

Redemption through **JESUS**

(Part Two)



FAMILY LIFE
RESOURCES



FAMILY LIFE RESOURCES

Growing Together, Rooted in Faith - Colossians 2:7

We understand the challenges of busy schedules at home, which is why we offer resources that support you and your family which are easy to use, relevant and most importantly honor God. We pray these resources for your home along with the classes and services at First Church make an eternal difference in the lives of families like yours.

Blessings,
First Church Open Bible

Colossians 2:6,7

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.



**FAMILY LIFE
RESOURCES**

Redemption Through Jesus

INTRODUCTION

***"In the beginning was the Word
And the Word was with God
And the Word was God.***

***He was with God in the beginning.
Through Him all things were made.
Without Him, nothing was made that has been made.***

***In Him was life, and that life
Was the light of all mankind." John 1:1-4***

The entirety of the Old Testament is to introduce us to the redemption found in Jesus.

The Passover, the ancestry of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the genealogies, the Law, the Prophets, the history of the Israelites, and the sacrificial system - all were recorded so that we might better under-

stand the purpose of the coming of Christ.

Jesus Christ himself said "I come to proclaim the good news of the kingdom"
Matthew 4:23

In this family resource, we briefly lay out the story of Jesus coming to fulfill the Law and the Prophets.
Matthew 5:17

LESSON 1

The Last Supper

Parent's Passage: Luke 22
Family Reading: John 13:1-17
Key Verse: John 13:15

I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

Before we begin, please understand that there are so many things to learn in that final night Jesus spent with his disciples that it's hard to condense them into just a page or two. This is simply a small attempt to highlight a few lessons from that night.

JESUS "EAGERLY DESIRED" GOD'S WILL FOR HIS LIFE

"I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer." Luke 22:15

The Passover, though filled with symbolic foods and ceremonies meant to help the Israelites remember how God delivered from slavery in Egypt, has also been described as a love story from the Old Testament. After all, God spared His people from death and slavery and prepared them for what was to come.

And Jesus - even though He knew He would soon be tortured and put to death - "eagerly desired" to give God the glory by taking part in this tradition. He also "eagerly desired" to share these special final moments with His closest friends.

Imagine this! If you have ever been told, "You're going to be punished after dinner," you probably wouldn't enjoy that dinner very much. But Jesus loved God the Father, He loved his disciples (even the one that would betray Him), and Jesus loves us.

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When we are in the perfect will of God the Father, just as Jesus was during that Passover meal, we too, can “eagerly desire” what lies ahead—even when it’s hard.

JESUS IS ENOUGH

“And he took bread . . . ‘This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me. In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.’”

Luke 22:19-20

God has an amazing way of giving very big messages while still allowing us time to understand them. The disciples at the Last Supper had spent their whole lives being taught in detail about sacrifices to God. For example:

- **A burnt offering of a bull for devotion to God and atonement for sin**
- **A goat for offenses against God’s commandments**
- **Frankincense as an offering of gratitude for God’s provisions** (Leviticus 1- 4).

But Jesus, in declaring the “new covenant” in Him, took away all those rules and offered Himself as the only perfect sacrifice. Do you think the disciples fully understood this huge change in atoning for sin during the meal? Probably not. And Jesus knew they wouldn’t. However, He also knew that in time, they would come to understand (John 13:7).

JESUS LEADS BY EXAMPLE

Take a few moments to think about what makes a good leader. Is it a fitness trainer sitting in a recliner eating potato chips telling you to get fit? Or someone who says, “Spend less time on your phone,” while glued to their own screen? Clearly, we want a leader who not only teaches us but actually lives out what they tell us to do.

Jesus is not just *an* example, He is the *perfect* example of a leader!

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In Jesus's time, a common custom was to wash feet. Everyone walked around in sandals through the dusty desert land, so their feet just got yucky! People typically washed their own feet, but in some households, a servant—usually the one considered least important—would wash the guests' feet.

But John 13:3-5 tells us that the Lord, to whom all power was given, knelt to wash the disciples' feet. He did this in the humblest way possible.

- **The one whose feet we will all bow down to** (Romans 14:11), **instead, knelt at His disciples' feet.**
- **The feet He formed Himself** (Psalm 139:13) **were the feet He made clean again.**

And remember, Jesus didn't do this expecting His disciples to return the favor or even to thank Him. He did it to show that a true leader serves.

"Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet."

(John 13:14)

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Today we don't usually wash feet, but there are many ways we can serve others like Jesus did. Pray together as a family about ways you can serve.

Here are some ideas to get you started:

- ***Write a kind note to your school teacher or Sunday school teacher, but don't tell them who it came from.***
- ***Mow someone's lawn or shovel their driveway when it snows.***
- ***Offer to help carry something for someone whose hands are full.***
- ***Choose a family member or a friend and find a way to make their day better. It doesn't have to cost any money, just time and effort - and do it cheerfully!***

LESSON 2

The Work of the Cross

Parent's Passage: Matthew 27:45-54

Family Reading: Matthew 27:51-54

Key Verse: Matthew 27:54

"When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, 'Surely he was the Son of God!'"

Introduction: In lesson 1 we learned how the sacrificial system of the Old Testament was brought to completion on the cross. Jesus himself said, ***"This is my body given for you."*** (Luke 22:19)

He made the way for the new covenant when His blood was shed to cover our sin (Luke 22:20).

In this lesson, we want to look at the amazing work accomplished by Jesus' death on the cross. This is clearly recorded in Matthew 27:45-54. ***There was a great shift coming!*** As Jesus hung on the cross, this is what was happening all around him:

- ***Darkness came over all the land.*** (Matthew 27:45)
- ***At the moment Jesus gave up His Spirit, the curtain in the Temple, separating the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies, was torn in two from top to bottom.*** (v. 51)
- ***The Earth shook, the rocks split open, and tombs broke open*** (v. 51) ***during a great earthquake.***
- ***The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life.*** (v. 52-53)

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These signs demonstrated to those who were watching that Jesus had authority over all the Earth (Matthew 28:18), that He had authority over the Law, that He had authority over Death, and that He was the son of God (v. 54)!

CONCLUSION

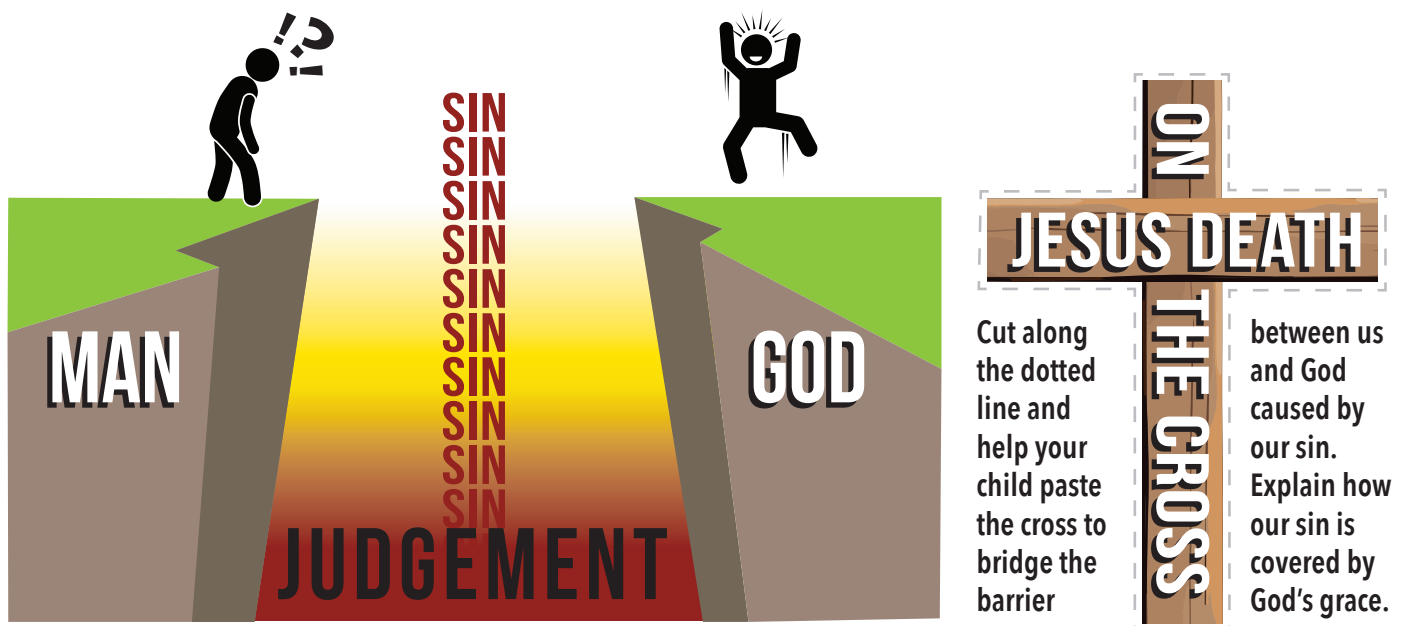
The work of Jesus on the cross made the way for all people to come to God. The old system, of the Law, was replaced with a New Covenant through Christ!

Through this New Covenant, Jesus, made a way for us to come to the Father by receiving His sacrifice for our sins, giving us new spiritual life and fellowship with Him.

The cross, once a symbol of pain is made beautiful by Jesus' love and willingness to endure it, so we can have Friendship with Him and eternity with God our Father.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Explain to your children that we have all sinned, and our sin is a barrier keeping us from God. However, in His mercy God sent His son Jesus to pay the penalty for our sin and provide the way for our salvation through faith in Him to forgive our sin!



LESSON 3

Resurrection Day!

Parent's Passage:	Luke 24
Family Reading:	Luke 24:13-32
Key Verse:	Luke 24:34

***"It is true! The Lord has risen and
has appeared to Simon."***

The horrible weekend they had just experienced put fear in the hearts of all the disciples of Jesus. They had gathered together to pray. The women of the group went to properly prepare Jesus' body for burial, although they did not know how they would move the heavy stone that was sealing the entrance to the cave where His body lay.

[You can find the story in all four gospels - Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, and John 20]

When they arrived, they were shocked to find the stone moved and the tomb empty! Even more surprising, an angel standing in the garden told them that Jesus was alive!

The women returned to the rest of the disciples and told them what they had seen, but the men did not believe their story. Peter and John left to check for themselves.

Meanwhile, two of Jesus followers decided to take a long walk to get away from the city. As they were walking, Jesus himself joined them, but in their grief, they did not recognize him.

As they walked and talked together, Jesus explained why the promised Messiah would need to suffer on earth before he received his glory.

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He explained all the promises of the Messiah from the Law, Prophets and Psalms. (Luke 24:27 and 44)

Just as they were breaking bread together, their eyes were opened and they began to recognize him-but then He disappeared from their sight. They hurried back to the rest of the disciples, and Jesus met them there! He spoke words of peace over their troubled hearts.

THE LESSON FOR US -

Sometimes it is very difficult to recognize the presence of the Lord among us. We often walk and talk together, without realizing that Jesus is with us. Just as He did with his first disciples, He must open our eyes to His presence. (Luke 24:31) At times, it is easier to recognize His presence when we are together. We always need the help of the Holy Spirit to discern the things of God.

Then He opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ... I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

(Luke 24:45 and 49)

Understanding the ways of the Lord is sometimes difficult, but this passage gives us tips for better understanding:

- **Become familiar with scripture** (Luke 27 & 44)
- **Talk things over with Christian friends** (Luke 24:14-21)
- **Meet together regularly with like-minded Christians** (Luke 24:33)
- **Most importantly, wait for better understanding from the Holy Spirit!** (Luke 24:49)

JESUS ON THE ROAD to EMMANUEL

Luke 24:13-33



LESSON 4

The Last Commandment

Parent's Passage: Matthew 28

Family Reading: Matthew 28:16-20

Key Verse: Matthew 28:19

***"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit,"***

If you could give final words to someone you love, what would they be? Maybe you would say "I love you," and hope that they believed you. Maybe you would want to share your feelings. Or maybe you would want them to know something important, like the password to your bank account.

We don't have to wonder what Jesus would say, because our key verse tells us!

THEREFORE GO - ***"Therefore"*** is a word used to connect two ideas or thoughts. In the verse before, Jesus assured us that He is Lord: ***"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."*** With that in mind, He has the authority to command. The first word of His final command is to ***"go."*** Just as He did during His lifetime, He wants us to move! We must go out and seek the people Jesus loves. And remember - Jesus loves us all! ***"For God so loved the world . . ."*** (John 3:16)

AND MAKE DISCIPLES - Some translations say "teach all nations," which is a clearer description of what Jesus is asking here. He does not want us to remain silent. He is not asking for Christians that keep their faith to themselves, but He is calling us to go and to teach.

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You might say, "But I am not a good teacher." This is not true! There's another lesson about leading by example. We can also teach by example. Here are a few ways to do that:

- **We can speak words that are pleasing to God, "*A gentle answer turns away wrath*" (Proverbs 15:1) or "*Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.*" (Proverbs 16:24).**
- **We can show others God's love by showing compassion: "*Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*" (Ephesians 4:32)**
- **We can help when and where we're able—without complaining! "*So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you.*" (Matthew 7:12)**
- **We can share how God has been good to us: "*I will tell of the kindnesses of the Lord, the deeds for which He is to be praised . . .*" (Isaiah 63:7)**

OF ALL NATIONS - The next time you hesitate to talk about Jesus, remember this verse! Does this say to disciple only people that have a certain skin color? Or only people who speak a certain language? Or only those nearby . . . if they look nice . . . or if they live a certain way?

NO! Jesus makes no exceptions here. He tells us all nations, which means all people. No exceptions!

BAPTIZING THEM - Baptism does not save a sinner, but for those who choose to become a disciple of Christ, it is an act of worship and obedience. It is an outward sign that their old ways are buried – just as Jesus was buried in the tomb – they rise to a new life in Him. Baptism marks the beginning of a new believer's journey to make disciples. This is a great opportunity for believers to share their faith with others.

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IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - This is the whole point! We cannot fulfill the Great Commission-or any other work of the Lord-without the power and presence of the Trinity guiding us. Spreading the gospel is the point, but we can only do it through God's strength.

The Father -

"For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill His good purpose."

(Philippians 2:13)

The Son -

"Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me."

(John 15:4)

The Holy Spirit -

"...I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever-the Spirit of truth."

(John 14:16-17a)

FAMILY PRAYER

Are you ready to get started? Even if you're still feeling shy, pray this together as a family:

Lord, I know I can do all things through You because You strengthen me. I ask you, Lord, to give me the courage and the boldness I need to talk to others about You. Please show me the person You want me to speak to, and give me the words I should say. Help me to see them the way You see them. I know that You love me, and that I would not know You if someone had not told me about You. Please show me how I can do that for someone else. In Jesus's name, Amen.



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