Question 47

Does the Lord's Supper add anything to Christ's atoning work?

Answer

No, Christ died once for all.

Big Idea
There is nothing that can be added to Christ's atoning work.

Aim
To help the children confidently know that Christ was the complete and perfect sacrifice.

Bible Passage
1 Peter 3:18

Memory Verse
"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God." (1 Pet. 3:18)

Virtue
Perseverance

Notes

Leader's Notes

This question provides another opportunity to teach the children about the sacrament of the Lord's Supper and also reiterates for them that nothing can be added to Jesus's atoning death on the cross. This lesson aims to help the children understand that Jesus Christ was the complete and perfect sacrifice sufficient for all time and all people who turn to him in repentance and faith. There is a delicate balance required in this lesson to continue to communicate the importance of the sacraments in the church while also teaching the sufficiency of Christ Jesus.

Things to remember when planning and teaching:

- The children will have encountered this truth in various ways throughout the curriculum and in other places. Work hard to make the lesson relevant and dynamic for those entrusted into your care.
- Continue to work hard to make those things that are abstract understandable to the children.
- 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.

Leader's Prayer

Saving God, thank you that in your great kindness and mercy you sent Christ to die once for all. I praise you that when I join with my brothers and sisters around the Lord's table, I remember all that you have achieved for me through Christ. Thank you that his death is sufficient for my salvation. Grant understanding to the children who will hear this lesson. May they grow ever more confident in the truth of the gospel, and may you be at work bringing many to faith and maturity. In Jesus's name. Amen.

Leader's Tool Kit

- Q47 Catechism Recap (DL)
- Q47 Mural Template (RB), one per child
- Q47 Letter from a Concerned Friend (RB), one copy
- Envelopes
- Paper
- Pens
- Duplo or Mega Bloks (forty blocks)

Catechism Recap

Notes

Print out and cut up Q47 Catechism Recap (DL). Mix up the sheets and place them upside down in a grid on the floor.

This is a memory game. Invite the children to come forward and turn over two pieces of paper. 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 pages are turned over so that they can find a match when it comes to their turn. The child with the most matches wins!

Introduction to Question 47

Ask the children if they can figure out what all these experiences have in common:

1. Having a first birthday
2. Donating a kidney
3. Seeing Hale-Bopp Comet
4. Regrowing a full set of teeth
5. Dying

These are all things that a person can do only once. (People have two kidneys, so they can donate only one kidney and stay alive. Hale-Bopp appears roughly only every 2,500 years. After you lose your baby teeth, you grow only one more set of teeth.)

Tell the children that this lesson will focus on something that Jesus could do only once, and that was suffer death on the cross. Explain to the children that Jesus's death was all-sufficient, perfect, and complete.

Introduce Question 47: "Does the Lord's Supper add anything to Christ's atoning work?" Explain to the children that people are sometimes tempted to believe that things like the Lord's Supper can save them, but that the Bible clearly states that absolutely nothing can be added to the death that Jesus died, once for all.

Activity

Give each child a copy of Q47 Mural Template (RB) and crayons.

Ask the children to design and draw a mural that would creatively make the point that Christ died once for all.

Notes

Teaching Outline

You will need a copy of Q47 Letter from a Concerned Friend (RB) and an envelope with your mailing address on it.

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.

Tell the children that in previous lessons, you've read letters that the apostles wrote to strengthen the churches. Today you have a letter that you'd like to share with them. It's not from the Bible, but it's the kind of letter that the apostles often wrote to Christians in the first century. Take Q47 Letter from a Concerned Friend (RB) out of the envelope and read it to the class.

Read 1 Peter 3:18. Provide Bibles for the children to read along. Encourage them to read the verse for themselves. Once the children have had a chance to read it, repeat it out loud together.

Explain to the children that this verse clearly speaks about the great suffering that Christ endured in order to reconcile sinners to God. Peter explains that Jesus died once, and in that death, Jesus achieved everything necessary for their salvation. Nothing more, nothing different, or nothing new needs to be added to Jesus's once-for-all-time death.

Ask the children what adding something onto Jesus's death (like thinking you must take the Lord's Supper to be saved) says about what Jesus achieved on the cross. Tell the children that Jesus + Something = Nothing, but Jesus + Nothing = Everything!

Peter clearly declares that Jesus died once and for all to forgive sins, to make the unrighteous righteous and secure their membership in God's eternal family.

Conclude the teaching time by helping the children commit Question 47 and the answer to memory.

(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.)

Activity

You will need paper, pens, and envelopes.

Invite the children to write a letter to themselves. Encourage them to write things that they'll need to be reminded of in a few weeks' time. Ask them if there are things they could write down that they might otherwise forget about the Lord's Supper and baptism. Ask them what the questions about the sacraments have helped them to learn about God. Allow the children sufficient time to write a brief letter and place it in an envelope. Ask the children to seal and address it. Tell them that you will mail it back to them in a few weeks' time.

(5) Discussion and Question Time

Notes

Some questions that might arise include:

? Are you saying the Lord's Supper isn't that important?

> No! Explain to the children that the Lord's Supper is important; that's why Jesus instituted it in his church. But by itself it cannot make people into Christians.

? Why do some churches call the Lord's Supper "Communion"?

> When people eat and drink the bread and wine together as a church family, they come together into community with one another and into closer fellowship with God.

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

- Ask the children if they believe in their own hearts Christ died once for all.
- Ask the children if they believe that Jesus's death on the cross is sufficient.
- Ask the children if they will remember that the Lord's Supper strengthens Christians but doesn't make Christians.

(10) Virtue Vision

Perseverance

Explain to the children that 1 Peter 3:18 comes in the middle of Peter's letter that is mostly about suffering. Explain to the children that suffering is to be expected as part of the Christian life, and the truth that Christ died once for all should help people endure suffering and keep going in their Christian life.

Peter says that although life may be full of difficult battles, Christ has won! He has secured the Christian's heavenly home and has brought us into God's family.

Ask the children how they feel about suffering. Ask what would help them persevere through suffering. Ask them if having an eternal home to look forward to makes a difference.

(10) Memory Activity

You will need blocks, such as Duplo or Mega Bloks. Print out two copies of the memory verse or catechism question and answer, cut up the words individually, and stick a word to each block, making two sets of blocks. If you are using the memory verse, you will need forty blocks total (include the reference as a block). If you're doing the catechism question and answer, you will need thirty-two blocks total.

Divide the children into two teams. Give each team a pile of blocks and invite them

Notes

to build them into a memory verse tower. The first team to complete the tower should win a prize. The children will need to put the bricks into the right order and then construct the tower.

Once the tower has been constructed, read through the memory verse or catechism question and answer with the children several times; you can remove blocks to make the task harder.

5 Closing Prayer Time

Invite the children to pray that they will never put their trust in anything but Christ for their salvation. Lead them in giving thanks that Jesus died once for all!