

# BIBLE LESSON SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKBOOK

## DOCTRINE OF ATONEMENT

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Designed for those in Junior High and beyond

*These lessons are merely suggestions or aids when teaching a class. I always begin my class by asking the students if they have anything they want to discuss; healings, challenges, etc. I always get to SS early enough to talk to the kids before the bell goes off – this gives me the opportunity to hone in on what’s going on in their lives, at home, school, etc. Sometimes we start talking about a question they have asked and I never get to question number one on my prepared lesson – which is fine with me; because we never want to forget it’s their SS class. I want them to do most of the talking, ask questions of each other, etc. I usually ask what their goals are – name 5 or more things they want to learn in SS. I also stress that SS is a picnic and everyone has to bring something. You can’t expect one person (the teacher) to supply all the food. Right?*

1. What does “Atonement” mean? What does “reconciliation” mean?
2. The Golden Text, Ps. 86:5, 9 says that God is good and always ready to forgive. Do you know someone whom you are having trouble forgiving because they have done something bad to you or a friend? Do you feel perhaps that you may have done something that you feel is unforgivable? This lesson shares Biblical incidents of God’s forgiveness and love and also acknowledges that He is “no respecter of persons;” that in His eyes we are **all His beloved children**. In God’s creation there are no “haves and have nots.”
3. Explain how is it possible for the Amish parents to love and **forgive** the man who killed their children? They went to the father of the killer and told him they forgave his son for this horrendous deed. They also invited the man’s wife to the funerals; loving her and her children even though her husband had done this wicked deed. These folks don’t just talk the Christ-Truth, they live it. Here let me quote one of my favorite poems that brings home this point of living and prayers:

### THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO YOU (Anonymous)

*“If none but you in the world today  
Had tried to live in a Christ-like way,  
Could the rest of the world look close at you  
And find the path that is straight and true?  
If none but you in the world so wide  
Had found the Christ for his daily guide,  
Would the things you do and the things you say  
Lead others to live in his blessed way?  
Ah, friends of the Christ, in the world today  
Are many who watch you upon your way,  
And look to the things you say and do  
To measure the Christian standard true.  
Men read and admire the Gospel of Christ  
With its love so unfailing and true,  
But what do they say and what do they think  
Of the Gospel according to you?  
You are writing each day a letter to men –  
Take care that the writing is true;  
‘Tis the only Gospel that some men will read,  
That Gospel according to you.”*

4. B2, Lev. 16: 2,3,29,30. The Day of Atonement is celebrated once a year by the Jews and is called Yom (Day) Kippur (Atonement). It is marked by 24 hours of prayer and fasting where the worshiper recounts all his transgressions. In Biblical times a young bull was sacrificed for the sins of the people. Another goat was used as a sin offering. The high priest placed his hands on the animal's head; confessed the people's sins, and then released it into the wilderness; supposedly taking everyone's sins along with it. This goat was called the "sin-bearer" or the "scapegoat." The sins laid on his head were not his own. He was guiltless and sinless. This event is symbolized in the NT by whom. Whom did the Jews choose to be the "scapegoat" for man's sins – he was completely innocent?

5. On page 18: 1-3; what does Mrs. Eddy tell us is the meaning of "Atonement?"

6. Have you ever done something you shouldn't, apologized, and then done it again, and again, and again? In other words, sin and are sorry, sin and are sorry. How do we stop that silly cycle?

**Section 2 – The Samaritan Woman. The Woman at the Well. The First Female Evangelist. Breaking Down the Barriers. The Living Water. Facing the Truth. The True Worshipers in Spirit and in Truth. Sharing the Christ Message. Many are Called but Few are Chosen:** All of these titles may be used to describe this story in the Lesson this week: John 4:7, 9, 10, 19-21, 23-29, 39, 41, 42.

Let's first set the scene of this incident. Palestine is only 120 miles long from north to south, but within those 120 miles (in the time of Jesus) there were 3 definite divisions of territory. Jesus was on his way to Galilee but the quickest way from Judea lay through Samaria, which would take about 3 days. On the way, Jesus and his disciples came to the town of Sychar. At the fork of the road is a well and to this day it is known as "Jacob's Well."

The well was more than 100 ft deep. It was not a spring well of water, but rather a deep pool of inert water. One would have to have some kind of bucket in order to bring up the water. It was about 12 noon, which was the hottest time of the day. His disciples had left Jesus at the well while they went to town to buy groceries. Jesus was hot, tired & thirsty. He had a cup to drink with, but no long rope to let it down to draw the water. A Samaritan woman had come to the well to get some water. Don't forget "the Jews had no dealings with the Samaritans." Remember the story of The Good Samaritan and why Jesus told it? Jesus took one look at her and saw her heart and even though she had some immoral issues she was dealing with, he saw beyond her sins and knew she would accept him as the Christ as others had not. He also knew she would become a unique disciple/student, spreading the Word to so many others who were considered unworthy by the Jews to hear Jesus' message.

1. Have you ever had a big piece of chocolate cake and saved the icing for last and then were too full to eat it. Your younger brother or sister was looking at it longingly; you knew they wanted that icing, but instead you figured if you couldn't eat it, then no one else was going to get it either, so you dumped it in the garbage? That's kind of like how the Jews behaved towards the Samaritans and other nations. They wouldn't accept Christ Jesus as the Messiah, and they certainly didn't want anyone else to benefit from his teachings either – especially *Samaritans* who were considered impure and unqualified to be called "the chosen people."

Two major taboos that Jesus broke was he spoke to a woman and asked her for a drink of woman. A Rabbi NEVER spoke to a woman in public including his wife or daughters. Also, he was a Jew and Jews refused to acknowledge even the existence of a Samaritan. This hatred had

been going on for years and dated back to the Assyrian Conquest when some of the Israelites intermarried with the enemy thus creating an impure race. In 450BC the Jews had to repair the Temple in Jerusalem – the Samaritans came to help. The Jews said: “No way, you’ve lost your Jewish heritage – get lost.” Thus the animosity began between the two groups and was still going on 400 years later. Let’s get back to the story. Some of which is quoted from The Message:

**Jesus: (sitting by the well).** Woman, I’m so glad to see you. I’m hot and thirsty. Would you please give me a drink of water?

**Samaritan Woman (in shock):** How come you, a Jew, are asking me, a Samaritan woman for a drink?

**Jesus:** If you knew the generosity of God and who I am, you would be asking *me* for a drink, and I would give you fresh, *living water*.

**Samaritan Woman:** Sir, you don’t even have a bucket to draw with, and this well is deep, so how are you going to get this “living water?” Are you a better man than our ancestor, Jacob, who dug this well, and his whole family and live-stock drank from it?

**Jesus:** Everyone who drinks **this water** will get thirsty again and again. Anyone who drinks the water I give will never thirst – not ever. The water I give will be an artesian spring within, gushing fountains of endless life.” (Note: Bread & water is symbolic of life because man can’t live without them).

**Samaritan Woman:** Sir, give me this water so I won’t ever get thirsty and won’t ever have to come back to this well again.

**Jesus:** OK, but first go get your husband and then come back with him.

**Woman:** I have no husband.

**Jesus:** Tactfully put, as you’ve had 5 husbands, and the man you’re now living with is not your husband. At least you told the truth and didn’t try to con me.

**Woman:** Oh, so you’re a prophet. Well, Sir, tell me this. Our ancestors worshipped God at this mountain, but you Jews insist that Jerusalem is the **only** place for worship, right?

**Jesus:** Believe me, Woman, the time is coming when you Samaritans will worship the Father neither here at this mountain nor there in Jerusalem. You worship in the dark, we Jews worship in the clear light of day. God’s way of salvation is made available through the Jews. But the time is coming – in fact it has come, when what you’re called will not matter, and where you go to worship will not matter. It’s who you are and the way you live that counts before God. You must worship God in truth and in love – that’s the only way to worship Him. We need to walk the walk, not just talk the talk.

**Woman:** I don’t know about that, but I do know that the Messiah (Christ) is coming. When he arrives then we will get the whole story.

**Jesus:** I am he! You don't have to wait any longer or look any further.

Just then the disciples came back with food and they were shocked to see Jesus not only talking to a woman but a Samaritan. Fortunately, they kept their thoughts to themselves. The woman left and even forgot her bucket of water she was so excited. She ran back to her village – happier than she had ever been and couldn't wait to tell her neighbors about this man she had been talking to.

**Woman:** Everyone, come quickly. I have something wonderful to tell all of you. Come with me to Jacob's well to see a man who knew all about me and my immoral behavior. (**Note:** This woman had been divorced by 5 husbands for unfaithfulness and was now living in sin, yet Jesus did not scold or condemn her). Why even though we just met, he knew me inside and out. He must be the Messiah don't you think?

The men from the village came and listened to the words spoken by Jesus. They became committed to him because of the woman's witnessing. They asked him to stay with them and teach them so Jesus stayed in the village two days. Everyone listened and heard his message of love and salvation. They didn't need to just take the Samaritan Woman's word for it as they heard the Christ message themselves and knew for certain that Christ Jesus was the Savior of the world. The entire village became believers.

2. There are so many lessons in this story. See how many truths you can uncover. "God is no respecter of persons." The Christ message is for anyone and everyone who will listen and hear. Look at some of the folks that followed the Christ who were far from perfect. Tell at least one bad thing they did. Yet each one helped spread the Word in both the OT and the NT:
  - a. Moses
  - b. Paul
  - c. David
  - d. Peter
  - e. The woman who washed Jesus' feet
  - f. Thomas
3. What did Jesus mean when he said he would give the woman "living water?" (Living water is identified with grace and truth).
4. Does Jesus have to return in the flesh for us to hear his message? Yes? No? Why not?
5. What Beatitude does this story remind you of? What Commandment?
6. The Messianic claim in this narrative may also be bound in Is. 49:10 – "They shall not hunger nor thirst..." and Ps.36: 9; "For with thee is the fountain of life..."
7. What do you think is the greatest thing in the world?
8. True or False: The Samaritan's idea of the Messiah was religious not political.
9. What does Mrs. Eddy tell us will end wars and unify men and nations? S7; 340: 23.

**Section 3 – Healing of Centurion’s servant: B7; Luke 7:2-10. Read this story.**

1. Malachi 2:10. This verse is the answer to all racial, political, and religious hatred. We are all offspring of the same Father-Mother God – therefore we are all brothers & sisters.
2. What is the definition of a centurion? He obviously loved his slave/servant to want him to get well. Why?
3. Did you know that under Roman law a slave was defined as a living tool; he had no rights? His master could treat him any way he wanted to; he could even kill him if he chose and would not be found guilty for committing a crime. When a slave was too old to work, he was thrown out and left to die. This is just one reason why this incident is so unusual.
4. Name some spiritual qualities the centurion expressed. Why was Jesus so impressed with his attitude? What is prayer? Is it important? How often do you pray? Do you pray for others or only for yourselves? What is the prayer that Mrs. Eddy tells us meets all human needs? (S&H page 16). How would you pray for a friend that called you for help because he was failing English or math in school? How do you pray when you don’t feel well?
5. Why do you think Jesus was crucified?
6. When was the Christ born? When did the Christ die? (Think carefully before you answer).
7. Why did God send His beloved son into the world?
8. Are you ever afraid to tell your friends you are a Christian Scientist? Yes? No? If so, why? Jesus knew he was condemning himself when he admitted to the Chief Priest that he was the Messiah the Son of God – why did he do it? Why didn’t he lie to save himself?
9. When someone asks you to explain what your beliefs are, what do you say?
10. What do you think each individual can do to rid the world (on a one-on-one basis) of violence, pornography, hatred, fear, nuclear warfare, etc.?
11. Who was the first person to see Jesus after the resurrection? Why wasn’t it Matthew or Paul?
12. What was special about this person?

**Section 5: Acts 10: 1-5, (9-20), 21-23, 25-28, 34, 35. Read this story and explain its message.**

1. God showed Peter that there was no such thing as unclean food or people. The disciples thought Jesus and his teachings were for the Jews only – is that true? Explain.
2. Is it possible to find good in everyone? How do we look for the good in others even though they might have done some bad things? The Christ in you recognizes the Christ in them.
3. Cornelius was a soldier in the Italian battalion. He was also a centurion. This story is extremely important because it is the first time that a Gentile was accepted by the Jews and

allowed to be taught the teachings of Christ Jesus. Another demonstration of “at-one-ment.” God doesn’t play favorites. Not one particular group or nation is better or more worthy than another in His eyes. The Jews believed that God had no use for any race but their own. Some people even believe that today. What can we as Christian Scientists do about this type of thinking?

4. Peter had to learn to overcome his prejudices – how did he do it? In Biblical times, Jews were not allowed to eat with non-Jews or even enter the home of a Gentile. This is another story of forgiveness, tolerance, acceptance and understanding.

5. True or False: The best way to get God’s attention is to make lots of money; to make all “A’s in school and to associate only with “good” kids.

6. Peter and Cornelius came from totally different backgrounds and cultures. What was it that brought them together and enabled Peter to claim: “*Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him?*” (Acts 10: 34, 35). (Note:☺ Cornelius became the 1<sup>st</sup> recorded convert of the Gentile world to Christianity. He and his family were baptized and admitted into the Christian Church).

7. Who was the first disciple to recognize and proclaim Jesus as the Messiah – The Christ?

- a. Abraham
- b. John
- c. Peter
- d. Thomas
- e. Moses
- f. Martin Luther King

8. Can you name some of the healings Peter performed after Jesus’ ascension?

9. Why do Christian Scientists believe that Jesus is the Son of God rather than God Himself? Read S23. Page 360: 28-18 for Mrs. Eddy’s explanation of the difference between the religious beliefs of the Christian, Jew, and Christian Scientist. What is a Messianic Jew? What do they believe that makes them different than an Orthodox Jew?

Page 21: 1-5 (S9). “***If Truth is overcoming error in your daily walk and conversation, you can finally say, “I have fought a good fight...I have kept the faith,” because you are a better man. This is having our part in the at-one-ment with Truth and Love.***” Let’s make sure this and every day we are demonstrating our oneness (and everyone’s oneness)with our divine Parent.

**SMILE! GOD LOVES YOU.**

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