The Gospel Project for Adults, Winter 2015-16
Extended Instructional Approaches for Session 11

Introduction: ***Engage the group by connecting with the main theme.***

Write the following poem on the board before your group members arrive. When class begins, ask them to comment on it:

> *Redemption's price our Savior paid*
> *When all our sins on Him were laid;*
> *He took our guilt, He bore our shame*
> *That we may glorify His name.*

[Source: David DeHaan, "Even Her," in Our Daily Bread [online], 26 October 2012 [cited]. Available from the Internet: http://odb.org/2012/10/26/even-her/.

Part 1: ***Check for understanding through comparison.***

Almost all religions and societies practice some kind of ritual purification to try and please their deities. Have your group members watch the video clip entitled, "A Freezing Japanese Shinto Purification Ritual—Misogi" (1 minute, 37 seconds) found on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FlFqaUYA_T4.

As they are watching the video, have them make observations as to what is going on and why. Have a few members share their insights. Ensure that they note how the participants believe some external ceremony and/or cleansing can change the internal. Also, they are the ones who provide purification, not another, especially their god.

Part 2: ***Check for understanding using "Think-Pair-Share" technique.***

The main precept we focus on in this section is the cleansing of the conscience by atonement. Read (or have someone read) the following to your group members.

> "…The ministry of the New Covenant is *internal*. 'I will put My laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts' (Heb. 8:10). This work is done by the Holy Spirit of God (2 Cor. 3:1-3). But the Spirit could not dwell within us if Jesus Christ had not paid for our sins. Cleansing our consciences cannot be done by some external ceremony; it demands an internal power. Because Jesus Christ is 'without spot [blemish]' He was able to offer the perfect sacrifice."

[Source: Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary: New Testament,* vol. 2 (Colorado Springs, CO: Cook Communications Ministries, 2001), 311.]

Think-Pair-Share: Ask, "Why do many people, including some Christians, try to cleanse their consciences apart from God? How do they do this?" Then say to the group, "**Think** for 30 seconds about this. Now I want you to discuss this in **pairs** with a person on your left or right who is not your spouse." (Pause for 60 seconds.) Call on 3-4 pairs to **share** one idea.

Conclusion: ***Challenge your group members to live the lesson.***

The lesson emphasizes two important aspects of salvation: the purification of our hearts and the cleansing of our consciences. Have your group members spend time with God this week thanking Him specifically for these two truths. Then ask them if they are honestly accepting these facts as true in their own lives. Now that you see the seriousness of sin and the need for sacrifice, thank God for His provision of salvation through Christ's completed work on the cross.

Teaching Tip of the Week

"What are they thinking about?" Every teacher should have this in mind when they walk into the classroom. If a teacher thinks their students are always ready to learn and fully engage with the lesson, they are naïve. Students might be thinking about problems with their family, their job, the beautiful weather, bills, or any number of things. The first task of a teacher is to "prime the pump" of learning by getting them to *want* to learn about the subject at hand. The student needs to know in the first minute or two the value of the lesson for their lives. If you can't get them engaged early, they probably won't assimilate the lesson. A resource that every teacher should have on their shelf is Mel Silberman's *Active Learning: 101 Strategies to Teach Any Subject*. It is worth its weight in gold!