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Bible Lesson 24 (BTJ)

1. Introduction

This lesson uses the Old Testament types to help explain the meaning of the gospel of Christ. For people who are concrete thinkers, who do not normally think in abstracts, these stories are quite useful for making the gospel plain to them.

Each of the events listed are explained in summary fashion. They include enough information to help the audience recall the event when it was first taught. Enough detail is included to refresh their memories while reaching the goal of making an application which should help them appropriate the gospel for themselves.

The principle of substitution is developed in such a way as to help people understand that salvation can only be by God's way. And, that any kind of human effort to earn salvation from God will fail. Man can only come to God in God's way. This is brought out through these Old Testament accounts and characters.

In every Old Testament event, there is either an exhortation for the people or an encouragement for them to trust in the work of Christ for their salvation. These are included to bring people to crossroads in their thinking.

In these stories, the point that faith is required for salvation is emphasized. Notice also that subjective response expressions such as "Ask Jesus into your heart" are not used. They should not be used because they force the audience to think about themselves instead of the objective work of Christ in history. If the subjective response expressions are used you will find people looking within themselves rather than to the objective work of Christ for their salvation.

The Old Testament stories from lesson point number three through number nine are presented in such a way as to focus on what God did in history to bring about the redemptive work of Christ for our salvation.

2. Review

Setting: Many of the people were gathered to discuss the Bible story of Christ's sacrificial work for them.

Greg: When Teacher taught us the first day, he told us that he had an important, long story to teach us. We did not know what it was about but we listened to him because we were curious. Now I know it is the most important story that anyone can ever hear.

Oren: Teacher encouraged us to come to every meeting and we did. It helped us to know the meaning of all of the stories and believe them.

Greg: After Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, God promised to send a deliverer who would have victory over Satan. We did not know who that Deliverer was. We just believed that God would do what he promised because he cannot lie.

Oren: God sent John to preach to the Jews so that they would admit their sinfulness and turn to God. John's work was to prepare the way for the coming Deliverer by preaching to the Jews that they needed to repent.

Greg: Then we heard how Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Mary was his mother and Joseph took care of him like a true father. God, however was his true father.

Oren: We were excited because we were learning about the promised Deliverer.

Greg: Teacher taught us about the many good things Jesus did. He taught the people with authority because he was God in a human body. His words were not empty, meaningless words. His words explained the Scriptures the prophets had written. He was a very good teacher.

Oren: Jesus also did many miracles. He had power over the natural elements such as making the wind and water. He commanded the stormy wind and waves to be calm and they immediately were calm. No one but God has power like that.

Greg: As we learned about Jesus, we longed to know more about him. He had compassion on the people and healed many sick people. He even cast out evil spirits from demon-possessed people. Everything that Jesus did was good and right.

Oren: Why did the scribes and Pharisees hate him without a just reason? I think they were jealous of Jesus and they listened to Satan's temptations to hate Jesus. When they accused Jesus before the chief priests and Pilate, they showed their hatred and their dishonor for God because Jesus is God.

Greg: The Jews who hated Jesus thought they were getting rid of him when they influenced Pilate to condemn Jesus to death. They did not understand that their evil actions fulfilled what God had prophesied would happen to the promised Deliverer.

Oren: When Pilate listened to the accusations of the Jews he knew they were not telling the truth. Even so, in order to remain popular with the Jews, he condemned Jesus to die. Pilate did not know that his condemnation of Christ was according to a prophecy.

Greg: When Jesus died and his blood was shed he paid for our sins. His sacrifice totally pleased God.

Oren: When Jesus died the curtain which hung in the middle of the Tabernacle was torn in two from top to bottom by God. No longer were people shut out from God. Jesus made it possible for people to be made right with God.

Greg: Anyone who admits that he is a sinner and trusts in the sacrificial work of Christ for him will be saved from the guilt and penalty of sin. I trust in Christ's work for my salvation because there is no other way to be made right with God than the way he provided which is Christ.

Oren: At first when I heard that Jesus had died I was so sad. Then I heard how he was buried in a tomb and three days later he came back to life by the power of God. Then I began to understand that he was the true Lamb of God who took away the sins of the world. I've believed in him, in the work he did for us by dying and shedding his blood to pay for our sins. Then I felt a load of sin taken off of me! I could hardly contain myself because now I am in the family of God.

Greg: The women who went to prepare Jesus body found his tomb was empty and they were perplexed. They did not understand what had happened.

Oren: Not only were the women perplexed about the empty tomb, the disciples also doubted that he could have come back to life. Thomas said he would not believe it unless he saw the scars on Jesus' hands and was able to put his hand into the side of Jesus where the soldiers speared him.

Greg: The disciples' doubt of the resurrection of Jesus changed. He appeared to them many times over the next forty days. He spoke with them and they saw him eat food with them so they knew that he was real. And he really was alive! Jesus never sinned so death could not contain him, it could not hold him lifeless in the grave.

Oren: The story about Jesus willingly sacrificing himself to pay for our sins is the best story that I have ever heard. He did not have to give himself up to pay for our sins. He wanted to do it.

Greg: Jesus loves people just like God loves people. He wants people to be made right with God through him. That is why he died on the cross for us.

Oren: Nothing compares to God's love for us. He was not obligated by anyone to send Jesus to be our Deliverer. He did it because he loves people.

Greg: Jesus Christ wanted to pay for our sins by his death and shed blood. No one has ever shown love to us like that!

Oren: I am so happy that Jesus wanted to save us. He did not have to do it, he wanted to do it which is why he is so special. Our Deliverer, Jesus, came to this earth in order to save us from the guilt and penalty of our sins.

Greg: Teacher said he obeyed Jesus' last command to his disciples and that is why he came to teach us the good news about Jesus Christ. I am so glad Teacher obeyed Jesus and taught us how to have our sins forgiven.

Oren: Jesus told his disciples that they should go to every place in the world and preach the good news that he saves people from their guilt and penalty of sin.

Greg: Just think about this. If Teacher would not have obeyed Jesus' command to teach us, we would still be separated from God. We would have no hope of ever being made right with God because we would not have known about Jesus and his work for us.

Oren: God showed his mercy and grace to us by sending Teacher to our village to teach us God's word. If God did not show mercy and grace to people, everyone would have to go to the awful, never-ending fire of punishment. I am so excited that he is my Savior. He forgave my sins and someday we will be with him in heaven.

Greg: Jesus will someday come back again, won't he? Teacher said when he comes back again he will not come as a suffering Savior. He will come back in the same manner that he was received into a cloud and ascended into heaven. So when he comes back, he will come back as a judge and ruler over people.

3. The Coats of Skin

Teacher: It is good to see everyone here today. I am going to teach you some stories that you heard and explain them to you so that you can see how God made himself known to people so that we might be made right with him.

Do you remember what God said to Adam in the garden of Eden? He told him not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil because in the day he ate of it he would die. Adam and Eve disobeyed God and they ate fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. They chose to obey Satan's lie and rebel against God. Now they were sinners and separated from God.

Did God kill them right away? Did they fall over and die right away? No, they did not immediately die. God showed mercy and grace to them. He allowed them to live. Had God destroyed them immediately, he would not have sinned or done anything wrong. But, God did not want them to die in their sins separated from him. That is why God was merciful to them.

What did God do for Adam and Eve after they had sinned against him? He rejected the fig-leaf coverings which they used to cover themselves. Then he covered them with a coat of animal skins which he made for them. The animals had not sinned against God, however, God used their skins to provide a covering for Adam and Eve.

Adam and Eve deserved to die because they had disobeyed God. But God showed mercy to them and covered them with garments he had made from animal skins. God showed them mercy and undeserved favor and they were able to live. Adam and Eve, covered with garments of animal skins made by God, were reminded of his mercy and grace which he showed to them. "This is the way God covered our sins so he could allow us to live," they were reminded.

God wants you to admit that you are a sinner and that you deserve to die. Because God has already shown mercy and grace to all of us, we are still alive. God's mercy and grace which he has shown to us is very special and precious. Do not take it lightly.

4. Abel's sacrifice

Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden of Eden. Now they had to work for their food in a world that was filled with many new challenges and problems for them. When they gave birth to their children, what kind of children were born? Were their children born with a perfect, sinless nature or was their nature a sinful one?

Cain was their firstborn child and Abel was their second-born. These two boys grew up with a sinful nature just like children today grow up with a sinful nature and do bad

things. That means Cain and Abel did things which displeased God.

When Cain and Abel were young men, they knew they were sinners. Cain did not admit this sin; he tried to cover it up. Abel, however, admitted that he was a sinner and he got a young lamb from his flock and sacrificed it as an offering to God to show God that he admitted his sinfulness and that he desperately needed God's mercy, grace, and the forgiveness of his sins.

Abel believed in God and knew that he deserved death because he was a sinner. Abel admitted to God that he was a sinner, that he deserved to die. To show his faith in God he took a lamb and killed it as a sacrifice and he offered it to God. In this sacrifice, the lamb took the place of Abel. It died and its blood was shed as a substitute for Abel's required death for being a sinner.

What did God do when he saw Abel truly worship him? When God saw that Abel truly believed in him and worshiped him with a true heart he accepted the death of the animal in the place of Abel's death. As the lamb was sacrificed to God it died and its blood ran out upon the earth. Abel offered the sacrifice to God. And God accepted his offering.

Having accepted Abel's offering, what did God do for Abel? God declared him to be right with him. No longer was Abel separated and condemned before God. Why did God accept him? God accepted Abel because his heart was right toward him. What does it mean that Abel's heart was right toward God? It means that Abel admitted his sinfulness and he came to God in God's way with a proper sacrifice because he believed in God. He trusted God.

Abel brought an acceptable sacrifice to God because his heart was right toward God and God forgave him all his sins. If your heart is right toward God in the same way that Abel's heart was right toward God, then God will forgive you of your sin.

Abel's proper sacrifice was a picture of the Lamb of God, the proper and only sacrifice which was able to pay for our sins. If you trust Christ's sacrificial work for you, God will make you right with him and you will never be separated from him again. That means he will forgive you of your sins and remove them as far as the east is from the west. Do you believe in Christ? Do you believe that the death and shed blood of Christ paid for you sins? If you trust in Christ's substitutionary, sacrificial work for you, God will forgive you of your sins and give you a right relationship with him through Jesus Christ. God wants you to trust in Christ alone.

5. Noah's Ark

During the time of Noah all of the people were very wicked. They did not worship God nor did they want to know about God. They had no regard for him whatsoever. God saw their wickedness and decided to destroy them with a great flood that would cover the whole earth.

Noah was different from the other people. Noah was a righteous man, the only blameless person living on earth at the time. God told Noah that he was going to destroy all living creatures on the earth by a great flood. He told Noah to build an Ark, a large boat which would house pairs of all the animals and birds as well as his family during the great flood. The ark would float upon the flood water and be the instrument to save Noah and his family. Noah was married and had three sons who were also married. Only these eight persons would be spared when the great flood happened.

God told Noah how to build the ark and Noah obeyed him. He built it just like God had instructed him. When it was finished, Noah and his family entered the ark through its only door. Then pairs of animals and birds entered the ark through that same door. When God closed the door of the ark no one or anything else could enter the Ark.

Noah and his family were safely shut in the ark when God closed its door. All of the other people living at that time were shut out of the ark when God closed its door. They could not enter the ark because it was too late for them. They had rejected the message which Noah had preached to them. For one hundred and twenty years he warned them and preached to them that they should turn from their wickedness and believe God. All of the people who had rejected Noah's message were shut out from the ark which God used to spare Noah and his family.

This story teaches us that it is important to submit to God's message for us about Jesus Christ. When you heard the story about Jesus dying, his burial, and his resurrection, you heard the most important message that anyone can ever hear. God wants you to believe in that message for your salvation. Do not harden your heart against the conviction this message brings in your heart. If you harden your heart you will be like the people who were shut out of the ark and died in the great flood. All of them died separated from God. Where do you think their spirits went when they died? The spirits of those people went to the awful place of the never-ending fire of punishment because they rejected God. Today, they are still in that awful place.

In the same way that Noah's family could enter the ark only through one door, there is only one way for you to be made right with God and that is through Jesus Christ. If you admit that you are a helpless, hopeless sinner who deserves death and you believe that Jesus took your place and your punishment when he died and shed his blood for you, then

God will save you from the guilt and punishment you deserve. If you trust in the sacrificial work of Christ for your salvation, God will make you right with him and you will never be separated from him again. He will give you eternal life.

Do you believe in the sacrificial work of Christ for you? There is only one way to be saved and that is by trusting in the sacrificial work of Christ for you. God wants you to believe in the sacrificial work of Christ which fully paid for your sin. If you believe it, then it is like you have been taken into God's ark through the one and only door, Jesus Christ. When you trust Christ's sacrificial work for your salvation, then God saves you and he gives you a right relationship with him because of Christ.

6. Abraham Offering Isaac

Do you remember the story about Abraham offering Isaac? God spoke to Abraham and told him to sacrifice his son Isaac as a burnt offering to him. God had placed a death sentence upon Isaac, Abraham's beloved son. Abraham heard God's command and submitted to it. He prepared himself to sacrifice his son Isaac, the son of promise, as a burnt offering to the Lord.

Abraham and Isaac traveled to the land of Moriah, to the place on the mountain where God had told him to go. Then Abraham built an altar and placed wood on top of it. He was ready to obey God's command and sacrifice Isaac just like God had told him to do. Abraham placed Isaac on top of the wood which was on top of the altar. Then he took a knife and raised his arm to strike Isaac in obedience to God's command. Just then an angel of the Lord called to him and told him to spare Isaac's life. Abraham obeyed the angel and did not strike Isaac.

Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught by its horns in a thicket nearby. Abraham went to the ram and killed it and offered it as a sacrifice to the Lord in the place of Isaac. Who caused the ram to be caught by its horns in a nearby thicket? God provided the ram that Abraham sacrificed in the place of Isaac. Isaac could not save himself because God had placed a death sentence upon him. Remember this: God had commanded Abraham to sacrifice Isaac as a burnt offering to him.

The ram which Abraham killed took the place of Isaac and it died. Isaac, however, lived. In the same way that Isaac had a death sentence placed upon him, so too do we have a death sentence placed upon us because we are born in sin and we are sinners. No man can pay for his own sins in a way which will be acceptable to God. That's why God sent Jesus to be our Deliverer to die in our place and to fully pay the price for our sins. Nobody could do anything to make himself right with God. Only Jesus could do that because he

was God in a human body without any sin.

Isaac lived because God accepted the death of a ram in the place of his death. God showed mercy and grace to Isaac and allowed him to live because he considered the death of the ram a suitable substitute for Isaac.

Right now if you believe in the work of Christ for your salvation God will forgive you of your sin. Jesus was the perfect substitute whose death and shed blood fully paid for the sins of the whole world. If you trust the work of Christ for you then God will forgive your sin because he accepted the work of Christ as the right payment for sin.

Do you trust the sacrificial work of Christ for the forgiveness of your sins? Do you believe that Christ's death and shed blood fully paid for your sin? Do you believe that Christ was the substitute for you? God wants you to trust the work of Christ as the only acceptable payment for sin. God wants you to believe that Jesus, our Deliverer, fully paid for our sins. God wants you to know that his wrath toward sin was appeased, taken care of, by the sacrificial work of Christ. If you trust in the work of Christ which God approves he will forgive you of your sin. No longer will you be guilty and deserve to die and be punished in the never-ending fire of punishment.

Remember, as God showed his mercy and grace to Isaac by providing a suitable substitute for him, so too has he shown mercy and grace to us by accepting the sacrificial work of Christ as the right payment for sin. Do you believe in Christ? Do you trust his work on your behalf for your salvation?

Christ did not die on the cross because he needed to pay for his sins. Christ never sinned. He did not need to be saved. No, he was God and was perfect in every way. Christ willingly died, shed his blood, and fully paid for our sins. He gave his life to pay for our sins. He was our substitute so that we might live. God accepted the substitutionary work of Christ on our behalf as the proper atonement for our sins. If we trust in Christ's substitutionary work which God has already accepted, then God will forgive our sins and make us right with him. That means we will never be separated from him again.

7. The Passover Lamb

Do you remember when the Israelites lived in the land of Egypt? When they were slaves in the land of Egypt, they were powerless to deliver themselves from the Egyptian rule. God showed mercy to them and planned to deliver them from the Egyptians. He chose Moses to be their leader and to lead them out of the land of Egypt. God sent Moses to tell Pharaoh that the Israelites would be leaving the land of Egypt. Pharaoh did not believe in

God and he said the Israelites were not allowed to leave Egypt. Then God sent plagues upon the Egyptians to show them that he was all-powerful and to show them that they needed to submit to him. But that did not happen. They would not submit to God's will for the children of Israel which Moses had told them about.

Even though God sent hardships upon the Egyptians nine times, they continued to harden their hearts against God. Pharaoh had no fear of God in his heart. He did not know God. He did he want to know God. Pharaoh believed in himself. He believed that he was the greatest person and that he needed to be worshiped by others.

Then God told Moses that a death sentence was placed upon every firstborn, man or animal, in the whole country of Egypt. How could anyone escape the effect of that death sentence? What could a person do to circumvent God's judgment? There was nothing anyone could do on their own to avoid the tenth plague which God said he was going to send upon the land of Egypt.

Then God instructed Moses to tell the Israelites what to do in order to avoid the death of their firstborn. God said the Israelites were supposed to prepare a lamb for a Passover meal. They were supposed to kill a lamb, catch its blood in a basin and apply it to the doorposts of their houses. At midnight when the Lord would go through the land of Egypt striking every firstborn, he would pass over the houses of the Israelites who had applied the blood of the slain lamb to the doorposts of their houses.

The Israelites obeyed God and applied the blood of the Passover lamb to the door posts of their houses. When God went through the land of Egypt and struck the firstborn among people and animals, no one was harmed among the Israelites because they had obeyed God's way of escape. In all of the land of Egypt, even in mighty Pharaoh's household, there was death because every firstborn among animals and people was dead.

Listen to this explanation: The lamb which died, whose blood had been applied to the doorposts of the Israelites' houses had died in the place of the firstborn. Had those lambs sinned against God? No, they had not sinned against God. They did not die because they deserved death. They were slain because they were substitutes whose blood was applied to the door posts of the Israelites' houses.

At midnight, when the Lord passed through the land of Egypt, he saw the blood of the slain lambs on the door posts of the Israelites' houses, he knew they believed in him and in his way of escape from death. The Lord passed over all of those houses and did not kill any of the firstborn inside. However, every house in the land of Egypt that did not have the blood of the slain lamb applied to its door posts experienced the death of the firstborn

in their families and among their animals.

God showed his mercy and grace to the Israelites by providing a way for them to escape death which is the punishment for sin. The Israelites could not save themselves from the Egyptians. Only God could do that for them. God wanted the Israelites to know that he chose to show them mercy and grace. He wanted them to live. He did not want their firstborn among the people or the animals to die. That is why he provided a way of escape for them.

Jesus was the lamb of God who was slain by evil people. He willingly allowed this to happen so that his death and shed blood would pay for the sins of the world. He died in our place. He did not deserve to die. We deserved to die because we are sinners. God has fully accepted the death of Christ and his shed blood as the proper payment for our sins. If you believe in Christ's sacrificial work for you, God will spare you from eternal death. Why? Because he forgives the sins of everyone who trusts in the sacrificial work of Christ for their salvation. When God forgives a person of their sins it means that person will never be separated from God again. He has been forgiven and given eternal life!

Do you believe that Jesus was the perfect lamb of God? Do you believe that his death and blood which was shed for you has fully paid for your sin? If you trust in the work of Christ alone, God will forgive you and make you right with him. If you do not trust in the work of Christ for your salvation, God will not forgive you of your sins and you will have to pay for being a sinner in the never-ending fire of punishment which is eternal death. God wants everyone to trust Christ, to believe that his sacrificial work met God's righteous and holy requirement for the payment of sin.

8. The Tabernacle and the Mercy Seat

When the children of Israel were in the wilderness, God instructed them to build a Tabernacle. Why did God want the Israelites to build a Tabernacle? God wanted the Tabernacle constructed as he instructed Moses so that the Israelites could come to it and worship him with sacrifices and offerings.

The Tabernacle was divided into two parts, an outer and inner court. In the outer court there was a brazen altar where the Israelites sacrificed burnt offerings to the Lord. An Israelite who knew that he was a sinner and needed God's grace and mercy shown to him would bring an animal to the Tabernacle and sacrifice it to the Lord. He would place his hand upon the head of the animal to be slain signifying that he agreed he should die because he was a sinner. In this way, he acknowledged his sinfulness and guilt before God. The animal's death and blood which was shed at the altar was a substitute for the

death of the sinner who brought the animal to be sacrificed. God forgave the person who sacrificed his animal because he believed in God and came to God in the way which God prescribed.

The Tabernacle had two parts called the holy place and the most holy place. A thick curtain separated the holy place from the most holy place. That showed people that sinners were shut out from the most holy place where God resided. Once a year on the day of atonement an animal was killed and its blood was caught in a basin. The high priest would go inside the most holy place with the basin filled with the sacrificed animal's blood. Then the high priest would sprinkle some of the blood upon the mercy seat inside of the most holy place. If everything had been done right, God forgave the sins of the Israelites for the past year.

In the manner that the blood which was sprinkled upon the mercy seat made atonement for the Israelites' sins, so too has the shed blood of Christ atoned for our sins. The Israelites were guilty of having sinned against God but an animal died in their place. In the same way all of us have committed sins and deserve to die but Jesus has died in our place. It is the death and shed blood of Christ that makes it possible for God to forgive us of our sins. Jesus did not sin, however, he took our place and died in our place. He is our substitute whose death and blood fully paid the price to make it possible for God to forgive us and make us right with him.

Do you believe that Jesus took your place, died and shed his blood for you? Do you believe that he was the true substitute for you? Jesus did not deserve to die, he chose to die in our place so that his death and his blood could pay for our sins. God saw all that happened to Jesus and he accepted his sacrificial work on our behalf. That means everyone who believes in the sacrificial work of Christ which God accepted as the full payment for our sins will be saved from the guilt and penalty of their sins. Do you believe this? God wants you to believe that Christ's sacrificial work fully atoned for your sins. You must trust in the substitutionary work of Christ in order to have your sins forgiven and to have a right relationship with God.

The only way anyone can be made right with God is to come to God in God's way. That means a person must believe in the sacrificial work of Christ for him for the forgiveness of sins. If someone does not trust Christ's work for his salvation, he will not be saved. He will die separated from God and go to the awful never-ending fire of punishment. Right now, not later, is the time for everyone to trust Christ for their salvation. Right now God wants you to trust in the sacrificial work of Christ which has fully paid for your sins.

9. The Brazen Serpent

When the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they often complained about their living conditions. They complained against Moses and Aaron and said evil things about them. God heard their complaints and he knew that they were not happy with him. They did not fully believe in him nor did they trust him to lead them rightly in the wilderness. Though they accused Moses and Aaron, the accusations they made were against God and he judged them for it.

One time God sent fiery serpents among the children of Israel in order to punish them. The fiery serpents bit many of the Israelites and they suffered and died of the serpent bites. As they suffered from the fiery serpent bites, they cried out to God for mercy because only God could save them from their dilemma. God heard their cry and showed mercy to them because he is long-suffering and merciful.

Then God told Moses to make a bronze serpent and put it on a pole in the middle of the community. God told Moses to tell the Israelites that whoever looked at the bronze serpent lifted up on a pole would be healed. Moses obeyed God and placed a bronze serpent which he had made on a pole in the middle of their community. Everyone who looked at that bronze serpent on the pole was healed. They did not suffer or die. If someone who was bitten refused to look at the bronze serpent on a pole, he was not healed. He suffered and died because of unbelief.

Do you remember when Nicodemus spoke with Jesus? Jesus told Nicodemus in the same way that Moses lifted up the bronze serpent on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up. Every person bitten by a fiery serpent who looked on the bronze serpent on the pole was healed. In the same way Christ has been lifted up and anyone who believes his sacrificial work for them, will be forgiven of their sins and given eternal life. The right thing to do is to trust the work of Christ for your salvation. Then God will forgive you of your sins and you will have eternal life.

What does it mean to have eternal life? Eternal life is given to everyone who trusts Christ's sacrificial work for their salvation. That means a person who having admitted that he deserved death for his sins, having trusted Christ's work to have fully paid for his sin, is made right with God because of Christ. He will not have to pay for his sins in the never-ending fire of punishment. Eternal life with Christ means having been made right with God because of Christ's substitutionary work through believing in him. Eternal life means there is no more condemnation hanging over the saved person's head. One who believes in the sacrificial work of Christ is made right with God and will never be separated from him again. God will not see that person as a sinner separated from him. He will see that person as one who is right with him because of Christ.

Do you believe in the work of Christ on your behalf? God does not want people to reject the work of Christ the way Cain rejected him. Cain wanted to come to God in his own way. He refused to come to God in God's way. God rejected him because his heart was not right toward God.

Some people listen to God's Word about the work of Christ for them. Then they try to add something to it and hope that God will be pleased with them. Do you think a person who does that only trusts in God? Does he only trust the sacrificial work of Christ to have paid for his sins?

Anyone who tries to add something to Christ's sacrificial work to help save himself is deluded in his thinking. God only accepts people who come to him in his way which is through Jesus Christ. It is very important to trust in Christ alone for your salvation. Only his death and shed blood atoned for our sins. God only accepted the death and shed blood of Christ as the full payment for our sins. Nothing can be added to Christ's perfect substitutionary work for us. It is already perfect and complete.

Listen to this: God wants you to admit that you cannot save yourself. He wants you to admit that you deserve to die and to be punished for your sins. He wants you to agree with him that Christ is the only way to be saved from the guilt and penalty of your sins. God wants you to trust what Jesus did for you at a point and time in history at Calvary. God wants you to believe that Jesus willingly died on the cross and shed his blood in order to make payment for your sins. Do you trust Christ for your salvation?

10. Rejoicing in Heaven

If you have trusted Christ for your salvation, God has saved you and you are now in his family forever! When you die your spirit will go to be with God. You will never be separated from him again.

What do you think happens in Heaven when one person is saved from eternal damnation? Do you remember the parable Jesus taught about the lost sheep and the lost coin? A shepherd had one hundred sheep and one of them wandered off and was lost. What did this shepherd do? This shepherd searched for the lost sheep until he found it. Then he carried it home and announced to his friends that he found his lost sheep. What did they do when they heard that his lost sheep was found? They rejoiced with him and they had a great celebration because the lost sheep was now in his possession.

Jesus said there is more rejoicing in heaven over one person who turns to God than over the others who have already turned to God. Why? Because when a person believes in

God, believes in the work of Christ for his salvation, God saves him and he will never be lost again. When God saves a person he is removed from the family of the lost people and placed into his family of saved people who can never be lost again. That's why the angels in heaven greatly rejoice when just one person trusts in Christ and is saved.

If you have believed in Christ there was much rejoicing in heaven when you trusted Christ to save you because God forgave you of your sins and you were saved.

Jesus also talked about a woman who lost one of her ten silver coins. This woman searched and searched for the lost coin until she found it. What did she do after she found it? She told her friends and neighbors and told them that the lost coin was found. When her friends and neighbors heard that the lost coin was found they rejoiced greatly with her.

Jesus said in the same way that people rejoice when they find earthly things which were lost so too there is much rejoicing in heaven when one sinner trusts Christ for his salvation. When one sinner is saved, the angels in heaven rejoice greatly before God because someone who was lost has been saved!

Are the angels in heaven rejoicing right now? If you have trusted Christ and are saved, there is much rejoicing in heaven for you because you have been saved! If you have just trusted Christ for your salvation, in heaven before the throne of God the angels are rejoicing and praising God for his goodness, his mercy and grace to people who are now truly in his family because of Jesus Christ.

11. Review of the Lesson's Themes

The Old Testament types provide a way to present the objective historical Gospel without using subjective response based language. Teach as much as the biblical text supports about each of these Old Testament types. It is best to allow the principle of substitution to develop according to historical events and revelation.

Mercy instead of death: God provided a garment made from animal skins to cover Adam and Eve. He rejected their self-effort covering.

Admission of one's sinfulness ... faith in God is required: Abel's faith in God led to him bringing a right sacrifice to God. Cain refused to listen to God and represents the wrongness of approaching God in one's own way.

Noah, The Ark's one door, and the flood: God pronounced judgment upon the wicked people because they had no time for him. God showed mercy and grace to Noah who believed in God. Noah had faith in God and built the ark according to God's instructions.

The ark had only one door which points to the fact that salvation is by God's way. It pointed forward to Jesus Christ as the only way through whom people can be saved.

Abraham offering Isaac: God placed a death sentence upon Isaac which could only be removed by God. The ram provided by God died in the place of Isaac. God is the main character in this story. **Isaac was delivered from death by God's way**, the substitutionary blood sacrifice of the ram, provided for by God.

The first Passover: God placed a death sentence upon all firstborn in the land of Egypt. Then he revealed to Moses how he made a provision for the firstborn of the Israelites to be saved from death. Again, this type shows how **God provided for a way of escape which had to be followed exactly as he prescribed.**

The Passover lamb had to die, its blood had to be shed and applied to the doorposts. This prefigured what Christ had to do to pay for our sins. He died and his blood was shed to appease God's wrath toward sin.

Prescribed sacrifices: The Israelite who agreed with God that he was a sinner in need of mercy, grace, and forgiveness offered a blood sacrifice at the brazen altar. In the place of the sinner, the animal died and its blood was shed. This substitutionary death prefigured the substitutionary death of the Deliverer for the payment for our sins.

Atonement for sins was by death and blood of the sacrifice which was presented in God's prescribed way. *'For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement.'* Without the shedding of blood of the acceptable animal, there is no remission of sins of the one offering it. To come to be accepted by God, one must come to him in his way.

Faith is required for salvation: Belief in God's way for deliverance and looking at the bronze serpent were required to be healed. If a person did not look at the bronze serpent, he suffered and died. If they looked at it, God showed mercy to them and they lived.

12. Practice Telling the Bible Stories

At the end of this lesson, practice telling the stories that you have just heard to each other. Presenting the Gospel via the Old Testament types is an effective way for presenting truth.

This is the last lesson and presents the Gospel in light of Old Testament events and teachings. It is important to understand these stories well so study and practice teaching them as often as necessary.

Here is a suggestion for practicing telling the stories in this lesson:

Tell the story for points #2 and #3 together. Then tell the story of each individual point through the end of the lesson which is lesson point #10.

The way you tell these stories is important. If you do not teach them with authority and confidence, you may find the audience to be less responsive than they should be.

Be prepared to engage the audience with questions which are crafted to bring out how well they understand the meaning of the story. Emphasize the important points when telling the stories. Challenge them to believe what they are hearing. This is God's expectation.

Use the visual aids or objects used in the lesson to as you tell the story.

After you have practiced telling stories to each other, talk about ways to improve your story-telling ability. Be open to critique and be kind to each other as you work together to help each other become master story-tellers. The goal of teaching God's Word via telling Bible stories is the salvation people who need to be saved.

As you tell these last stories be sure to focus on God's mercy and grace shown to mankind. God was not obligated to provide salvation for us because we earned it. He chose to do so because he loves people and wants them to be reconciled to himself through Jesus Christ.

13. Teaching Tips for Teachers

General Note for this lesson:

In the previous two lessons, the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ was taught. It is probable that some people have come to salvation during these lessons while others may be trying to understand it. These Old Testament stories are included here to help people come to salvation.

Engage the people as you teach them these Old Testament stories. Ask them, “do you understand?” Then give them time to respond. You may have to teach several of these stores before people begin to understand their meaning and how Christ fulfilled them through his sacrificial work. There is greater probability of people being saved if you take time in the teaching for the Holy Spirit to make meanings plain to them. Salvation truly is on the Lord which means we must be patient and allow time for God to do his work.

As you appeal to the Old Testament types and characters, tell the story without saying “this is from the Old Testament.” It is what God did in that event that is most important so it is best to not use the terms ‘Old Testament’ or ‘New Testament’ at this time. If someone you are teaching knows these terms and uses them do not try to correct them.

This lesson uses the Old Testament types and presents the gospel through them because people who are concrete thinkers usually understand the Gospel when presented through the fulfilment of these stories through Christ. In other words when you talk about Abel offering a lamb it makes it easier for them to understand that Jesus was the Lamb of God whose death and blood paid for our sins. When you talk about Abel bringing the right sacrifice to God, it is easier to make the connection to Jesus Christ whom God provided as the right sacrifice for our sins.

As you go through the Old Testament stories which were taught to the people, you will speak about events and characters which are already familiar to them. For example, having stressed that the ark which Noah built only had one door, makes easy to connect to the fact that there is only one way for people to be saved and that is through Jesus Christ.

The Old Testament event of Abraham offering Isaac on Mount Moriah is a story that many people relate to and are able to see how Christ is the fulfillment of that picture in history. In all of these Old Testament events, it is important to focus on the work of God in history more than the human character. However, it is not wrong to appeal to the things that the human characters experienced in history.

The principle of substitution develops in these Old Testament stories. Be careful that you do not apply with rigidity this principle before it is explicit in the Scripture. For example, when God gave Adam and Eve garments made from animal skins it implies that the animals died and their blood was shed. It is better to focus on the fact that God showed mercy to Adam and Eve and provided an acceptable covering for them. God rejected their own efforts of covering their shame and nakedness. God did not kill them right away, but, he showed mercy to them. If you focus on his mercy and benevolent provision for them, you will not read into Scripture something that is not explicated in the text or anywhere in Scripture. The principle of substitution develops in history until it is finally fully realized through the work of Christ at Calvary.

As you teach these Old Testament events which prefigure the work of Christ make the application for the people. For example, as Abel in faith brought the right sacrifice to God, and God accepted it in the place of his death, in like manner God has provided the right sacrifice to pay for our sins. This sacrifice is Jesus Christ who gave his life and shed his blood to pay for our sins. If you believe in Christ's sacrificial work for you in the same way that Abel believe in God, then God will show mercy he is forgiven you of your sins. Do you believe in this sacrificial work of Christ for you? Do you believe that the death and blood of Christ paid for your sins? If you trust in the work of Christ for your salvation, God will forgive you of your sins and give you eternal life.

After each Old Testament type, make the application from that type to help the people understand that what was prefigured in the Old Testament has been fulfilled through Jesus Christ.

Normally when these Old Testament types and events are taught, some people will make a quicker connection with their fulfillment in Christ than others. That means some may come to salvation early as you use these explanations. For others, you may have to teach the whole series before they understand. And, there may be some who need to hear all of these presented two or more times before they understand them.

As a teacher your responsibility is to take whatever time is necessary to make the message claimed to people so they can respond affirmatively to the gospel message.

At the same time as a teacher you must realize that some people may understand the meaning of the gospel message but choose to ignore its importance for them and not believe in it. However, if you have used these stories from the Old Testament, you have provided teaching which can easily be remembered and brought to memory by the Holy Spirit at later times.

14. To the Honorable Teacher

If any part of this lesson is misunderstood, go over that part again. Play that part of the lesson again. Summarize that part briefly for the students then play that part a second time. Then ask questions to ascertain whether or not this part of the lesson is now understood.

Be prepared to use proper illustrations to clarify a given lesson point. Sometimes it is helpful to use a picture and talk about what is portrayed in the picture as you teach.

Stress to the students that the important themes of this lesson must be understood before proceeding to the next lesson.

Simple drama can be useful to make a point clearer in the people's minds. Before using drama, be sure that it is culturally appropriate to do so. If people are not accustomed to understanding simple drama, it may be best to not use it.

At this point in the teaching is more important than ever for you to mingle with the people to discover how well they understand the lessons and to what degree they are believing the message you are teaching them. It is very important at this point for you to show in an appropriate manner your sincere concern for their spiritual welfare.