

## Question 26

# What else does Christ's death redeem?



## Answer

Every part of fallen creation.

### Big Idea

God's redemptive work in Jesus benefits his creation as well as his creatures.

### Aim

To help the children understand that all creation will be redeemed through Christ's death.

### Bible Passage

Colossians 1:18–20

### Memory Verse

“For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.” (Col. 1:19–20)

Virtue  
Hope





## Notes

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### Leader's Notes

Children will be increasingly aware that many people believe that this world and this life is all that there is. God is excluded from this worldview and the mantra for many is "Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die." Christians understand that God is currently reconciling all things to himself through the redemptive work of Jesus. The Bible clearly teaches that this life is not all there is and that this world will be redeemed and restored. This lesson will help the children understand that Christ's redemptive work includes all of creation and not just humanity. This lesson aims to show the children that God has a saving plan for his world. It should also instill hope in the children as they are caused to consider the new heavens and the new earth.

#### Things to remember when planning and teaching:

- The world will still look pretty messy to many children. It will be

important to highlight the "already/not yet" aspects of redemption.

- Children may get distracted by asking about the different types of things that will be in the new creation. Help them to understand that the new creation includes not just the natural world, but civilization as well. Avoid pursuing too many tangents though!
- For some children the thoughts of the new heavens and new earth may be new and worrying. Be careful to build joy, anticipation, and hope into the lesson.
- Remember to mix and match the activities in the lesson to fit your time frame (see p. 12 for some sample outlines). You won't have time to do them all. Feel free to adapt each activity based on your class's strengths and weaknesses.

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### Leader's Prayer

Loving God, thank you that you have a beautiful plan of salvation for your world. Thank you that I can anticipate with hope the full redemption and restoration of your creation. May my heart ever anticipate that day. Grant understanding to the children

who will hear this lesson. May they be filled with joy and hope as they understand your redemptive work in your world and consider the full restoration of your creation. In Jesus's name. Amen.



### Leader's Tool Kit

- Q26 Catechism Recap Memory Game (RB), one copy
- Pictures of beautiful places, people, and things
- Inflatable globe
- Black paint
- Large bucket
- Chalkboard or chalkboard paper and chalk
- Pieces of paper with HOPE printed across the top, one per child
- Alphabet cereal
- Paper

### 10 Catechism Recap

*Print out Q26 Catechism Recap Memory Game (RB) and cut out the tiles. Arrange them in a grid on the floor.*

This is a memory game! Invite the children to gather around and take turns turning over two paper tiles. The aim of the game is

to find a matching question and answer. If no match is found, the pieces of paper are turned back over on the floor. The children must try to remember the details as the tiles are turned over so that they can find a match when it comes to their turn.

### 5 Introduction to Question 26

*You will need pictures of beautiful places, people, and things in the world.*

Ask the children to identify the things that they love about the world; perhaps it's a favorite place, a favorite bird, or a favorite building. Show pictures of some of the things that people describe as beautiful in the world.

Highlight for the children that while there is great beauty in the world today, it is not as God originally intended. Explain that everything in the world has been affected by sin; the damaging effects of sin infect every single part of God's creation.

Ask the children to imagine what God's creation might be like if it were unaffected by sin. It would be more beautiful and wonderful than anyone could imagine! Let them talk about what would be different. Introduce the children to Question 26: "What else does Christ's death redeem?" Explain to the children that Jesus's death on the cross was significant for all creation and not just humans. Tell the children that this question will help them to understand what that means a little more.



### 10 Activity



Tell the children that you're going to play a game called "Creation, Fall, Redemption." Identify the left side of the room as creation, the middle as the fall, and the right side as redemption. Tell the children that when you call out one of the words, they have to run to that position in the room. Begin slowly, but then increase the pace!

Then read out the following verses and ask the children to go to the position they think best represents where the verse comes in God's story of the world.

- "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth" (Gen. 1:1). **Creation**
- "That the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God" (Rom. 8:21). **Redemption**
- "So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she

took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate" (Gen. 3:6). **Fall**

- "And God blessed them. And God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth'" (Gen. 1:28). **Creation**
- "He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life" (Gen. 3:24). **Fall**
- "And through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross" (Col. 1:20). **Redemption**

Explain to the children that the big story of the Bible can be divided into these three categories. Tell the children that in this lesson they will learn more about the effects of sin on God's creation and how Jesus Christ's redemption changes things.

### 15 Teaching Outline

*You will need an inflatable globe, a large bucket, and black paint.*

Begin the teaching time by asking for God's help. Ask that the lesson would be taught faithfully and that the children might listen well.

Ask the children if they remember in the previous lesson how iodine poured into water represented sin's effect on us. Hold up the inflatable globe and ask the children how significantly they think sin affects God's world. Demonstrate to the children that sin affects each and every bit of the world



by holding the globe over the bucket and pouring the black paint (representing sin) all over the globe. Explain to the children that sin doesn't affect only humans; it affects every single aspect of God's creation.

**Read Romans 8:20–22.** Provide Bibles for the children to read along with you.

Ask the children what they think Paul is saying about creation. Explain to children that because of Adam's sin, the world was subject to death and decay. In Genesis 3, God cursed creation as well as Adam and Eve. The world is not as it was when God created it, and it is not how it will be when God fully restores it. Tell the children that currently the world is waiting to be made new, and God has promised that one day he will do that. In the meantime, creation is groaning in anticipation.

Explain to the children that Jesus Christ's death is the beginning of the redemption and renewal of every part of fallen sin-infected creation.

**Read Colossians 1:18–20.**

Reintroduce the children to Colossians 1. Remind them that they already spent a little time looking at it in lesson 24. Remind the children that God's mission in Christ is to reconcile all things to himself for his glory.

Highlight for the children that in verse 18 Paul says that Jesus is "the beginning." By that, he means that the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ announces

the beginning of the redemption of the whole earth. Jesus's redeeming death has implications for creation as well as for humanity.

In verse 20 Paul explains that the redemption is characterized by making peace. He brings peace in the restoration of God's relationship with humanity and peace in the restoration of the world to perfection.

Remind the children that God the Son was the one who brought the world into creation (lesson 5), and now he is proclaimed Lord over all creation. Jesus is re-creating, making new, both creation and humans. Explain to the children that re-creation has already begun, but that it will not be fully complete until the Lord Jesus returns. At that time God will conclude history, and he will bring all those who have been redeemed in Christ to live with him in a new, perfect creation. Creation will be fully renewed and restored, there will be new heavens and a new earth, and the perfection that was found in Eden will be once again seen in the new creation.

Explain to the children that all of creation belongs to God, and he is concerned to redeem it as well as humans. Creation is still affected by sin, but because of Christ's redeeming work it will one day be free from sin and all its effects.

Read Revelation 21:1–5 to conclude. Tell the children that redemption leads to restoration. The redemption has already been accomplished by Christ's death and



Notes

resurrection, but the creation will not be fully restored until he comes again.

*(These notes are just for guidance. Please expand or amend them to suit your own children and context. Write out your talk in your own words and include illustrations and applications that you know will connect with your children.)*

Conclude the teaching time by helping the children commit Question 26 and the answer to memory.

10 Activity



*You will need a chalkboard or chalkboard paper and chalk. Draw lines to divide it into four equal sections.*

representation of creation, fall, redemption, and restoration (one per group). Encourage the children to depict the various periods of the Bible's storyline.

Divide the children into groups of four, and invite each group to draw a pictorial

5 Discussion and Question Time

Some questions that might arise include:

? Why does the full restoration not happen now?

Explain to the children that when Jesus returns to bring restoration, there will be no more opportunities for people to find redemption through the blood of Christ. Read 2 Peter 3:9: "The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance." Redemption has heralded a new age, but it will not be fully realized until Jesus returns. In the meantime, as we wait for the restoration of creation, we should pray that many will be saved.

Tell the children that many things are included in creation; it's not just the natural things we see. It includes buildings and music, books and bicycles. Give the children a big view of what creation means in this context.

Also use this opportunity to help the children to think about their own lives and how this question and answer affects them personally.

? What in creation will be redeemed?

- Ask the children if thinking about the new earth gives them hope.
- Ask the children what this lesson teaches them about God's character.
- Ask the children how this lesson might influence the way they think about creation.



**10 Virtue Vision**

**Hope**

Ask the children to consider what kind of things they hope for. A new bike? Good grades in school? Their best friends to be put in their class?

Ask the children how hope helps them to look forward to the future. Help the children understand that hope allows them

to anticipate the future and feel joyful even when their current situation may not be all that they would wish.

Give each child a piece of paper with the word *HOPE* at the top. Ask them to list things that they look forward to in God's restored creation.

**10 Memory Activity**

*You will need some boxes of alphabet cereal.  
Give the children some Bibles to consult.*

Divide the children into small groups and give each group a bowl of (dry) alphabet cereal. Challenge the groups to write out the memory verse or catechism answer in

alphabet cereal. The children may swap letters with the other groups if they need additional letters.

Read the memory verse or catechism answer through with the children to aid memorization.

**5 Closing Prayer Time**

Invite the children to give thanks to God for his great plan of redemption that spans all creation. Let them take turns thanking God for some of the things they look forward to about his redeemed and restored creation.