

In the Beginning...Jesus



Lesson 28 A Man of Sorrows

Themes:

- God had promised His people a new kind of King and a new kind of covenant.
- Isaiah foretold of a Man who would bear the sins of God's people, take upon Himself their punishment, and heal them.
- God promised His people a new kind of heart.

Scripture:

Isaiah 1:4a; Jeremiah 17:9; Isaiah 53:3-5

Memory Verse:

John 1:10 (and review verses 1-9)

Visuals for Lesson:

- Bible.
- *In the Beginning...Jesus* poster.
- Resource Packet:
 - DOT-TO-DOT.
 - GOD—MAN visual (from previous lessons).
 - SIN HEART.
 - DESPISED, REJECTED, MAN OF SORROWS.
 - SINS=INFIRMITIES AND SORROWS—Tape to the sack, mentioned below.
 - PUNISHMENT—This will be a sign to place on a child using the tape mentioned below.
 - SUBSTITUTION.
 - JESUS IS THE KEY visual (from previous lessons).
 - Bible Clue Card #32.
- Magnifying glass (for use in reading the clue card).
- Blindfold and piece of rope (long enough to tie someone's hands together).
- Marker, crayon, pencil, pen, ruler, and tape.
- Large sack (e.g., laundry sack or backpack) filled with something to make it heavy.
- Tape.

Pre-Class Preparation:

- Hide **Bible Clue Card #32** inside an empty trash can. Add “clean” trash—paper scraps—to the can along with the Clue Card.
- Write **Isaiah 53:5** on a white board or large piece of paper as follows:

***But He was wounded for our transgressions;
He was crushed for our iniquities;
upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with His stripes we are healed.***

If you use paper, allow plenty of space between the lines so words can be crossed out and then replaced with new words (see Lesson).

- Prepare an adult or child for the DOT-TO-DOT illustration. Make sure he understands that he is not to attempt to do the DOT-TO-DOT, only to complain about not having the correct writing tool.

Lesson

Have the adult come to the front. Tell the children that you have something special for the adult to do. If he completes the task properly, the whole class will receive a treat. Place the blindfold on him and then tie his hands behind his back. Tape the **DOT-TO-DOT** to the wall. Explain to him that if he completes the **DOT-TO-DOT** correctly within 30 seconds, the class will receive a prize. Place a pencil in his tied hands and begin timing. The adult should struggle, not to remove the ties binding his hands, but to “find” and write on the visual, and then comment:

This pencil won't work. If only I had a marker, I could do this. (Hand him a marker and have him struggle some more.)

This marker isn't going to work either. If only I had a crayon, I could do this. (Hand him the crayon.)

If only I had a pen, I could do this. (Hand him a pen.)

If only I had something longer, I could do this. (Tape the pen to a ruler and hand him this.)

When the time has run out and he has not succeeded in completing the dot-to-dot, ask the children if the adult really understood what the problem was. Was he not able to complete the **DOT-TO-DOT** for the lack of the right kind of writing tool? Or, was there a bigger problem? What? [He was blind and had his hands tied.]

On the **GOD—MAN** visual, point the to **JUDAH** and **ISRAEL** (partially covered by

CAPTIVES). Point out that God's people also had a problem. What was it? [They would not keep God's covenant. God judged them because they would not listen to the warnings of the prophets. They would not repent and return to God. God had enemy nations capture them and take them away as slaves. They now had no land, no king, no throne, and no temple.] Why didn't they listen to God's prophets and repent? Why did they continue to make such foolish and deadly choices?

Divide the class into two groups (e.g., girls and boys) and assign each group to do a **Sword Drill** with one of the following:

Jeremiah 17:9:

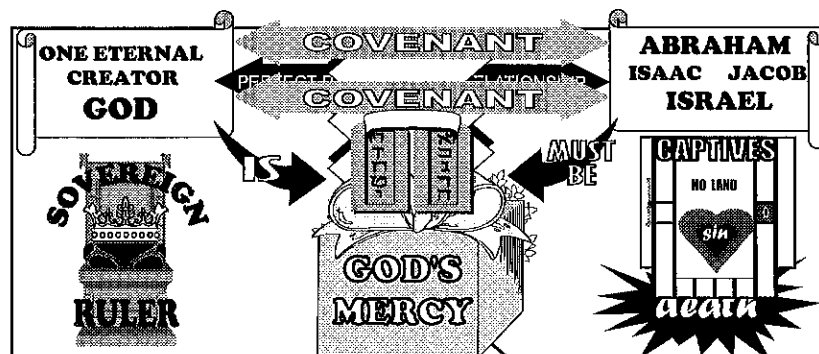
The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?

Isaiah 1:4a:

Ah, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, offspring of evildoers, children who deal corruptly!

According to these verses, what is the **REAL** problem with God's people? Why do they keep breaking the covenant? Why do they keep turning away from God? Why do they keep making such foolish and deadly choices? [Their hearts are sinful.] (On the **GOD—MAN** visual, tape the **SIN HEART** inside the box on **CAPTIVES**.) Is this a new message in the Bible? Where did it start? [Back with Adam and Eve.]

The visual should now look like this:



Point out that beginning with the sin of Adam and Eve, there has been a constant problem with God's people: they are sinners with sinful hearts and sinful minds. **Display** the **SIN HEART**.

Did God sending the flood solve this problem? [No.]

Did God stopping the tower of Babel solve this problem? [No.]

Did God giving His people the Ten Commandments solve this problem? [No.]

Did priests and animal sacrifices solve this problem? [No.]
Did God giving His people the promised land solve this problem? [No.]
Did God giving His people a good king like David solve this problem? [No.]
Did God giving His people a beautiful temple solve this problem? [No.]

Explain that in our beginning illustration the children saw that the adult could not complete the **DOT-TO-DOT**, not because he didn't have the right tool to do it, but because he was helplessly blind and his hands were tied. That is how sinners are, hopelessly blind and helpless. None of those things listed above solved the problem of sin. God knew this from the very beginning. He wanted to point His people to the one thing that would solve their problem forever. What was that?

Tell the children that hidden in the room is the Bible Clue Card that will help us answer that question. To guide them in finding the clue, give them the following hint:

Few people would ever think to find treasure here.

(Give additional hints if the children have not found the card within a minute.)

After **Bible Clue Card #32** has been found, choose a child to insert the card behind the red paper of the **JESUS IS THE KEY** visual to reveal:

Scripture: Isaiah 53:3-5
Clues under Windows # 7 and # 26

Have the children turn to **Isaiah 53:3-4** in their Bibles. Quickly read through the verses and then ask the questions that follow.

He was despised and rejected by men; a Man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we esteemed Him not. Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

In verse 3, what words does the Bible use to describe this person? [Despised, rejected, Man of sorrows, etc.] Does this sound like the special Child and Ruler the prophets had told God's people about? (Point to these clues on the poster.) Why not?

Choose an adult male to come to the front and play the part of the man described in these verses. Hand him **DESPISED, REJECTED, MAN OF SORROWS** to hold.

*According to verse 4, what does this man do? [Borne our griefs, carried sorrows.] What does that mean? What kind of sorrows do God's people have? What kind of infirmities? (Recall **Jeremiah 17:9** and **Isaiah 1:4a**.)*

God's people are desperately sick and laden with sin.)

Display the large sack labeled **SINS=GRIEFS AND SORROWS**. Have a child come up to the front and carefully place the sack on his back. What does it feel like? Would he enjoy walking around with this on his back all the time? Why not? Point out that this is something of what it is like to carry your sin—it is a sorrow and grief that weighs you down because when you carry your sin, you are deserving of God's punishment. Tape **PUNISHMENT** on the child.

According to verse 4, what does this Man do with these sorrows and grief?

Open Window #7 to reveal: **SIN BEARER**. Take the sack off of the child and place it on the back of the man. (Have the child remain up front with **PUNISHMENT** still taped to him.)

Tell the children that to help them better understand verse 5, you are going to substitute some of the difficult words with simpler words that have the same meaning. **Display** the verse that has been written out on the white board (or large piece of paper). **Display SUBSTITUTION:**

transgressions = sins
iniquities = sins
chastisement = punishment
stripes = punishment

Choose one or two children to erase (or cross out) the stated words on the visual and replace them with the new words. [**Note:** Instead of having the children come up and cross out and then write the new words, you could instruct the class to read through the verse together, substituting the new words in place of the written ones.] Ask the class to now read the verse using the new words:

***But He was wounded for our sins;
He was crushed for our sins;
upon Him was the punishment that brought us peace,
and with His punishment we are healed.***

*According to this verse, what does this Man also do for God's people as He carries their sins? [He is punished for them.] (Remove **PUNISHMENT** from the child and tape it to the man.)*

And according to the end of verse 5, what does this Man do for God's people by taking their punishment? [He heals them.]

Open Window #26 to reveal: **HEALER**.

Point out that at the end of last week's lesson, we learned that both Judah and Israel

had been taken away into captivity. We also learned that God's prophets had given them a message of hope for the future: God would give them a new kind of King and a new kind of covenant. But God also knew that His people needed something else.

Display the **DOT-TO-DOT** from the beginning illustration and use the marker to connect the dots to form a heart.

*God had made a plan. He had made promises to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and David. God knew that His people Israel needed a new kind of King. He knew that they needed a new kind of covenant. But He also knew that they needed a new kind of heart. And God made a promise to His people a long time ago that He would send this Man (**display DESPISED, REJECTED, MAN OF SORROWS**) to do just that. The people of Israel could not understand how a man like this could save them because it was a mystery that was kept secret for long ages... but has now been revealed to us.*

Application

- Choose children read the following: **Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; 53:3**. In these passages, God gave His prophets a glimpse of something He was planning to do for His people in the future. Explain that these descriptions were written about 700 years before Jesus was born. Does it appear as if these verses are describing the same Man? Why not? To the people back then, do you think they could understand that these verses all described one special person? Remind the children of the illustration of a puzzle made of many different colored pieces and shapes. If you pick up one piece from a pile of pieces, is it sometimes hard to understand how and where that piece might fit into the finished puzzle? How can that help us understand the descriptions of God's future promises that He gave to the people of the Old Testament?
- **WORKBOOK**—Have the children turn to Lesson 28 in their workbooks. In the notebook section, have the children write in the missing words to complete today's two clues. Review **Jeremiah 17:9** and **Isaiah 1:4a**. Do these verses only describe God's people of the Old Testament? Can you think of any other verses from the Bible showing that these verses also describe us (e.g., **Romans 3:10-12, 23**)? Do you also need what God had promised in Isaiah 53? Read additional portions of **Isaiah 53** (verses 7a, 9a, etc.). Who is the Man described in these verses? How do you know this? Can you point to any verses in the New Testament that reveal who this Man is and how He fulfilled these verses from Isaiah? Have the children look at their workbook page and write down their thoughts following each statement. Ask: *When you see God's plan, His special*

promises that are then fulfilled, what kind of response should you feel? Do you believe that Jesus has carried your sin and has been punished for you, or is this just something for other people?

- Remind the children that in our last lesson, God had promised His people a new kind of King and a new kind of covenant. Why would this be important for God's people? What had all of their human kings done? What had God's people continually done to His covenant? Read **Ezekiel 36:26-27**. Explain that Ezekiel was also God's prophet. God gave him messages of warning, repentance, and hope. What type of the three messages would verses 26-27 represent? What is a heart of stone? Show the children a stone. What are stones like? How had the people of Israel demonstrated a "hard heart" toward God? What is a heart of flesh? What is flesh like? Show the children some modeling clay. What will God cause this new heart to do? Can a person change his or her own heart? Why would this be impossible? Can a stone make itself into something soft and moldable? Ask: *When it comes to God, is your heart more like stone or flesh? How do you think a heart of flesh would show itself in its thoughts, words, desires, and actions?*
- Recall the illustration from the beginning of the lesson when the adult foolishly thought that by having a different kind of writing tool he would be able to complete the dot-to-dot. Have the children pretend for a minute that the Ten Commandments God gave to Israel are like that dot-to-dot. As God's covenant people, God said Israel must keep the covenant commands perfectly. Would God's people ever be able to do this? [No.] Why not? [They were sinners. It was as if they were blind and had their hands tied behind their backs. They were helpless.] Did God know that? [Yes.] What did he provide for His people as a way to be forgiven when they sinned and broke the covenant? [The sacrifice of animals.] Point out that the animal was put to death as a substitute for the sinner. Point out that **Isaiah 53** also shows a substitute—but not of an animal for a sinner. What was the substitute for the death in these verses? [The Man described as the sin bearer.] Do you think you could keep all of God's commands? Have you ever tried? What do you also need? Has God provided you a way in which to be saved?
- Read **Jeremiah 31:31-33**. What might this new covenant be that God promised to His people? Remind the children that the covenant (on Mt. Sinai) was written on stone and sealed in blood—the blood of animals—to remind God's people that by breaking His commands, they deserved death and needed forgiveness. What might this new covenant have to do with the Man described in **Isaiah 53**? (Note: At this point, just get the children to ponder this. It will be explained more when we get to the New Testament.)

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