

Questions / Answers

1. What spoiled the close relationship between Adam and Eve and God?
Adam and Eve sinned and this destroyed the relationship.
2. What is God's plan for the world?
To fill the world with people who are perfect.
3. What is necessary to obtain forgiveness of sins?
Death and the shedding of blood.
4. How were the Israelites forgiven when they sinned?
They brought a perfect animal. Put their hand on it and sacrificed it
5. To what did these animal sacrifices point forward?
They pointed forward to Jesus, God's perfect sacrifice.
6. Why was Jesus' death on the cross the perfect sacrifice?
Because Jesus lived a perfect life. He never sinned.
7. What do we need to do to have our sins forgiven?
Repent of our sins, have faith in Jesus, be baptised, confess our sins
8. Who destroyed the wall of sin which separates us from God?
Jesus.
9. What sort of people must we try to be?
People who show God's character—merciful, gracious, patient, good and true.
10. What has the sacrifice of Jesus done for us?
Enabled us to have our sins forgiven. Helped us to have a close relationship with God. Given us the hope of eternal life in God's Kingdom on earth.

Memory verses

Psalm 51:1—2 Hebrews 9:28 1 John 2:1—2

Discussion

Discuss how the sacrifice of Jesus gives us the hope of eternal life in God's Kingdom. Read Romans 12:1 How can we be living sacrifices?

Writing

Why does sin separate us from God? How were sins forgiven in Old Testament times? What must we do to have our sins forgiven?

CBM Senior Lessons

Lesson 38 Salvation through Jesus



READING Genesis 3; Psalm 51:1—2; Leviticus 17:11; Romans 3:23—25; Romans 6:3-4; Hebrews 9:22 & 26-28; 1 John 2:1-2; Matthew 26:26-28

LESSON

Jesus was a righteous man. He never sinned. Why did he have to die? How does his death bring the hope of salvation to us? Everyone is affected by sin all through their life. God said that all who sin will die. So how do we have a hope of life?

In the beginning Adam and Eve lived in the wonderful Garden of Eden. They had a close relationship with God. But they disobeyed God's command. They sinned. After they sinned their close relationship with God was destroyed. They were punished with the death sentence. Their bodies were physically changed so that they were affected by illness, disease and the ageing process. They were also sent out of the Garden of Eden, away from God.

The sin of Adam and Eve destroyed their close relationship with God. The most terrible part of their punishment was that they were separated from God. Sin was like a high wall between them and God.

Since the time of Adam and Eve, all people have sinned. Men's sins have spoiled God's plan to fill the world with people who know His glory and show His character in their lives. Sin prevents us living close to God. Sin is like a high wall between us and God. Sinful men cannot live for ever in God's Kingdom. God's plan is to fill the earth with perfect people.

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When we sin we show that we are not suitable to live for ever. God hates sin and sinners cannot live for ever. God hates sin, but He does not hate sinners. But sin separates us from God.

In His mercy God has provided a way by which men can be freed from the effects of sin and have a relationship with Him. We need to have our sins blotted out and washed away. To come to God we must have our sins covered. Adam and Eve tried to cover their sin and nakedness by making clothes out of fig leaves; but that was not acceptable to God. God gave them clothes made from animal skins. An animal had to be killed to provide the skins. Blood must be shed to make a covering for sin.

The Bible teaches that a sacrifice involving death and the shedding of blood is necessary to obtain forgiveness of sins. This shows us how serious sin is in God's sight. God requires that a life must be sacrificed to forgive sin. When we sin we deserve to die. In Old Testament times God, in His mercy, let an innocent animal die instead of the person who sinned.



The Law of Moses commanded that the Israelites sacrificed a perfect animal from their flocks or herds. When they sinned they had to bring a perfect animal to the priests at the Tabernacle. The sinner had to put his hand on the head of the animal to show the connection between his sin and the life of the animal that would be sacrificed. These sacrifices under the Law taught the Israelites the need for the shedding of blood before they could have forgiveness from God.

But the death of an animal could not forgive sins for ever. There was need for a perfect sacrifice. The Old Testament sacrifices were a temporary way to be forgiven. These sacrifices pointed forward to Jesus, God's perfect sacrifice. Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No man comes to the Father but by me."

Jesus gave his life in service to God. Jesus was tempted like we are, and he could have sinned. All through his life Jesus battled against temptations. He was always obedient to the will of God. Jesus conquered sin in his life. He lived a perfect life. Because he lived a life without sin, his death on the cross was the perfect sacrifice.

By God's grace we are given the opportunity to accept Jesus as the sacrifice for our sins. We must first admit that we need saving from our sins, and show faith in Jesus, the Saviour. We must repent of our sins and have faith in Jesus, then we must be baptised. In baptism our sins are washed away. After baptism we start a new life in Christ. We shall still sin, but our sins can continually be forgiven through Jesus when we confess our failings in prayer. We must make every effort not to sin, but when we do sin we can have forgiveness through the sacrifice of Jesus.

Jesus gave his perfect life so that our sins can be forgiven. Jesus has destroyed the wall of sin. Through Jesus our sins can be forgiven and we can have a close relationship with God and live lives pleasing to Him.



Through Jesus our sins are covered. They are wiped out and God does not remember them any more. God is planning to fill the earth with people who show His character in their lives. We must ask for God's help and try our best to be merciful and gracious, patient with others and full of goodness and truth. God will forgive us, through Jesus, when we fail. When Jesus returns he will make all that is good and true in our characters eternal so that we can live forever in God's Kingdom on earth.

After we are baptised we should meet every week to break bread and drink wine. This reminds us of the sacrifice of Jesus. At this time we think about the Last Supper that Jesus shared with his disciples. We remember the sacrifice Jesus made when he died on the cross. He gave his perfect life as a sacrifice so that our sins can be forgiven. We can have a close relationship with God when our sins are forgiven. We can have the hope of resurrection and eternal life in God's Kingdom on earth.