



SUBSTITUTION

The Ologies Lesson 17



The Ologies – Study and Gathering Guide

LESSON 17 - SUBSTITUTION

MAIN POINT:

MESSAGE NOTES:¹

Listen to or view message #17 in *The Ologies*, “Substitution,” at pscconline.com. You can also find it by searching for Pleasant Street Church of Christ on your favorite podcasting service or on the Faithlife app on Apple TV or Roku.

Thought Questions:

1. Why did Christ have to be sinless to atone for us?
2. What does it mean that Christ was made to be sin?
3. How could Christ have died so long ago for those of us alive today?
4. How is God carrying out his end game?

Next Steps:

1. Take an assessment of the things which motivate you and compare them with Paul’s motives in Philippians 3:7-14.
2. What will you do this week to identify with Christ through the fellowship of his suffering?

Obedience Challenge: Say So

Read Luke 18:9-12. Write your own version of the Pharisee’s prayer, “I’m not like _____, _____, _____. I _____, _____, and _____.” Consider how your virtues might be blinding you to ways that you habitually “fall short of the glory of God.” Write out some of those ways. Think about how they hurt other people and offend the holy God. Confess them before God and seek his mercy. Go on your way justified!

¹ You will share your notes during the Collaboration time of your Life Team meeting.

The Ologies – Study and Gathering Guide

DAILY DEVOTION GUIDE:

Read the following Scriptures about humankind as created beings, throughout this week. Use the [SOAP journaling method](#) to help you go deeper into the text. (See Handout)

- Monday – Genesis 22:1-18
- Tuesday – Exodus 32
- Wednesday – Leviticus 4
- Thursday – Psalm 85
- Friday – Acts 13
- Saturday – 1 John 4

During your Life Team meeting, you'll be given the opportunity to share some of your Application entries. Consider bookmarking any that you'll want to share by way of confession or to encourage others.

Or copy it here for easy reference:

The Ologies – Study and Gathering Guide

INTERGENERATIONAL GATHERING GUIDE:

Primer Exercise:

For Children

Have a “Freaky Friday” (or whatever day works with your schedule). Sit down with your family and talk about the various roles you all fill. Make two lists for each person: one for things they enjoy about their role and another for things they don’t like so much.

Say, “This week, we’re learning about how Jesus came to be our substitute before God and how we’re supposed to represent him to the world. Let’s practice substituting for someone else by changing roles for a day.”

Then, switch up the lists you made. Be judicious here since you obviously can’t give a preschooler your rights and responsibilities for an entire day. You might give your list to an older child, the older child’s list to a younger child, and keep the younger child’s list for yourself. Also, you might shorten your “day” to a strategic portion of the day such as the afternoon, but not bedtime since that could be difficult.

At the set time, switch back roles. Debrief with your family by asking:

1. What were some of the things you liked about switching lists? What did you not like?
2. What substituting for someone else teach you about that person?
3. How did Jesus substitute in for us?
4. How can we substitute for him?
5. What do you think we’ll learn by doing this?

Everyone Else

Watch the “Jesus Movie,” “Jesus of Nazareth,” or “The Passion of the Christ” depending on what your family can handle. Focus especially on the crucifixion.

Discuss the following:

- In the Bible, we see that religious people often had a hard time believing that Christ had died for their sins. Why do you think that was?
- Why would Jesus have to die for our sins?
- Can you think of any reasons why God would choose such a shameful and painful death for his son?

The Ologies – Study and Gathering Guide

The three sessions below are designed for home devotional use. Each session should be done in a separate sitting.

Session One: “For Our Transgressions”

- Read Isaiah 53
 - What are some characteristics of this one who is called “the arm of the LORD”?
 - What did he go through?
 - Why did he suffer like this?
 - What made it all worth it?
- Application and Prayer
 - How would you want to react if you were treated like this person was?
 - What reason do we have to become more like him even in suffering?

Session Two: “Proved Holy”

- Read Ezekiel 28:20-26
 - What are two ways that God would prove himself to be holy according to Ezekiel?
 - How are these ways different?
 - What makes them different?
 - How does this passage help us understand why the crucifixion was necessary?
- Application and Prayer
 - What dangers do we face when we take God’s kindness for granted?
 - How can we enjoy God’s kindness and avoid his wrath?

Session Three: “Rock of Ages”

- Read Exodus 33:18-23 and compare it with the old hymn, “Rock of Ages,” on the next page.
 - What does Moses ask for?
 - How does God respond?
 - What expressions do you see of God’s mercy and compassion in this passage?
 - Explain why you either agree or disagree with Mr. Toplady that Christ is the Rock where God placed Moses.
- Application and Prayer
 - How might God show us his glory today?

The Ologies – Study and Gathering Guide

LIFE TEAM GATHERING GUIDE:

Rock of Ages

Words: A. M. Toplady

Music: Thomas Hastings

1. Rock of A-ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my-self in Thee;
 2. Not the la-bor of my hands Can ful-fill the law's de-mands;
 3. Noth-ing in my hand I bring: Sim-ply to Thy cross I cling;

Let the wa-ter and the blood, From Thy riv-en side which flowed,
 Could my zeal no res-pite know, Could my tears for ev-er flow,
 Na-ked, come to Thee for dress, Help-less, look to Thee for grace;

Be of sin the dou-ble cure; Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
 All for sin could not a-tone, Thou must save and Thou a-lone.
 Vile, I to the foun-tain fly: Wash me, Sav-ior, or I die.

In Christ Alone

Keith Getty, Stuart Townend

Acts 4:8-12

Arr. Ryan Christian

238

1. In Christ a-lone, my hope is found, He is my Light, my strength, my song;
 2. In Christ a-lone, who took on flesh, full-ness of God in help-less Babe;
 3. There in the ground His bod-y lay, Light of the world by dark-ness slain;
 4. No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow'r of Christ in me;

This Cor-ner-stone, this Sol-id Ground, firm through the fier-c'est drought and
 this gift of love and right-eous-ness scorned by the ones He came to
 then burst-ing forth in glo-ri-ous day, up from the grave He rose a-
 from life's first cry to fi-nal breath, Je-sus com-mands my des-ti-

**Optional Tag*

storm. What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when sur-vivings
 save. 'Til on that cross as Je-sus died, the wrath of God was sat-is-
 gain. And as He stands in vic-to-ry, sin's curse has lost its grip on
 ny. *No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ev-er pluck me from His

Opt. raise key vr. 4

cease! My Com-fort-er, my all-in-all: here in the love of Christ I stand.
 fed, for-ev-ry sin on Him was laid; here in the death of Christ I live.
 me, for I am His and He is mine; bought with the pre-cious blood of Christ.
 hand, 'til He re-turms or calls me home; here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

©2001 Thankyou Music (Adm. EMI Christian Music Group). All Rights Reserved

The Ologies – Study and Gathering Guide

Scripture Discussion

➤ Read Romans 5

- Where in this passage do you see examples of substitution/representation?
- What should we do in response to God’s action on our behalf through Christ?

Pray

- Get a volunteer to close the prayer time at the end.
- Recite the ancient hymn below as a group to segue into prayer:

If we died with him,
we will also live with him;
if we endure,
we will also reign with him.
If we disown him,
he will also disown us;
if we are faithless,
he remains faithful,
for he cannot disown himself.²

- Pray for needs and have volunteer close.

Collaborate

Each participant should have listened to Message #17 in *The Ologies*, “Substitution” in person or online and taken notes.

- Have everyone share their answers to the **Thought Questions** in their *Message Notes*.
- If anyone has already done the **Obedience Challenge**, have them report on how it went and what they learned.
- Encourage (but don’t require) participants to share their **Next Steps** or any **Application** entries from their SOAP journals.
- Close by praying for each other’s **Next Steps** and **Application** entries.

² 2 Timothy 2:11b-13