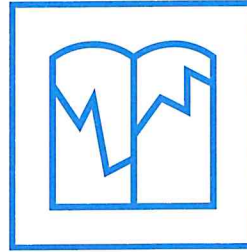


Question 25

Does Christ's death mean all our sins can be forgiven?



Answer

Yes, because Christ's death on the cross fully paid the penalty for our sin, God will remember our sins no more.

Big Idea

At the cross, Jesus achieved all that was necessary for the complete forgiveness of sins for those who turn to him in repentance and faith.

Aim

To help the children have confidence and joy in the imputed righteousness of Christ.

Bible Passage

2 Corinthians 5:16–21

Memory Verse

“For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” (2 Cor. 5:21)

Virtue

Joy



Notes

Leader's Notes

The greatest transaction the world will ever know occurred on the first Good Friday at the cross of Christ. God in his mercy and kindness chose to place the sins of everyone who repents onto the Lord Jesus who willingly bore the punishment for each of those sins in his own body. Jesus imputed his righteousness to everyone who repents. A swap occurred! Jesus took the sin and gave the righteousness. This lesson will help the children understand exactly what Jesus achieved through his death on the cross. This lesson aims to give them great confidence in the redeeming work of Christ and to help them know that deep and lasting joy comes from being reconciled to God through Christ.

Things to remember when planning and teaching:

- Some of the children will already understand the concept of imputed

righteousness. Seek to engage these children by emphasizing the awesomeness of the great swap and the personal implications for everyone who repents and believes.

- For other children the concept of imputed righteousness will be hard to understand because it is outside their experience. Try to explain and illustrate the lesson in a clear and concise way.
- Engage the hearts of the children by emphasizing what imputed righteousness means for each of them individually.
- 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 God, thank you that because of Jesus I can know the righteousness of Christ and be confident of my standing before you. Help me to know deep joy and have great confidence in the gospel each and every day. Grant understanding to the children who

will hear this lesson; may they understand the great exchange that occurred at the cross for all those who trust in Jesus. May they also know great joy in their salvation. In Jesus's name. Amen.

Leader's Tool Kit

- Paneled beach ball
- Permanent marker
- Cardboard
- Three glasses/vases



- Tape or labels
- Iodine
- Bleach
- Two white T-shirts large enough to fit a leader
- Two medium sized boxes
- An assortment of sticks, leaves, and rocks
- Quarters, at least one per child
- Whiteboard/large piece of paper and whiteboard marker

Notes

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Catechism Recap

On a paneled inflatable beach ball write a selection of catechism questions from one through twenty-four.

Gather the children into a circle and explain that the idea of the game is to keep the beach ball off the floor. Each child must participate to keep the beach ball in the air. If the beach

ball drops to the ground, someone must volunteer to answer one of the catechism questions written on the ball, or the whole group gets a penalty. The penalty could be things like twenty jumping jacks or five push-ups, or something silly like walking across the room like a crab.

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Introduction to Question 25

In three vases prepare the following solutions:

1. 100 percent water
2. 80 percent water and 20 percent iodine
3. 80 percent water and 20 percent bleach

On the first vase stick a label saying YOU; on the second vase stick a label saying SIN; and on the third vase stick a label saying JESUS.

Tell the children that when we are born, we are in Adam, and that means that we are sinful. Pour some of the second vase (SIN) into the first vase (YOU). The water will become discolored, thus showing the effect of sin. Explain to the children that they are fully corrupted by sin.

Invite some of the children to explain what happens when people put their trust in Jesus Christ for redemption and ask him to forgive their sins. Help them to see that when Jesus forgives our sins, we are covered by his righteousness. To emphasize that Christians are those who are *in Christ*, pour the contents of the first vase (YOU) into the third vase (JESUS), and watch the liquid from the first vase become instantly clear. Ask the children if they can see any trace at all of the old YOU. Introduce the children to Question 25: "Does Christ's death mean all our sins can be forgiven?" and tell them that this lesson will help them to understand that because of Jesus Christ's death, all of their sins can be forgiven. Explain that they are totally dealt with and fully taken away.

10

Activity

You will need two white T-shirts and some permanent markers. On one shirt write "Sinful," and on the other write "Righteous."

Place a piece of cardboard between the front and back of the T-shirt that has "Sinful" written on it so the marker doesn't bleed through. Invite the children to write as many words as they can on the T-shirt that are related to sinning against God and breaking his commands.

Once the children have finished writing, ask one of the leaders to put the T-shirt on over his or her clothes. Explain that this was what our lives were like before we were redeemed by Jesus Christ. We were sinful, we rejected God's rule, and broke God's laws. Explain to the children that when we turn to Jesus in repentance and faith, something amazing happens. Tell the children it's the greatest swap in history! Take the sin-stained T-shirt off the leader and place the righteous T-shirt

on him or her. Explain to the children that Jesus takes all the sin and guilt and rebellion, and in exchange, he gives the redeemed sinner his perfect righteousness. (Save both shirts. You will need them again for lesson 27.)

Ask the children if they understand what's happened. Explain to them that Jesus gives his perfect righteousness to each person whom he redeems. That means that when God looks at the redeemed sinner, he sees one who is righteous. (Righteousness simply means rightness with God, and Jesus was right with God because he lived a perfect, sinless life.) Explain that the minute a redeemed sinner receives the righteousness of Jesus Christ, he or she is no longer guilty before God, the just Judge, and is reconciled to him in friendship.

Ask the children if they agree that this is the best swap ever!

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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.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:16–21. Provide Bibles for the children to read along with you.

Explain to the children that Paul is writing to the Christians in Corinth. At this point in the letter, he is explaining the difference

between being in the flesh (a non-Christian) and being in Christ (a Christian). Tell the children that Paul was seeking to correct some false teaching that the Corinthians had heard.

Paul instructs the Corinthians to regard Jesus as not only as a man, but as fully man and fully God. He is the perfect Redeemer who can deal with the sins of humankind once and for all.



Notes

Paul teaches that anyone who has been redeemed by Christ is a new creation; God welcomes believers into his family and makes us citizens of heaven. The old ways of hating and rebelling against God are gone, and a new life of loving God and living for God begins.

Use Paul's life as an example for the children of how radical the change should be. Paul changed from a man who hated Jesus and became a man who lived his whole life to tell people about him.

Tell the children that Paul emphasizes that God is the one who is at work redeeming and reconciling people to himself. Ask the children if this is surprising. Why would God do this? Why would he want to be friends with those who had sinned against him and broken his laws? Explain to the children that it is simply amazing that God is the one who takes the initiative.

Remind the children that God is holy and just, as well as forgiving. Paul explains once again in this passage that God cannot just dismiss sin. He has said that for sin to be dealt with, a price must be paid. For justice to be done, the penalty must be paid. Ask the children to read verse 21 and look at how Paul describes what happened to God the Son.

Explain to the children that Paul declares that Jesus—who was sinless—became sin so that people could be righteous before God.

Ask the children to try to remember what *righteous* means. It means that people are right with God. The way that people could become right with God is by being totally cleansed of all their sin.

Ask the children: If people are to be right with God, what must happen to their sin?

Can even a little sin remain? Explain to the children that for people to be presented righteous before God, their sin must be fully removed.

Tell the children that when Jesus died on the cross, God inflicted on him the punishment our sin deserved. He fully experienced God's anger and fully received God's just penalty.

Explain to the children that this is how Christ's death means that all their sins can be forgiven. By way of conclusion, highlight for the children that this doesn't mean they will have an easy life or that they will be free from the temptation to sin, but it does mean that Jesus has dealt with their sin and God has pronounced them not guilty. For this we can celebrate God's grace and thank Jesus!

Conclude the teaching time by helping the children commit Question 25 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.)

**Activity**

Take two boxes. Label one "Adam's Sin" and the other "Jesus's Righteousness." Fill the box labeled "Adam's Sin" with sticks, leaves, and small rocks. Fill the other box with quarters, at least one for each child.

Tell the children that the cost of attending class today is twenty-five cents. Assure them that they don't need to worry if they didn't bring it because they can pay you with what they draw out of the box. Hold the box labeled "Adam's Sin" above each child so they can't see in but are able to draw out a stick, leaf, or rock. Now, ask the children for their payment.

Tell them that you don't want the things that they drew out of the box because they

have no value. Ask the children how they are going to pay the cost of attending class.

Probably one of the children will catch on that they need something from the box labeled "Jesus's Righteousness," but if necessary, give them a hint. Allow each child to draw a quarter out of the box. When each child has the quarter, invite them to put their worthless sticks, leaves, and rocks in Jesus's box. Finally, ask the children if they can now pay their debt. As you collect the quarters, explain to the children that Christ exchanged his righteousness, which was of great value, for our unrighteousness, which would only have brought us God's wrath.

**Discussion and Question Time**

Some questions that might arise include:

? Does this mean that I will never sin again?

Explain to the children that this doesn't mean that they will never sin again. The temptation to sin is always part of human life. Tell the children that it does, however, mean that when God looks at Christians, he sees the righteousness of Christ not the sinfulness of humans.

the Holy Spirit comes to live in him or her. One of the purposes of the Holy Spirit is to help Christians live obediently and therefore glorify God. Explain that this does not earn them any favor with God because Jesus has already given them perfect righteousness, but obedience does please and glorify God. Tell them that you will be talking more about this in future lessons.

? Does this mean I can sin as much as I want then?

Tell the children that when someone is redeemed and becomes a Christian,

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 what difference knowing that the righteousness of Christ belongs to them makes in their lives.
- Ask the children how they might explain the great swap to a friend who doesn't really understand what Jesus achieved on the cross.

Notes

10 Virtue Vision

Joy

Ask the children if they've seen the movie *Inside Out*. Have those who have seen the movie describe the character Joy. Explain that Joy's main aim is to make Riley happy. She loves fun and tries to find the bright side in every situation! Joy just wants Riley to be happy.

Ask the children if they think that joy is about always being happy. Challenge them

by asking, "Can joy be felt even when things are not going so well?"

Ask the children what about today's lesson could bring them joy, even when things aren't going their way. Help them see that Christians can have joy because of what Jesus has done for them. It doesn't matter if everything is going well or if life isn't very fun. Joy can always be experienced by remembering the great swap made on our behalf.

10 Memory Activity

Write the memory verse or catechism answer on a white board or on a large sheet of paper. Have the beach ball used in the catechism recap on hand.

Divide the children into two groups and have them form two parallel lines.

Read the memory verse through with the children a few times, then put it away or erase it. Hand the child at the top of one line the beach ball. He or she must say the first

word of the memory verse or answer and then throw it to the person opposite him or her, who must say the second word of the memory verse and then that person must throw it to the second person in the opposite line, and so on. Repeat the process until the memory verse or catechism answer has been completed. Conclude by saying the memory verse together once more.

5 Closing Prayer Time

Conclude by praying that the children might understand clearly the significance of the greatest swap ever. Pray that the children

would know deep joy by putting their trust in Jesus for redemption.

