

## Key Truth Review Lesson #14

### Lesson Fourteen

- We belong to God since he \_\_\_\_\_ us and \_\_\_\_\_ us by Jesus' death on the cross. God owns all things. We're managers ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) of God's things. God has given us T \_\_\_\_\_, T \_\_\_\_\_, T \_\_\_\_\_ & a T \_\_\_\_\_ to manage. One word that explains WHY we want to manage these things well is \_\_\_\_\_. God will bless us with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ when we're faithful stewards.

## Key Truth Answers

### Lesson Fourteen

- We belong to God since he **CREATED** us and **REDEEMED** us by Jesus' death on the cross. God owns all things. We're managers (**STEWARDS**) of God's things. God has given us **TIME, TALENTS, TREASURE & a TEMPLE** to manage. One word that explains **WHY** we want to manage these things well is **LOVE**. God will bless us with **JOY** and **CONTENTMENT** when we're faithful stewards.

## Opening Prayer

1. For Christian homes, O Lord, we pray, that you might dwell with us each day. Make ours a place where you are Lord, where all is governed by your Word.
2. We are the children of your grace; Our homes are now your dwelling-place. In you we trust and daily live; teach us to serve and to forgive.
3. United in a bond of love, we lift our eyes to you above. From you we gain the strength to live, the wish to share, the joy to give. Amen.



Christian Worship #500 "For Christian Homes, O Lord, We Pray"

[Join saying the prayer responsively (i.e. Parent 1, Youth 2, Parent 3)]

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# LESSON 15

## THE CHRISTIAN AND THE MEANS OF GRACE

### Introduction

- God makes the impossible possible!

Hold up a sheet of paper, curl it into a circle, and challenge your youth, saying, "Is it possible for you to make this sheet of paper fit around your waist? How about fitting it around our whole family?" Give your youth a moment to consider the problem. If they cannot figure out the answer, give them the piece of paper and a scissors. Say, "Starting close to the edge of the paper, cut a square that ends in the center of the paper.

It should look like this when done:

If cut correctly, the line of paper should easily wrap around a small group of people. When finished, say, "At first this task seemed impossible. Through the Means of Grace, God also does the impossible: He grants us His grace, forgives our sins, and pours out the Holy Spirit upon His people. While it may seem impossible that God could do all this great thing, nothing is impossible with God."

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# THE MEANS OF GRACE

In Lesson 10 we began talking about the Means of Grace. Let's review what they are and what they offer.

Let's start off by recording a definition for the Means of Grace.

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# The Means of Grace

1. **Definition:** The tools or instruments by which God gives us the gifts of His undeserved love. (See lesson #10)

The Means of Grace are: **The tools or instruments by which God gives us the gifts of his undeserved love. (See lesson #10)**

**[Have your youth record the answer]**

Now let's list the means of Grace

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# The Means of Grace

1. **Definition:** The tools or instruments by which God gives us the gifts of His undeserved love. (See lesson #10)

2. **The Means of Grace are:**
  1. God's Word
  2. Sacraments

**[Have your youth record the answer]**

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# The Means of Grace



We can use this diagram to illustrate how God uses the Means of Grace to give us forgiveness, new life and salvation. God has a bottomless reservoir of these. **[Click to bring up "God's Reservoir" contents]** He uses the pipeline of his Word and sacraments to get it to our hearts **[Click to bring up "Means of Grace"]** Whenever these means are administered, the gospel moves into our hearts. **[Click to animate the "Means of Grace"]** Therefore we receive the contents of God's reservoir.

# The Means of Grace

**A Sacrament is a Sacred Act,**

- 1) **started by Christ**
- 2) **with visible elements connected with God's Word**
- 3) **by which God offers forgiveness, new life, salvation**

Let's record a working definition for a sacrament. A Sacrament is a sacred act:

- 1.) **Started by Christ**
- 2.) **with visible elements connected with God's Word**
- 3.) **by which God offers forgiveness new life and salvation.**

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# The Means of Grace

**A Sacrament is a Sacred Act,**

- 1) **started by Christ**
- 2) **with visible elements connected with God's Word**
- 3) **by which God offers forgiveness, new life, salvation**

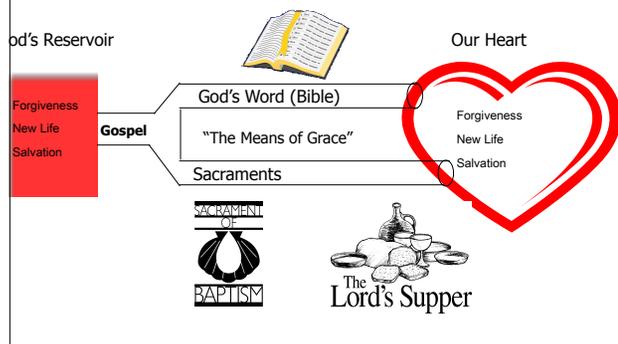
Using that definition there are two Sacraments:

- 1) **Baptism**
- 2) **Lord's Supper**

Using that definition there are two Sacraments revealed in Scripture:

- 1) **Baptism**
  - 2) **Lord's Supper**
- [Click to the next slide]

# The Means of Grace



Let's add Baptism and the Lord's Supper to the diagram[Click to bring the sacrament clipart into the diagram] Now that we have all of God's tools assembled together, let's look at when they work. God uses the gospel to make an unbeliever into a believer. He does this through the gospel communicated in the Word and for many of us he did it with the gospel (Word) connected with the water in our baptism. [Click to animate the Word and Baptism] Now that we have forgiveness, New Life, and Salvation, God continues to strengthen our faith through the gospel in the Word and the Lord's Supper. And as he does this he increases our love for him and one another. [Click to animate the Word and the Lord's Supper] There are times when a person may be brought to faith through the Word and then are baptized later for a strengthening of faith. (I.e. - The Ethiopian Eunuch Acts 8:26-40) We will discuss this more in lesson 16.

## The Means of Grace

### 3. Through the Means of Grace the Holy Spirit . . .

- 1) creates faith in Jesus, or
- 2) strengthens faith in Jesus

From this diagram we are reminded of two important truths:

Through the means of grace the Holy Spirit:

- 1) **Creates faith in Jesus, or**
- 2) **Strengthens faith in Jesus.**

**[Have your youth record the answer]**

Let's now take a look at how the Holy Spirit touched the lives of the first century Christians and moved them to love one another.

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## Acts 2:42-47

- <sup>42</sup>They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup>Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup>All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup>Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. <sup>46</sup>Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

As we read this section about the first century church, take note of the following:

- Their worship life
- Their social life
- Their numerical growth

**[Have your youth read the passage]**

**[Click to the next slide]**

## His Word in My Life

- According to the previous section from Acts, what is noteworthy about the following aspects of the Jerusalem congregation:
  - Their worship life
  - Their social life
  - Their numerical growth
- Could they have had one without the other?

Their worship life was noteworthy because they devoted themselves to the Apostle's teaching, the fellowship, the breaking of bread (A term for celebrating the Lord's Supper) and prayer. They also met daily in the temple courts. They worshipped with glad and sincere hearts.

Their social life was one of mutual support as they had all of their possessions in common and shared with anyone who had need.

Their numerical growth was also noteworthy as they daily added members to their congregation.

No - All of these actions were interrelated. As they gathered around word and sacrament and were motivated by the gospel it moved them to love and care for one another.

# GOD'S WORD, THE BIBLE . . .

In the next few lessons we will take a closer look at the Means of Grace. For the remainder of this lesson we will focus on God's Word or the Bible. Let's start by looking at the following passages.

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## John 5:39

- <sup>39</sup>[Jesus said,] "You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me,"

[Have your youth read the passage, then ask the following question]

Q. According to this passage, to whom did Jesus say the scriptures lead us?

A. The scriptures or the Bible **lead us to Jesus.**

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## God's Word, The Bible ...

1) leads us to Jesus above all else

[Have your youth record the answer]

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## Romans 10:17

- <sup>17</sup>Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

[Have your youth read the passage, then ask the following question]

Q. According to this passage, what can come to a person as they read or hear the Word of God?

A. Faith

Q. Therefore, what does the Bible give us and keep us in?

A. **The Bible gives us and keeps us in the faith**

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## God's Word, The Bible ...

1) leads us to Jesus above all else

2) gives us faith and keeps us in the faith

[Have your youth record the answer]

[Click to the next slide]

## Psalms 119:105

- <sup>105</sup> Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

[Have your youth read the passage, then ask the following question]

When in a dark room or place, we can use a light or lamp to show us the way. In this verse from Psalm 119 God compares his Word to a lamp or light. The world is darkened by sin. Because our mind is darkened by sin, we don't always know what to do in our Christian lives nor do we want to do it.

Q. How does God's Word act as a light or lamp for us in our Christian living?

A. **It guides us in Christian Living.**

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## God's Word, The Bible ...

- 1) **leads us to Jesus above all else**
- 2) **gives us faith and keeps us in the faith**
- 3) **guides us in Christian living**

[Have your youth record the answer]

[Click to the next slide]

## Deuteronomy 4:2

- Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract.

[Have your youth read the passage, then ask the following question]

God has given us everything we need to know for this life or the life hereafter. There may be things that we would like to know, but God has chosen not to tell us.

Q. Since his Word is sufficient, according to this passage what does he forbid us from doing?

A. He forbids us from adding or subtracting from it.

Since God's Word is sufficient and since God's Word can't be altered, we would say that it **can't be replaced by anything else.**

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## God's Word, The Bible ...

- 1) **leads us to Jesus above all else**
- 2) **gives us faith and keeps us in the faith**
- 3) **guides us in Christian living**
- 4) **cannot be replaced by anything else**

[Have your youth record the answer]

[Click to the next slide]

## John 1:17

- <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

[Have your youth read the passage, then ask the following question]

This passage from John reminds us about the two main teachings of God's Word. One was given to man through Moses. The other came through Jesus Christ.

Q. What are these two main messages?

A. The two main messages are Law and Gospel

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## God's Word, The Bible ...

- 1) leads us to Jesus above all else
- 2) gives us faith and keeps us in the faith
- 3) guides us in Christian living
- 4) cannot be replaced by anything else
- 5) has two main messages, Law and Gospel (see lesson #3)

[Have your youth record the answer]

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## Psalms 1:1-3

- <sup>1</sup> Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.  
<sup>2</sup> But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.  
<sup>3</sup> He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

In this psalm God uses the illustration of a growing tree to describe how a believer can "grow" when he or she comes into contact with the word.

[Have your youth read the passage, then ask the following question]

Q. According to this passage, how often does the believer meditate on God's Word?

A. Day and night.

Therefore, God's word is used regularly for growth in faith and life.

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[Have your youth record the answer]

## God's Word, The Bible ...

- 1) leads us to Jesus above all else
- 2) gives us faith and keeps us in the faith
- 3) guides us in Christian living
- 4) cannot be replaced by anything else
- 5) has two main messages, Law and Gospel (see lesson #3)
- 6) is used regularly for growth in faith and life

## His Word in My Life

- What are some of the ways that the devil gets people to change the Bible? Why does the devil do this?

Some people add other books to the Bible and say they are God's Word (Mormonism). Others add their works of penance to Jesus' death as payment for sins (Roman Catholicism). Some people make fun of the idea that God would die for our sins, and so on. In all such cases, the devil is leading people to believe in some false way of salvation, instead of in Jesus alone.

## His Word in My Life

- Evaluate: I believe that the Bible is God's Word because it makes so much sense.

That wouldn't necessarily be a good proof that the Bible is God's Word. Many false teachings that are contrary to the Bible also make good sense. And some teachings of the Bible don't make a lot of sense to our human minds, but they are still true (like the bread and wine also being Jesus' body and blood in the Lord's Supper, or Jesus' virgin birth, or Jesus' being both true God and true man in one person).

## His Word in My Life

- Evaluate: The main purpose of the Bible is to ensure that we have a good life on this earth.

If that were the main purpose of the Bible, then it wouldn't be worth much of our time. We won't necessarily have a good life just because we read the Bible. And if there were nothing beyond this life for us, the Bible wouldn't have much to say to us.

# USING THE BIBLE

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## Hebrews 10:24-25

- <sup>24</sup>And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. <sup>25</sup>Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

[Have your youth read the passage, then ask the following question]

Q. How often does this passage say we should meet together as the end of the world comes closer and closer?

A. It says that we should meet together more and more.

Therefore we are to take advantage of all the times a congregations gathers around the Word. We are to us the Bible: **By Regularly participating in church, Sunday School, and Bible Study**

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## Using the Bible

**1) By regularly participating in church, Sunday School, and other Bible study**

[Have your youth record the answer]

[Click to the next slide]

## Acts 17:10-11

- <sup>10</sup>As soon as it was night, the brothers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. On arriving there, they went to the Jewish synagogue. <sup>11</sup>Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

[Have your youth read the passage, then ask the following question]

The Bereans demonstrated a high regard for the Word. They didn't just take what Paul said at face value.

Q. What did they do?

A. They compared his teachings with the Scriptures

This reinforces the importance for studying the Bible on our own. We always want to make sure we are hearing the truth from others. Therefore, we also use the Bible: **By daily and personally studying the Bible**

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## Using the Bible

**1) regular participation in church, Sunday School, and other Bible study**

**2) daily personal Bible study and study with other Christians**

[Have your youth record the answer]

[Click to the next slide]

## Using the Bible

- 1) regular participation in church, Sunday School, and other Bible study
- 2) daily personal Bible study and study with other Christians
- 3) Bible study helps:
  - 1) pray before beginning to study

[Have your youth record the answer]

[Click to the next slide]

## Using the Bible

- 1) regular participation in church, Sunday School, and other Bible study
- 2) daily personal Bible study and study with other Christians
- 3) Bible study helps:
  - 1) pray before beginning to study
  - 2) as the Bible is read, ask:
    1. What does it say?
    2. What does it tell me about myself?
    3. What does it tell me about my God?
    4. What will it lead me to do?

[Have your youth record the answer]

The Bible is unlike any book you've ever read. Therefore we don't read it like we would read a novel or a newspaper. You want more than simple knowledge of what it says – to apply what it says to your life. Focus on every word. Ask yourself questions like, "What do these verses tell me about God? What does this tell me about myself? What here makes me happy – or sad? How does God want to use this portion of his Word to change me to be more like him? Throughout the day, turn that portion of Scripture over and over in your head. As you study, don't be afraid to take notes or write in your bibles. It helps reinforce what you've read. And don't be afraid to come to your pastor with any questions you might have.

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## His Word in My Life

- Agree or Disagree: Bible passages can be interpreted a number of different ways.

The Bible can be misinterpreted a number of ways but there can be only one correct interpretation.

Take a trip to these sites and order up a heapin' helpin' servin' of Spiritual Food for your family. Let your youth surf around at Living Bold, order a daily e-mail for yourself or pick up a family devotion for everyone to enjoy. As you are surfing around WELS.NET, make sure to check out the multimedia stuff on Streams – there is a good series on Christian parenting.

## His Word in My Life

Look at the following links and start your spiritual growth right now:

- [LivingBold - WELS Teen E-zine](#)
- [WELS daily E-mail](#)
- [WWW.WELS.NET](#)
- Purchase a family devotion book online at: [Northwestern Publishing House](#)
- Participate as a family in the Today's Light Bible Reading Plan

## Closing Prayer

God's Word is our great heritage  
and shall be our forever;  
To spread its light from age to age  
shall be our chief endeavor.  
Through life it guides our way, in  
death it is our stay.  
Lord, grant, while worlds endure,  
we keep its teachings pure  
Throughout all generations. Amen.



## ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK

1. Study carefully the [notes](#) you have taken in class; be sure you understand them.
2. Study carefully questions pages #229 – 230 in the [Catechism](#).
3. Complete the “[Working with God’s Word](#)” section.
4. Memorize these [Bible passages](#):

*Romans 10:17* – “Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.”

*Psalms 1:1-3* – “Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.”

5. Memorize in your [Catechism](#) “First: What is Baptism?” and “Which is that Word of God?” and “Second: What does Baptism do for us?” and “What is God’s promise?”
6. Complete [Worksheet #15](#) and have your parents correct it.

## Key Truths

### Lesson Fifteen

- We call the tools God uses to give us his love the \_\_\_\_\_ . They are 1) God's \_\_\_\_\_ and 2) \_\_\_\_\_ . A sacrament is a sacred act started by \_\_\_\_\_ , with visible \_\_\_\_\_ connected to God's word and by which God gives \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ . The Holy Spirit uses the Means of Grace to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ faith in Jesus.

## Key Truths

### Lesson Fifteen

- We call the tools God uses to give us his love the **MEANS OF GRACE**. They are 1) God's **WORD** and 2) **SACRAMENTS**. A sacrament is a sacred act started by **CHRIST**, with visible **ELEMENTS** connected to God's word and by which God gives **FORGIVENESS, NEW LIFE** and **SALVATION**. The Holy Spirit uses the Means of Grace to **CREATE** and **STRENGTHEN** faith in Jesus.