

Unit 12 Assignment

The Work of Christ



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Assignment Unit 12

The Work of Christ



1 a Devise an order of service for Passion Sunday on the theme of the cross.

Order of Service

Theme: The Cross

Call to worship: Isaiah 53:1-5 (*app1*)

Hymn: I will sing the wondrous story SoF 278
Filled with compassion SoF 716

Prayers: Thanksgiving, Confession and The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: Jesus Christ, I think upon Your sacrifice SoF 865

NT Readings: Romans 5: 1-11 NIV
Romans 5:6-8 The Message
Romans 5:6-8 The Street Bible (*app2*)

Sermon: The Grace of the Cross.

Hymn: Magnificent, Holy Father (*app3*)

Offering

Prayers: Intercession and Petition

Hymn: Amazing Grace SoF 19

Blessing and Grace:

Send forth hymn: How deep the father's love for us SoF 780

b Explain the reasons for arranging the service in the way you have chosen.

Chronology.

It is important to maintain the various elements of the service in a natural chronological order. Even when an Old Testament reading is a prophesy for the future the natural expectation will be to hear that reading first and the gospel message that has been foretold after. In a similar way one should not pre-empt but complement the sermon message with the first hymn as its meaning will probably be lost. It is, in my opinion, better to choose hymns that either tell a more general part of the story which is to be covered later, or to use hymns of praise and adoration that have no bearing on the theme at all, than to have a themed hymn which, at that point, has no obvious relevance.

Careful use of hymns, prayers and other elements of worship should be used to slowly draw out the theme and story. People should be led towards thinking about what God has done

through Jesus for them while singing and this can be reiterated in prayers and other worship activities.

Repetition.

The New Testament reading, on which the sermon will expound, in this instance is repeated in different versions to help the congregation to think past the text and on to the meaning. Some forms of text and the build up of words will be better heard by some individuals whereas simply repeating the same essential passage will help other people remember basic idea.

The sermon would be a simple message based around the free grace of God and His work through Jesus in verses 6 to 8. An anecdote or two to illustrate the salient points, whilst amusing or entertaining, would be added though these will only be of use if the reason for their inclusion is remembered as well as the anecdote itself.

The message is then emphasised afterwards with the offering hymn. This could be listened to as the offering is taken, rather than sung by the whole congregation. A chance for the people to reflect on what they have heard while hearing the main points repeated in song.

Logical sequence.

The whole service should follow a natural and logical progression so that people are not overly surprised or taken aback by the inclusion of something. It should build in what is being said until most or all the congregation have gained from what the message has been about.

Following the sermon, the response in the offering and then prayer based on the premise that; as justified people of God we pray in power and make a difference in our world. This would be concluded by praising God for that free grace in song. And in this we come full circle; from praise and adoration earlier as we approach God, through gaining in some way greater understanding of our living God, to praise and adoration in deeper knowledge of what God has done for us through the death of his Son, Jesus Christ.

Finally we are blessed, and bless one another and go reminded of the breadth and depth of God's love for us.

c Select one of the Hymns and point out the different theories of atonement it contains.

Jesus Christ, I think upon Your sacrifice,
 You became nothing, poured out to death.
 Many times I've wondered at Your gift of life,
 And I'm in that place once again.
 And I'm in that place once again.

*And once again I look upon
 The cross where You died,
 I'm humbled by Your mercy
 And I'm broken inside.
 Once again I thank You,
 Once again I pour out my life.*

Now You are exalted to the highest place,

King of the heavens, where one day I'll bow.
 But for now, I marvel at this saving grace,
 And I'm full of praise once again.
 I'm full of praise once again.

Thank You for the cross, Thank You for the cross,
 Thank You for the cross, my Friend.

Matt Redman.
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Sacrifice and Debt

'Jesus Christ, I think upon Your sacrifice'. The sin of mankind has a cost which must be paid for. God's honour has to be satisfied before he can forgive mankind so the 11th century Archbishop of Canterbury, Anslem theorises. The dilemma is that we owe everything to God anyway and therefore we cannot pay the debt

'You became nothing, poured out to death'. Jesus Christ is the sacrifice that paid the debt of our sin, his death clears that debt and allows us to enter into a right relationship with God.

Love induced repentance

'Many times I've wondered at Your gift of life'. Abelard, the French professor of theology in the early 1100's, states that God's love is so clearly demonstrated in his Son's self sacrifice on the cross, that this prompts us to repentance.

'I'm humbled by Your mercy'. Our atonement follows the realisation of what God has done on our behalf and our willingness to accept that we have sinned.

'I marvel at this saving grace'. If God has done this through Jesus for us without condition then why would we not confess our sin and accept that forgiveness?

Victory over evil

'Now You are exalted to the highest place'. The classic theory of atonement from the early church was that Jesus broke the powers of darkness and has victory over evil. God demonstrated that there is no power, on earth or in heaven, greater than his and we do not have any power to save ourselves from evil but must rely on being redeemed by him.

'King of the heavens, where one day I'll bow'. We accept responsibility for our own sin, repent and are changed. God is the sole source of salvation and atonement, with love he puts right the wrongs of his creation.

2 a Describe the context and background of the chosen Bible passage.

Romans 5:6-8 (*app2*)

In his letter to the Roman church Paul clearly sets out the foundations of the Christian faith. In the first half of the letter he talks about what to believe. All people are sinful; Christ died to forgive sin; we are made right with God through faith; this begins a new life with a new relationship with God.

Chapter 5 is the last section of the second part dealing with forgiveness of sin through Christ and probably contains the key verse of the whole letter; "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." (5:1).

b write about its original meaning.

It would be quite difficult to get a man to die even for a just man. It might be possible to persuade a man to die for some great and good principle, a man might have the greater love that would make him lay down his life for his friend. But the wonder of Jesus Christ is that he died for us when we were sinners and in a state of hostility toward God. Love can go further than that.

But even more than just dying for us, Jesus' action on the cross changes our status before God. We were sinners but we are put in a right relationship with God, the 'saved' sinner cannot go on being a sinner, he must become good, using Jesus' strength to overcome temptation and filled with his grace to continue the journey to God through Jesus and with the power of his Holy Spirit.

c Indicate how you see the passage offers Good News for people today.

We were weak and helpless because we could do nothing on our own to save ourselves. Someone had to come and rescue us. Not only did Christ come at a good time in history, he came at exactly the right time, according to God's own schedule. God controls all of history, and he controls the timing, methods and results of Jesus' death.

The words "*While we were still sinners*" make the whole thing amazing. God sent Jesus, his only Son, to die for us, not because we were good enough, but because he loved us unconditionally. God loved us before we turned to him, while we were still rebelling against him. How much more then will God love us when we know and love him too?

3 a Tell a story which communicates this Good News for today.

Has anyone been a victim of a crime?

I was on Thursday evening. R2, my bus was broken into and the stereo was stolen. I phoned the police on my new mobile phone and all the due process of the law got underway.

On the previous Wednesday I went to a Town wide praise meeting. A friend of mine, Paul the keys, from Kings Churches evening praise band had had an accident the weekend before and badly cut 2 fingers and was in plaster and a sling, so without thinking I offered him a lift to the meeting and it wasn't until I was about to set out I realised I normally walk to the meetings that was less than half a mile from home. Paul lives all the way out on the outskirts of the other end of Loughborough. But he's a mate and a nice guy and he needed a lift so I didn't mind putting myself out for him.

On Thursday I got to the car park to find R2 with a broken window and a missing stereo. The violation of my vehicle was upsetting, the impending hassle was annoying, and having to drive without music was completely intolerable.

Yet we are called, as Christians, to love our enemy as ourselves, that all people are our neighbours. So there should be no difference in how I treat my mate Paul and the youth who stole my CD player. No difference. Well there is a difference. The difference is Paul's a nice guy and car thieves aren't.

But God looked at all the people of the world, the nice guys, the good friends as well as the criminals and outcasts and for all of them, without exception, he offers a new life free from the debt that our sin costs. A debt paid in full by Jesus' blood on the cross.

b Describe one other method you could communicate this Good News.

There are many good songs which express what God has done for us through the work of his Son Jesus Christ. Songs are easily remembered and can remain with us for years to keep reminding us of the power of God's love. Two that speak of the message in Romans 5 are 'Redeemed' by Wendy O'Connell and 'The Gift' one of my own.

Redeemed

When I am lost
When I am all alone
Burdened by my sin and shame
There's one place I can go

I look towards the cross
Where my saviour died
Suffered in my place
The perfect sacrifice
For me so I can know

*Now I am forgiven I have been set free
Through the blood of Jesus I have been made clean
Now I know of his mercy because he died for me
I have been redeemed*

Wendy O'Connell
Copyright © 2001 Vineyard songs

The Gift

Hung from a tree for you,
Laid down His life for you,
Created life from death.
Love and protects you,
Carries and cares for you,
Created life with His breath.

My God, My God, My God, Hold me close.

Hears every prayer from you,
Knows every depth of you,
Know that His word is true.
Deep in your heart for love,
Answering prayers with love,
Know that His word is for you.

My God, My God, My God, Hold me close.

Your tears He'll wipe away,
Bring back the light of day,
Blood that was shed for our pain.
Died for our sin to pay,
Washes them clean away,
Blood that removes every stain.

My God, My God, My God, Hold me close.

Rob Newton
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App 1

- Isaiah 53** Who has believed our message
and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
- ² He grew up before him like a tender shoot,
and like a root out of dry ground.
He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.
- ³ He was despised and rejected by men,
a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering.
Like one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.
- ⁴ Surely he took up our infirmities
and carried our sorrows,
yet we considered him stricken by God,
smitten by him, and afflicted.
- ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was upon him,
and by his wounds we are healed.
- ⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

App 2

NIV Romans 5 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. ³Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

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

⁹Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! ¹⁰For 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! ¹¹Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The Message Romans 5

[6] Christ arrives right on time to make this happen. He didn't, and doesn't, wait for us to get ready. He presented himself for this sacrificial death when we were far too weak and rebellious to do anything to get ourselves ready. And even if we hadn't been so weak, we wouldn't have known what to do anyway. [7] We can understand someone dying for a person worth dying for, and we can understand how someone good and noble could inspire us to selfless sacrifice. [8] But God put his love on the line for us by offering his Son in sacrificial death while we were of no use whatever to him.

The Street Bible Romans 5

6-8 See, right on cue, with precision timing, when we were flailing around totally helpless, Jesus died for the messed up. How often does someone die for someone else? It's not daily news, is it?! Alright, for the really happening guy, maybe some would die. It does happen. But get your head round this: God proved his love to us, 'cos it was when we were totally messed up that Jesus died for us.

App 3

Magnificent Holy Father
I stand in awe of all I see
Of all the things you have created
Still you chose to think of me

Who am I that you should suffer
Your very life to set me free
The only thing that I can give you
Is the life you gave to me

*This is my offering, dear Lord
This is my offering to you God
And I will give you my life
For it's all I have to give
Because you gave your life for me*

I stand before you at this alter
So many have given you more
I may not have much I can offer
Yet what I have is truly yours

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