

Lesson 4. Basic Gospel Points

Point # 3—Substitution

Introduction:

The third basic Gospel point is substitution. In this lesson, Bible verses and daily life illustrations are used to explain in depth the meaning of Jesus' substitution for all people in dying on the cross. The combination of pictures and Bible verses helps explain the message clearly and helps the listener remember what is said.

Importance:

It is important for the students to know how to explain what it means for Jesus to take our place (being our substitute) by dying on the cross, since this is a central teaching of Christianity.

Goal:

Through the study of this lesson the students will be able to use the Word of God and pictures to explain the concept, substitution, that is—what it means that Jesus was our substitute by dying on the cross for all of our sins. Another way to say this is that He was our Savior, saving us from having to be punished for our sins.

Outline:

Review and Introduction Activity

1. Picture Stories about Substitution
2. Jesus Was Our Substitute
3. Other Ways to Explain Substitution

Concluding Activity

Teaching the Class Session:

Discussion of the Homework Assignments:

1. Are there any questions regarding the homework? Who would like to share the correct answers?
2. Let us recite Php 2:13 together.

Review and Introduction Activity

1. What are the first two basic Gospel points? [love and sin]
2. What are the two major ways that God shows His love for us? [providing for our needs here on earth, and providing salvation for us so that through Jesus Christ we can go to heaven after we die]
3. What are the two major kinds of sin? [original sin and actual sin]
 - 1) What two kinds of actual sin are there? [sins of commission and sins of omission]
 - 2) What three kinds of sins of commission and omission are there? [sins of thought, word, and deed]
4. What is the third Gospel point? [substitution]
5. †Ro 5:8 †1Co 15:3b From these two verses what do we learn that Christ did for us? [He took our place and died on the cross for us, that is—He was our substitute.]
6. The third concept about which we tell people is the concept of substitution.

1. Picture Stories about Substitution

When talking about substitution, it is helpful to have a few stories in mind about one being a substitute for another. In your books there are several pictures which tell stories about substitution. Let us turn to Lesson 4, ► **2. Substitution Pictures** (page __), and look at the pictures together.

1. What do you see in the first picture? [a big bee]
 - 1) The story: A mother tells her daughter not to play near the beehive. The daughter goes and plays there anyway and a bee chases her. The daughter runs to the mother and the mother puts her arms around the daughter. The bee stings the mother on the arm and it becomes swollen and is very sore.
 - 2) Who took the place of the little girl and was stung by the bee? [the mother]
 - 3) What happened to the mother rather than happening to the little girl? [The mother was stung by the bee.]
 - 4) Whose place did the mother take when she was stung by the bee? [the little girl's place]
 - 5) Another way to say this is to say that the mother saved her child from being stung by the bee.

2. In the second picture there is a judge and a criminal.
 - 1) The story: A judge sentences his son to death because his son killed someone. After sentencing him, the judge removes his robes and takes his son's death sentence. In the picture, which one is the judge? [the one on the left with his arm around the other one]
 - 2) Who took the place of the man and was sentenced to death? [the judge]
 - 3) What happened to the judge rather than happening to the murderer? [He took the death penalty.]
 - 4) Whose place did the judge take when he gave himself the death penalty? [the murderer's place]
 - 5) Another way to say this is to say that the judge saved the criminal from being put to death for his crime.

3. What do you see in the third picture? [a mother hen and her chickens]
 - 1) The story: There is a fire. A hen gathers all her chickens under her wings. The fire burns the mother hen to death, but the chickens are all saved.
 - 2) Who took the place of the chickens and was burned to death in their place? [the mother hen]
 - 3) What happened to the mother hen rather than happening to her chickens? [She was burned to death.]
 - 4) Whose place did the mother hen take in being burned to death? [the chickens]
 - 5) Another way to say this is that the mother hen saved the chickens from being burned to death.

2. Jesus Was Our Substitute

1. All people sin and deserve eternal death as the punishment. But Jesus took the punishment for all sin when He endured the pangs of hell and died on the cross.
 - 1) Who took the place of all of us by suffering the pangs of hell for us when He died on the cross? [Jesus]
 - 2) What happened to Jesus rather than happening to us? [He suffered the pangs of hell for us when he died on the cross.]

- 3) Whose place did Jesus take when He died on the cross? [the place of all people who ever lived, are living now, and will live in the future]
 - 4) Why do we then call Jesus our Savior? [because He saved us all from having to be punished for our sins]
2. In order to take our punishment, Jesus had to have the following qualifications. What are they? Answer this question after reading the Bible verses.
- 1) [Be sinless]
 - a. †1Pe 2:22 Did Jesus commit any sin? [no]
 - b. If Jesus had committed sin, for whose sins would He have to be punished? [His own]
 - c. Could He then be punished for anyone else's sins? [no]
 - 2) [Be God]
 - a. †Col 2:9 In Whom does the whole fullness of deity dwell bodily? [in Christ Jesus]
This means that Jesus is true God.
 - b. †Lk 1:35
 - a) Who spoke these words? [the angel Gabriel]
 - b) To whom were these words spoken? [the virgin Mary]
 - c) Whose Son would she bear? [the Son of God]
 - c. If Jesus were not God, could He take the punishment for ALL the sins of all the people who ever lived, live now, and will live in the future? [no]
 - d. Why not? [because only God could take the punishment of ALL the sins of mankind upon Himself]
 - 3) [Be a human being]
 - a. †Lk 2:7 Did Mary give birth to Jesus? [yes] That means that Jesus was a human being, born like everyone else is born.
 - b. If Jesus were not a human being, could He be punished in the place of human beings? [no]
 - c. Why not? [because only a human being can take the place of another human being]
3. Is Jesus sinless? [yes] Is He God? [yes] Is He a human being? [yes] Thus, does Jesus have the necessary qualifications to be the substitute for all the people in the world and die for their sins? [yes]
4. Just before Jesus died, what did He say that showed He had finished suffering for all the sins of the whole world? ["It is finished!"]
- 1) Where is that found in the Bible? [Jn.19:30]
 - 2) Was this a cry of victory or defeat? [a cry of victory]
 - 3) What had Jesus conquered? Explain.
 - a. [sin—We are forgiven of our sin and are no longer slaves of sin, for through Christ we rise to a new life.]
 - b. [death—We do not have to suffer eternal death.]
 - c. [the devil—The devil can no longer have control over us.]
- [Teaching note: In future lessons we will go into more detail using many Scripture verses regarding Jesus conquering sin, death, and the devil.]

3. Other Ways to Explain Substitution

1. He paid the debt of our sin. (**Picture 4**)
 - 1) Look at the Word of God. †Ro 6:23 What is required to pay for our sin? [death, that is eternal death—hell]
 - 2) Look at the picture in Lesson 4, ► **Picture 4** (page__). What kind of debt do we have? [a debt of sin] Eternal death—hell is necessary to pay for that debt of sin.
 - 3) This debt of sin should be paid for by us.
 - 4) †Heb 9:12 Who paid this debt for us? [Jesus Christ] What did He use to pay this redemption payment? [His blood]
 - 5) Because of this payment, we receive eternal life (or eternal redemption).

2. Our record of sin was nailed to the cross. (**Picture 5**)
 - 1) Look at the Word of God. †Col 2:14
 - a. What kind of record stands against us? [the record of our sin]
 - b. Where was this record of sin nailed? [to the cross]
 - c. What does it mean that our record of sin was nailed to the cross? [It means that when Jesus died on the cross He was punished for what was on that record. Now it can no longer be held against us. Since our record of sin is blotted out, we cannot be punished for our sin.]
 - 2) Look at the picture in Lesson 4, ► **Picture 5** (page__).
 - a. What is nailed to the cross? [the record of our sin]
 - b. How is the record cleared? [by having Jesus take the punishment for all our sin]
 - c. †Gal 3:13 What did Jesus become for us? [a curse] When was He cursed? [when He hung on a tree (the cross). Why did He do that? [to redeem us from the curse of the law which we have broken]
 - d. Through Christ we are set free from being cursed because of our record of breaking the law.

3. His righteousness was exchanged for our sin. (**Picture 6**)
 - 1) Look at the Word of God. †2Co 5:21
 - a. Who became sin for us? [Jesus]
 - b. Did Jesus have any sin? [no] He was full of righteousness (perfect goodness). What did Jesus become for us? [sin]
 - c. Does mankind have any righteousness on his own? [no] Instead, what fills his heart? [sin]
 - d. This verse says that in Him (Christ) what do we become? [the righteousness of God]
 - e. This Bible verse is sometimes called “The Great Exchange”.
 - a) For what was man’s sin exchanged? [Jesus’ righteousness]
 - b) For what was Jesus’ righteousness exchanged? [man’s sin]
 - f. The best was exchanged for the worst, that is—Jesus’ righteousness was exchanged for man’s sin.

 - 2) Look at the picture in Lesson 4, ► **Picture 6, The Great Exchange** (page__).
 - a. The symbol in the lower middle of the picture (with a circle and arrows) represents God. Different parts of this symbol represent different attributes of God.
 - a) The circle means that God has no beginning or end, just as a circle has no beginning or end. He always existed and always will exist.
 - b) Why do you think there is just ONE circle? [because there is only one true God]

- c) Why do you think the middle of the circle is white? [It stands for God's holiness. He has no sin.]
 - d) What do the arrows of love pointing outward mean? [His love goes outward from Himself in all directions to love all.]
 - e) Each of the arrows also has several points on it representing the crown of thorns that Jesus wore for us.
- b. Whom do you think the figure at the top of the picture represents? [Jesus]
 - a) What do His outstretched arms indicate? [that He loves us and welcomes us to Himself]
 - b) The halo on Jesus' head symbolizes that He is sinless. In ancient art, the artist showed that one was holy and without sin by painting a glowing circle of light around that one's head. (Of course only Jesus and the angels are holy.)
 - c) What do you think the crown on Jesus' head means? [He is King of all.]
 - c. Whose hands do we see at the bottom of the picture? [God's]
 - a) In the hand on the right you see an arrow turning inward. The arrow turning in on itself represents a person loving only himself, that is, he is full of self-love. To love only oneself is sinful, and thus this arrow symbolizes sin. Whose sin does this arrow represent? [the sin of the whole world]
 - b) In contrast to this, Whose righteousness does the halo in the hand on the left represent? [Jesus' righteousness] Where else in this picture do we see a halo? [at the top of the picture on Jesus' head] What does that mean? [that He is holy]
 - c) The crossed hands remind us that God exchanged our sin for Jesus' righteousness.
- 3) The Bible verse 2Co 5:21 tells us of the great exchange or substitution that took place.
- a. Jesus was our substitute by taking what upon Himself? [our sin]
 - b. In exchange what did He give us? [His righteousness]
 - c. This means that God counted all that we did wrong as if Who had done it? [Jesus] He counted all the goodness of Jesus as if who had all this goodness? [we, the sinners]
 - d. His righteousness was substituted for our sin.

Concluding Activity

Review today's lesson by answering the following questions:

1. What were the three stories that we used in class to explain the concept of substitution? Explain in detail.
2. What other stories do you know that could be used to explain substitution?

Homework Assignments:

Let us read these assignments together from Lesson 4, ► **Homework Assignments:** (page__)

Answers for Lesson 4

Homework Assignment 1.

1. Review and Introduction (page__)

sin, actual, omission, deed

2. Substitution Pictures (page__)

1. mother, girl, bee 2. judge, murderer, death penalty
3. mother hen, chickens, burned to death

3. Jesus Was Our Substitute (page__)

Jesus, God, sins, devil

4. Other Ways to Explain Substitution (page__)

1. sin, eternal death 2. record
3. sin, righteousness, sin, God, holy, angels, King, sin, exchange, goodness

Homework Assignment 2.

Pictures 1, 2, and 3 (page__)

The mother was the substitute for the little girl by being stung by the bee.
The judge was the substitute for the murderer by taking the death penalty for
him.
The mother hen was the substitute for the little chickens by being burned to death for
them.