**1. Motivate**

What lessons about commitment were you taught growing up?

* don’t give up
* work hard

A video introduction is available. Watch at <https://watch.liberty.edu/media/1_rwrqoxu8> If you have no Wi-Fi where you teach, best to download it to your computer from

<https://tinyurl.com/y3yuv8xv>

* start on the task early
* don’t get side tracked
* marriage is for *life*
* keep your promises
* do what you said you would do
* don’t go back on your word
* stay true to Jesus
* follow God’s guidance
* be committed to God’s Word

**2. Transition**

Consider Jesus’ commitment to us.

* There are times when we rebel against Him.
* Even then, Christ is fully committed to love us and bring us to God.

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 Committed to Die for Us

Listen for Jesus commitment

Romans 5:6-8 (NIV) You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Paul said we were powerless, helpless. What feelings or kinds of situations do you associate with being powerless?

* you see something happening but are unable to change it
* you see an item fall but there is no way you can stop it or catch it
* in a dream you try to run but feel like your feet are unable to move
* feelings of frustration, fear, desperation

⇒ That was our condition, our situation when Christ died to provide our salvation

How does Paul explain the difference between human love and God’s love?

* we might sacrifice our life for a really nice person in an emergency situation
* otherwise we pretty much look out for ourselves, not someone else
* contrast God’s love, note the “but”
* we were/are sinners … and Christ loved us enough to take our death sentence and die in our place

When might someone risk their life to protect someone who is important to them?

* Secret Service men ready to take a bullet for president, first lady, presidential family
* a soldier might fall on a grenade to protect his comrades
* a parent goes in harm’s way to protect children
* first responders in an emergency … firemen, police, EMTs

How does Christ’s sacrifice contrast to the heroic acts of normal people?

* we don’t deserve it
* we’re not righteous
* we’re not always all that good
* He did it for *everyone*, all people who ever lived

What does this imply about God’s love for us?

* He loved us when we didn’t deserve it
* even though we were sinful
* this was selfless love on God’s part

⇨ Jesus sacrificed his life for us when we were dirty, despicable *sinners*!!

How can this kind of love be reflected in our lives towards others around us?

* sacrificial giving of resources to help others
* going out of our way to show kindness
* returning kindness for meanness
* Jesus talked about going the extra mile (Matthew 5:41 If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.)

3.2 Committed to Reconcile Us to God

Listen for how we are reconciled.

Romans 5:9-11 (NIV) Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! 10 For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! 11 Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Because we are justified, from what shall we be saved?

* we are rescued from God’s wrath against sin
* we are reconciled to God
* we are declared righteous, no longer at odds with God
* no longer God’s enemies

What does it mean to be reconciled to God? How would you explain it to an unbeliever?

* we were separated from God because of our sins
* God’s holiness (uniqueness, distinctness) and righteousness/justice cannot tolerate the presence of sin
* we deserved death, eternal separation from God
* Jesus took upon himself the penalty of death/separation from God the Father that we deserved
* our penalty, the sentence of death we deserve has been paid
* we can now experience a personal relationship with the very God of the Universe
* we are no longer God’s enemies, we are returned to God’s favor

How is peace with God different from peace of mind?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Peace of Mind | Peace with God |
| * calmness
* assured that everything is OK, despite the situation
* happy with current status
* blissful with a cup of Earl Gray tea
 | * no longer enemies of God (because of our sin)
* now reconciled
* returned to God’s favor
* assured of God’s love
 |

Consider the present and future rescue from sin in our lives.

* we are saved from the *penalty* of sin because He died in our place
* we are saved from the *power* of sin in our lives, given a new life, a new power at work in our lives
* eventually (in heaven) we will be rescued from the very *presence* of sin

3.3 Committed to Give Us Eternal Life

Listen for contrasts, parallels.

Romans 5:12, 18 - 21 (NIV) Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned-- …18 Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men. 19 For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.20 The law was added so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, 21 so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

What was the function of law in redemption?

* law added that trespass might increase
* to make us aware of our sin
* to see the contrast between God’s righteousness and our sinfulness

What is the result of sin?

* separates us from God
* spiritual death, separation from God
* condemnation

What is the benefit of grace?

* God gives us blessings we don’t deserve
* grace reigns (is in charge)
* provides us with righteousness (which we don’t deserve)
* replaces the condemnation of the Law

How can God justly judge us for Adam’s sin?

* we inherit the tendency to sin
* demonstrated by science which says the tendency to be an alcoholic is inherited
* the tendency towards obesity/gluttony can be inherited
* demonstrated by 2-year-olds who stamp their feet and say “NO!” or throw a screaming tantrum

How have you seen Adam’s sin continue to affect all humanity?

* we know heredity gives us hair color, eye color, abilities (and disabilities) in certain areas, from our ancestors
* we also inherit the tendency to sin from all the way back to Adam and Eve
* demonstrated in things like a weakness in substance abuse (from overeating to hard drugs)
* without God’s intervention in people’s lives we would live in a horrible and dangerous world (and this is already true in cultures where God is outlawed or ignored)

What does it mean to you that where sin multiplied, grace multiplied even more?

* God’s grace overcame the influence of sin
* God is at work in the lives of those who come in repentance and faith
* God can change a person for good more than sin can make him/her bad

What is the connection between Christ’s obedience and our righteousness?

* Jesus (God’s Son) was obedient to the God the Father’s plan of redemption
* Jesus willingly went to the cross and died in our place
* God the Father raised Him up from death
* He gives us new life

How can knowing you are forgiven and righteous before God through Jesus Christ affect your attitudes and actions.

* peace with God
* peace within your own heart and mind
* assurance of God’s presence within your life
* empowered by the presence of God’s Holy Spirit to live a life of righteousness
* gifted by God to serve Him, to enable you to minister within the Body of Christ, the Church
* given a desire to please Him, to follow His guidance
* live a life of praise and worship
* learn to be dependent on God’s authority, God’s power, God’s love for you

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

Application

Pray.

* If you never have accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, do so now.
* Find someone you know who is a committed Christian and ask him or her to walk you through the steps of trusting in Christ as your Lord and Savior.
* You can also read the inside front cover of this book for help.

List.

* Pray and reflect on Christ’s commitment to you.
* Ask yourself: “How am I living in light of Jesus’ great commitment to me?”
* Write down some ways you can live differently because of His great gift to you.

Share.

* Share the love and commitment of Christ with someone this week who has never heard it.
* Pray that God would bring to your mind a name of someone who needs to hear the good news of the gospel.
* Make it a priority to share that good news with them.

More Family Activities at <https://tinyurl.com/y3yuv8xv>

So just remember that the clue phrases and words come from Romans 5:6-12,18-21 (NIV).

