

WHO IS THE REDEEMER?

ANSWER: The only Redeemer is the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, in whom God became man and bore the penalty for sin himself.

Bible Passage: 1 Timothy 2:1–7

Memory Verse: 1 Timothy 2:5

Big Idea: Every person is a slave to sin. In order to be freed, we must be redeemed; a price must be paid in order to secure a release.

Virtue: Humility

LEADER'S NOTES:

Today's world is deeply affected by pluralistic thought. Many believe that there is one God, but that there are many ways to reach him. Students will be breathing in pluralistic air in schools and absorbing it as a worldview from many different media influences. This question will clarify for us that there is only one God and there is only one way to God: through the God–man Jesus Christ. We will understand that to enjoy a restored relationship with God and to be freed from the burden of sin, we must put our faith and trust in the saving work of Jesus on the cross. We need to clearly understand that Jesus is not simply the Christian route to God, but that he is the one and only Redeemer. He alone, in his life and death, made reconciliation with God possible.

Things to remember:

- Some may be affected by pluralism and relativism and be resistant to saying Jesus is the only Redeemer.
- Some may struggle with the concept that someone had to suffer because of their sin.
- Some may have difficulty understanding the concept of the incarnation. Help them to understand that the fact that Jesus was both God and man made him uniquely appropriate to act as the Redeemer.

Question 18 Review: Is there any way to escape punishment and be brought back into God's favor?

Yes, to satisfy his justice, God himself, out of mere mercy reconciles us to himself and delivers us from sin and from the punishment for sin, by a Redeemer.

INTRODUCTION TO QUESTION 19

People borrow money from others for many different reasons. A person who borrows money is called a debtor. Usually debtors pay back the money they borrow, but sometimes people get into situations where they cannot pay it back. They may spend all the money they have borrowed and have no way to repay it. In earlier times, if people were deeply in debt, they would have to go to debtor's prison. They would be locked up until the debt was paid.

Do you see any problem with putting someone in debtor's prison?

(Give them hints until they realize that someone in prison can't work and so will never pay off a debt.)

Debtor's prison was not a pleasant place to be. People often got sick and died there. Can you think of a way people could get out of debtor's prison? Someone would need to pay their debt for them. A person who pays another person's debt to set them free is a redeemer.

Introduce Question 20: "Who is the Redeemer?" Explain that the reality of everyone who lives on earth is that they owe a debt they can never repay and have become slaves to sin. The Bible describes each human being as someone who is captive to sin. Ask the group what they think is needed in order for us to be freed from sin.

The answer is a Redeemer, someone to purchase our freedom.

TEACHING OUTLINE

Imagine what it would be like to be held in debtor's prison. Explain to the group that because God is our maker, we owe him obedience. Because of our sinful nature, we do not always obey him. Our sin has put us in debt to God. The debt gets greater and greater because we cannot stop sinning. Everyone who has not trusted Christ is a slave to sin! If we can't pay that debt of obedience, we will be sentenced to something even worse than debtor's prison. We deserve death.

People are slaves to sin and are powerless to save themselves, so what they need more than anything is a Redeemer. A Redeemer is someone who can pay a price—a ransom—in order for a debt to be paid and a slave to be freed.

Read 1 Timothy 2:1–7

1 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people...

QUESTION 20

2/12/2020

2 for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

3 This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior

4 who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

5 For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,

6 who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

7 For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

Paul is writing a letter to Timothy, and to the churches that Timothy is caring for. In this passage, Paul is encouraging the church to be concerned for all people. Why? Because they are slaves to sin, and God wants everyone to be saved from the consequences of sin.

There is something remarkable in verses 5 and 6. God has provided a way out of captivity. God has provided a Redeemer! The Redeemer is Jesus Christ. Ask the group if they noticed that Paul says there is only one God and one Mediator. That implies that there is only one possible way to be freed from sin and to have a restored relationship with God. God is both loving and just. In his great love he wants to save people, but justice demands that someone must bear the punishment and pay the price for sin. Jesus Christ is a unique and perfectly qualified Redeemer. He is the only one who can redeem a people for God.

What makes him unique and perfectly qualified?

Remind the group that he is God who left heaven and came to earth as a man. He is God, the eternal Son, and he is man. He can perfectly mediate between God and us. Jesus lived an earthly life that perfectly obeyed God in every way. Ask the group to reflect on how amazing Jesus's perfect life was. Encourage them to recall all the various ways they sin against God day by day. Highlight for them that Jesus always honored his father God above everything else, that he always trusted God and followed his instructions for life. Jesus did not pay money to God to redeem Christians, though. Despite the fact that he lived a perfect life and never sinned against God, he willingly went to die on the cross. In doing so, he paid the price to set Christians free. The price that Jesus paid was his own life; he died a horrific death, so that Christians could know freedom. The remarkable thing is that Jesus humbled himself and did what his Father requested. He made himself nothing. He gave up everything for the sake of those called to faith in God.

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

Lesson 20 marks the end of the first part of Catechism lessons. Before we go on to part 2, have some fun with your group and attempt to unscramble the questions below and answer them to the best of your ability.

Hatw is our yoln peoh ni efli nda daeth?

Thaw Gdo si?

Woh mnay epsorns rae theer ni Gdo?

Owh nda wyh idd oGd rceate su?

Ahtw eesl idd oGd eraetc?

Owh cna ew oifglry odG?

Awth dose het alw of oGd erqueir?

Hatw si het wla fo oGd sttdae ni het enT mCemndmtnoas?

Wath odes Gdo eirqrue ni eth sfirt, cesnod, nda thrid emsmnandmotc?

Waht sode Gdo erueiqr ni het ofruth dan ifthf madmtosenmnc?

Thwa sode doG uerqier ni teh xthsi, ensethv, dan iegthh mdmosmnaetc?

Tahw dose Gdo qrreiuie ni teh nitnh dan etnth mndmmocaenst?

Nac eanyno kpee het lwa fo odG perfcetyl?

Idd dGo carete su nuaelb ot ekpe ish alw?

Isenc on eno cna eekp teh awl, athw si sit uprpeos?

Hwat si ins?

Hwat si oidtlary?

Liwl oGd olalw uor oicdnideesbe nda diatoyrl ot og unpunihdse?

Si rteeh nay wya ot epscae hpuinsmten dan eb ubrgtoh bcak itno odG's avofr?

Ohw si eht demReeer?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

(Allow for several answers within your group before reading the provided response.)

- 1. If every one is born sinful, how can Jesus have lived a sinless life?** The Bible says Jesus was born without original sin, and so he was able to live a sinless life. Remind the children of the special conditions of Jesus's miraculous birth. He was both God and man.
- 2. Is Jesus the Redeemer for everyone in the world?** Only people who accept the redemption Jesus offers will be saved.
- 3. Why did God choose to make Jesus, his own Son, suffer?** The reason God allowed Jesus to suffer so much was because of his great love for us. Jesus was willing to take our place to make a way for us to be with him forever.

More to consider:

Have you realized your own need for redemption in Christ?

How will you respond when you hear people say that there are other ways to God?

How might Jesus's humility, love, and sacrifice affect your everyday life?

VIRTUE VISION: Humility

Remind the group of the remarkable humility Jesus showed when he left heaven, submitting to his Father's will, to come to earth as the Redeemer.

Think about how you can model such humility in your own life.

Memory Verse

**"For there is one God, and there is one mediator
between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."**

1 Timothy 2:5