

Jacob's Well



Lesson Title: The Why's of The Gospels—Why Redemption?



Key Concept: The Gospels' themes are often obscure to us, but God has a reason for including them. Redemption is God's greatest message of restoration and love for his creation.



Scriptures:

For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.
(Luke 19:10 *New Living Translation*)

Yes, Adam's one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ's one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone.
(Romans 5:18 *New Living Translation*)

Context Scriptures: Genesis 2, 3; Leviticus 25; Ruth; Isaiah 59:20; John 17:19;
Romans 5, 8:18–22; 1 Corinthians 6:20, 15, Hebrews 9:22; Revelation 13:8; 21:1–5



Lesson Thoughts:

What would life have been like for God's creation if Adam and Eve had obeyed God's instruction and not eaten of the forbidden tree? Since paradise was short-lived, we can only imagine. Before the eye-opening bite, the earth and all that God created were perfect. The heavens, land, seas, vegetation, animals, and humans were all designed to be in harmony and fruitfulness for eternity (Genesis 2). No death, no hardship, no shame, no fear—in other words, no worries. Best of all, God himself dwelt with his creation (Genesis 3).

But Adam, the first man, did disobey, and consequentially sin was ushered into the world. God's plan was reversed. What was meant for eternity now marched toward death (Romans 5). Nothing could escape the downward trajectory! All was lost . . . or so it seemed. Enter the last Adam, Jesus Christ, whose obedience (Romans 5; 1 Corinthians 15) restored life and brought hope to the world.

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God, who foresaw the choice that man would make, already had a plan to redeem his creation through Jesus, a plan for Jesus to be the lamb slain *before* the earth was made. This heaven-ordained slaying played out on earth at Calvary. Jesus was the perfect lamb who took on himself the sins of the world and nailed them to the cross (John 17:19). He died, with him our sins were buried, and we are now able to rise again and live in newness of life here and for eternity. As God become human, Jesus is our kinsman Redeemer (Leviticus 25:47–50; Ruth) who bought us back by paying the price for sin with his own blood (Isaiah 59:20; 1 Corinthians 6:20).

Thanks be to God, for by his wonderful plan of redemption, we who are born again will one day experience the life God intended for us. God is preparing a new heaven, a new earth, and a new Jerusalem where he will make his home among his people (Revelation 21:1–3). In that day, we will inherit immortality once again and there will be no more death, or sorrow, or crying, or pain (Revelation 21:4). All will be restored to perfection and harmony, and the faithful will find rest for eternity. This central theme of redemption in the Gospel is God's greatest message of love and restoration for his creation.

**Discussion Questions:**

- 1) Take a few minutes and dream out loud about how beautiful life must have been in the garden. Itemize all that was lost when sin entered the world. How does that make you feel about Adam, Eve, and the tactics of the Serpent?
- 2) When you consider that God knew what would happen before he created the world, how does that impact your thoughts about God's plan of redemption?
- 3) Itemize all that will be restored in this life and the next for those who are obedient. How does that make you feel about God?
- 4) What can you do to stay encouraged when life takes its toll and you long for restoration?

Next Lesson: Atonement

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Notes and Reflections

1. As the writer of this lesson, it was difficult to choose so few Scriptures on the topic of redemption. Reflect on God's word and add more Scripture verses about redemption to those that were provided. List them here:

2. When you face trials and losses in this life, do you sometimes get discouraged? Search the Scriptures and make a list of God's promises for you that you can count on in this present life and for eternity. Put that list somewhere visible, so that the next time you are weary, you can encourage yourself with God's word.
3. God's promises to redeem and restore are for those who believe and are "born again." If you don't know what that means, request a Bible study from a teaching team member. If you know and have yet to obey, what are you waiting for? Today is the day of salvation! Allow God's plan of redemption to bless your life.

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Notes and Reflections, cont.