

Easter: Through Christ Our Redeemer

OVERVIEW

Preparing the Teacher

God's plan for the redemption of mankind was brought to perfect completion by the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus was the perfect sacrifice for sin—a Lamb without any sin or defilement whatsoever. In Christ's death, He made the once-for-all atonement for our sin. In His resurrection, He provided us with glorious hope—the confidence of victory over spiritual death and eternal life in His presence. To try to identify all the blessings we enjoy because of our redemption would fill whole books.

And as is always the case, with blessing comes responsibility. As you prepare to teach your students about these greatest of historical events, meditate on **Romans 6:1–14**. Reflect on the responsibility we have as saints (redeemed people) to live in the light and righteousness of the gospel. Pray that your students might understand the gospel as the motivation not only for our praise, but also for our loving obedience. Ask the Lord to open the eyes of any student who has not yet trusted the “light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God” (**2 Cor. 4:4**) or experienced the miraculous change of heart (**2 Cor. 5:17, 21**).

Preparing the Materials

131: Matzos (i.e., unleavened bread) [O]

134: Maps or pictures of Mongolia [O]

140: Potted Easter lily (or a picture of an Easter lily), lily bulb (or a picture of a bulb)

Unit 8 Easter: Through Christ Our Redeemer

Theme, Memory Verse, and Principle	Lesson Number	TE Page	Worktext Page(s)	Lesson Title	Scripture or Focus	Connections
Unit 8a The Price Paid 1 Peter 2:21–23 <i>Christians should adopt Christ's attitude in suffering as their own.</i>	131	276	191–94	Onward Toward the Cross	Matthew 20:17–21:46; 26:14–30	
	132	280	195–96	Scattered and Scared Sheep	Matthew 26:30–75; John 18:12–24; Mark 14:53–65	
	133	282	197–98	Sacrifice Completed	Matthew 27:1–54; Luke 23:1–25	Timeline: Crucifixion and resurrection
	134	285	199–200	Faithful Follower: James Gilmour	Biography	
	135	287		Unit 8a Activity		
Unit 8b The Power Revealed 1 Peter 2:24–25 <i>Christ took our sins on Himself so that we can live righteously.</i>	136	288	201–2	The Greatest Story	Matthew 27:55–28:20	History
	137	291	203	Prophecies Fulfilled	Numerous references	
	138	292	204, 303	Hero of the Faith: Samson Occom	Biography	Timeline: Samson Occom
	139	294	205–6	Never the Same Again	Application Story	
	140	296		Unit 8b Activity	Review	

Bible Doctrines	Skills/Applications
The Doctrine of the Bible <p><i>Proofs for inspiration</i> The Bible is accurate in its prophecy (Num. 23:19).</p>	Foundational <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Realize that Jesus was falsely accused and condemned Recognize Christ's fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy Comprehend the purpose for Christ's death Understand the symbolism of participating in the Lord's Supper Realize that Christ's resurrection makes a Christian's resurrection possible Realize that the work of Christ makes redemption possible for all people
The Doctrine of God <p><i>Attributes of God</i> God is all-knowing (omniscient) (Job 42:2).</p> <p><i>Nature of God</i> The Son is God (Titus 2:13).</p>	Practical <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recall facts and details Classify the names of Jesus Read a timeline Identify characters Use cross-references Develop an appreciation of art
The Doctrine of Salvation <p><i>Provision of God</i> Christ's death was sufficient (Heb. 9:12–14). Christ's death was substitutionary (Isa. 53:6). Christ died for all people (atonement) (1 Cor. 15:3). Christ rose from the dead (resurrection) (1 Cor. 15:3–8).</p>	Personal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop the Bible reading habit Develop a Christ-centered view of personal abilities Learn to use personal abilities to glorify God Develop a Christ-centered attitude toward anger Understand the Christian's responsibility to tell the gospel to others Appreciate Christ's sufferings and develop a willingness to suffer for Him Understand that God can use a restored Christian after failure Apply Bible knowledge to everyday life

The Price Paid

Unit 8a

PREVIEW

Doctrines

- 131–33: God is all-knowing (omniscient) (Job 42:2).
- 131–33: The Bible is accurate in its prophecy (Num. 23:19).
- 132–33: The Son is God (Titus 2:13).
- 133: Christ died for all people (atonement) (1 Cor. 15:3).
- 133: Christ's death was substitutionary (Isa. 53:6).
- 133: Christ's death was sufficient (Heb. 9:12–14).

Skills and Applications

- Learn 1 Peter 2:21–23
- Develop the Bible reading habit
- Comprehend the purpose for Christ's death
- Realize that Jesus was falsely accused and condemned
- Appreciate Christ's sufferings and develop a willingness to suffer for Him
- Develop a Christ-centered attitude toward anger
- Understand that God can use a restored Christian after failure
- Understand the symbolism of participating in the Lord's Supper
- Classify the names of Jesus
- Read a timeline
- Use cross-references
- Recall facts and details
- Develop an appreciation of art
- Apply Bible knowledge to everyday life

LESSON

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Onward Toward the Cross

Materials

- Chart 1 ("The Bible Reading H.A.B.I.T.")
- Matzos (i.e., unleavened bread), available in most grocery stores, especially near Easter (Passover) [O]

Music

Select a unit hymn. Songs that correlate with this unit's theme are "Christ Arose," "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today," "He Is Lord," "He Lives," "It Is Finished," and "One Day."

Memory Verses: 1 Peter 2:21–23

Principle: Christians should adopt Christ's attitude in suffering as their own. Locate and read aloud 1 Peter 2:21–25 as the students read silently. Explain that they will memorize 2:21–23 in Lessons 131–35 and 2:24–25 in Lessons 136–40.

🕒 How would you restate 2:21 in your own words?

- ▶ What kind of attitude did Jesus Christ have while He suffered for Christians? **He was quiet and patient; He did not sin with His mouth; He did not retaliate when He was insulted.**
- ▶ What did Jesus do instead of getting angry, threatening, and treating people the way they treated Him? **He trusted Himself to God, knowing that God would judge the situation righteously.**

Read aloud Jesus' words in **Matthew 26:53**. Remind the students that Jesus could have delivered Himself from suffering if He had chosen to. Instead, Jesus willingly suffered for us.

 **Read 2 Corinthians 3:18. How can this verse help you respond to suffering like Christ in 1 Peter 2:21?** (Note: Lead students to focus on the Word of God and the Spirit of God.) Direct the students to mark the location with their Unit 8 bookmarks and to highlight the verses in their Bibles (optional).

Bible Account

Preview Background Information

Triumphal Entry

Because of the opposition of Jerusalem's religious leaders to Christ's teaching and miracles, Jesus had spent a large part of His ministry in other cities. Perhaps this explains why many in the crowd did not know who Jesus was at the time of His entrance. Mark and Luke tell us that the colt on which Jesus rode into Jerusalem had never been ridden before; yet this unbroken creature apparently carried Jesus quite tamely on His way. Jesus' choice of the colt showed His authority over His creation and revealed His desire to make a peaceful entrance. Riding the donkey's colt also fulfilled the prophecy of **Zechariah 9:9**. The spreading of clothes on the ground was a customary way to honor a king, as referred to in **2 Kings 9:12–13** at the anointing of King Jehu.

The Passover

The Jewish Passover was a special celebration of God's deliverance of His people from Egypt in the days of Moses. In Egypt, the people were required to kill a one-year-old unblemished male lamb and apply its blood to the doorposts of their houses. They were then to roast the lamb and eat it. While eating, they were commanded to have their shoes on and their staffs in their hands, ready for the journey out of Egypt in the middle of the night. When the Lord came to slay all the firstborn of Egypt, He showed mercy to Israel by "passing over" the homes that had the blood displayed on their doors. (See **Exod. 12**.) After this first Passover, the feast was celebrated regularly on the fourteenth day of the month Nisan (March–April) and was followed by six more days of eating unleavened bread.

Passover Food

Each household brought a Passover lamb to the temple court to be killed by the priests as a sacrifice. The household then gathered for the meal, which could not be eaten until after sundown. The lamb was roasted and eaten with bitter herbs (possibly endive, a leafy vegetable like lettuce), wine, and unleavened bread. At His last Passover meal with His disciples, Jesus instituted the symbolism of the bread and wine as reminders of His atonement for sin. (For more information see *Through Jewish Eyes* by Craig Hartman, available from JourneyForth Books, a division of BJU Press, at journeyforth.com.)

PsalmS Associated with the Passover

PsalmS 113–118 were known as the Hallel and were traditionally sung at Passover time, especially during the Passover meal itself. The crowd that greeted Jesus at the time of His triumphal entry quoted **Psalm 118:26a** in their song of praise to Him. The Hallel was sung at intervals during the Passover meal as Jewish

households remembered the Exodus from Egypt. The hymn that Jesus and His disciples sang at the end of their meal was probably from this portion of Psalms.

Introduce the Bible Account

Discuss the historical background of the Passover feast. Share the background information about the Passover and Passover food with the students. Give each student a sample of matzo, explaining that it is unleavened bread (optional).

Teach for Understanding

Read **Matthew 20:17–21:46** and **26:14–30** or use the following retelling of the passages. Listening question: **Why were the priests angry? Christ was being praised and called by the name of the Messiah, "Son of David."**

Onward Toward the Cross

One day in early spring, shortly before the Jewish feast of the Passover, Jesus looked around Him at the twelve men who had been His closest friends and followers for the past three years. They were on their way to Jerusalem to celebrate the feast, but before they got to the city, Jesus had something very important to tell them—something He had known from the beginning of time: "The Son of man will be betrayed and handed over to the chief priests and scribes who will condemn Him to death. They will pass Him off to the Gentiles who will mock, whip, and crucify Him. But on the third day, He will rise again."

This wasn't the first time Christ had told His disciples that He was going to die. But now He was letting them know that His death was very near. And He was also giving them hope. He would not stay dead! He would come back to life on the third day! Knowing what awaited Him, Jesus willingly continued on His way toward Jerusalem.

Before entering the city, Jesus told two disciples to bring Him a donkey and colt that they would find in a nearby village. If anyone questioned them about what they were doing, they were to answer that the Lord needed them.

The disciples did exactly as Christ told them, which fulfilled what the prophet Zechariah said would happen (**Zech. 9:9**).

Jesus rode the colt into the city as the crowds shouted in praise, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" The people welcomed Him as they would welcome a king, spreading their garments on the ground before Him and lining His path with palm branches.

Later as Jesus entered the temple, He saw people buying and selling doves for sacrifices in the temple. Christ was angered by this blatant act of treating the temple as a common place of business. His Father's house was to be set apart as a place of worship and prayer. Christ's grief at seeing these people's lack of reverence is expressed in one of the psalms as Christ's zeal for God's house consuming Him. Jesus was zealous for keeping God's temple a place of reverence and glory. He forced the moneychangers out and overturned their tables.

Get the Bible Reading H.A.B.I.T.

Name _____



Have a special time set aside each day to read your Bible. If possible, make it the same time every day.

Ask God to teach you from His Word. Remember to thank Him for helping you to understand and apply it.

Be still and pay attention to what you are reading.

Investigate the Scripture by asking yourself questions about it.

Take time to look up words and ideas you do not understand.

After you read the Scripture for each day, write the date in the box.

Christ loved us and died for us when we were sinners. Romans 5:6-8	Christ's death makes peace possible between sinners and God. Ephesians 2:14-17	Through Jesus, believers have access to God and a place in His family. Ephesians 2:18-20	Because of the love of Christ, Christians should live for Him. 2 Corinthians 5:14-17	God saves us through His love by Christ's grace. Titus 3:3-7
If Christ had not been raised, the preaching and faith of Christians would be in vain. 1 Corinthians 15:12-15	If Christ had not been raised, believers would not be forgiven of sin. 1 Corinthians 15:16-18	Because Christ rose from the dead, believers have eternal hope in Him. 1 Corinthians 15:19-20	Jesus is the only name through which we can be saved. Acts 4:11-12	Christians can know that God has given them eternal life through His Son. 1 John 5:11-13



Redemption: God's Grand Design

Lesson 131 191

Some children in the temple area were still calling out, "Hosanna to the son of David!" The chief priests and scribes were displeased to hear Christ being called by this Messianic name. When the priests asked Jesus whether He heard what the children were saying about Him, He replied by quoting from a psalm, "Have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?" (**Matt 21:16**)



- **What did Jesus tell His disciples before they entered Jerusalem? He would be betrayed, whipped, mocked, and crucified but would rise again.**
 - **Why were the priests angry? Christ was being praised and called by the name of the Messiah, "Son of David."**
- Remind the students that *hosanna* means "save now." Perhaps many in the crowd believed that Jesus was the Messiah, but they did not understand what kind of salvation He had come to bring. They did not understand that He had come to save them from sin. Many thought that Jesus had come to save (deliver) them from Roman domination.
- ❸ **Why did Jesus refuse to silence the children who were crying "hosanna" in the temple? They were truly praising Him, and He was worthy of their praise.**
 - ❹ **What kind of heart must a Christian have to please Jesus with his praise? a heart that truly understands who He is and wants to obey Him**

A Pattern for Prayer

Name _____



Many Christians come to their prayer time as they would come to a business meeting. They bring a list of complaints and requests, and they try to conclude their business with God as quickly as possible and get on to something else. Others can think of little to say, so they spend their prayer time daydreaming or repeating words they have memorized.

Prayer is communicating with God in a personal way. He is a holy, mighty God who loves you and wants a relationship with you. As you talk with Him in prayer, consider the following four-step guide on how to pray.

Read the verses or passage and answer the questions.



1. What are some things that belong to God that we should praise Him for? **Answers will vary but should include greatness, power, glory, victory, majesty, everything in heaven, everything on earth, riches, and honor.**



2. Sin hinders fellowship with God. What is necessary to restore this fellowship? **repentance and confession**
Repent and confess your sins to God, asking for His forgiveness and cleansing.



3. When you ask for things in prayer, will God give you everything you ask for? Why? **No, He would never give us anything that is not good for us.**

Ask God to give you and others what is needed.



4. What is the greatest gift God ever gave? **His only Son, Jesus Christ**
Ask God to give you and others what is needed.

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Redemption: God's Grand Design

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As the end of the week drew near, Jesus made plans to celebrate the feast of the Passover in Jerusalem with His disciples. By this time, the religious leaders had publicly challenged Jesus' authority and were secretly plotting to arrest Him and have Him killed. One of Christ's own disciples, Judas Iscariot, had met with the chief priests and offered to betray Christ and hand Him over to them for thirty pieces of silver.

On the evening of the Passover as Jesus and His disciples gathered around the table to eat, He told them that one of them would betray Him.

That thought extinguished their joy, and every one of them asked, "Lord, am I the one?"

Jesus replied that the betrayer was one who dipped his hand in the same dish with Him. He said that it would be better for that man if he had never been born.

Then Judas asked, "Master, am I the one?"

"It is as you have said," Jesus replied.

As they continued eating, Jesus took some bread, thanked God for it, broke it, and gave it to His disciples. "Take, eat," He said. "This is my body." Just as the bread had been broken, Christ's body would be broken on the cross for our sins.

Next Jesus took a cup, gave thanks for it, and passed it around to the disciples. "Drink from it, all of you," He told them. "This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins" (**Matt. 26:28**).

Using Cross-References



Name _____

Cross-references are helpful in finding out more about a certain word, topic, account, or idea. Learn to make use of these Bible study tools.

Use the cross-references to learn more about the days that preceded the crucifixion of Christ.

Look at the cross-references indicated by the letter *z*. Write the references of the three verses where the phrase *daughter of Zion* can be found.

Isa. 62:11

Zech. 9:9

John 12:15

Matthew 21:9 records the shouts of the people praising Jesus as He entered Jerusalem. They quoted parts of what verses in Psalms?

Psalm 118:25–26

Look at the cross-references for the word *prophet* in Matthew 21:11. Write the references where a note about *prophet* may be found.

Matt. 2:23

Luke 7:16

John 6:14; 7:40; 9:17

Read the verses cross-referenced by the letter *k* in Matthew 21:13. Which verses say God has seen how His house has become a “den of robbers”?

Jer. 7:11

Mark 11:17

Luke 19:46

ST. MATTHEW	
<i>The triumphal entry</i>	
20:27	John 13:4
John 13:4	Phil. 2:7
John 13:14	John 13:27
14:33,35	John 13:14
Deut. 33:26	16: 53,10,11
John 11:51,52	1 Tim. 2:6
1 Pet. 1:19	1 Tim. 2:6
Rom. 5:15,19	Heb. 9:28
Heb. 9:28	John 18:35
20:29	Mark 10:46
John 18:35	20:30
20:30	wch. 9:27
21:1	Mark 11:1
Mark 11:1	Luke 19:29
Luke 19:29	vZech. 14:4
21:2	14:62,11
21:3	Zech. 9:9
21:4	John 12:15
21:4	Mark 11:4
21:5	2:2 Ki. 9:13
21:6	John 12:15
21:6	3:1 Pet. 1:19
21:7	John 12:40
21:8	John 12:13
21:9	4:Ps. 118:25
21:9	4:Ps. 18:26
21:9	ch. 23:39
21:10	5:Mark 11:15
21:10	6:Mark 11:15
21:11	7:Mark 11:15
21:11	8:John 12:13
21:12	9:John 12:13
21:12	10:Luke 19:45
21:13	11:John 14:25
21:13	12:Deut. 14:25
21:13	13:Jer. 7:11
21:13	14:Mark 11:17
21:13	15:Luke 19:46
21:14	16:1Pet. 1:19
21:14	17:4Ps. 8:2
21:17	18:21Pet. 1:17

Redemption: God's Grand Design

Lesson 131 193

Jesus knew that for centuries to come, Christians would partake of these symbols to show their remembrance of the sacrifice Christ made on their behalf. Jesus and His disciples sang a hymn together, and then they went out to the Mount of Olives.



Did Jesus know who was going to betray Him? Explain. Yes, Jesus is omniscient. He knew exactly what Judas was planning.

How would you feel if one of your closest friends turned against you? sad, hurt, fearful to trust again

Remind the students that Christ knows how we feel when our friends hurt us because He was betrayed by one of His closest friends. As Christians we can pray to God and trust in His care and strength to help us to have joy and peace and to help the person who hurt us. He loves us even though we sin against Him, and He can help us love those who turn against us (Matt. 5:44).

► How was the Passover celebration a picture of Jesus' coming death? Jesus, the Lamb of God, was killed as a sacrifice for sin. His blood provided protection from judgment and deliverance for His people.

Nowadays, what church ordinance do Christians partake of to show their remembrance of Jesus' atonement for sin? the Lord's Supper

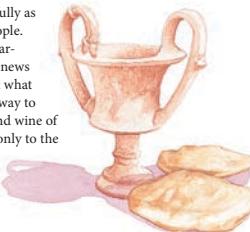
Who should partake of the Lord's Supper? all who have trusted Christ as Savior and are living for Him

The Lord's Supper

Matthew 26:17–30

Name _____

The disciples had entered Jerusalem triumphantly and joyfully as their beloved Master was praised and worshiped by the people. Later, as they sat around the table with Him preparing to partake of the traditional Passover, He shocked them with the news that one of them would betray Him. As they thought about what would happen to their Master, Jesus provided them with a way to remember Him. He assigned new meanings to the bread and wine of the Passover. In doing this, Jesus provided a reminder not only to the disciples but also to present-day Christians of His willing sacrifice for our sins. This reminder has become an ordinance of the New Testament church.



Answer the questions.

- What did Jesus say the bread represented? (Matt. 26:26) **His body**
- What did Jesus say the wine represented? (Matt. 26:27–28) **His blood**
- For what purpose did Jesus shed His blood? (Matt. 26:28) **for the remission or forgiveness of sins**

Paul gives Christians instructions about participating in the Lord's Supper in 1 Corinthians 11:25–29. Why do Christians continue to participate in this ordinance? (1 Cor. 11:25) **to remember Jesus' death on the cross**

5. Why would it be inappropriate for non-Christians to participate in the Lord's Supper? **Answers may vary.**
Non-Christians have not trusted Christ's death as the payment for their sin. Remembering His death in this way without having repented of their sin would not be appropriate.

Using the information found in the Bible Truths for Christian Growth about church ordinances on page 329, answer the questions.

- What is an ordinance? **a way of remembering Christ's death, burial, and resurrection**
- What does the Lord's Supper look forward to? **Christ's return**

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Redemption: God's Grand Design

Worktext page 191

Develop the Bible reading habit. Encourage each student to do the Bible readings. Display Chart 1 (“The Bible Reading H.A.B.I.T.”) as a reminder to the students before they do their Bible reading (optional).

Worktext page 192

Discuss a pattern of prayer. Complete the page together with the students (or encourage them to complete the page on one of the days that they are doing a Bible reading from page 191.)

Worktext page 193

Use cross-references to learn more about the days preceding Christ's crucifixion.

Worktext page 194

Recall details about the Lord's Supper.

Scattered and Scared Sheep

Music

Review the song and develop higher-order thinking skills by asking application questions.

Memory Verses: 1 Peter 2:21–23

Practice the memory verses. Locate 1 Peter 2:21–23, selecting a student to read the verses aloud.

How would you restate 2:22 in your own words?

- What does the passage say that Christians are “called” to do? **to respond to suffering with the same attitude that Christ had**

What are some biblical examples of Christians who suffered for Christ? **Stephen, who was stoned to death; Paul, who was whipped, beaten, stoned, and thrown in prison; the disciples who were beaten (Acts 5)**

How do Christians today suffer for the cause of Christ?

Possible answers include that in countries where there is no freedom to worship, countless Christians have been separated from their families, lost their jobs, been ridiculed and beaten, and some seventy million have been murdered.

Remind the students that the Lord can help Christians respond correctly when they are ridiculed for their faith. Choose students to take turns reading the verses aloud.

Bible Account

Preview Background Information

Annas

Annas was appointed high priest in Jerusalem by the Roman government in AD 6. At the time of Jesus’ death, Annas’s son-in-law Caiaphas was the acting high priest, but Annas continued to have significant influence and was still called by the title of high priest (**Luke 3:2; Acts 4:6**).

Caiaphas

Joseph Caiaphas became the high priest in Jerusalem around AD 15. He expressed his support for putting Jesus to death after the miracle of Lazarus’s resurrection (**John 11:49–51**). However, Roman law did not authorize him to enforce the death penalty, so he sent Jesus to be tried by Pilate. Caiaphas was eventually deposed in AD 38 by Vitellius, the Roman proconsul.

Sanhedrin

The Sanhedrin was a seventy-one-member council consisting of the current high priest, those who had been high priests in the past as well as members of the privileged families from which high priests were chosen. Its power was limited by Roman rule so that its authority was over Jews only in Judea and was limited to religious matters relating to the law of Moses.

Introduce the Bible Account

Discuss Peter.

What do you know about Peter’s life before he met Jesus? **He was a fisherman; he was the brother of Andrew.**

What do you know about Peter’s life after Jesus’ death and resurrection? Possible answers include that God used him to be a leader in the early church; he was one of the apostles; preached the Pentecost sermon; healed a lame man; was beaten and put in prison for preaching the gospel; confronted Ananias and Sapphira for lying; raised Tabitha from the dead; was used by God to write two books of the New Testament.

Point out how much Peter’s life changed because he knew Jesus Christ. Explain that today’s Bible account is about one of Peter’s failures as a disciple of Christ.

Teach for Understanding

Read Matthew 26:30–75; John 18:12–24; and Mark 14:53–65 or use the following retelling of the passages. Listening question: **What did Peter do after he did what Christ prophesied? He left and cried.**

Scattered and Scared Sheep

When Jesus and His disciples reached the Mount of Olives, He gave them some sobering news: “All of you will abandon Me tonight.” Jesus then quoted a prophecy from the Old Testament: “I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad” (**Zech. 13:7**).

Peter responded with brave words. He said that even if everybody else left Jesus, he would never leave Him. But Jesus’ answer wasn’t what Peter expected. Jesus said that on that very night before the rooster crowed, Peter would deny knowing Him three times. Peter insisted that he would never deny the Lord.

As they came to the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus took Peter, James, and John apart with Him to pray. Jesus became sad and deeply troubled. He asked those three friends to stay awake with Him. Then He walked a little farther and fell on His face before God and prayed, “O My Father, if it is possible, remove this cup from me. But Your will be done, not Mine.” His agony was so great that His sweat was like big drops of blood falling to the ground (**Luke 22:44**).

Jesus spent three sessions in prayer. Each time He came back to find His disciples sleeping. Jesus woke them up and urged them to pray that they would not enter into temptation. Jesus knew that His disciples wanted to please Him, but He also knew what was ahead for them, and He knew their weakness.

After the third time of prayer, Jesus returned to His disciples and said that they should get going because the one who would betray Him was nearby.

Before Jesus finished speaking, Judas entered the garden with a large crowd of armed men who had come from the Jewish religious leaders. Judas greeted Him, pretending to be respectful, and then he kissed Jesus. That kiss was a signal to the crowd to take hold of Jesus and take Him away. Jesus went with them willingly, but, true to the prophecy, all the disciples left Him and fled.

The crowd took Jesus to two different religious leaders: first to Annas and then to Caiaphas (the high priest) and the Sanhedrin.

Jesus' trials extended long into the night. Peter and another disciple followed from a distance to see what would happen. Peter was sitting with some servants in the courtyard of the high priest's house, where the trial before Caiaphas took place.

The Sanhedrin was trying to find someone who would accuse Jesus of having done something worthy of the death penalty. Again and again, false witnesses came forward and lied about Jesus. But it was to no avail: the Sanhedrin couldn't find a good excuse to put Jesus to death.

Finally, two more false witnesses spoke. They misquoted Jesus, claiming that He had said, "I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days." But actually when Jesus had said "this temple," He meant the temple of His body (**John 2:19–21**).

Caiaphas stood and demanded that Jesus answer this accusation, but Jesus kept silent. Caiaphas asked Jesus whether He was the Messiah, the Son of God.

Jesus replied, "You have said." He then told Caiaphas that one day in the future, he would "see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds" (**Matt. 26:64**).

Caiaphas tore his clothing and called Jesus' words blasphemy. "We don't need any more witnesses, do we?" he asked. "Look, you have heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?"

The people answered, "He is guilty of death!" An uproar ensued, and the people spit in Jesus' face, beat Him with their fists, and slapped Him. They shouted mocking words: "Prophecy for us, you Christ, who is it who just hit you?"

Meanwhile out in the courtyard, some people recognized Peter as one of Christ's followers. First, a servant girl questioned him about being with Jesus. Peter told a cowardly lie saying that he didn't know what she was talking about.

Later, another person identified Peter as having been with Jesus, but once again Peter lied and with an oath said, "I do not know the man."

After a while, some people who had been standing nearby came up to Peter and said that his speech indicated that he was from Galilee, the province Jesus was from. This time Peter invoked a curse on himself and swore an oath, repeating, "I do not know the man."

Immediately, Peter heard the crowing of a rooster, and he remembered what Christ had said: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." Peter went out and wept bitterly.



- How did Peter answer Jesus' prediction that the disciples would deny Him? **He refused to believe it; he said that he would never deny Jesus.**
- ➲ Why do you think Jesus prayed for God's will to be done instead of just praying for what He wanted? **Possible answers include that He was perfectly obedient to God; He cared more about what God wanted than His own desires; He was also giving Christians an example of how to pray.**
- ➲ How did all the disciples yield to temptation when Judas came to the garden? **They left Jesus and ran away.**

Falsely Accused

Matthew 26:30–75; John 18:12–24; Mark 14:53–65

Name _____

After Judas betrayed Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus was arrested and taken to the Jewish religious leaders. The hearings that followed were illegal according to both Jewish and Roman law. The Pharisees and chief priests violated their responsibility to be just and truthful leaders in an effort to get rid of Jesus.

Match the requirements of the laws with what actually happened when Jesus was tried, accused, and condemned to die.

Requirements for condemning someone to death	What actually happened to Jesus
B 1. A trial must be conducted openly in the daytime (Matt. 26:31; 27:1).	A. Jesus was asked to defend Himself, and He was not given the opportunity to have anyone else speak in His defense.
D 2. The accusations of the witnesses against the accused person must agree (Mark 14:56).	B. Jesus was tried during the night, and condemned by the Jewish leaders at daybreak.
F 3. The witnesses against the accused person must tell the truth (Matt. 26:59–61).	C. Jesus was accused because religious leaders were envious of His authority and popularity with the people. He was not a lawbreaker.
C 4. A person may be brought to trial only for breaking the law (Matt. 27:18; Mark 15:10).	D. Many people falsely accused Jesus, but none of the witnesses agreed with each other.
A 5. The accused person must be given the opportunity to have other people to speak in his defense (Matt. 26:62–68).	E. Jesus was found innocent again and again, but was still condemned to die.
E 6. The accused person can be put to death only if found guilty (John 18:38; 19:4, 6; Luke 23:13–15).	F. The religious leaders could not find any witnesses against Jesus. Finally two people came forward and lied about something Jesus had said.

Answer the questions.

7. How did Jesus respond when He was falsely accused? (Matt. 26:60–63)

He said nothing.

8. By saying that Caiaphas would someday see Him in the clouds at the right hand of God, Jesus was clearly claiming to be God. What did Caiaphas call this statement? (Matt. 26:63–65) **blasphemy**

9. Read the definition of *blasphemy* in the glossary. Write the part of the definition that describes how Caiaphas thought Jesus blasphemed.
giving God's attributes to something or someone other than God



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- How did Jesus respond to the false witnesses? **He kept silent.**
- ➲ How do we normally respond when someone accuses us of something we did not do? **Possible answers are to get angry, defend ourselves, and attack the accuser.**
- ➲ Why did Caiaphas accuse Jesus of blasphemy? **He did not believe that Jesus was God.**
- ➲ Why did Peter deny Christ? **Possible answers are he trusted in his own strength, he was ashamed of being associated with Christ, or he was afraid of the crowd.**
- What did Peter do after he did what Christ prophesied? **He left and cried.**
- ➲ What do you think about Peter's denial?
- ➲ Are you ever tempted to be quiet about knowing Christ?
- ➲ Is that a sin? **Answers may vary, but point out that it is a sin if we are afraid or ashamed to be associated with Christ.**
- ➲ One reason God saved us is to be witnesses for Him. Are you glad that somebody told you about Christ and that now you have eternal life?
- ➲ What should you do when you are tempted not to tell somebody about Christ or give out a gospel tract?

Each situation is different, but encourage students to meditate on Scripture about obedience, ask God for strength, and be obedient.

Worktext page 195

Identify the problems with the trials of Christ that made them illegal.

Overcoming Sin
Matthew 26:31–35, 69–75

Name _____

Peter believed in Jesus. He had traveled with Jesus around the country, watched His miracles, and listened to His teachings. Peter knew Jesus was the Son of God, and he had come to love Jesus as his Master. He loved Jesus so much that he even promised to die for Him if necessary. But when the real test of Peter's devotion came, he sinned. What happened? How could someone who was so eager to prove his loyalty to Jesus turn around and deny Him that same day? Peter sinned because he was afraid to suffer for Christ.

Think about Peter's actions and answer the questions.

- What did Peter say he would never do? deny Christ
- Do you think Peter meant to keep this promise? yes Did he? no
What did he do? He denied Christ three times.
- List two things a Christian might do that would be a denial of Christ. **Answers will vary.**
◆ Possible answers include not witnessing to others,
◆ disobeying His Word, and failing to stand up for Christ.

At the supper in the upper room, Jesus said that Peter would deny Him. Peter was very proud and resolute that he would not deny Jesus. Yet, after Jesus was captured just a short time later, Peter denied Jesus three times. He sinned against His Lord. But God was not finished with him. Peter's grief over his sin led to repentance and restoration with Jesus after the resurrection.

Read John 21:15–17. Peter had denied Jesus three times, but Christ still had plans for Peter.

- How many times did Jesus ask Peter if he loved Jesus? three
- What was Jesus' response to Peter each time? "Feed My sheep and lambs."

Read 1 Peter 5:1–4. Peter is talking to the elders of the church and tells them that he is an elder also.

- What does he instruct the elders to do (5:2)? to feed the flock/sheep

It is evident from Peter's epistles that he was used by God as he submitted to His authority. Remember that when you sin, you cannot just try to do better next time. Victory over sin must start with confession. Responding to God's corrections allows you to respond to His leading and power in your life to do His will.



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- ➊ Read Hebrews 12:2. How can this verse help you respond to suffering like Christ in 1 Peter 2:23? (Note: Lead students to focus on Christ's joy and on despising the shame.)
- ➋ Read Hebrews 12:3. How can this verse help you suffer like Christ in 1 Peter 2:23? (Note: Lead students to focus on Christ's endurance with sinners.)
- ➌ Who are some people you know who are suffering for Christ?
- ➍ What countries have been known for persecuting Christians?

Visit bjupress.com/resources for links to enhance this lesson.

Bible Account

Preview Background Information

Pilate

Pilate was the Roman governor of Judea at the time of Christ's death. His responsibilities included collecting taxes, reporting to Rome, keeping the peace, and judging in matters related to Roman rule in Judea. Early church tradition says that Pilate and his wife eventually became Christians, but a later tradition says that Pilate committed suicide. Although historians are uncertain about the final result of Pilate's encounter with Christ, we can be sure of the fact that God is so merciful that He would forgive even someone like Pilate, who condemned Christ to death. No one who truly repents and trusts Christ is beyond the reach of God's mercy and grace.

Herod Antipas

Herod Antipas was the tetrarch, or ruler, of the Roman provinces of Galilee and Perea from 4 BC to AD 39. This is the same Herod who was called a "fox" by Jesus in Luke 13:31–32 and who had John the Baptist beheaded. He was in Jerusalem for the Passover when Jesus was arrested. Later, in AD 39, the Roman emperor Caligula charged Antipas with treachery against Rome for aligning himself with Sejanus, a Roman officer who became a traitor. Antipas's tetrarchy was taken away, and he was exiled with his wife to western Europe.

Gall and Vinegar

Both Matthew and Mark speak of the crucified Jesus being offered a drink, mixed with different substances. The drink Matthew mentions was wine mixed with gall to drink. Gall was often used to describe any bitter or poisonous substance and was probably used in this case to refer to the taste. Mark's account says that Jesus was offered wine mixed with myrrh (Mark 15:23). One of the uses of myrrh was to lessen pain. But Jesus refused to drink this, possibly to drink fully of the cup of God's judgment, wanting to bear the full brunt of the pain of death in our place (Matt. 26:42; John 18:11). Later Jesus was offered a second drink, one of vinegar, or sour wine, in a sponge (Matt. 27:48). Both drinks fulfilled the prophecy of Psalm 69:21: "They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink."

Introduce the Bible Account

Discuss the purpose of Christ's death on the cross.

- ➌ Why did Jesus need to die? **to save people from their sins and to provide a way for anyone who trusts Him to be reconciled to God, be counted righteous, and have eternal life**

Worktext page 196

Apply Bible knowledge to everyday life.

LESSON

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Sacrifice Completed

Materials

- Chart 14 ("Masterwork: Mocking of Christ") on the Teacher's Toolkit CD
- Timeline and picture of the crucifixion and resurrection

Music

Review the song and develop higher-order thinking skills by asking application questions.

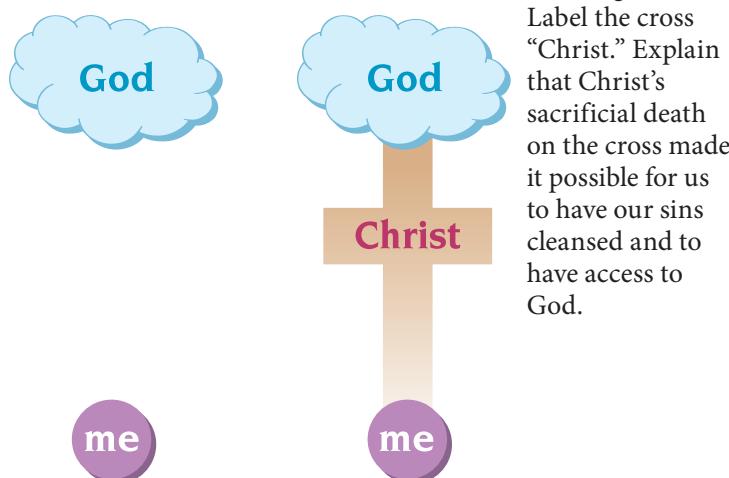
Memory Verses: 1 Peter 2:21–23

Practice the memory verses. Locate 1 Peter 2:21–23 and select a volunteer to read the verses aloud. Direct each student to read the verses to a partner.

➊ How would you restate 2:23 in your own words?

- ➋ Read Hebrews 12:1. How can this verse help you respond to suffering the way Christ did? **Christ did not change direction or course because of the suffering He knew was coming. God has given each of us a "race to run." We should not turn from that in order to avoid suffering.**

Read aloud **John 3:14–17**. Demonstrate the meaning of reconciliation visually by drawing a diagram of the positions of God and us as shown. On one side, draw a cross connecting the two.



Label the cross “Christ.” Explain that Christ’s sacrificial death on the cross made it possible for us to have our sins cleansed and to have access to God.

Teach for Understanding

Read **Matthew 27:1–54** and **Luke 23:1–25** or use the following retelling of the passages. Listening question: **What was probably the most agonizing thing that Jesus endured for us on the cross? separation from God, His Father**

Sacrifice Completed

In the morning, the chief priests and elders decided that Jesus would be put to death. Since they could not legally execute Him, they bound Jesus and took Him to Pilate, the Roman governor of Judea.

When Judas heard about the decision, he changed his mind about what he had done. He brought the thirty pieces of silver to the temple and confessed his sin to the religious leaders. “I have betrayed innocent blood,” he said. But the religious leaders didn’t care. They only replied, “What is that to us?”

Judas threw the money into the temple and left; then he went out and hanged himself.

Meanwhile, Jesus stood on trial before Pilate, who asked, “Are you king of the Jews?”

“It is as you say,” Jesus replied. But when the chief priests and scribes began accusing Jesus, He kept silent. Pilate asked Jesus whether He heard what they were saying. But Jesus didn’t answer.

Pilate could hardly believe someone would listen to such accusations without defending himself. Then since Jesus was from Galilee, Pilate sent Him to Herod Antipas, the Roman ruler over Galilee, probably hoping Herod would take care of the problem for him. But Herod only questioned Jesus, mocked Him, clothed Him in a beautiful robe, and sent Him back to Pilate.

Pilate’s custom during the Passover in Jerusalem was to release one prisoner, and perhaps he thought the Jews would allow Jesus to be released. He knew that the religious leaders had delivered Jesus to him, not because Jesus was guilty of anything, but because of their envious hearts.

At about six in the morning, Pilate brought Jesus out to the people who had gathered and asked, “Who do you want me to release to you—Barabbas or Jesus who is called Christ?”

While Pilate was sitting on the judgment seat, waiting for the crowd’s decision, he received a message from his wife. “Have nothing to do with that just man,” her message read, speaking of Jesus. “I have suffered many things in a dream because of Him.” Pilate’s wife knew that Jesus Christ had done nothing worthy of death.

Pilate asked the crowd again which prisoner he should release. The chief priests had already told the crowd what to say. “Barabbas!” they shouted.

“What shall I do then with Jesus, who is called Christ?” Pilate asked.

“Let him be crucified!” they all shouted.

Pilate asked the crowd what Jesus had done that was evil. But they did not want to talk. They just cried out even louder than before, “Let Him be crucified!”

Pilate washed his hands in front of the crowd as a sign to show that he was innocent of the blood of Jesus, who had not been found guilty of any charge. Then Pilate had Jesus flogged and delivered Him to be crucified.

- ▶ Why was Jesus taken to Pilate? **The chief priests and elders could not legally put Jesus to death. A death sentence could come only from the Roman governor.**
- 🕒 Why do you think Pilate was so surprised at Jesus’ silence? **Most people become angry when accused, but Jesus faced the charges with calmness and dignity.**
- ▶ What did Pilate find Jesus guilty of? **nothing**
- ▶ What made Pilate decide to go through with the death sentence? **The crowd demanded that Jesus be crucified.**

Point out that Jesus’ trials were inappropriate, unlawful, and unethical since they were not settled by the law, but rather by the opinions of Pilate, Herod, and the crowd. However, all of this was done according to God’s plan. Select a volunteer to read aloud **John 19:11**, reminding the students that God knows all things, and God gives rulers their authority over others. God chose to give Pilate authority over Jesus. The trials and their outcomes were all under God’s control. Direct the students’ attention to Chart 14 (“Masterwork: Mocking of Christ”) or the reproducible page from the Teacher’s Toolkit CD.

Soldiers took Jesus away for more jeers and abuse. They clothed Him with a scarlet robe. They wove a crown of thorns and put it on His head. They placed a staff in His hand like a king’s scepter and bowed to Him, mocking Him, calling out, “Hail, King of the Jews!” They spit on Him and beat Him on the head with the staff. The pain Jesus suffered, with His body already torn and bleeding from the flogging, must have been excruciating.

The soldiers put Jesus’ own clothing back on Him and led Him away to be crucified. They forced a man named Simon from the city of Cyrene to carry the cross for Jesus.

When they arrived at Golgotha, which means “the place of the skull,” they offered Jesus wine mixed with gall, but He

refused the bitter drink. They crucified Jesus along with two thieves, nailing His hands to the crossbeam and His feet to the upright post.

As God in the flesh, the shame and humiliation that Jesus endured on the cross cannot be measured. The soldiers cast lots to see who would get to keep His clothes, and then they sat and watched Him.

Those who walked by mocked and insulted Him. "He saved others, but He can't save Himself," they shouted. "If He really is the King of Israel, let Him come down from the cross, and we'll believe Him."

Above all, Jesus endured the shame of bearing the sins of the whole world. Darkness covered the earth for three hours in the middle of the day. Jesus experienced the indescribable agony of separation from His Father. About three o'clock in the afternoon, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

One who was watching got a sponge filled with vinegar and lifted it up to Jesus to drink.

Jesus cried out again, "It is finished!" and at the same time, He voluntarily yielded up His spirit. He had willingly borne the punishment for the sins of the world and died in our place. The price for our sins was paid.

When Christ died on the cross, some amazing things happened. The veil in the temple tore from top to bottom, symbolizing the free access to God that people now have through Christ. An earthquake split rocks in two. Graves opened, and many dead believers arose and walked around in Jerusalem, appearing to many people.

A Roman soldier who was standing guard and watching Jesus die felt the earth tremble underfoot and saw the rocks break open. The soldier was deeply frightened and said, "Truly this was the Son of God."

Name Above All Names

Matthew 27:1–54; Luke 23:1–25

Name _____



Jesus Christ is known by many names. Each name given to Him describes His authority, His character, or His actions. All of these names point to the deity of Christ and are names that are above every other name.

Write the letter of the word or name to complete each sentence.

E 1. Jesus called Himself the Son of _____. (Matt. 26:64).

F 2. _____. asked Jesus if He really was the King of the Jews (Matt. 27:2,11).

B 3. The crowd wanted _____ to be crucified (Matt. 27:22).

D 4. The soldiers called Jesus the _____ when they mocked Him (Matt. 27:29).

C 5. The chief priests, scribes, and elders called Jesus the _____ when they were mocking Him (Matt. 27:41–42).

G 6. Those who mocked Jesus said He called Himself the _____ (Matt. 27:43).

A 7. At Christ's death, the _____ realized Jesus was the Son of God (Matt. 27:54).

A. centurion

B. Jesus

C. King of Israel

D. King of the Jews

E. Man

F. Pilate

G. Son of God

H. blind man

Write the names of Jesus found in the verses in the order that they appear in the verses.

If the name is a title that describes His position of authority, circle the crown.

If the name describes His character, circle the heart.

If the name describes His actions, circle the hand.

Accept any reasonable answer.

If a name has more than one description symbol, circle all the symbols that apply for each name.

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Isaiah 9:6

Wonderful Counselor

Mighty God

Everlasting Father

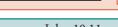
Prince of Peace



Revelation 19:16

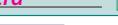
King of Kings

Lord of Lords



John 10:11

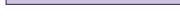
Shepherd



Luke 2:11

Savior

Christ the Lord



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in your life so that you can fellowship with Him and serve Him more? What changes will you make?

Challenge students to write down things that come to their minds right away. Encourage them to pray about these things, read God's Word to get instruction about them, and talk to a parent or a godly leader about this change and ask him to pray for them. Also suggest that the students ask this person to hold them accountable to keep growing in the Lord (2 Pet. 3:18; Phil. 2:13–14; 1 Tim. 4:7).

Masterwork: Mocking of Christ

Develop an appreciation of art. Read and discuss the information about the Masterwork and artist from Chart 14 ("The Mocking of Christ") or the reproducible page from the Teacher's Toolkit CD. Display Chart 14 for reference throughout the unit.

Timeline

Place the crucifixion and resurrection on the timeline. Select a student to attach the card for the crucifixion and resurrection (AD 30) to the large classroom timeline. Direct each student to glue the crucifixion/resurrection picture to his individual timeline.

Worktext page 197

Recall details about the Bible account and classify names of Jesus. The students may work together in pairs or groups to complete the bottom section of this page, or the teacher may

- Why did Jesus willingly allow Himself to suffer? **He did it out of obedience to His Father's will and out of love for us. It was necessary to pay the price for all our sins.**
- ◎ What was probably the most agonizing thing that Jesus endured for us on the cross? **separation from God, His Father**
- ◎ Why did God separate Himself from His Son as He died on the cross? **God cannot have any fellowship or part with sin. As Jesus hung on the cross, He took our sin on Himself and thus bore the curse of our sin. God in His holiness had to separate Himself from sin—and from His Son at that time.**
- ◎ What privileges have now been made possible for all people because of Jesus' death? **Possible answers include that we can have our sins forgiven and be made free from their power; we can have eternal life; we can come to God the Father in prayer and have perfect fellowship with Him; we can become Christlike in our thoughts, words, and actions; we can please God, obey Him, and bring Him joy.**
- ◎ Will knowing about God's hatred for sin cause you to want to change what you think about, say, and do?
- ◎ Knowing God's great desire to have you in His family and fellowship with you, are you willing to change anything

Sinless Suffering

1 Peter 2:21–23

Jesus showed us by His example that Christians should expect to suffer for their faith. It may be verbal insults or threats. It may be physical abuse, imprisonment, or even death. They should not be surprised when it happens. The world hates Jesus Christ, so if you are a Christian, you can expect the world to hate you as well. When facing suffering, you will also face the decision of how to respond to it. God's Word gives the answers by focusing on Jesus' response to suffering.

Read 1 Peter 2:21–23 and answer the questions.

- According to 2:21, what is one reason Christ suffered? **Answers will vary, to leave Christians an example of how they should suffer for Him**
- List two ways that Jesus suffered. **Possible answers include that He was slapped, beaten, and insulted.**
- How did Jesus respond when the people insulted and abused Him? **He did not threaten or insult those who were insulting and abusing Him.**
- How should a Christian respond when someone criticizes or insults him because of his faith in Jesus? **He should follow Christ's example.**

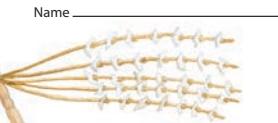
You might have heard about Christians in other countries who are suffering painful persecution for their faith in Christ. While not all Christians may suffer like these people, they will have many opportunities to stand firm and unashamed for their Savior.

Read each scenario, and write a response that would follow the example of Christ.

Scenario	A response that follows Christ's example ...
Denny invited three friends over to his house on Saturday. The boys wanted to order a pizza, so Denny stole money from his parents and bragged to his friends later in the evening. Because Erik loved God and wanted to be honest, he encouraged Denny to tell his parents what he did. Denny and his friends were angry with Erik and told him he would not be their friend anymore.	Erik should continue to be friendly to the boys but not compromise his biblical convictions.
Rene tried to tell her cousin, Maycee, about Jesus. Maycee didn't want to listen and changed the subject every time Rene brought it up. Rene heard Maycee tell her friends that Rene was weird. Rene wanted to help Maycee, but her feelings were hurt.	Rene should continue to pray for Maycee, show her Christ's love, and look for opportunities to talk to her about Christ.

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Did You Know?
The Jews limited a **scourging** or flogging to forty lashes, but the Romans did not have a set limit. The whip most often used was called a **flagellum**. A flagellum was made of several leather strips embedded with pieces of broken glass, bone, or metal. These sharp objects would grab and cut into the skin as the leather made contact. Often a scourging would cause death.

Faithful Follower

Introduce the Biography

Introduce James Gilmour. Show the students the maps or pictures of Mongolia (optional). Explain that the following story is about James Gilmour, a Scottish missionary to Mongolia from 1870 to 1891. Gilmour spent his life witnessing to the nomadic Mongols on the desert plains. Because of their deceived hearts, they clung to the false religion of Buddhism even though Gilmour faithfully taught them that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. Although Gilmour never baptized any Mongols, his faithfulness to his missionary calling and his love for the people have encouraged many Christians for well over a hundred years.

Teach for Understanding

Read or tell the following account based on the life of James Gilmour. Listening question: **What did not happen that you thought would happen after the people saw Mr. Gilmour's good Christian testimony? Nobody trusted Christ as a result of Mr. Gilmour speaking about Christ and showing Christ's love to them.**

Love from a Stranger

James Gilmour faced an unusual situation. A group of village people brought a critically wounded man to his home. "You claim to be a man of God. Help him," they demanded.

"I'm not a doctor," he said, "but I'll take a look at him."

He examined the man and saw that his leg was twisted and bleeding. "Not only do you have a bad wound," Mr. Gilmour told him, "but it looks like your bone is broken also."

The wounded man spoke with anger, "Those outlaws attacked and robbed me and then left me like this."

"That reminds me of a story in the Bible," Mr. Gilmour said. "One day a man was walking down the road when he was attacked by robbers. They beat him, took everything he had, and left him to die. After a while, another man passed by; but when he saw the wounded man lying in the road, the traveler crossed to the other side without stopping to help."

As Mr. Gilmour told the Bible story, he silently prayed, "Dear Lord, please help me. My influence as a missionary depends on the healing of this man. Please heal this man for Your glory."

While James was praying, another man entered, coughing heavily. "Please, sir," the man said between coughs, "I am very ill. I need help."

Mr. Gilmour could see that this man was very weak; his cheeks were hollow, his eyes sunken. "This man is a living skeleton," James thought to himself. "I can see nearly all of his bones."

Again he prayed, "Dear Lord, please give me wisdom. Show Yourself mighty on my behalf."

"You need some rest," he said to the coughing man. "Come, rest on my couch while I treat this other man." He led the man to the couch and wrapped a blanket around his shoulders.

lead a class discussion as the students complete the bottom section together. (*Note:* The point of this activity is to study the names of Christ; there are no wrong answers, but encourage students to give reasons for their choice of symbols.)

Worktext page 198

Develop further understanding of the memory verses and apply Bible knowledge to everyday life.

LESSON 134 Faithful Follower: James Gilmour

Materials

- Maps or pictures of Mongolia [O]

Music

Review the song and develop higher-order thinking skills by asking application questions.

Memory Verses: 1 Peter 2:21–23

Practice the memory verses. Locate and read aloud 1 Peter 2:21–23. Ask volunteers to recite the verses. Review any questions from Lessons 131–33.

What Does God Say About Being Angry?

Name _____



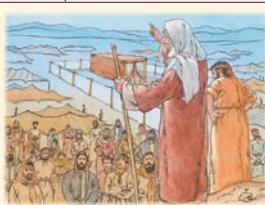
Have you ever been mad at somebody?

Anger is a powerful emotion. It is a strong feeling of displeasure when something does not go your way. Anger is a choice. No one can force you to become angry. Someone may do something that tempts you to get mad, but the choice to become angry is yours. Some people react with harsh words, others with silence, and still others with violence. Sinful anger leads to negative consequences.

After reading the verses, complete the chart with the negative consequences of sinful anger in the lives of these men.

Person	What reason is given for the anger?	What did his anger lead him to do?	What were the negative consequences of his sinful anger?
Cain Genesis 4:3–15	God did not accept Cain's offering. (Gen. 4:5)	Cain murdered his brother, Abel. (Gen. 4:8)	God cursed Cain. The land would not produce food for him, and he became a wanderer. (Gen. 4:11–12)
Asa 2 Chronicles 16:1–10	The seer said that God was displeased with Asa's actions. (2 Chron. 16:7–10)	Asa put the seer in prison and opposed some of the people. (2 Chron. 16:10)	Asa's land would be at war from then on. Asa suffered from a disease in his feet. (2 Chron. 16:9,12)

Not all anger is sinful. The Bible says that God is angry with sin (Ps. 7:11). Anger that is a result of seeing an injustice or wrong thing being done is known as **righteous anger**. Christians should imitate Christ in being angry about sin and its destruction, first in their own hearts, and in others' lives. However, the Bible also says that God is merciful and patient and that He is willing to forgive people's sins immediately when they confess them to Him.



Read the verses and complete the chart.

	Who felt righteous anger?	Why did he feel righteous anger?
Exodus 32:17–20	Moses	Moses was angry because the Israelites were worshiping the golden calf idol.
John 2:13–16	Jesus	Jesus was angry because people had turned the house of God into a marketplace to earn money.

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Something to Think About

Being Angry

Name _____



Christians must be controlled by the Spirit when something does not go their way. Anger that controls you and drives you to react with a lack of self-control is sin and is a direct result of pride in your heart. God's Word warns Christians about the dangers of sinful anger.

Read each verse and match the correct reference to the warning about people who allow themselves to react in sinful anger.

- C** 1. A person who gets angry will often do foolish things. A. Proverbs 29:22
A 2. An angry person causes problems and commits many sins. B. Proverbs 25:28
 C. Proverbs 14:17

Read the verses. Complete the statements to help you avoid sinful anger.

Ephesians 4:31–32

You must get rid of

bitterness and anger

Answers will vary.

James 1:19–20

Three things to remember when you are tempted to become angry are to

- (a) be **quick or swift** to listen,
 (b) be **slow** to speak,
 (c) be slow to **become angry**

You should remember this because anger does not **produce God's righteousness or a righteous life**

Proverbs 14:29
 Being slow to **anger**
 shows **understanding**,
 but the quick-tempered person shows
foolishness or folly

What About Me?

Take time at home to think about your reaction when faced with the choice to become angry. Ask God for help in overcoming sinful anger.



If you have trusted Christ as your Savior, Jesus satisfied God's wrath against your sin. Repent of the sins you commit day after day and ask for God's grace in the areas where you are tempted to sin.

What situations cause me to become angry?

How do I react when I am frustrated or irritated?

Do I need to confess the sin of anger to God?

Do I need to apologize to someone for my wrong behavior?

Is God pleased with my attitude toward sin?

200 Lesson 134

Redemption: God's Grand Design

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Mr. Gilmour returned to the injured man, who was now in great pain.

"Please," the injured man whispered, "do something!"

James looked at the wounded man's broken knee. Then he glanced over at the couch where the sick man lay. He walked over to the couch, bent down, and inspected the sick man's knee.

"What are you doing?" the sick man asked before another cough shook his body.

Mr. Gilmour replied, "I can see the prominent bone structure of your knee. If I can get this other patient's bone to match yours, it will be reset."

He walked back to the injured man and gently began working to reset the bone. The wounded man winced but did not protest.

After several tries, Mr. Gilmour was finally able to set the broken bone.

The man looked at his knee, then at Gilmour and said, "My leg is straight now. You are wonderful!"

James shook his head, saying, "It is God who will heal your leg; He gave me the wisdom I needed to help you."

As he went to get some cough medicine for the sick man, the other man said, "You never finished your story about the poor man who was beaten up and robbed by the bandits."

"Oh, you're right," James said. "But let me tell the first part to our other patient since he didn't hear the beginning." Mr. Gilmour told the first part to the sick man, and then he continued the story.

"Another man came along, but he didn't stop to help the wounded man either. He just kept walking on his way. Finally, a third man came by. This man was not of his tribe or of his people, but he loved God with all of his heart. When he saw the man lying by the side of the road, he put medicine on his wounds, bandaged them, put him on his own donkey, and took him to an inn where he could get better. He paid for the wounded man to stay in a room and to have a meal" (Luke 10:29–37).

The man with the set bone asked, "He did all that for a stranger?"

Mr. Gilmour nodded. "Yes, because he cared for him. The man who helped is called the 'Good Samaritan.'"

The man looked at his knee. "You did not know me; yet you helped me."

The sick man said, "You are not of our color, but you cared for our needs. You are a 'good smart man' too."

James chuckled. "Not a 'good smart man,'" he said, "but a 'Good Samaritan.'"

God used this incident as an opportunity for Mr. Gilmour to tell the Mongolian people about Christ's love. James had not studied medicine, but he knew how to rely on God's power for help—and he knew how to show love. The Mongolians saw the love of Jesus through a stranger who truly cared.



- ▶ What did Mr. Gilmour do before trying to treat either of the men? **He prayed for God's wisdom and help.**
- ▶ How did the Lord help Mr. Gilmour treat the injured man successfully? **He gave him the idea to look at the thin man's knee structure as an example to set the other man's bone correctly.**
- ▶ How did the Mongolians see the love of Christ in James Gilmour? **Like the Good Samaritan, Mr. Gilmour cared for their needs even though he was not like them, nor did he know them.**
- 💡 How would you describe James Gilmour? **Answers may vary: kind, dependent on God, prayerful, helpful, humble, and knowledgeable about the Bible.**
- 💡 What did not happen that you thought would happen after people saw Mr. Gilmour's good Christian testimony? **Nobody trusted Christ as a result of Mr. Gilmour's speaking about Christ and showing Christ's love to them.**
- 💡 What are some ways that Christians today can show Christ's love to strangers? **Answers will vary.**

Worktext pages 199–200

(Note: These pages may be saved for use with Lesson 135 to allow time for in-depth discussion.)

Develop a Christlike view of anger. Read page 199 and discuss examples of sinful anger and righteous anger.

Discuss sinful anger. Read page 200 and discuss the warnings to people who have sinful anger and ways you can avoid sinful anger. Encourage the students to read the “What About Me?” section at home and think about their reactions.

LESSON

135

Unit 8a Activity

Materials

- Chart 24 (“God’s Word—Paul’s Letters”)
- Bible book cards (Paul’s Letters)
- Dictionary

Preview Background Information

All of the following are letters that Paul wrote to churches.

Romans (The Righteousness of God)

Romans tells how God declares a believing sinner to be righteous through the merits of the Lord Jesus, who paid the complete penalty by Himself on the cross.

1 Corinthians (Conduct in the Church)

First Corinthians was written to the believers in Corinth. Paul wanted those Christians to beware of the wickedness that was around them and not to take part in it.

2 Corinthians (The Heart of Paul)

This is actually the fourth letter in a series of four to the church in Corinth. Paul again was encouraging the believers to not listen to false teachers but to honor God by doing what is right.

Galatians (Law or Grace)

Paul stresses the importance of understanding that the gospel should not be mixed with human ideas. The grace of God is what saves, not a person’s efforts to keep the law of God. After salvation, the power of the Spirit brings sanctification.

Ephesians (Blessings in Christ)

In the first half of this book, Paul tells about the spiritual blessings believers have in Christ. In the second half, he explains how the blessings of belonging to Christ should change the way Christians live their everyday lives.

Activity

Review Paul’s Letters. Select students to read each book name and theme from Worktext page 280, “God’s Word—Paul’s Letters.” Share the background information for Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, and Ephesians (optional).

Practice the sequence of these books. Display the Bible book cards. Divide the students into teams and ask questions such as the following:

- ▶ Which book comes before?
- ▶ Which book comes after?

Award points for correct answers. Display Chart 24 (“God’s Word—Paul’s Letters”) for reference and review.

Direct a word study. Write for display the six verbs in the chart below or give each student a copy of the chart. (Copies may be printed out from the TE Tables section of the Teacher’s Toolkit CD.) Assign each word to a student to look up, inviting him to read the definition aloud. Students should write a short definition or a synonym in the definition column. Explain that the noun form of each word has *-tion* at the end. Write the noun forms in the appropriate column or direct the students to do so.

Verb Form	Definition	Noun Form	Reference
<i>propitiate</i>	to satisfy anger	propitiation	Romans 3:25
<i>justify</i>	to declare righteous	justification	Romans 5:9
<i>purify</i>	to cleanse	purification	1 John 1:7
<i>redeem</i>	to buy back	redemption	Ephesians 1:7
<i>reconcile</i>	to make peace	reconciliation	Colossians 1:20
<i>sanctify</i>	to make holy	sanctification	Hebrews 13:12

Explain that each one of these acts is offered to sinners through trusting in the death and resurrection of Christ. Assign the verses to students in random order. Instruct each student to read a verse aloud and tell which of the words is discussed in that verse.

The Power Revealed

Unit 8b

PREVIEW

Doctrines

- 136: Christ rose from the dead (resurrection) (1 Cor. 15:3–8).
- 137: The Bible is accurate in its prophecy (Num. 23:19).

Skills and Applications

- Learn 1 Peter 2:24–25
- Recognize Christ's fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy
- Realize that the work of Christ makes redemption possible for all people
- Realize that Christ's resurrection makes a Christian's resurrection possible
- Understand the Christian's responsibility to tell the gospel to others
- Develop a Christ-centered view of personal abilities
- Learn to use personal abilities to glorify God
- Identify characters
- Recall facts and details
- Read a timeline
- Apply Bible knowledge to everyday life

LESSON

136

The Greatest Story

Music

Review the song and develop higher-order thinking skills by asking application questions.

Memory Verses: 1 Peter 2:24–25

Principle: Christ took our sins on Himself so that we can live righteously. Locate and read aloud 1 Peter 2:21–25 as the students read silently.

- What words or phrases describe the kind of life a believer should live now that Christ has borne his sin? **dead to sins; righteous**
- What is an unsaved person's life like before he comes to Christ through salvation? **like a sheep wandering away**
- What is a Christian's relationship to Christ? **Christ is the Shepherd and Bishop (guardian or overseer) of his soul.**

Direct the students to locate **Isaiah 53:5–6**; then select a volunteer to read the verses aloud. Point out that in **1 Peter 2:24–25**, Peter is referring to verses in **Isaiah 53**. Read the memory verses together; then direct the students to mark the location with their Unit 8 bookmarks and to highlight the verses in their Bibles (optional).

Bible Account

Preview Background Information

Joseph of Arimathea

Joseph was a member of the Sanhedrin but did not agree with the group's decision to crucify Jesus (**Luke 23:50–51**). Matthew includes the detail that Joseph was a rich man, showing the fulfillment of the prophecy in **Isaiah 53:9** that Christ's grave would be that of a rich man. **John 19:39** records that Nicodemus helped Joseph with the burial, bringing a generous supply of expensive spices.

Christ's Tomb

The book of Matthew tells us that the tomb Christ's body was placed in was a new one owned by Joseph of Arimathea. It was probably a typical expensive tomb of that day, cut out of rock, with a broad front chamber and a low passage leading back to the burial place. The stone might have been a boulder rolled in front of the opening or a specially cut round slab that sealed the burial chamber. Scholars have estimated that the stone weighed as much as two thousand pounds, making it very difficult to move (**Matt. 27:66**). The tomb was possibly also sealed with a strong rope and the official wax seal of the Roman government.

The First Day of the Week

The Jews set aside the seventh day of the week, the Sabbath (Saturday), as their special day to worship God. Sunday has become the day for Christians to conduct worship services because Jesus rose from the dead on a Sunday morning (**Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2**).

Introduce the Bible Account

Discuss tombstones.

- ❖ Have you ever walked through a cemetery and read the tombstones? What kinds of things are carved on tombstones? Possible answers include the person's name, the years of his birth and death, something memorable about the person, or a verse of Scripture.
- ❖ What part of a person is actually in the grave? just the body—the shell that housed the person's soul when he was alive

Teach for Understanding

Read Matthew 27:55–28:20 or use the following retelling of the passage. Listening question: What promise did Christ give to His disciples? He said He would be with them until the end of the world.

The Greatest Story

A few of the women who had followed Jesus during His three-year ministry stood a distance away from the cross, watching. Many questions must have been going through their minds. Jesus Christ, the one they had trusted and who had preached to them about the kingdom of God, was dead. They probably wondered how Jesus could help them now that He was dead. Although Christ had often talked to His disciples about His death, most people had not understood what He meant.

That evening Joseph of Arimathea, a member of the Sanhedrin, who was a follower of Jesus, went to Pilate. Joseph was a rich man who owned a new tomb. He asked Pilate for Jesus' body. Pilate agreed, and Joseph wrapped Christ's body in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own tomb. Then after a large stone was put in place to close the tomb, he left.

The next day, the chief priests and the Pharisees came to Pilate and said, "Sir, we remember that while He was still alive, that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.'" They asked Pilate to give orders that the grave be securely guarded so that no one could steal the body and claim that Jesus had risen.

Pilate agreed to allow them to make the gravesite as secure as they could. The men went to the tomb, sealed it, and posted watchmen to guard it.

The Sabbath passed, and the first day of the new week began to dawn. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary, the mother of James and Jesus, came early in the morning to visit the grave. An amazing sight met their eyes. A great earthquake had occurred when an angel came down from heaven and rolled the stone away from the tomb. The angel was now sitting on the stone. His appearance was as bright as lightning, and his clothing was white as snow. The guards had been so frightened that they had fainted.

"Don't be afraid," the angel said to the women. "I know that you want to see Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here because He has risen, as He said He would. Come, see the place where the Lord lay."

The angel told the women to tell Jesus' disciples that He had risen from the dead and would meet them in Galilee. The women ran to tell the good news with fear and great joy.

Jesus Himself met them on the way and greeted them. Imagine their joy at seeing the risen Savior! They knelt on the ground and grasped His feet in worship.

"Do not be afraid," Jesus said to them. "Go, tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

Meanwhile the men who had been guarding the tomb got over their fear and went to the chief priests to explain what had happened. The priests gave them money and told them to lie about what had happened. "Tell people that His disciples came at night and stole the body while you were sleeping," they commanded.

The men took the money and spread that lie among the Jews. But Christ's followers had the greatest story of all time to tell—the true account.

Later, Christ met with His eleven faithful disciples on a mountain in Galilee. He told them that because He had all authority in heaven and in earth, they should go "and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" (**Matt. 28:19**). They were to follow that up by teaching the new converts to observe all the things Christ had commanded them. Then He gave them a wonderful promise. He said, "I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen" (**28:20**).

-
- ❖ How do you think Christ's disciples felt after His death? sad, confused, frightened, disappointed
 - What did the angel and Christ tell the women to do? to not be afraid and to go tell the disciples that they would see Christ in Galilee
 - ❖ Why do you think the chief priests refused to believe in Christ after they found out that He had risen? Answers may vary.
- Explain that the hearts of the high priests had been hardened by their continual rejection of Jesus as the Messiah.
- ❖ Why do you think people today refuse to trust Christ? Unsaved people's hearts are deceived and hardened by their sin. Sometimes disobedient Christians further turn their hearts away from the truth.

Lost Sheep

1 Peter 2:24–25

Name _____

We deserve to die for our sins. We can do nothing on our own to gain salvation. Jesus Christ willingly took our sins on Himself and died on the cross. Because Jesus died for your sin, the price has been paid. If you have not yet trusted Christ as your Savior, you are now faced with the choice of either trusting Him or rejecting Him. *What will you do?*

Read 1 Peter 2:24–25 and answer the questions.

1. What does it mean that Jesus bore your sins in His body? ***Jesus took my sins on Himself when He went to the cross.***
2. According to 2:24, why did Jesus die? ***so that we could live for righteousness***
3. What animal are we compared to? ***sheep***

Sheep are very needy. They are totally dependent on their shepherd to lead them to good pasture, to find clean water, and to protect them from storms and wild animals. Sheep cannot even get up on their own if they turn themselves over on their backs. Interestingly, the Bible often refers to people as *sheep* in need of a loving and merciful Shepherd.



Think about how sheep need a shepherd. Think about how people need a Shepherd. Complete the comparisons. In the last row, write your own comparison between people and sheep. **Answers will vary.**

Sheep need a shepherd to protect them from wild animals.	↔	People need protection from <i>spiritual danger.</i>
Sheep need <i>grass to eat and a place to sleep.</i>	↔	People need a Shepherd to provide food and shelter for them.
Sheep need a shepherd to find and save them when they get lost from the flock.	↔	People need to be saved from <i>wandering from the Lord.</i>
Sheep need _____	↔	People need _____

Redemption: God's Grand Design

Lesson 136 **201**

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Miraculous Resurrection

Matthew 27:55–28:20

Name _____

Match the correct person to each action.

- | | | |
|----------|-----------------------------|---|
| D | 1. Joseph of Arimathea | A. paid the guards money to lie about Jesus' resurrection |
| F | 2. Mary Magdalene | B. met with Jesus on the mountain in Galilee |
| H | 3. an angel | C. met the women on their way into Jerusalem |
| E | 4. Pilate | D. buried Jesus in his tomb |
| B | 5. the disciples | E. gave permission for the tomb to be sealed |
| G | 6. the guards | F. went to Jesus' grave to look at the tomb |
| C | 7. Jesus | G. spread the lie that the disciples had stolen Jesus' body |
| A | 8. chief priests and elders | H. sat on the stone that was rolled away from the tomb |

Describe what the following people might have been like when Jesus died. **Answers will vary.**

9. the disciples: ***confused, discouraged, worried, fearful, sad, broken-hearted***
10. the chief priests and Pharisees: ***relieved, glad, prideful***

Describe what the same people might have been like after Jesus arose.

11. the disciples:

happy, ecstatic, confident in their Savior, full of faith, excited

12. the chief priests and Pharisees:

scared, confused, fearful, unsure, full of disbelief



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Describe what the death and resurrection of Jesus means to you. Have you thanked God for Jesus' resurrection?



For me, the death and resurrection of Jesus means . . .

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Redemption: God's Grand Design

In Western culture today, a day is considered to begin at midnight. In New Testament times, the beginning of a new day and the change of date differed according to the region.

In the province of Galilee, the new day began at 6:00 a.m., at sunrise. Matthew, Mark, and Luke followed this method of determining the day of the week when they wrote their Gospels because most of the events they recorded took place in and around Galilee. However, the Jews of Judea considered sunset as the beginning of the new day; therefore, for them the date did not change until 6:00 p.m. John followed the Judean method of reckoning dates in his Gospel because Judea was the setting for most of the events he wrote about. This explains the seeming inconsistencies in the times of events.

A modern-day example of differences in time measurement would occur between different time zones as people try to explain what time an incident occurred. For example, on September 11, 2001, the first plane crashed into the World Trade Center at 8:46 a.m. in New York City. But at a school in London, England, a teacher might have told her students that the attack occurred at 1:46 p.m. Both times are accurate, but the clock readings are different because of the different time zones.

For further study see the book *Chronological Aspects of the Life of Christ* by Harold Hoehner.

History Connection (optional)

Explain the differences in reckoning dates during the time of Christ and discuss why Christians worship on Sunday. Read the following information to the students.

Fulfilled Prophecy
Bible Study Name _____

Read the verses to discover the prophecies about the arrest, crucifixion, and resurrection of Jesus. Complete the chart.

Old Testament Reference	Prophecy	New Testament Fulfillment
Zechariah 11:12	Jesus would be betrayed for thirty pieces of silver.	Matthew 26:15
Zechariah 11:13	The money would be returned and used to purchase a potter's field.	Matthew 27:5–7
Psalm 27:12	<i>False witnesses would accuse Jesus.</i>	Matthew 26:59–60
Isaiah 53:7	<i>Jesus would be silent when accused.</i>	Matthew 26:62–63
Isaiah 50:6	<i>Jesus would be beaten and spat on.</i>	Matthew 26:67; 27:30

Psalm 22:18	Jesus' enemies would cast lots and divide His clothing among themselves.	Matthew 27:35
Isaiah 53:12	Jesus would be numbered with transgressors (the thieves) in His death, and He would bear the sins of many.	Matthew 27:38
Psalm 69:21	<i>Jesus would be given gall and vinegar.</i>	Matthew 27:34, 48
Psalm 22:1	<i>Jesus would be forsaken by His Father during His death.</i>	Matthew 27:46
Psalm 34:20	<i>Jesus would not have any of His bones broken.</i>	John 19:33

Psalm 16:10	<i>Jesus would be raised from the dead.</i>	Matthew 28:5–7
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Redemption: God's Grand Design Lesson 137 203

Memory Verses: 1 Peter 2:24–25

Practice the memory verses. Locate and read aloud 1 Peter 2:24–25. Instruct the students to make two columns on a piece of paper with the headings **Christ** and **Me**. Direct them to write the words as shown in each column.

Christ	Me
Holy	List specific sins that you have committed in the past or are still struggling with today (e.g., selfishness, pride, disobedience to parents, unkindness to brothers and sisters, lying, and fearfulness).
Perfect	
Pleasing to God	
Pure	
Righteous	

After the students have made their lists, read the memory verses aloud again and instruct the students to switch the headings of the two columns. Explain that this “switch” is what Jesus accomplished on the cross. He bore our sins—all the sins of our past, present, and future—in His own body. If we believe on Jesus Christ, He cleanses us from all sin, and God gives us His own perfect righteousness; then when God looks at us, He sees us as righteous.

• Why is Christ called the Shepherd and Bishop (Overseer, Guardian) of the Christian's soul? **He owns Christians and guides them into righteousness.**

• How do you feel about that?

Bible Study

Introduce the Bible Study

Discuss fulfilled prophecy. Read Luke 24:44–46 aloud. Explain that Jesus said this to His eleven disciples as they met together after His resurrection. Tell them that this study will point out a few of the references to Christ's death and resurrection in Old Testament prophecy and show their fulfillment in the New Testament accounts.

Teach for Understanding

Study Old Testament prophecies about Christ's death and resurrection. Direct the students' attention to Worktext page 203. Direct the reading of the Old Testament reference and the corresponding New Testament reference. Discuss the prophecies given and fulfilled for Christ's arrest, crucifixion, and resurrection. Discuss the prophecies to complete the chart on Worktext page 203 together.

• What do these fulfilled prophecies teach you about God's character? **Possible answers include that God knows everything, He has always planned a way of salvation for sinners, He keeps His promises, and He is completely trustworthy.**

Encourage the students to spend a few moments in silent prayer, thanking God for fulfilling His Word and providing His Son to be our Savior.

Worktext page 203

Compare verses to see prophecies fulfilled by Christ.

LESSON

137

Prophecies Fulfilled

Music

Review the song and develop higher-order thinking skills by asking application questions.

Hero of the Faith: Samson Occom

Materials

- Timeline and picture of Samson Occom

Music

Review the song and develop higher-order thinking skills by asking application questions.

Memory Verses: 1 Peter 2:24–25

Practice the memory verses. Choose a student to read aloud 1 Peter 2:24–25.

- ❖ What are some biblical examples of people whose lives changed toward righteousness after they believed in God and trusted in Him for righteousness? What are some of the righteous things they did? **Zachaeus repaid those he stole from; Paul stopped persecuting Christians and preached the gospel; the Philippian jailer introduced the gospel to his household through Paul's preaching and took care of Paul and Silas; Onesimus, the runaway slave, returned to his owner (Philemon) with a letter from Paul.**
- ❖ Who are some people you know who are an encouragement to you by their righteous living?
- ❖ Is there a specific way you can be more of an encouragement as a good testimony of God's power to your family or to your friends?

Ask for volunteers to recite the first part of the passage (2:21–23), the second part (2:24–25), and then finally the whole passage (2:21–25).

Hero of the Faith: Samson Occom

Introduce the Biography

Introduce Samson Occom. Explain that the Lord Jesus commanded His disciples to go into all the world and preach the gospel. Christ expects His followers to continue spreading the gospel story throughout the world today.

In the 1700s, the Lord worked in an unusual way in the United States to bring many people to Himself. This period is called the Great Awakening. George Whitefield and Jonathan Edwards were two of the preachers that God used in a significant way. During that time the Lord saved a Native American named Samson Occom and burdened his heart to take the gospel to his own people—the Mohegan tribe. Occom's experiences took him to places he had never dreamed of going, and his life was a testimony of God's ability to bring a soul from darkness to light.

Teach for Understanding

Read or tell the following first-person account of Samson Occom's life. Listening question: What did Samson want to start doing right away after trusting Christ? **telling the gospel to others**

All Things Through Christ

My father, Joshua, was a great hunter. He and my mother, Sarah, carefully followed our Mohegan customs and religion. I grew up wandering from place to place as we hunted and fished for a living. I followed my parents' way of life until I was seventeen.

I was converted to Christ during the Great Awakening. Right away I wanted to tell everyone the gospel of salvation from eternal suffering. But if I was going to be the religious teacher of my tribe, I would need to learn how to read and study the Bible for myself.

The search for a teacher began. My mother heard about a preacher named Eleazar Wheelock and requested two weeks of teaching for me.

Mr. Wheelock had plans to start a school and formally teach Native Americans. He believed that through education, he could help us. I was his experiment, and I tried to learn as much of the Bible as I could.

After four years, I had to stop studying because of health problems. My eyes bothered me, so I couldn't read much at one time. I went to a village and started teaching the people there the Word of God.

I received a letter, telling me of a tribe that was looking for a pastor. I was privileged to be a missionary to those people for twelve years.

From 1766 to 1768, I was in England with Nathaniel Whitaker. We were Wheelock's representatives to raise funds for the Indian Charity School. I was firsthand proof of what an education could accomplish. Sometimes homesickness would overwhelm me, but I became the first Native American to preach to a European audience. We raised a lot of money for the school, which eventually relocated and became Dartmouth College.

Back in America, I had many troubles financially, but God took care of my family and me. I was the first Native American to write for publication in English and the first to write hymns. But the most important thing I had published was "A Sermon Preached at the Execution of Moses Paul."

Moses Paul, who was a Native American from my tribe, was sentenced to be hanged for killing a man during a drunken fight. I was asked to preach a sermon on his execution day. Hundreds of Native Americans and white people came to hear me preach. I warned them about the dangers of alcohol. I focused on sin and its consequences and eternal life as the gift of God through Jesus Christ.

Through Christ, I did overcome my circumstances, people's low expectations, and my failures. I wanted to be an example to others of Christ's love. Without Christ, we can do nothing, but we can do all things through Christ who strengthens His followers.

- **What did Samson Occom know he had to do if he was to be the religious teacher of his people? **read and study the Bible for himself****

Hero of the Faith

Samson Occom 1723–92



When Samson Occom was seventeen, he wanted to learn as much as he could about God and His Word, but he faced many obstacles. He was Mohegan (a Native American), and the English-speaking people did not readily accept him. Reverend Eleazar Wheelock believed that he could help Native Americans through education. Occom studied under Wheelock, but after four years, he had to stop his studies because of poor eyesight. In spite of his handicap, Occom went as a missionary to other Native Americans.

Occom ministered to the Montauk people for over twelve years. He served the Montauk as their preacher, teacher, counselor, doctor, and judge. Many times he barely had enough money to buy food for his family. He had to hunt, fish, and make wooden spoons and pails to bring in a meager income.



Name _____

Samson Occom heard about a Native American church that was in need of a pastor among the Oneidas in New York. While traveling to the church, a smallpox epidemic prevented him from going further. Occom observed the people in New York City coming and going—filling the day with busyness. Drunks staggered in the streets. People cursed—profaning God's holy name. He had never seen such wickedness among English people.

Occom determined to always be an example of Christ's love to everyone he met.

Samson Occom suffered while serving Native Americans, but he was able to reach many with the gospel. He was the first Native American to speak to a European congregation, to write hymns, and to write for publication. He paved the way for acceptance of Native Americans among European Americans.



Answer the questions.

1. What did Samson Occom do when his plans to pastor a church in New York among the Oneidas were blocked?

He observed the wickedness of people, and he determined to be an example of Christ's love to everyone he met.

2. What should you do when your plans to serve God seem to be blocked?

Possible answers include asking God what He wants you to do and finding other opportunities to serve God.

3. How can you be an example of Christ's love?

Accept any reasonable answer.

- What were some of the difficulties Occom experienced? **eye problems, financial troubles**
- What opportunities did God give Occom as a result of his time spent in study and preparation? **Possible answers include that he preached to a village; he traveled and preached in England; he wrote hymns.**
- How can Christians today make it through the difficult circumstances that come into their lives as they try to follow Christ? **Christ will help them; they can do all that God wants them to do through His strength.**
- Why do some people have a difficult time truly accepting people of a different culture? **Possible answers include that they feel awkward not knowing how to relate to them.** Read aloud Philippians 2:2–5 and discuss what your reactions should be toward others.
- Right away after Samson trusted Christ as Savior, he wanted to start telling others the gospel. Why do you think he wanted to do that? **(Answers may vary.) He now had life and light. He wanted to honor God by letting everybody know about how great and wonderful God is, and to let everybody know the joy and fulfillment he received in knowing Christ. He was a new person with a new mission.**
- Is the immediate desire Samson had to tell others the gospel natural? **yes**

Not everybody is meant to seek Christian service as full-time employment, but all those who trust Christ should have the

Christ, Our Redeemer

Name _____

God's Word reminds Christians of the wonderful gift of redemption through Jesus Christ. His death on the cross provides salvation from sin and eternal fellowship with God. Such a gift is priceless!

Read each verse and complete the sentence.

1. Isaiah 44:6 The Lord says He is the first _____ and the last _____. There is no _____ God beside Him.

2. Psalm 107:2 The redeemed _____ of the Lord should say so.

3. Romans 3:24 Christians are justified as a gift _____ by God's grace _____ through redemption by Jesus Christ _____.

4. Psalm 19:14 Our words and our thoughts should be acceptable/pleasing _____ in God's sight.

5. Ephesians 1:7 Christians have redemption and forgiveness _____

through Jesus' blood _____.

6. Psalm 49:15 God will redeem Christians' souls/lives _____ from the power _____ of the grave because He will receive them.

7. Hebrews 9:12b By His own _____ blood Jesus entered the (most) holy place _____ to obtain eternal redemption for us.

8. Job 19:25a Christians know _____ that their Redeemer lives _____.

9. Which of the above statements means the most to you? Underline it, and explain why in the space below.



desire to serve Christ in their vocations and tell others about salvation (Col. 3:22–23; Phil. 2:13; 2 Cor. 5:15, 17).

Timeline

Place Samson Occom on the timeline. Select a student to attach the card for Samson Occom (1723–92) to the large classroom timeline. Direct students to glue Samson Occom's picture to their individual timelines.

Worktext page 303 (optional)

Hero of the Faith: Samson Occom.

Worktext page 204

Complete sentences from Bible verses about God and the Christian's salvation. Write about a significant statement.

Never the Same Again

Music

Review the song and develop higher-order thinking skills by asking application questions.

Memory Verses: 1 Peter 2:24–25

Review the memory verses. Locate 1 Peter 2:21–25 and select a volunteer to read the verses aloud. Allow several volunteers to recite the passages (2:21–23 and 2:24–25) together.

Ask volunteers to restate individual verses in their own words.

Application Story

Introduce the Application Story

Discuss following God's will.

- How do Christians find out what God wants them to do with their lives? Possible answers include reading the Bible, praying, listening to godly counsel, and obeying their parents.

Remind the students that the Bible gives us all of the basic principles that we need to obey God. But God also promises to direct our steps if we trust Him to show us His plan and determine to obey it. Select students to read aloud **Proverbs 3:1–6** and **Psalm 37:5**. Explain that the following is the true story of how one young man discovered God's plan for his life when he began to obey.

Teach for Understanding

Read or tell the following true story. Listening question: What happened when Matt stopped making excuses and obeyed the Lord? **The Lord used him to lead nearly fifty boys to Christ that summer.**

Never the Same Again

Matt turned over on his bunk, trying to go to sleep. But sleep was impossible. "Here I am," he thought, "with all these boys in this cabin. Thirteen of them, and it's very possible that none of them have trusted Christ! What should I do?"

Matt was spending his summer doing maintenance work at a camp before his freshman year of college. There were only a few weeks left in the summer, and the regular camp schedule was over. All the counselors and staff had gone home except for Matt. Now the campground was being used by the State Patrol for training a group of sixth-grade boys to be captains of the safety patrol. "I'm just supposed to sleep here in the cabin with them at night, not tell them about Christ," Matt thought, staring towards the dark ceiling. "And besides, I'm not very good at preaching like some guys are. I should probably just stick to cutting the grass and working with the horses." But he couldn't stop thinking about those boys who might never have a chance to hear about Jesus Christ and end up in hell.

The next day, Matt talked to the camp director. "Hey, it's not really right for me to give these boys the gospel, is it?" he asked. "I mean, they're just here for this training program."

"Go ahead and talk to them," the camp director said.

The opportunity came the next evening. Before saying good night to the boys and turning off the light, Matt said, "Look, I had something really great happen to me with God a long time ago. If you'd like to hear more about it, meet me behind the cabin tomorrow afternoon at two o'clock."

The next day Matt walked toward the cabin, not expecting any of the boys to come. To his surprise, a large group of boys appeared over the rise of the hill just before two o'clock. He counted them as they came toward him—one, two . . . five . . . nine . . . thirteen! "Lord, help me. I don't know what to say," Matt prayed.

The boys sat down with Matt in a circle in the grass. His throat was dry, and his hands shook a little as he opened his Bible. But he began to tell them about Christ. When he asked how many of them wanted to trust Christ for salvation, all thirteen of them raised their hands! "Wow, can this really be happening?" Matt wondered. He explained the plan of salvation again just to be sure they understood. That day, twelve of them trusted Jesus Christ. The thirteenth boy wanted to be sure of his salvation. Through the rest of the week, Matt and the boys gathered behind the cabin each afternoon, and he told them important things they needed to know about being Christians. "You need to read your Bible and pray every day," he told them. "In fact, you need to do that throughout the day, as much as you can. And when you go back home, you need to tell your friends and families what Christ has done for you. You'll be so glad."

When the next week came, a new group of boys arrived to stay with Matt in his cabin. Once again, he obeyed God, and God used him to lead many of them to Christ. By the end of the summer, nearly fifty boys had trusted Christ as their Savior. All because Matt did what he knew he should do.

A few weeks later, Matt sat with his father in the car outside the college dorm. "Dad," he said, "what happened at camp has really changed my life. I don't think I'll ever be the same again." He glanced out the window and swallowed hard. "I was going to study business in college." Then after a pause he continued. "And you know how I am, how I'm scared to death to speak in front of people. But—well, after getting to tell all those boys about Christ this past summer—I can't get excited about doing anything else. I think the Lord wants me to do that for the rest of my life."

Matt decided to major in Bible at college, and then he became a pastor. Though all Christians should be busy telling others the gospel, God used that experience to direct Matt into his life's calling.

- What excuses did Matt make at first for not telling the boys in his cabin about Christ? **Sharing the gospel was not his responsibility at the camp; the boys had come to camp for training, not to hear the gospel; he was not good at preaching.**

What Does God Say About My Abilities?

Name _____



You are miraculously designed.

God created you with a unique personality and set of abilities. As you look around and notice other people's talents, you may feel like you missed out. It might seem like everyone else is smarter, more athletic, or more musical than you are. Do not be deceived! Do not waste your time comparing yourself to someone else. God knew you before you were born, and He has given you everything you need to serve Him!

Read Psalm 139:13–16. Use these verses to complete the statements to describe to someone how much God knows about and cares for him.

1. **139:13** God created you and knew who you were when you were still in your mother's womb.
2. **139:14** We are each fearfully and wonderfully made by God.
3. **139:14** We know that God does marvelous or wonderful works.
4. **139:16** Everything about you was written in God's book before you were born.

You are responsible for how you use your God-given abilities.

Christians should want to bring glory to God in every area of their lives. As you make choices about the activities you want to be involved in, remember to make time to develop skills that will be useful in God's service in the future.

Read the verses and match them to the correct statements about your God-given abilities.

- C** 5. 1 Peter 4:10
A 6. Colossians 3:23–24
B 7. Ephesians 4:12

- A. God gave me gifts to bring Himself glory.
 B. God gave me gifts to build up the body of Christ.
 C. God gave me gifts to serve others.

Beware of pride!

Satan would love to distract you from glorifying God by focusing your attention on your own abilities. There are two extremes that might describe you.

- (a) You might think that you are very talented and enjoy letting others see your special ability. This shows a proud heart!
 - (b) You might know that you have a certain talent, but you are too embarrassed to use it in public because of what others might say, or too scared to try because you might fail. This attitude shows that you are more concerned about what others think about you than what God tells you to do. This also shows a proud heart!
- Do not be deceived! Be grateful for the abilities that God has given to you and do your best to please Him by taking every opportunity to use them because you love Him.

Read the verses and complete the statements.

8. **Matthew 6:1** A Christian's purpose for using his abilities should not be to be seen by other people.
9. **2 Peter 1:3** God gives us everything we need for life and godliness.

Redemption: God's Grand Design

Lesson 139 **205**

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Something to Think About

My Abilities

Name _____



What is your definition of "success"?

Fame? Popularity? Prosperity? Straight As? The world believes that success is getting something you want, no matter what it is. The world tells us that we should dream about what we want, set high goals, work hard, and proudly enjoy the satisfaction that comes from achieving our goals. You probably noticed as you read the last sentence how selfish the world's focus is. True success does not come from getting what you want. True success is finding out what God created you to do and focusing all your energy on becoming the person God wants you to be.

Read the following list of abilities and circle the ones you believe God has given to you (even if you are not very good at it yet). Write in the blanks other strengths you have that are not listed.

Answers will vary.

Playing ball	Singing	Playing a musical instrument	Running fast
Making friends	Fixing things	Speaking in front of others	Gymnastics
Being a leader	Acting	Getting good grades in math	Making things
Swimming	Drawing	Speaking a foreign language	Speed reading
Painting	Cooking	Encouraging other Christians	Organizing

Choose two of your abilities and write how they can be used for God's glory.

Talent/Ability	One way this ability could be used to glorify God

What About Me?

What is your motive? Why do you want to do your best? What drives you to achieve? Sadly, many Christians have gotten caught up in the pursuit of selfish ambitions that will never make them happy. They may be working hard to do their best, but their motives are wrong. While Christians should make every effort to work hard and do their best, their motives are different from the world's. *A Christian should desire to honor God by faithfully using his gifts to bring glory to God, not to himself.*

Take time at home to think about and answer the following questions. **Answers will vary.**

What is my motive for doing my best?	<input type="checkbox"/> I want to impress other people with my abilities. <input type="checkbox"/> I want to glorify God with my abilities. <input type="checkbox"/> I want to feel good about myself.
What am I doing with the gifts God has given to me?	<input type="checkbox"/> I try to get out of using them as much as possible. <input type="checkbox"/> I concentrate on only one skill that I like the most. <input type="checkbox"/> I look for opportunities to practice and improve all my skills.
What is my attitude toward the abilities God has given to me?	<input type="checkbox"/> My abilities are not as important as someone else's. <input type="checkbox"/> I wish that God had given me different abilities than the ones I have. <input type="checkbox"/> I am learning to be thankful for the unique abilities God has given me.

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Redemption: God's Grand Design

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- What happened when Matt stopped making excuses and obeyed the Lord? **The Lord used him to lead nearly fifty boys to Christ that summer.**
 - What change did Matt's experience make in his heart? **He believed that God was directing him to become a pastor and spend the rest of his life telling others about Christ.**
 - Who are God's children? **all who have trusted Christ as Savior**
 - Who does God command to tell others about Him and His offer of salvation? **all Christians (Matt. 28:19–20; 2 Cor. 5:15).**
 - Do you think that soulwinning (explaining the gospel to others) is a spiritual gift that only some Christians have? **Answers may vary, but soulwinning is not a gift for only some Christians. It is a command to all Christians.**
 - Read Psalm 40:8 and 119:47. What should a Christian's attitude be toward obedience and God's Word? **delight**
 - Read John 4:24 and 8:29. What was Christ's attitude toward obedience to His Father? **His very purpose was to do what God wanted Him to do and to please His Father.**
 - Will all soulwinners become pastors; does God want all people to become pastors? **no**
- Encourage the students to think about the following questions.
- **What excuses do you make for not telling the gospel of Christ to others?**

- **What opportunities has the Lord given you recently to explain the gospel, and what are you doing with those opportunities?**
- **Of the three people involved in every witnessing opportunity (Christ, you, and the other person), who is the most important? Christ Who is the second most important? the other person Who is the least important person? me**

Worktext pages 205–6

(Note: These pages may be used with Lesson 140 to allow time for in-depth discussion.)

Develop a Christlike view of your abilities. Read page 205 and discuss what God says about how He made each person. Select volunteers to read aloud the Scripture passages. Ask appropriate questions about the two ways they show a proud heart.

Make a personal evaluation of your abilities. Read page 206 and discuss the world's definition of success. Allow the students time to think about their abilities. Discuss how a Christian can use his abilities to glorify God. (*Note:* The Walking with God pages are personal in nature and are not intended to be shared with the class or graded by the teacher.) Encourage the students to complete the page at home and think about their attitudes toward the abilities that God has given to them.

Unit 8 Review

Easter: Through Christ Our Redeemer

Name _____

Write the correct word or phrase to complete each sentence.

1. Jesus gave the ordinance of the Lord's Supper to the disciples during the ***Passover meal*** that they shared together before His death.
2. As Jesus gave the disciples a picture to remember the importance of His death, He said that the bread represented ***His body*** and the cup represented ***His blood***.
3. During His trials and crucifixion, some people recognized Jesus as the Son of God while others ***mocked*** Him.
4. Jesus' suffering was ***an example*** of the suffering believers may have to endure for Him.
5. The details of the arrest, crucifixion, and resurrection of Christ were ***prophesied*** in the Old Testament.

a denial
an example
His blood
His body
mocked
Passover meal
prophesied
resurrection
Christ's return

Write the letter of the person(s) who did each of these things.

- E** 6. betrayed Christ so that He was arrested and taken to the religious leaders
B 7. denied Christ even though he said he would not
G 8. believed Christ was the Son of God at the crucifixion
C 9. gave his tomb for Christ's burial
A 10. sat on the stone of the open tomb after Christ arose
D 11. paid the guards to lie about Christ's resurrection

- A. an angel
B. Peter
C. Joseph of Arimathea
D. priests and Pharisees
E. Judas
F. Pilate
G. the centurion

Write **T** if the sentence is true and **F** if the sentence is false.

- T** 12. The religious leaders violated many laws in the trial and condemnation of Christ.
F 13. Jesus responded with threats and insults to those who condemned Him.
T 14. The Bible compares people to sheep who need a shepherd.
F 15. Jesus was accused of blasphemy.
F 16. Those who gave testimony against Christ told the truth.

Unit Reviews

Bible 6

Lessons 131–140

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LESSON

140

Unit 8b Activity**Materials**

- Potted Easter lily (or a picture of an Easter lily)
- Lily bulb (or a picture of a bulb)

Discuss the symbolism of the Easter lily. Show the students the potted lily (optional).

► **What words would you use to describe a lily?** Possible answers include **white, trumpet-like, smooth, and fragrant.**

❖ **Why do you think lilies are given at Easter time? There are many myths as to the source of its association with Easter.**

Explain that for Christians, the beauty and white color of the flower may symbolize the perfection of the virtues and new life brought about as a result of resurrection.

❖ **How would you describe this bulb? Point out that the bulb looks like something you would throw away; it is old and dead-looking.**

Explain that when this old, dead-looking bulb is buried in the ground and given proper moisture and sunlight, it will eventually bloom into a beautiful lily, similar to the potted lily they see here. The lily illustrates what Christ did for us at Easter. He died for our sins and was buried in the ground. But three days later, He rose from the dead, giving us hope for new life—victory over sin here on earth and eternal life with Him in the future. Just as the Easter lily is pure and white, so also Christ is sinless and

Unit 8 Review (continued)

Name _____

Mark with an **X** the correct answers.

17. What are the reasons people need Jesus as their Shepherd?

_____ They need protection from wild animals.

X They need salvation from sin.

X They need protection from the sin of the world.

_____ They need pastures and streams for nourishment.

X They need to trust Him to supply their daily needs.

Answer the questions. **Accept any reasonable answer.**

18. Why did the religious leaders consider it blasphemy for Jesus to say He was God? **Answers should include that blasphemy is giving God's attributes to something or someone other than God. Since they did not believe that Jesus was the Son of God, they thought it was blasphemy for Him to claim to be God.**

19. Christians should try to keep promises and obey God. What should a Christian do when he fails? **confess his sin**

20. What did Jesus do for you on the cross? **He took my sins on Himself and paid the penalty that I deserve to pay.**

Unit Reviews

Bible 6

Lessons 131–140

pure. It is only through trusting in Christ that we are clothed in the beautiful, pure-white robes of righteousness. Encourage the students to give a lily as a gift to someone this Easter and to tell the story that the lily illustrates.

Unit Review**Materials**

- Copy of "Unit 8 Review" [E]

Guide a review of Unit 8. Review the people and events in preparation for the Unit 8 Test (optional). See the Teacher's Toolkit CD for answers.