



PAID IN FULL!

Disciples & Early Church • U8# 2 1st-3rd Gr. • Feb.16, 2025

Concept

Jesus paid for all sins past, present and future!

Goal

Students will learn that because of Jesus, God never moves away from us.

Passage

Colossians 2:8-15; Luke 7:36-50

Key Verse: "He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the debt; he took it away, nailing it to the cross." Colossians 2:14 (NIV paraphrased)

Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
<p>Learning Activity #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Three 12-16 oz. clear glass jars (or plastic cups)</i> • <i>Ziploc sandwich bag of dirt, 1/CT class</i> • <i>Long-handled spoon</i> • <i>Water</i> <p>Learning Activity #3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "God's Promises" cards, 1/student • <i>Masking tape</i> 	<p>Activity Stations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several balls of varied-color yarn • Craft sticks, 2/student • Scissors • "I Had a Debt" CD • CD player

*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the italicized areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

Background Information (for the teacher)

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Oh, to truly understand the depths of our sin and the riches of God's grace!! "Really to understand the significance of the Cross in your daily life, you must realize you are as great a debtor to the mercy of God as the worst of sinners. Until you accepted Christ's pardon, the same sentence of death lay upon your soul as upon Judas'. If you have not sinned as grievously as someone else has, it does not mean you are a better person; it means that God has been gracious. Our old nature (whose residue is not cast off until heaven) has the devil's stamp of 'traitor' on it from the day we were born. Our sovereign God had every right to crush us for it then and there – just as we destroy a nest of poisonous snakes, not for any harm they have yet inflicted, but because we know their potential danger.

"Can you honestly say that when God first came to you your thoughts were pure and your intentions holy? Were you not already armed with the weapons of rebellion – a covetous spirit, a deceitful heart, a lying tongue? Oh, yes, you had a nature fully charged with enmity against God. It lay like unfired gunpowder, waiting for a flame! Fall on your knees in humble gratitude to the One who sent His Spirit and grace to stop you, even while your nature meditated on nothing but war against God and His laws."[1]

As believers, how many of us know on the intellectual level that our past, present and future sins are forgiven and yet fail to boldly approach the throne of grace when we blow it? Do we clean ourselves up on the outside, but refuse to delve into the deeper recesses of our sinfulness and allow God's grace to touch us there? Do we keep God at arm's length, knowing that if truly honest with ourselves, we would have to cry out like Isaiah, "Woe is me, for I am ruined?" The irony is that God knows the depth of our sinfulness. He knows all there is to know—our failures, our pride, our fears. He knows we are but dust and yet He loves us with an everlasting love—a love that willingly sacrificed to bring us back into relationship with Him.

Additional Reading: John 3:16; 1 Peter 2:24; Hebrews 7:27, 10:10-14; Matthew 20:28

[1] William Gurnall, *The Christian in Complete Armour*, Volume One, ©1986, World Challenge, Inc., Banner of Truth Trust, p. 194.

Set Up

For Object Lesson: Fill the 3 jars with water.

For Game: Draw 3 large crosses, evenly spaced, on the white board for Game.

Activity Stations:

- **Craft – God's Eye Cross**

- **Instructions:** Hold the craft sticks at right angles to form a cross. Tie the end of the yarn at the center. Wrap the yarn over stick 1, around and under it and again over it to stick 2. Wrap over and around stick 2 and again over and onto stick 3. Wrap over and around stick 3 and again over and onto stick 4. Continue until about ½ of the way to the ends of the sticks. Tie the yarn, loop and knot it. Cut the loose end close to the knot. Use two or more colors for variety.

- **Music – “I Had a Debt”**

- **Instructions:** Teach “I Had a Debt” from provided CD – words & chords attached

Suppose you want a candy bar but don't have money so you borrow a dollar to buy it. So you ask a buddy to lend you one. If your buddy wants that dollar returned, you are in debt to him/her until you pay it back. So, one type of debt is when you borrow something from someone. In regard to criminals, we talk about their debt to society. Because they have committed a crime for which they are responsible they have to pay the penalty. So criminals owe a debt to society. This week we are going to talk about a debt that everyone owes to God.

Please listen as I read **Luke 7:41-43**. This is a parable Jesus told a Pharisee in response to the Pharisee's disgust with a woman he regarded as a hopeless sinner. Let's reread verse 42. Both men owed money. One owed a lot more than the other did, but neither was able to repay the debt that was owed. So the banker forgave both debts. Jesus' point here is that both the Pharisee and the woman had a debt to God that they could not pay. The woman showed her gratitude for the forgiveness while the Pharisee didn't even recognize he had a debt. The Pharisee thought he was sinless, but the woman knew that her need for forgiveness was great.

Romans 3:23 says we are all sinners. Romans 6:23 says that the result of sin is death. This can't mean physical death or we would all be dead because we have all sinned. This death is spiritual death. It means that we are spiritually dead or separated from God because of our sin. So, our sin has to be paid if we want to have a relationship with God and be with Him forever. What is our debt to God? (Our sin against Him has to be paid for.)

Now let's look again at the last half of 6:23. This is the good news. Who can tell me what it means? (Jesus paid the debt we owe when He died on the cross for us.) We must understand that God will punish all sin.

Incorporation Lg. Group

Introduction Lg. Group

Lesson Lg. Group

We have the choice to pay our debt for our sins against God ourselves or to accept Christ's death on the cross as the payment. The Bible says that we will never be able to pay for our sin. If we choose to reject His gift of forgiveness, the result of that choice is separation from God forever. God gives us the freedom to accept or reject His punishment for our sins. If we ask Him to forgive us, He will. So, doesn't it make sense to accept His payment for our debt?

Now let's read **Colossians 2:13-14**. In verse 13, "dead in your sins" means that you are spiritually dead, apart from God and headed for eternity without God. Our key verse is the good news. "He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the debt; he took it away, nailing it to the cross" (Colossians 2:14). Our Bible says, "the record of charges against us." The "charges against us" is the list of all our sins. It shows us that we have a debt to God. These two verses tell us that Christ died for all sinners and paid for all sin. Your personal debt to God is cancelled and nailed to the cross when you accept Christ's work on the cross for yourself.

Transition

Look up here at these 3 jars.

Learning Activity#1 Lg. Group

Object Lesson

Instructions: Set out the 3 jars of water. Add a spoonful of dirt to the 1st jar, which represents a person who has led a pretty good life. Add several spoonfuls to the 2nd jar so that it is visibly dirtier. This jar represents a person always in trouble.

This 1st jar represents someone who has been pretty good all their life. Of course, there have been a few times when he has been selfish and decided not to help out, but he shovels his drive in the winter when his parents ask and usually helps around the house. He acts up in school sometimes, but he doesn't get in much trouble.

This 2nd jar represents someone who is always in trouble. He's been in trouble with the law, flunked out of school, and is nasty to everyone who tries to be his friend. The 1st person might say, "I'm not so bad. I have never killed anyone and anyway I do many good things for other people. And certainly I am not anywhere near as filthy as this guy over there."

That may be somewhat true, but let's take a look at this third jar, which represents God. Is the 1st jar as clean and pure as the jar that represents God? (No.) God says that if you aren't as pure as He is, you are not acceptable to Him. The Bible says we all sin and fall short of God's glory. Therefore, it doesn't matter how little or great the dirt. Even if you have the slightest amount of dirt, you are unacceptable to God.

Transition

Learning Activity# 2 Sm. Groups

Let's get into small groups and talk about how we can be made pure so we will be acceptable to God and what we do about the dirt in our lives.

- What is our key verse? What does it mean? How do our lives become pure enough to have a relationship with God?
- Those of you who have accepted Christ's work on the cross, do you know that all your sins—past, present and future—have been forgiven by God? You once were spiritually dead—dirty like that water; but God has cleaned all that dirt out of your life so you can have a relationship with Him. So, does that mean you'll never sin again?
- What are some of the sins people struggle with each day? (Take some time to discuss.) How do these sins hurt your relationship with God? (We withdraw from God because we don't believe we have really been forgiven. We try to do good things to work our way back into God's favor.) We build a wall between God and ourselves, don't we? God never moves away from us; we move away from Him.
- How can Christ's death on the cross—the death that canceled our debt to God—make a difference in our lives every day? (Take time to discuss.)
- Important to learn to regularly be honest with God about our sin and believe key verse, He will change our hearts and our minds to think and be more like Him.

Missions Prayer: Talk about and pray for the Oasis Giving Campaign.

Let's pray now and thank God that He sent Jesus to pay the debt we owe God. When we start a relationship with God, we will have that relationship forever—nothing can change that. Let's pray that He will help us remember "He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the debt; he took it away, nailing it to the cross." (Colossians 2:14). We can always go to Him as our friend who always loves and forgives us. Let's ask Him to help us to regularly admit our sin so He can change us to be more like Him.

Transition

Learning Activity# 3 Lg. Group

We're going to run a relay now.

Game - God's Promises Relay Race

Instructions: Divide the class into 2 - 3 teams. Hand each student a "God's Promises" card and a piece of masking tape. Each student will run to their cross drawn on the whiteboard, tape their "Promise" to the whiteboard, read it out loud and race back to tag the next person in line. The next person will do the same and so on until all have had a turn.

We learned today that Christ has canceled out our certificate of debt. It was nailed to the cross when He was nailed to the cross.

Learning Activity #3 Continued

This relay symbolizes how God's promises become true of each person the moment that they ask Jesus to cancel their debt caused by their sin. Each one of you will run to the cross at the end of the room, tape your "Promise" card to the whiteboard. When you are all finished, sit down. (This is at the end of the race.) Let's repeat the key verse one more time. "He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the debt; he took it away, nailing it to the cross" (Colossians 2:14).

Take some time to explain what some of God's Promises verses mean. Ask for any questions.

Optional Activity

Talk about God's amazing grace as the students work on their crosses.