Making Disciples

Notes for Group Session Four

Who is Jesus? What does His Atonement Mean to Us? Who are We?

Session Goals

1. The disciple will have increased understanding of who Jesus is. When asked that question, they will have at least three accurate responses.
2. The disciple will have an increased understanding of who they are in Christ and be able to give at least three accurate responses when asked.
3. The disciple will be able to describe two ways Jesus' atonement has changed their lives.

Begin the session praying together and reviewing the Action Steps from the previous week. Pray with individuals who had difficulty applying the information from last week. Thank God where there were successes in the application.

Who is Jesus?

- He is the Son of God.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Luke 22:70 "Then they all said, 'Are you then the son of God?' So, he said to them, 'You rightly say that I am.'"

- He has all authority.

Matthew 28:18 "Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, all authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth."

© 2023 Catherine Martin - Making Disciples Who Make Disciples – In Small Groups or Online

- He is our only source of salvation, our Savior.

Acts 4:12 "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

John 3:16-17 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

- He was Man of Sorrows, despised, rejected, and our healer.

Isaiah 53:3-5 "He is despised and rejected by men a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him. He was despised, and we did not esteem him. Surely, he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. And yet we esteemed him, stricken, smitten by God and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement for our peace was upon him, and by his stripes we are healed."

- He was anointed with the Holy Ghost and Power.

Acts 10:38 "God anointed. Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power and he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him."

- He is the Messiah.

John 4:25-26 "The woman said to him. I know that the Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things. Jesus said to her, 'I who speak to you, am he.'"

- The fullness of the deity dwells in Him.

Colossians 2:8-10 "See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him who is the head of all rule and authority."

- He is the way, the truth, and the life.

John 14:6. "Jesus said to him, I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the father except through me."

- He is the head of the church; all things were created through Him and for Him. In him all things hold together.

Colossians 1:16-18 "For in him all things were created things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities, all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together, and He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything He might have supremacy."

- He was anointed to preach the gospel to the poor.

Luke 4:18 and Isaiah 61:1 "The spirit of the Lord is on me because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind to set the oppressed free."

- He is the Son of God.

Mark 3:11 "Whenever the impure spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, 'You are the son of God.'"

Luke 4:41 "Demons also came out of many, shouting, you are the son of God! But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Messiah."

John 1:34 "I have seen, and I testify that this is God's chosen one." (John the Baptist)

John 11:27 "She said to him yes Lord I have come to believe that you are the Messiah the son of God the one who is coming into the world."

- He is the Word

John 1:1 "In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God."

- He is God.

John 1:18 "No one has ever seen God but the one and only son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known."

- He is the Light.

John 1:4-5 "In him was life, and life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

John 8:12 "When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

- He is our Intercessor.

Romans 8:34 "Jesus is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us."

1 John 2:1 "If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous."

Hebrews 7:25 "Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him because he always lives to intercede for them."

Luke 19:10 "For the son of man came to seek and to save that which was lost."

- He is the Destroyer of the works of the devil.

1 John 3:8 "For this purpose the son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil."

- Jesus is the gate for the sheep.

John10:7-9 "Therefore, Jesus said again, verily truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep all who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. I am the gate whoever enters through me will be saved, they will come in and go out and find pasture."

- Jesus is the Good Shepherd.

John 10:11 "I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

- Jesus took upon himself our curse.

Galatians 3:13 "But Christ has rescued us from the curse pronounced by the law. When he was hung on the cross, he took upon himself the curse for our wrongdoing."

- Jesus never sinned but was made sin for us.

2 Corinthians 5:21 "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

- Jesus is the Cornerstone.

Ephesians 2:19-22 "Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God. Having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building being fitted together grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit."

- Jesus came into the world to bear witness to the truth.

John 18:37 "Then Pilate said to him, 'So you are a king.' Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king for this purpose I was born, and for this purpose I have come into the world. To bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth, listens to my voice.'"

- Jesus is the mediator between God and Men

1 Timothy 2:5-6 "For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself a ransom for all to be testified in due time."

- He was called Rabbi (My teacher or my Master)

John 1:49 "Nathaniel answered him. 'Rabbi, you are the son of God. You are the King of Israel.'"

- Jesus said He is the Bread of Life

John 6:35 "Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will not hunger, and he who believes in me will never thirst.'"

What is Atonement?

Christ died as a substitute for us. The Bible in Romans 6:23 says "the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Jesus paid the penalty for our sins when He died on the cross so we wouldn't have to. Through simple faith in what he did, we are saved from our sinful nature, have eternal life, and are restored to a daily walk with God. Romans 5:8-9 "God demonstrated his love for us that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us."

1. All have sinned.

Romans 3:23 "Everyone has sinned and falls short of the glory of God."

2. Sin always results in death.

Romans 5:12 "Through one man sin entered the world and death through sin and thus death spread to all men because all sinned."

Genesis 3:19 After Adam and Eve sinned, God said "You will return to the ground since from it you were taken for dust you are and to dust you will return."

3. Sin separates us from God.

Isaiah 59:2 "But your iniquities have separated you from God, your sins have hidden His face from you so that He will not hear."

4. When Jesus was crucified, He solved that separation, and He took the penalty for us.

Isaiah 53:4-5 "He took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God stricken by him and afflicted but he was pierced for our transgressions crushed her and iniquities. The punishment that brought us peace was on him and by his wounds we are healed"

Romans 4:25 "He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification."

The Bible tells us there was a physical demonstration on the Earth when He died:

Matthew 27:50-54. "And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. At that moment, the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rock split, and the tombs broke open, the bodies of many holy people. Who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs after Jesus's resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people. 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."

Matthew 28:1-10 Tells us through his death and resurrection, we have an opportunity for a whole new identity, so who are we?

Who are we in Christ?

- We are not condemned.

Romans 8:34 "Who then, is one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus, who died more than that, who was raised to life, is at the right hand of God and also interceding for us."

- God deeply loves us.

Romans 5:8 "But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners."

Ephesians 3:19 "And to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."

- We are crucified with Christ and no longer live.

Galatians 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me, the life I now live in the body I live by faith in the son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

- We are children of God. We are heirs.

Galatians 3:26 "For you are all children of God through faith in Jesus Christ."

Galatians 4:7 "So you are no longer a slave, but God's child. And since you are his child, God has made you also an heir."

Romans 8:17 "Now if we are children, then we are heirs, heirs of God and coheirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings, in order that we may also share in his glory."

- In Christ we will know true joy.

John 15:11 "I've told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete."

- We are blessed.

Ephesians 1:3 "Praise be to the God and father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ."

- We are inseparable from God's love.

Romans 8:38-39. "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

- We are the branches of the true vine and unable to accomplish anything without Him.

John 15: 1-5 "I am the true vine, and my father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit, he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 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. I am the vine, and you are the branches. If you remain in me, and I in you, you will bear much fruit apart from me, you can do nothing."

- God knows our thoughts.

Psalm 139:1-2 "You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar."

- We are ambassadors of Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:20 "Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."

- We are God's special possession.

I Peter 2 :9-10 "But you are a chosen people. A royal priesthood, a holy nation. God's special possession. That you may declare the praises of Him who called

you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God. Once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy."

Exodus 19:5 "Now if you indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you will be my treasured possession out of all the nations, for the whole Earth is mine."

- We are created in His image.

Genesis 1:27 "We are created in his image. So, God created man in his own image. In the image of God created he him, male and female created he them."

- We are friends of Jesus.

John 15:15 "I no longer call you servants because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends for everything that I learned from my father I have made known to you."

- We are strong.

Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

2 Corinthians 12:10 "That is why, for the sake of Christ, I delight in weaknesses, in insults and hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

- We are a new creation.

2 Corinthians 5:17. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old one has passed away; behold, the new has come."

- We are fearfully and wonderfully made.

Psalm139:13-15. "For you created my inmost being. You knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Your works are wonderful. I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth."

- We are redeemed.

Galatians 3:13. "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us. For it is written: Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole."

- We are set apart.

Hebrews 10:10 "We have been set apart as holy because Jesus Christ did what God wanted him to do by sacrificing his body once and for all."

- We are the salt and the light of the world.

Matthew 5:13-16. "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house, in the same way let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your father."

- We are complete in Him.

Colossians 2:10 "And ye are complete in him which is the head of all principality and power."

- We have the potential to become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:21 "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him that we might become the righteousness of God."

- Our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you whom you have from God? You are not your own. You were bought with a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies."

- We are God's workmanship.

Ephesians 2:10 "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

- God is working in us to conform us into the image of Christ.

Philippians 2:13 "For it is God who works in you both to will and to do his good pleasure."

- Christ lives in us.

Galatians 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me and the life I now live in the flesh. I live by faith in the son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

- We have died.

Colossians 3:2-4 "Set your mind on things above, not on earthly things. For you died and your life is now hidden with Christ in God, when Christ who is your life appears, then you will appear with him in glory."

- We are living stones.

1 Peter 2:5 "You yourselves, like living stones, are being built up as a holy spiritual house. To be a holy priesthood. To offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

- We have special gifts from God.

1 Peter 4:10-11 "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others. As faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If any serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ."

- We are kings and priests.

Revelation 1:6. "And has made us kings and priests unto God, and his father to him be glory and dominion forever and ever."

- We are made in the image of God.

Genesis 1:26-27 "Then God said let us make man in our image after our likeness and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the heavens, and over the livestock, and over all the earth, and every over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. So, God created man in his own image. In the image of God, he created him. Male and female, he created them."

- We can bear much fruit.

John 15:8 "This is my father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."

- We are chosen.

John 15:16 "You did not choose me, but I chose you."

- We are Sons of God.

Romans 8:16 "The spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God."

- We are a new creation.

2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away. Behold, the new has come."

- We are one with Him.

1 Corinthians 6 :17 "But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit."

- We are the bride of Christ.

Revelation 19:7 “Let us be glad and rejoice and give him glory, for the marriage of the lamb has come, and his wife has made herself ready.”

- We are being transformed.

2 Corinthians 3:18 “I am being transformed into the image of Christ.”

Action Steps

- Read the verses aloud daily during the week. Write down a few that speak to you and place them where you will see them frequently. Share with the group next week how your understanding of the verses increased.

- Write out a prayer of thanksgiving based on what Jesus has done for you, Share it with the group next week.