like or unlike Jesus's redemption of us?

**Discussion and Question Time**

Some of the questions that might arise include:

? If everyone is born sinful, how can Jesus have lived a sinless life?

Tell the children that the Bible says Jesus was born without original sin, and so he was able to live a sinless life. Remind the children of the special conditions of Jesus's miraculous birth. He was both God and man.

? Is Jesus the Redeemer for everyone in the world?

Explain to the children that only people who accept the redemption Jesus offers will be saved.

? Why did God choose to make Jesus, his own Son, suffer?

Help the children understand the reason God allowed Jesus to suffer

so much was because of his great love for us. Jesus was willing to take our place to make a way for us to be with him forever.

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

- Have they realized their own need for redemption in Christ?
- How will they respond when they hear someone say that there are other ways to God?
- How might Jesus's humility, love, and sacrifice affect their everyday lives?



Virtue Vision

Humility

Print and cut out Q20 Opportunities for Humility (RB). It may be helpful to glue each one onto an index card.

Remind the children of the remarkable humility Jesus showed when he left heaven, submitting to his Father's will, to come to earth as the Redeemer. Ask them to think about how they can model such humility in their own lives.

Hand out the cards with the scenarios on them to nine children. Take turns reading them aloud. Ask the children how a person showing Christlike humility might respond. It may also be helpful to think through what a proud, self-centered response to each scenario might look like.



Notes



Memory Activity

Divide the class into two teams, perhaps girls against boys, and ask them to say the memory verse or catechism answer through a few times together. Then take turns having the teams say the verse or answer. You could

ask them to say it as quietly as possible or as loud as possible. Declare a winner at the end of the team wars, and then say the verse again together.



Closing Prayer

Conclude the session by thanking God for sending Jesus to be our Redeemer. Be sure to include a word of prayer for those who are still imprisoned by sin, that they might turn to Christ in faith.

