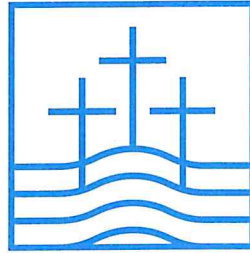


Question 24

Why was it necessary for Christ, the Redeemer, to die?



Answer

Christ died willingly in our place to deliver us from the power and penalty of sin and bring us back to God.

Big Idea

There is no possible way for people to be reconciled to God except through the atoning death of Jesus.

Aim

To help the children understand that the only way to be reconciled to God is through the substitutionary death of Jesus.

Bible Passage

Colossians 1:15–23

Memory Verse

“And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him.” (Col. 1:21–22)

Virtue
Love





Notes

Leader's Notes

Children don't like the idea of punishment generally, but the concept of someone being wrongly punished for something he didn't do will be deeply offensive! Children have a keen sense of what is fair, and they will question why Jesus had to suffer and die for sins that he didn't commit. This lesson will help the children to comprehend why the sinless Jesus had to be punished for their sins, and why this was the only way God could redeem a people for himself. By highlighting for the children that God was pleased to have his fullness dwell in Jesus and that Jesus himself knew the purpose of his life and death, this lesson should further equip the children to understand substitutionary atonement.

Things to remember when planning and teaching:

- Be careful to communicate to the children that great caution should be

taken when questioning God's plans and purposes! The Bible says that God's ways are higher than our ways and warns that we should not lean on our own understanding, or else we might arrive at incorrect assumptions.

- It is important for the children to understand the cost and consequences of sin and rebellion.
- Highlight for the children that they will, on occasion, hear people declare that there are many ways to God. Explain to them that this is not what the Bible teaches. All people need to understand who Jesus is and why he came to earth.
- 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 in your great mercy you suffered to bring men and women and boys and girls into relationship with you. Help me to recognize the significance and the cost of the atonement.

Grant understanding to the children who will hear this lesson, and cause them to be filled with love for you as they understand the necessity of Christ's death. In Jesus's name. Amen.

Leader's Tool Kit

- Q24 Catechism Recap (DL)
- Sticky Tack
- Scissors
- Q24 One-Way Maze (RB), one for each child
- Markers



- A video clip from *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* and a way to show it
- Drinking straws
- The memory verse printed out twice and cut up into individual words
- Q24 Love Letter Template (RB), one for each child
- Glue sticks
- Old magazines
- Paper

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10 Catechism Recap

Print out Q24 Catechism Recap (DL). Cut each question into three parts. Stick the questions up around the classroom with Sticky Tack, but in a jumbled-up way. For instance, put the wrong question with the right number and answer. You could prepare two sets and make this a competition.

The room should be prepared with the various jumbled-up questions stuck up on the wall. Tell the children that the questions are on the wall, but that the number, question, and

answer combinations are not correct! Invite the children to move around the room and work together to recall the questions and answers. Tell the children that they can move pieces of the questions to form the correct number, question, and answer combinations. Be sure to keep a master copy of the catechism questions to easily determine if the children have completed their task correctly. Read some of the questions and answers with the children to check that they have been accurately corrected.

5 Introduction to Question 24

You will need the DVD of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang set up to play or an online streaming version.

Play the short clip from *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* that shows all the children who have been captured by the Child Catcher held in the dungeon. (The scene starts at 2:13:08.)

Explain to the children that the children in the movie need to be freed, but they are not able to do it themselves. Tell the children that the characters need someone to save them, to release them from captivity and to allow them to enjoy freedom. They need a

way out. Introduce the children to Question 24: “Why was it necessary for Christ, the Redeemer, to die?” Explain that the children in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* would find freedom only through someone releasing them, and that the same is true for those who are held captive by sin and death. Freedom for those who are enslaved by sin and death can be gained only by someone paying a great price for their release. Remind the children that there was only one person who could pay that price, and tell them that this question will help them to understand why Jesus Christ had to die, and that there was no other way sin could be dealt with.


 10 **Activity**

Print out the Q24 One-Way Maze (RB), one for each child.

Give each child a pen and a copy of the maze, which only has one way through. Give the children a set amount of time to see if they can work out the way through the maze.

Once the time has finished, tell the children that there was only one way through the maze. Explain that there is only one way to be redeemed and only one way to return to a

relationship with God, and that is through Jesus Christ. Acknowledge that people at times question why Jesus had to die, and tell them that this lesson should help them understand more fully why Jesus's life and death provided the only way for us to be made right before God.

Read John 14:6 for the children: "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"


 15 **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.

Begin this time by asking the children if they think God had to redeem anyone. Explain to the children that God was not obliged to rescue anyone from sin and death, but that he chose to do so out of love. Remind the children that God does not need humans, but humans need God! God chooses to redeem people because he is loving, kind, and gracious.

Ask the children how this knowledge—that God was not obliged to rescue us—affects their view of God.

Explain to the children that once God determined that he would provide a path to redeem people, the only way he could do that was by sending Jesus to die on the cross.

Read Colossians 1:15–23. Provide Bibles for the children to read along with you.

Explain to the children that Paul is writing to Christians in Colossae, and he wants to help them to understand the supremacy of Jesus Christ.

In verse 19, Paul reminds the Colossians that Jesus is fully God. Paul also declares that through Jesus all things would be reconciled to God. Show the children that Paul says in this verse that God was pleased to be at work in this way. God was pleased that Jesus would be the one Mediator and Redeemer between heaven and earth. The redemption offered by Jesus was the only way out; there was no other way for humans to become friends again with God.

Paul declares in verse 20 that Jesus achieved peace between humans and God through shedding his blood on the cross. Explain to





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the children that Paul acknowledges clearly that it was necessary for Jesus to die on the cross; this was how God decided he would restore the relationship between himself and humanity. Tell the children that Paul explains to the Colossians that they once were enemies of God who had broken his laws and had done things that displease God—all of which deserve God’s judgment and punishment. But Paul says that those who are Christians—those who trust in Jesus Christ for redemption—need not fear God’s judgment. They should not fear God’s punishment either because when Jesus died on the cross, he freed people from sin and death. How? Tell the children that he stood in the place of sinful man and took judgment we deserved. He suffered their punishment in their place by dying on the cross. Jesus paid the price to redeem sinners so that they could know life in relationship with God.

Tell the children that Jesus said, “For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” in Mark 10:45. Explain to the children that there is a cost for rejecting God, for rejecting his rule, and for living without regard for him. The cross

demonstrates the cost clearly. Sin is serious, and God had to take sin seriously in order to deal with it.

Acknowledge to the children that it does seem unfair when someone has to take the punishment for something that he or she hasn’t done. Ask the children if they’ve ever experienced this, either at school or with their siblings.

Explain to the children that it was Jesus’s decision to take the punishment for the sins of others, even though he had never sinned. (You might remind them of the story of Maximilian Kolbe from lesson 21.) God demanded a perfect sin-offering to be sacrificed in order for the punishment to be satisfied. Jesus was the only one who fit the bill. Only the blood of Christ would really be able to redeem people.

Conclude the teaching time by helping the children commit Question 24 and the answer to memory.

(These notes are just for guidance. Please expand or amend them 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.)

10 Activity

You will need some old magazines, sheets of paper, scissors, and glue.

Invite the children to make word collages by cutting out letters from the magazines

and sticking them on the paper to make words. Tell the children that the words should sum up their heart’s response to God as they consider his amazing love in redeeming his people.





5

Discussion and Question Time

Some questions that might arise include:

? **If God didn't have to redeem anyone, why did he choose to?**

Explain to the children that God longs to be in relationship with his creation. He wants us to know and enjoy his goodness, so he brought us back into friendship with himself.

? **Did Jesus die to reconcile and redeem everyone?**

Tell the children that Jesus's death redeems only those who turn to him in repentance and faith. Jesus's death does not redeem those who reject him.

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 if it is clear to them why Jesus's death was necessary.
- Ask them if considering the magnitude of what Jesus did on their behalf increases their love for him.
- Ask them how they might pray for and speak to those who don't understand the necessity of Christ's death.

10

Virtue Vision**Love**

Print out a Q24 Love Letter Template (RB) for each child and give everyone a pen.

Invite the children to respond to God's great love as displayed in Jesus by writing a love letter to him. They may be able to use some of the words from their collage.

Invite the children to consider how understanding God's love for them affects how they might love others. Remind the

children that God's love was costly and sacrificial. Ask them how they might love others sacrificially.

If time allows, ask the children to turn to a neighbor and brainstorm opportunities to love others sacrificially. Have them write down a goal to challenge themselves to love others well in the coming week. Encourage them to be as specific as possible and show enthusiasm about their good ideas.



10 Memory Activity

You will need drinking straws and two sets of the memory verse or catechism answer cut up into individual words. Cut the verse up into individual words. (Before you assign this challenge, ensure that the size of the words and weight of the paper makes this task possible.)

Divide children into two teams. Place one set of words on a table at the opposite end of the classroom for each team. Explain

to the children that they will run a relay race. They must run up to the table and suck one of the words onto the end of their straw and bring it back to their team. As each child returns, the next should run out. The first team to assemble the verse wins. The verse could be read before the relay to provide the children with a little help. Read it through several times after the relay for reinforcement.

Notes

5 Closing Prayer Time

Pray that the children might remember how great is God's love for them and that they would want others to experience the same love by knowing their Redeemer.

