

**Bible
Teachings
Series**

*A study
of how God
shows us
His love*



The Means of Grace

The Means of Grace

A study of how God
shows us his love



Multi-Language Productions

Bringing the Word to the World

The text of this book is written and produced by Multi-Language Productions of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

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Level 1, Book 21



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Getting Started

This book will teach you the means, or the tool, God uses to bring people – men, women, and children – to believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior. The way he does this is through the gospel in his word, the Bible, and in the two sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Each chapter begins with goals marked by a small star (*). These goals will tell you what you will learn in each chapter. Then you will read a few lines and answer some questions. At the end of each chapter there is a short test. The test questions cover only what you have learned in that chapter and the questions you have answered.

When you have answered a group of questions you will be given the page number where you can turn to check your answers. Check your answers before reading any further.

At the end of the book there is a final test. Before you answer the questions in this final test, go back and review the chapter tests. When you have completed the final test, you can either turn the test over to the person who

gave you this book, or you can mail it to the address on the back cover of this book.

We pray that this study of God's means of grace will teach you about his great love that he shows us in the gospel found in the Bible and in the two sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.



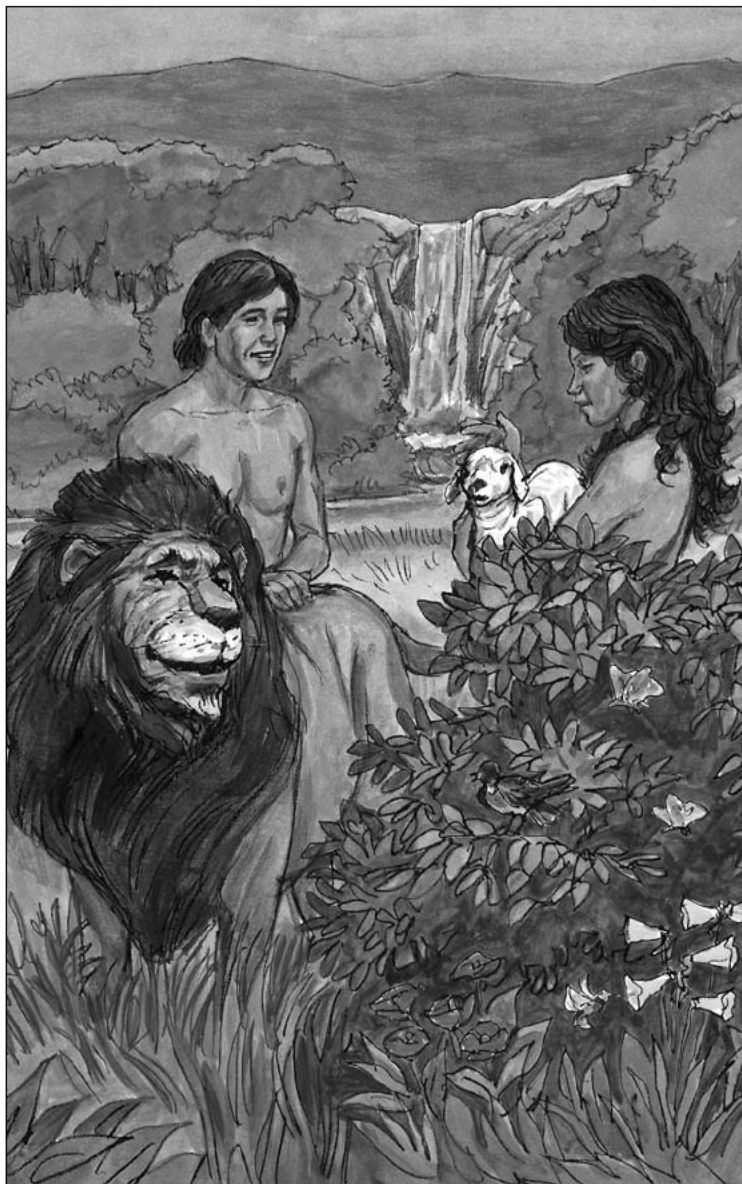
Chapter One

What is Meant by the Means of Grace?

God's grace is one of the important teachings of the Bible. In this chapter we want to learn:

- * That God's grace is his undeserved love, and
- * How God's grace is shown to us.

To begin the study of this chapter we want to read a part of Genesis chapter 3.



God made all things.

Genesis 3:1-15

¹ The serpent was more clever than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. The serpent said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat the fruit of the tree that is in the garden'?" ² The woman said to the serpent, "We can eat of any tree in the garden. ³ But God did say, "You must not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden. Do not even touch it. If you do, you will die." ⁴ "You can be sure that you won't die," the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ "God knows that when you eat the fruit of that tree, you will know all things you have never known before. You will be able to tell the difference between good and evil. You will be like God." ⁶ The woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good to eat. It was also pleasant to look at. And it would make a person wise. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. She also gave some of it to her husband, who was with her. And he ate it. ⁷ Then both of them knew things they had never known before. They realized that they were naked. So they sewed fig leaves together and made clothes for themselves. ⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the LORD God walking in the garden. It was the coolest time of the day. They hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called out to the man, "Where are you?" he asked. ¹⁰ "I heard you in the garden," the man answered. "I was afraid. I was naked, so I hid." ¹¹ The LORD God said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the fruit of the tree I commanded you not to eat? ¹² The man said, "It was the woman you put here with me. She gave me some fruit from the tree. And I ate it." ¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What have you done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me. That is why I ate the fruit." ¹⁴ So the LORD God spoke to the serpent. He said, "Because you have done this, I am putting a curse on you. You are cursed more than all of the livestock and all of the wild animals. You will crawl on the ground. You will eat dust all the days of your life.

¹⁵ I will put hatred between you and the woman. Your children and her children will be enemies. Her son will crush your head. And you will crush his heel.”

This account tells us what happened in the garden of Eden. Our first parents, Adam and Eve, were created without sin and placed into a beautiful, perfect garden. God gave Adam and Eve the command not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil found in the middle of the garden. However, an evil angel, Satan, tempted Eve, and both she and Adam ate of the fruit of that forbidden tree. They did not believe God’s word, so they disobeyed God. They sinned. And, as a result, their sinful nature was passed on to all people. “Sin entered the world because one man sinned. And death came because of sin. Everyone sinned, so death came to all people” (Romans 5:12).

1. What command did God give to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden?

2. It was _____ who tempted Adam and Eve to sin.
3. Adam and Eve _____
God and sinned.

4. Because of the sin of Adam and Eve
_____ people sin.

Answers for these questions are found on page 11

Through the law of God we learn that all people are sinners. God's Ten Commandments show us we are sinners. The commandments tell us what we are to do, and what we are not to do. For example: We are to worship the true God. We are to honor our parents and all persons put over us in our lives. On the other hand, we are not to lie, steal, curse, or worship other gods instead of the true God.

The apostle Paul tells us in Romans 3:20, "So it can't be said that anyone will be made right with God by obeying the law. Not at all! The law makes us more aware of our sin." In fact, the law condemns us. Paul writes, "All who depend on obeying the law are under a curse. It is written, 'May everyone who doesn't continue to do everything that is written in the Book of the Law be under God's curse'" (Galatians 3:10). In other words, the law cannot save us. The law does not tell us about Jesus Christ.

5. The Ten Commandments tell us what we
_____ to do and _____
to do.

6. Write down some of the things God tells us to do.

7. Write down some of the things God tells us we should not do.

8. Can you be saved by keeping the law? Why or why not?

Answers for these questions are found on page 11

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, he gave them a promise that would be fulfilled by Jesus. God said, "I will put hatred between you (Satan) and the woman (Eve). Your children and her children will be enemies. Her son (Jesus) will crush your (Satan's) head. And you (Satan) will crush his (Jesus') heel (Genesis 3:15). That promise of a Savior was God's first gospel promise.

Jesus fulfilled this promise of God. He lived a perfect life. "We have a high priest (Jesus) who has been tempted in every way, just as we are.

But he did not sin” (Hebrews 4:15). Not only did Jesus live a perfect life for us by keeping all of God’s commandments, he also was punished for our sins when he died on the cross. We deserved to be punished because we sin. But Jesus was punished instead of us. We read in the Bible, “He suffered the things we should have suffered... And the Lord has placed on his servant (Jesus) the sins of all of us” (Isaiah 53:4 and 6). This is good news for us.

9. Whom did God promise to send into the world to save us? _____
10. Jesus lived a _____ life to save us.
11. The Bible tells us that Jesus (did) (did not) sin. (*Underline the correct answer.*)
12. Jesus was also _____ for us.

Answers for these questions are found on page 11

Because of his great love for us (God’s grace) God sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to save us from the punishment that our sins deserve. God’s **grace** is his love that we do not deserve. The Bible speaks about God’s grace in many places.

John 1:14 – He (Jesus) was full of grace and truth.

Acts 15:11 – We believe we are saved through the grace of our Lord Jesus.

Romans 3:24 – The free gift of God's grace makes all of us right with him.

How does God bring his grace to us? The tool God uses to do this is the gospel message about Jesus our Savior. The gospel is like a tool because it is the means which God uses to bring us his grace. When a person wants to dig a hole in the ground, he or she uses a hoe or a shovel. The hoe or shovel is the means used to dig the hole. God uses the simple yet powerful tool of the gospel to show his grace to us. Therefore, we call the gospel "the means of grace." The means of grace is the **gospel** in God's word, the Bible, as well as in the sacraments of **Baptism** and the **Lord's Supper**. Through the means of grace, God gives us faith in Jesus, the forgiveness of sins because of Jesus, and eternal life with Jesus in heaven.

13. God's grace is his _____ for us that we do not _____.

14. Write out one of the Bible verses that speaks about God's grace.

15. The means God uses to bring his grace to us is the _____ in his word as well as the _____.
16. The two sacraments are _____ and the _____.
17. Through the means of grace God gives us the _____ of _____ and eternal _____ with Jesus in heaven.

Answers to these questions are found on page 11

Answers to the questions in Chapter One:

1. Not to eat the fruit from the tree in the middle of the Garden of Eden; 2. Satan; 3. disobeyed; 4. all; 5. are, are not; 6. We are to worship the true God, We are to honor those over us; 7. lie, steal, curse, have other gods; 8. No – we cannot keep the law, we sin; 9. His Son, Jesus Christ; 10. perfect; 11. did not; 12. punished; 13. love, deserve; 14. John 1:14, Acts 15:11, Romans 3:24; 15. gospel, sacraments; 16. Baptism, Lord's Supper; 17. forgiveness, sins, life.

Review of Chapter One

We have learned that all people are sinners. Our sins result from the sin of Adam and Eve. Satan deceived Adam and Eve, and they ate of the fruit from the tree God told them not to eat. They disobeyed God. They sinned. But God gave them a promise that he would send a Savior who would crush the power of Satan but would be hurt in doing so. That Savior is Jesus.

The love God shows to us which we do not deserve is called **grace**. This word “grace” is used many times in the Bible to show how God loves us. The word “**means**” refers to the tool God uses to bring us his grace or undeserved love.

When someone digs a hole he or she uses a hoe or shovel to dig the hole. When God wants to show us his love or grace, he uses the **gospel** in his **word** and in the sacraments of **Baptism** and the **Lord’s Supper**. This is the means of grace that brings us faith in Jesus and gives us eternal life in heaven with Jesus.

Test on Chapter One

1. Adam and Eve _____ God and sinned.
2. Because of the sin of Adam and Eve _____ people sin.
3. Can you be saved by keeping the law? Why or why not?

4. Whom did God promise to send into the world to save us? _____
5. Jesus (did) (did not) sin. (*Underline the correct answer*)
6. God's grace is his _____ for us that we do not _____.
7. The means God uses to bring us his grace is the _____ in his word and in the _____.
8. The two sacraments are _____ and the _____.

9. Through this means of grace God gives us _____ of _____ and eternal _____ with Jesus in heaven.

Learn the following Bible passage so you can say it by yourself.

“God loved the world so much that he gave us one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life” (John 3:16).

Answers for these questions are found on page 60

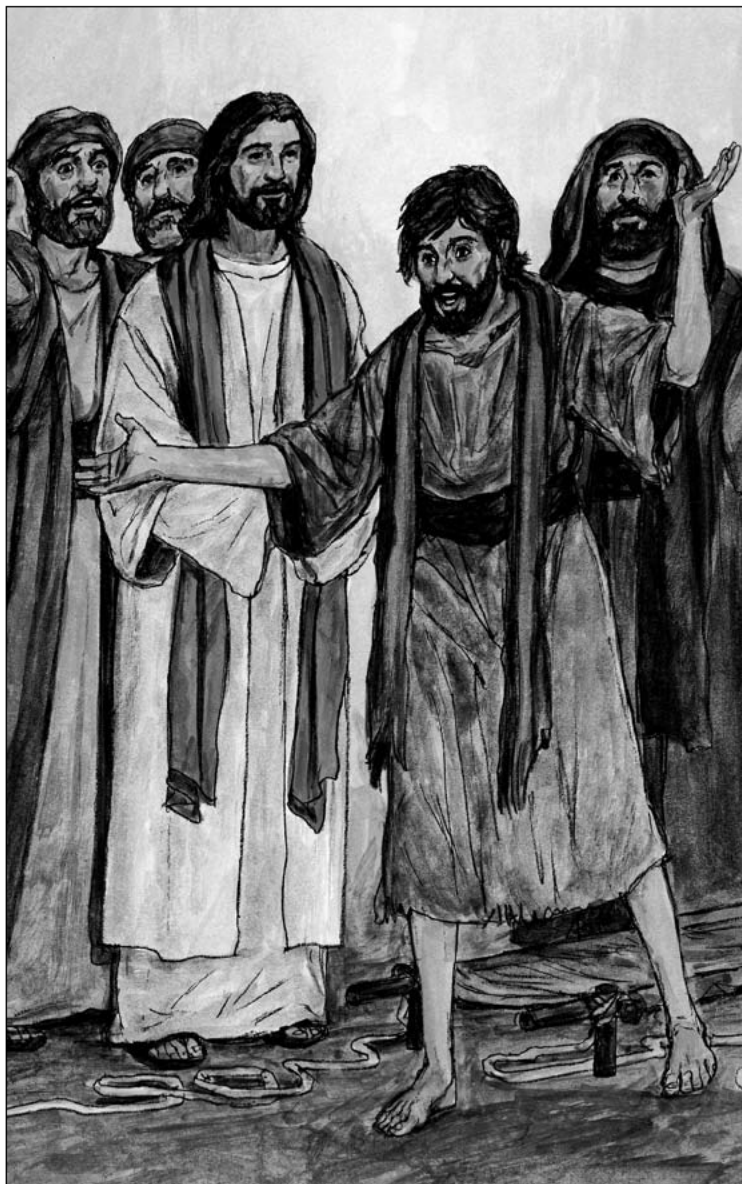


Chapter Two

THE GOSPEL (THE MEANS OF GRACE) IN THE BIBLE BRINGS US GOD'S LOVE

We have learned that the gospel, the good news about Jesus our Savior, is the means of grace. Now we want to learn where to find the gospel. First of all, the gospel is the main message in the Bible. God uses the gospel in the Bible to bring his undeserved love to us and to the world. In this chapter we will learn:

- * That it is the gospel and not the law that shows us our Savior, and
- * That the gospel is meant for all people.



Jesus forgives and heals the man who could not walk.

As we begin the study of this chapter we want to read and study the account of Jesus forgiving the sins and healing the body of the man who could not walk.

Mark 2:1-12

¹ Jesus entered Capernaum again. The people heard he had come home. ² So many people gathered that there was no room left. There was not even room outside the door. And Jesus preached the word to them. ³ Four of those who came were carrying a man who could not walk. ⁴ But they could not get him close to Jesus because of the crowd. So they made a hole in the roof above Jesus. Then they lowered the man through it on a mat. ⁵ Jesus saw their faith. So he said to the man, "Son, your sins are forgiven." ⁶ Some teachers of the law were sitting there. They were thinking. ⁷ "Why is this fellow talking like that? He's saying a very evil thing! Only God can forgive sins!" ⁸ Right away Jesus knew what they were thinking. So he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? ⁹ Is it easier to say to this man, 'Your sins are forgiven'? Or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? ¹⁰ I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." Then Jesus spoke to the man who could not walk. ¹¹ "I tell you," he said, "get up. Take your mat and go home." ¹² The man got up and took his mat. Then he walked away while everyone watched. All the people were amazed. They praised God and said, "We have never seen anything like this!"

In this miracle Jesus teaches us what is most important in our lives. Can you find the gospel in this story? The first thing Jesus did for this man who could not walk was to forgive his sins. That was most important. Later he healed his body so he could walk. Jesus showed his love to this

man in two ways. He forgave him and then healed him. This shows us that Jesus considered the forgiveness of sins more important than health. The forgiveness of the man's sin was good news to this man. It was gospel. The gospel in God's word is the means of grace that God uses to show us his undeserved love.

In Romans chapter 1 verse 16 the apostle Paul writes, "I am not ashamed of the good news (gospel). It is God's power. It will save everyone who believes. It is meant first for the Jews. It is meant also for those who aren't Jews." The power of God is in the gospel. In the chapter before this one we learned that we are all spiritually dead in sin. But God saves us by using the power of the gospel, the good news about our Savior Jesus Christ. Through the gospel he gives us faith in Jesus and forgives all our sins. We cannot keep the law perfectly as God wants us to keep it. We sin every day. It is in the gospel that we learn we have the forgiveness of our sins and are made right with God only through Jesus Christ. "At one time you were dead in your sins... But God gave you new life together with Christ. He forgave us all of our sins" (Colossians 2:13). The good news that we are saved by Jesus Christ is found only in the Bible. No other religion has the gospel.

1. What was the first thing that Jesus did for the man who could not walk?

2. What was the second thing that Jesus did for the man who could not walk?

3. Why is the forgiveness of sins more important than the healing of our body?

4. According to Romans 1:16 the gospel is the _____ of God.

5. The good news that we are saved by Jesus Christ is found only in the _____.
No other religion teaches this.

Answers to these questions are found on page 22

The message of the gospel is summarized in John 3:16. "God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life." God comes to us in the gospel showing us his love, forgiving our sins, and giving us the blessing of eternal life with him in heaven.

There are many passages in the Bible that speak about the gospel and its power in our lives.

Mark 1:15 – “The time has come,” he (Jesus) said. “The kingdom of God is near. Turn away from your sins and believe the good news.”

Galatians 1:11, 12 – The good news I preached is not something a human being made up. ... Instead I (Paul) received it from Jesus Christ. He showed it to me.

Mark 16:15 – He (Jesus) said to them, “Go into all the world. Preach the good news to everyone.”

God uses the gospel in the Bible as the means or the tool to give people faith in Jesus. This good news is meant for everyone in the world. A missionary in Africa tells of an African farmer who was studying God’s word in a Bible class with other people. They were studying Paul’s letter to the Galatians. Suddenly the man stood up and with a smile on his face said, “For the first time in my life I know I am saved, not by the good works that I do, but by faith in Jesus Christ and what he has done for me.” Wherever we live, whether in Africa, Asia, North or South America or elsewhere in the world, the gospel is the means of grace that God uses to bring people everywhere to believe in Jesus.

6. Write down one of the three Bible passages listed above that speaks about the gospel.

7. God uses the gospel in the Bible as a means or tool to give people _____ in Jesus.

8. The good news is meant for _____.

Answers to these questions are found on page 22

The message of the gospel brought joy into the life of that African. The good news that our sins are forgiven through Jesus brings joy into the lives of all people who believe in Jesus as their Savior. Like the man in the Scripture account who could not walk, we also have many troubles in our lives. But Jesus overcomes the greatest trouble in our lives, our sins, by forgiving our sins.

The apostle Paul knew he would die soon, yet he could write, "I'm talking about the way you serve because you believe. Even so, I am glad. I am joyful with all of you. So you too should be glad and joyful with me" (Philippians 2:17, 18). Together with Paul believers today can rejoice in the good news. Through the power of the gospel

in God's word we believe that our sins are forgiven through Jesus Christ, and we are saved.

9. The good news that our sins are forgiven through Jesus brings _____ into the lives of all people who _____ in Jesus as their _____.

10. Through the _____ in God's _____ we believe that our sins are forgiven.

Answers to these questions are found on page 22

Answers to the questions in Chapter Two:

1. Jesus forgave his sins.; 2. Jesus healed him so he could walk.;
3. Forgiveness makes us right with God forever. Healing of our body lasts only for our life on earth. ; 4. power; 5. Bible; 6. John 3:16 or Mark 1:15 or Galatians 1:11, 12 or Mark 16:15; 7. faith;
8. everyone; 9. joy, believe, Savior; 10. gospel, word.

Review of Chapter Two

The first thing Jesus did for the man who could not walk was to forgive his sins. Then Jesus healed the man so he could walk. This shows us that Jesus considered the forgiveness of sins, the gospel, to be more important than our health. Forgiveness of our sins gives us the promise of eternal life in heaven. Healing lasts only for our life on earth. The hope of eternal life in heaven, because our sins are forgiven, lasts forever and is good news for us.

We know we sin and cannot save ourselves. It is the gospel in God's word that tells us we are saved by believing in Jesus. Only the Bible tells us this good news. No other religion has the gospel. This good news is meant for everyone. The gospel in the Bible is the means of grace. It shows us God's love for each one of us. This message of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of people everywhere with joy knowing that their sins are forgiven. The message of the gospel gives us the hope of everlasting life in heaven.

Test on Chapter Two

1. What was the first thing that Jesus did for the man who could not walk?

2. Why is the forgiveness of sins more important than the healing of our body?

3. The good news that we are saved by Jesus is found only in the _____.
4. God uses the gospel in the Bible as a means of grace to give us faith in _____.
5. The good news is meant for _____.
6. Through the _____ in God's _____ we believe that our sins are forgiven, and we are saved.

Learn the following Bible passage so you can say it by yourself.

“I am not ashamed of the good news. It is God’s power. And it will save everyone who believes” (Romans 1:16).

Answers to these questions are found on page 60



Chapter Three

THE GOSPEL (THE MEANS OF GRACE) IN THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM BRINGS US GOD'S LOVE

We have learned in chapter two that God uses the gospel (the means of grace) in the Bible to give us faith in Jesus and to bring us the forgiveness of all our sins. Now in this chapter we want to learn about a sacrament that has the gospel in it. This is the sacrament of Baptism. In this chapter we will learn:

* The meaning of the word “sacrament,”



Philip baptizes a man from Ethiopia.

- * The meaning of the word “Baptism,”
- * Baptism is meant for both children and adults, and
- * Baptism brings us many blessings.

As we begin the study about Baptism, we want to learn about the baptism of an African government official by Philip, a worker in the early church.

Acts 8:26-39

²⁶ An angel of the Lord spoke to Philip. “Go south to the desert road,” he said. “It’s the road that goes down from (the city of) Jerusalem to (the place called) Gaza.” ²⁷ So Philip started out. On his way he met an Ethiopian official. The man had an important position. He was in charge of all the wealth of Candace. She was the queen of Ethiopia (A country in northeast Africa). He had gone to Jerusalem to worship. ²⁸ On his way home he was sitting in his chariot (wagon). He was reading the book of Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹ The Holy Spirit told Philip, “Go to the chariot. Stay near it.” ³⁰ So Philip ran up to the chariot. He heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you’re reading,” Philip asked. ³¹ “How can I?” he said. “I need someone to explain it to me.” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³² Here is the part of Scripture that the officer was reading. It says. “He was led like a sheep to be killed. Just as lambs are silent while their wool is being cut off, he did not open his mouth. ³³ When he was treated badly, he was refused a fair trial. Who can say anything about his children? His life was cut off from the earth.” ³⁴ The official said to Philip, “Tell me, please. Who is the

prophet talking about? Himself, or someone else?" ³⁵ Then Philip began with that same part of Scripture. He told him the good news about Jesus. ^{36/37} As they traveled along the road they came to some water. The official said, "Look! Here is water! Why shouldn't I be baptized?" ³⁸ He gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the official went down into the water. Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away. The official did not see him again. He went on his way full of joy.

The official from the country of Ethiopia in Africa was the treasurer of that country. He worked for the queen of Ethiopia. He was reading the Bible, but he did not understand what Isaiah, the prophet had written. He was reading from the 53rd chapter of the book of Isaiah. These words of prophecy speak about how Jesus would suffer and die for the sins of all people. What Jesus did for us is good news. He bore the punishment that we deserve because of our sins. The Holy Spirit used this good news to give faith in Jesus to the man from Ethiopia. As would be true of any person who believes in Jesus as his or her Savior, he desired to be baptized. When they came to some water, Philip did baptize this man. After he was baptized, the man's heart was filled with joy, and he went on his way rejoicing.

Baptism is a sacrament that uses the gospel – the means of grace – to bring us to faith or to

strengthen faith in Jesus. Baptism is called a sacrament. What does the word “sacrament” mean? A sacrament is a holy act that is commanded by God. Jesus gave God’s command about baptism to his disciples and us. After Jesus rose from the dead, he met his disciples on a mountain in the district of Galilee. There he commanded his disciples, “You must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19).



This command of Jesus is followed when a person is baptized with water in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. A sacrament has an earthly element in addition to God’s word. In Baptism that earthly element is water. This water is not merely water, but it is water used by God’s command and connected with God’s word. As a sacrament, Baptism also gives the forgiveness of sins. The apostle Peter told the people in Jerusalem, “All of you must turn away from your sins and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then your sins will be forgiven” (Acts 2:38).

Baptism is a sacrament that is commanded by God, has an earthly element (water), and, through the gospel – the means of grace – it

offers and gives to us the forgiveness of our sins.

1. Baptism is a holy act that is _____ by God.
2. Write out Jesus' command to baptize found in Matthew 28:19.

3. What is the earthly element used in Baptism? _____
4. To be a sacrament Baptism must give us the _____ of our sins.

Answers to these questions are found on page 38

The word **Baptism** comes from the Greek language. Baptism means “washing or applying water.” The Greek word that means “baptism” is used when Mark 7:4 speaks of washing cups, pitchers, and kettles. However, the baptism Jesus commanded is a special washing. It washes away our sins. Baptism can wash away our sins because it is connected with God’s word. God’s word places the name of God on us when we are baptized. That means he is adopting us as his own forgiven children. There are two things necessary in a valid baptism.

One is the use of water and the other is the use of the words commanded by Jesus, I baptize you *“in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”* The apostle Paul writes, “Christ loved the church. He gave himself up for her (the church). He did it to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her with water and the word” (Ephesians 5:25,26).

Jesus did not command how the water is to be applied. Water can be applied to the person being baptized by sprinkling water on the head of the person, by pouring water on the head of a person, or by putting the person entirely under water. All of these three methods of applying the water are proper. We cannot insist on any one way to apply the water.

5. Baptism means “_____ or applying _____.”
6. Baptism washes away our _____.
7. Baptism can wash away our sins because it is connected to God’s _____, the good news that Jesus brings us into God’s family.

8. What are the words of Jesus that need to be used when someone is baptized?

9. Name the three ways that water can be applied to a person being baptized.

Answers to these questions are found on page 38

There are examples in the Bible of people being baptized.

Mark 1:9-11 - Jesus was baptized.

Acts 8:26-40 - The man from Ethiopia was baptized.

Acts 16:29-34 - The jailor in the city of Philippi and everyone in his house were baptized.

Baptism is meant for all people, both children and adults. The Bible gives us many reasons why children should be baptized. First of all, children are a part of every nation. When a census is taken of the people living in a country, the children are counted together with other people. Jesus said, "So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the

Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19). Also we know that children are born sinful and need the forgiveness of their sins. King David writing in the Psalms tells us, “I know I’ve been a sinner ever since I was born. I’ve been a sinner ever since my mother became pregnant with me” (Psalm 51:5). Everyone has inherited the sinful nature that Adam and Eve received when they disobeyed God in the garden of Eden. In addition, we know that children can believe in Jesus. Jesus himself told us this when he said, “But what if someone leads one of these little ones who believe in me to sin? If he does, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and be drowned at the bottom of the sea” (Matthew 18:6). God wants little children to be a part of his family.

Adults also are to be baptized. However, adults should be taught God’s word before they are baptized so they know and believe that Jesus is their Savior and also know the meaning of Baptism. We learned that the man from Ethiopia was taught about Jesus dying for our sins before he asked for baptism. Philip taught him by explaining the words of the prophet Isaiah who wrote about the sufferings of Jesus. In the case of the jailor in the city of Philippi we are told that the jailor asked Paul and Silas, “What must I do to be saved?” This is a most important question

for all of us. Paul answered it when he said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus. Then you and your family will be saved.’ They spoke the word of the Lord to him. They also spoke to all the others in his house... Right away he and his whole family were baptized” (Acts 16: 31-33). As adults, the man from Ethiopia and the family of the jailor were taught about Jesus before they were baptized. A person who begins to believe in Jesus as his or her Savior will want to be baptized as the man from Ethiopia wanted to be baptized. Jesus said to his disciples, “Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved” (Mark 16:15).

In the last chapter we read about a missionary in the country of Zambia in Africa. That same missionary served the Lord in the country of Bulgaria in Eastern Europe. During the time he and his wife were in the city of Sophia, the capital of Bulgaria, they met an elderly lady named Violeta. Violeta was a Jew. When she was a young girl during the Second World War, the dictator of Germany, named Hitler, required all the Jews in the city of Sophia to go down to the railroad station. The train in the station would take them to Auschwitz, a death camp. The king of Bulgaria stopped the evil plan, and the train never left the railroad station. Now many years later Violeta studied God’s word in

the mission church and wanted to be baptized. The missionary witnessed the baptism of this adult woman. She now became a true daughter of Abraham through faith in Jesus her Savior.

10. Baptism is meant for all people,
_____ and _____.
11. We baptize children because they are a
part of all _____.
12. We also know that children are born
_____ and need _____
of their sins.
13. Finally, we know that children can
_____ in Jesus.
14. Adults should be _____ about
God's word before they are baptized.
15. Give two examples from the New
Testament of adults who were taught God's
word before they were baptized?

16. Jesus said to his disciples, “Anyone who believes and is _____ will be saved.”

Answers to these questions are found on page 38

There are so many blessings that come to those who are baptized. Baptism gives us the forgiveness of all our sins (Acts 22:16). Because our sins are forgiven, we have the hope of eternal life (Titus 3:5-7). When you were born, your family gave you a name. Now when you are baptized, you receive another name. The name you receive is “Christian.” In Baptism you become a child of God and a part of God’s family (Galatians 3:26-28). In Baptism God comes to you personally to assure you that you are his child. He gives you the forgiveness of your sins, deliverance from the power of the devil, and eternal salvation. You are baptized only once in your life, but the blessings of Baptism are yours throughout your life. When troubles come to you in your life, you can remember you are a part of God’s family and can pray to him for help and comfort in every time of need. Like the man from Ethiopia after his baptism who went on his journey happy, baptized children of God go through life filled with joy for all the blessings God gives to them.

The gospel in Baptism is the means of grace through which God comes to us and shows us his love. He gives us the name Christian and blesses us in so many ways as his children. In return, we thank and praise God calling him our Father through faith in Jesus Christ.

17. The name you receive when you are baptized is “_____.”
18. In Baptism you become a _____ of God and a part of God’s _____.
19. The gospel in Baptism is the _____ of _____ through which God comes to us and shows us his _____.

Answers to these questions are found on page 38

Review of Chapter Three

After the man from Ethiopia was taught God’s word, he was baptized. Baptism is a holy act that was commanded by Jesus. He said we are to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Water is used in Baptism together with those words of Jesus. “Baptism” is a Greek word that means “washing, or applying water.” It is Baptism that washes away our sins.

We apply the water by sprinkling or pouring it on the person being baptized or by putting the person under water.

Baptism is meant for all people, children and adults. We baptize children because they are included in Jesus' words that we are to make disciples of all nations. Children also are born sinful and need the forgiveness of sins that is given to them in Baptism. Also, Jesus tells us that even little children can believe in him. Before adults are baptized, we teach them about their Savior and the meaning of Baptism. We have examples of this in the New Testament in the baptism of the man from the country of Ethiopia and also the jailor in the city of Philippi.

There are many blessings we receive through Baptism. Not only are our sins forgiven, but we

Answers to the questions in Chapter Three:

1. commanded; 2. Matthew 28:19; 3. water; 4. forgiveness;
5. washing, water; 6. sins; 7. Word; 8. I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. 9. Sprinkling on the head, Pouring on the head, Putting the person under water;
10. children, adults; 11. nations; 12. sinful, forgiveness;
13. believe; 14. taught; 15. a. The man from Ethiopia, b. The jailor at Philippi; 16. baptized; 17. Christian; 18. child, family;
19. means, grace, love.

become children in God's family with the blessing of eternal life with Jesus in heaven. We are baptized only once, but the blessings of Baptism are ours throughout our lives. When troubles come into our lives, we can remember we are God's children and receive his help in every time of need. For all these blessings we thank and praise our loving God. The gospel in Baptism is the means of grace. It brings God's love to us in a personal way as he comes to each one of us assuring us, "You are my child and I love you."

Test on Chapter Three

1. Baptism is a holy act that is _____ by God.
2. What is the earthly element used in baptism? _____
3. To be a sacrament Baptism must give us the _____ of our sins.
4. Baptism washes away our _____.
5. Baptism can wash away our sins because it is connected to God's _____.

6. What are the words of Jesus that must be used when someone is baptized?
- _____
- _____
- _____
7. We baptize children because they are a part of all _____.
8. We also know that children are born _____ and need _____ of their sins.
9. Finally, we know that children can _____ in Jesus.
10. Adults should be _____ with God's word before they are baptized.
11. The name you receive when you are baptized is "_____".
12. In Baptism you become a _____ of God and a part of God's _____.

Learn the following Bible passage so you can say it by yourself.

"Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved" (Mark 16:16).

Answers to these questions are found on page 60



Chapter Four

THE GOSPEL (THE MEANS OF GRACE) IN THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER BRINGS US GOD'S LOVE

We have learned that the gospel is the means, or tool, God uses to show us his grace, or undeserved love. The gospel is the main message in God's word, the Bible, and in the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. We now turn our thoughts to learning about the Lord's Supper.

We wish to learn:



Jesus gives his friends the Lord's Supper.

- * That the Lord's Supper is a holy act, a sacrament,
- * That we are to prepare ourselves to receive the Lord's Supper, and
- * That the Lord's Supper shows and strengthens our faith in Jesus.

First of all we want to read from the Bible the account of Jesus providing the first Lord's Supper for his disciples in an upper room in the city of Jerusalem. He did this on the Thursday evening before he died on the cross on Friday.

The holy gospel writers Matthew, Mark, Luke and the apostle Paul tell us in Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25: "The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples and said, "Take and eat. This is my body, which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, gave thanks, gave it to them and said, "Drink from it all of you. This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

As we learned in our study of Baptism, the Lord's Supper also is a sacrament. We remember that a sacrament is a holy act commanded by Jesus. Jesus commanded his

disciples and us to receive the Lord's Supper when he said, "Take eat (the bread) and drink from it (the cup) all of you." Jesus is telling us to do something. This is his command. We also



remember that there needs to be an earthly element in a sacrament. In Baptism that earthly element is water. In

the Lord's Supper the earthly elements are bread, without yeast in it, and wine, the fruit of the vine. Very likely wine was used when Jesus celebrated the Lord's Supper with his disciples. We say this because the grape harvest took place a long time before that first Lord's Supper was held, and grape juice would have become wine by that time. The third thing that is needed to make the Lord's Supper a sacrament is that it must give us the forgiveness of sins. Jesus, in Matthew's gospel said, "This is my blood of the new covenant. It is poured out to forgive the sins of many" (Matthew 26:28). From our study of God's word we learn that the gospel in the Lord's Supper is the means, the way, in which God shows us his love by forgiving us our sins when we receive the Lord's Supper.

1. A sacrament is a holy act that was _____ by Jesus.
2. The earthly elements in the Lord's Supper are _____ and _____.

3. The Lord's Supper is a sacrament because it gives us the _____ of _____.
4. The gospel in the Lord's Supper is the means through which God shows us his _____.

Answers for these questions are found on page 51

There is something more that we learn when we study the accounts that speak of the time Jesus first gave the Lord's Supper to his disciples. We learn that when we come to the Lord's Supper, we receive, together with the bread, the very body of our Lord Jesus Christ. And when we drink from the cup, we receive, with the fruit of the vine, the very blood of Jesus. This is made very clear to us by Jesus when he "handed it (the bread) to his disciples and said, 'Take this and eat it. This is my body'" (Matthew 26:26). Later, when he gave them the cup with the fruit of the vine in it, he said, "All of you drink from it (the cup). This is my blood of the new covenant" (Matthew 26:27,28). Therefore, the very body and blood of Jesus are really present and given to us in the Lord's Supper together with the bread and wine. The apostle Paul writes about this when he says, "When we give thanks for the cup at the Lord's Supper, aren't we sharing in the blood of Christ? When we break the bread, aren't we sharing in the body of Christ?"(1

Corinthians 10:16). We may not understand how this can happen, but we believe it because God teaches us this in his word. “What the Lord says is right and true. He is faithful in everything he does” (Psalm 33:4).

5. When we come to the Lord’s Supper, we receive, together with the bread, the very _____ of our Lord Jesus Christ.
6. When we drink from the cup, we receive with the fruit of the vine, the very _____ of Jesus.
7. We may not understand how we receive Jesus’ body and blood in the Lord’s Supper, but we believe it because _____ teaches us this in his _____.

Answers for these questions are found on page 51

How do we prepare ourselves to receive the Lord’s Supper? One of the ways is to confess our sins. We should confess our sins publicly and privately. We read in the apostle John’s first letter, “God is faithful and fair. If we admit that we have sinned, he will forgive us our sins. He will forgive every wrong thing we have done. He will make us pure” (1 John 1:9). That is why confession should be a part of every one of our worship services. When we confess our sins, God shows us his grace and in love forgives us

all of our sins. We also can prepare ourselves to receive the Lord's Supper by using private confession. We should confess the many ways we have sinned against each other. "Admit to one another that you have sinned" (James 5:16). Also, we can privately confess our sins in our prayers to God seeking his forgiveness.

Another way we prepare ourselves is to examine our faith before going to the Lord's Supper. Do we believe in Jesus as our Savior? God tells us to do this through the words of the apostle Paul when he writes, "A person should take a careful look at himself before he eats the bread and drinks from the cup" (1 Corinthians 11:28).

On pages 54-55 you will find a list of questions that will help you to prepare yourself before going to the Lord's Supper.

8. We should confess our sins _____ and _____.
9. Confession should be a part of every one of our _____ services.
10. We can privately confess our sins in our _____ to God seeking his _____.

11. Another way we prepare ourselves is to _____ ourselves before going to the Lord's Supper.

Answers to these questions are found on page 51

Jesus wants us to come to the Lord's Supper often. He said, "Every time you drink it, do it in memory of me" (1 Corinthians 11:25). This statement of Jesus tells us we are to receive the Lord's Supper many times. We are baptized only once, but the sacrament of the Lord's Supper is to be received many times. We come to the Lord's Supper often because this sacrament assures us that God forgives our sins; it strengthens our faith in Jesus; and it gives us the desire to lead a Christian life in our world. This is good news.

Each time we go to the Lord's Supper we remember the death of Jesus. When Jesus died, he showed us his love by taking on himself the punishment we deserved and giving us the forgiveness of our sins. Paul also said in 1 Corinthians 11:26, "When you eat the bread and drink the cup, you are announcing the Lord's death until he comes again." Every time we receive the Lord's Supper, we remember Jesus' death and tell the people in our world that Jesus died for the sins of all people.

The Lord's Supper is an expression of our faith in Jesus. The love that Jesus has for us causes us to live a Christian life as members of God's family. We live with God as our Father by faith in Jesus. And Jesus is our brother who died for us and rose again as our Savior. The gospel in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper is the means of grace. It strengthens our faith and encourages us to live a godly life.

12. Jesus wants us to take part in the Lord's Supper _____.

13. We take part in the Lord's Supper often because this sacrament _____
our faith to lead a _____ life
in our world.

14. Each time we go to the Lord's Supper we
_____ the death of
Jesus.

Answers to these questions are found on page 51

Review of Chapter Four

The gospel in God's word and the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper is the means of grace. In the chapter before this one we learned that Baptism is a sacrament. We now learn that the Lord's Supper also is a sacrament. The Lord's Supper is a holy act commanded by Jesus on the night before he died on the cross. He took bread, broke it, and said, "Take and eat, this is my body." Then he took a cup containing the fruit of the vine and said, "Drink from it all of you, this is my blood." The earthly elements in the Lord's Supper are bread and wine. This sacrament also offers and gives us the forgiveness of sins. Jesus said, "This is given to you for the forgiveness of sins."

When we come to the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, we receive both the bread and Jesus' body. We also receive both the wine and Jesus' blood. This teaching of Jesus is hard for us to understand. We believe it is true because God's word does not lie to us.

Before receiving the Lord's Supper, we prepare ourselves by looking at our lives and confessing our sins. We confess our sins publicly during the worship service. We also confess our sins

privately to those people we have sinned against and to our God.

Jesus wants us to come to the Lord's Supper often. He says that when we receive the Lord's Supper often, we remember his death. The Lord's Supper strengthens our faith. It is another way by which God shows his love for us

Answers to the questions in Chapter Four:

1. commanded; 2. bread, fruit of the vine or wine; 3. forgiveness, sins; 4. love; 5. body; 6. blood; 7. God, word; 8. publicly, privately; 9. worship; 10. prayers, forgiveness; 11. examine; 12. often; 13. strengthens, Christian; 14. remember.

Test on Chapter Four

1. The earthly elements in the Lord's Supper are _____ and _____.
2. The Lord's Supper is a sacrament because it gives us the _____ of _____.
3. The Lord's Supper is a means in which God shows us his _____.
4. When we come to the Lord's Supper we receive, together with the bread, the very _____ of our Lord Jesus Christ.
5. When we drink from the cup, we receive, together with the fruit of the vine, the very _____ of our Lord Jesus Christ.
6. Confession should be a part of every one of our _____ services.
7. We can privately confess our sins in our _____ to God seeking his _____.
8. Jesus wants us to receive the Lord's Supper _____.

9. Each time we go to the Lord's Supper we
_____ the Lord's death.

Learn the following Bible passage so you can say it by yourself.

“When you sin, the pay you get is death. But God gives you the gift of eternal life because of what Christ Jesus our Lord has done” (Romans 6:23).

Answers to these questions are found on page 60



**Questions you should answer
to prepare yourself to receive
the Lord's Supper.**

1. Do you believe that you are a sinner?
*Yes, I believe that I have disobeyed God
and am a sinner.*
2. How do you know you are a sinner?
*I know I am a sinner from the Ten
Commandments which I have not kept.*
3. Are you sorry for your sins?
Yes, I am sorry that I sinned against God.
4. What do you deserve because you sin
against God?
*I deserve his anger, death, and everlasting
punishment in hell.*
5. Do you hope to be saved?
Yes, I hope to be saved.
6. In whom then do you believe and trust?
*I believe and trust in my dear Lord Jesus
Christ.*
7. Who is Jesus Christ?
*Jesus is the Son of God and son of Mary,
true God and true man.*

8. What has Jesus done for you? Why do you believe and trust in him?

Jesus died for me on the cross for the forgiveness of my sins.

9. Do you believe that the true body and blood of Jesus are received in the Lord's Supper?

Yes, I believe it because Jesus said, "This is my body, and this is my blood."

10. Why should you go to the Lord's Supper often?

I should go to the Lord's Supper often for the forgiveness of all of my sins, for the strengthening of my faith in Jesus, and to remember and announce his death.



Word List

amazed	To be filled with great surprise or wonder
applied	To put to good use
authority	The power to do or say something
census	The count of a country's population
clever	Mentally bright; quick to learn
condemn	To hand out punishment
curse	To call on God to send evil on someone or something
deceive	To trick someone into believing what is false or bad
elements	The parts of nature
examine	To look at oneself carefully
expression	To make known a feeling, opinion or fact

forbidden	Something that is not allowed
honor	To show respect
inherit(ed)	To receive something from someone who has died
means of grace	The gospel in God's word and the sacraments
miracle	An event that is not explained by the laws of nature
official	A person who holds an office of great authority
proper	Right, suitable, correct
refuse(d)	To show or say that one is unwilling to accept something
require(d)	To need, demand, insist on something
Satan	The leader of the fallen angels
serpent	A snake
summarize(d)	To give a short account giving the main point

tempt(ed)	To try to get someone to do something sinful
trick(ed)	A clever act or words meant to deceive
undeserved	Something we are not good enough to receive
valid	Something acceptable, effective or legally binding



Answers to Chapter Tests

Chapter One (pages 13-14)

1. disobeyed; 2. all; 3. No. The law shows us our sin, but not our Savior.; 4. Jesus; 5. did not; 6. love, deserve; 7. gospel, sacraments; 8. Baptism, Lord's Supper; 9. forgiveness, sins, life.

Chapter Two (page 24)

1. Jesus forgave him his sins.; 2. Forgiveness lasts forever, healing helps only for our life on earth.; 3. Bible; 4. Jesus; 5. everyone; 6. gospel, word.

Chapter Three (pages 39-40)

1. commanded; 2. water; 3. forgiveness; 4. sins; 5. word; 6. I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.; 7. nations; 8. sinful, forgiveness; 9. believe; 10. taught; 11. Christian; 12. child, family.

Chapter Four (pages 52-53)

1. bread, fruit of the vine or wine; 2. forgiveness, sins; 3. love; 4. body; 5. blood; 6. worship; 7. prayers, forgiveness; 8. often; 9. remember.



Final Test

Congratulations. You have completed your study of *The Means of Grace*. Go back through the book and review any mistakes you made in the chapter tests. Also review the goals of each chapter. When you are confident or sure you know all the goals, you are ready to take the final test.

Complete the final test without looking at the text of the book. When you are finished, give the test to the person who gave you the book or send it to the address on the back cover. You may also ask for more Bible study books to study.

If you are ready, take the test without looking back into the book.



The Means of Grace ***Final Test***

1. Because of the sin of Adam and Eve _____ people sin.
2. Can we be saved by keeping the law? Why or why not?

3. Whom did God promise to send into the world to save us? _____
4. The means God uses to save us is the _____ in God's word and in the _____.
5. The two sacraments are _____ and the _____.
6. The good news that we are saved by Jesus is found only in the _____, not in the teachings of any other religion.
7. God uses the gospel in the Bible as the means of grace to give us faith in _____.

8. Baptism is a holy act _____
by God.
9. What is the earthly element used in
Baptism? _____.
10. To be a sacrament Baptism must give us
the _____ of our sins.
11. Baptism can wash away our sins because it
is connected to God's _____.
12. What are the words of God that must be
used when someone is baptized?

13. The name you receive when you are
baptized is "_____."
14. When you are baptized you become a
_____ of God and a part of
God's _____.
15. The earthly elements in the Lord's Supper
are _____ and _____.

16. The Lord's Supper is a sacrament because it gives us the _____ of _____.
17. When we come to the Lord's Supper, we receive, together with the bread, the very _____ of our Lord Jesus Christ.
18. When we come to the Lord's Supper, we receive, together with the fruit of the vine, the very _____ of our Lord Jesus Christ.
19. Jesus wants us to receive the Lord's Supper _____.
20. Each time we go to the Lord's Supper we _____ the Lord's death.

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