



# 10

## Jesus Obeys

### Key Theme

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- Jesus is God in the flesh.

### Key Passages

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- Luke 2:45–49; John 5:19, 6:38; Hebrews 4:15, 5:8, 10:7; Philippians 2:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21

### Objectives

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Students will be able to:

- Describe Jesus's obedience while on earth.
- Explain what Jesus's perfect obedience did for sinners.



## Lesson Overview



### Come On In

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Students will practice the memory verse by working on a crossword puzzle and reciting the verse to a friend.



### Activity 1: Jesus Obeys Class Notes

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Students will fill out the Jesus Obeys Class Notes as you study the lesson.



### Studying God's Word

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Jesus lived a life of perfect obedience to His Father in heaven. His righteousness is what qualified Him to die for the sins of those who would believe. The sins of believers were placed on Jesus, and He took the penalty for sin by dying on the Cross. His righteousness is imputed to believers at the moment of salvation, so they may stand righteous before God.



### Activity 2: The Great Exchange Skit

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Students will act out a skit that will explain the "great exchange." Because Jesus lived a perfect, sinless, obedient life, He was able to take upon Himself the punishment for all the sins of those who would believe and in return give them His righteousness that they would be found blameless in God's eyes on judgment day.

# Lesson Preparation

## WHAT YOU WILL DO

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED



### COME ON IN

- Print one Memory Verse Review Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Memory Verse Poster
- Memory Verse Review Sheet for each student



### JESUS OBEYS CLASS NOTES

- Print one Jesus Obeys Class Notes from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Keep the answer key for your use.

- Jesus Obeys Class Notes for each student
- Jesus Obeys Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils



### STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.

- Student Take Home Sheets



### THE GREAT EXCHANGE SKIT

- Print four The Great Exchange Scripts from the Resource DVD-ROM.

- The Great Exchange Scripts
- One black and one white poster board or black and white sheets of paper



## Memory Verse

**Philippians 2:8** And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

► **Pace your lesson!** Use the clocks to mark the time you want to finish each section. This will help you stay on track and finish on time. You may need to shorten or drop sections as necessary.





# Prepare to Share

## SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages listed above along with this background.

Jesus is fully God and fully man. We have seen that He was born in the humblest of circumstances. Yet He was sought after by wise men who bowed before Him in worship and praise (Matthew 2:11). King Herod sought to kill him out of envy and hatred because of who He was destined to be (Matthew 2:16).

The Bible tells us that Jesus the man lived a life of perfect obedience to His Father and to the Law of God. He was without sin. Even as a child, He understood He was to be about His Father's business (Luke 2:49). And the Bible tells us that as a child He was subject to His parents and obeyed them in complete submission (Luke 2:51). Throughout His life, though tempted in all points as we are, Jesus did not succumb to the temptations, but lived a life without sin (Hebrews 4:15).

Christ's life had been preplanned by God the Father, and the man Jesus was careful to carry out every detail, obeying the Father's perfect will (Hebrews 10:7). Jesus told His disciples that He came to carry out the commandments of the one who sent Him (John 14:31). Jesus made it clear that He only did what He knew the Father would do (John 5:19). He did not come down from heaven to do His own will, but the will of the Father who sent Him (John 6:38). And this complete obedience led Him to the humiliation and suffering of death, even death on a cross (Philippians 2:8).

It is important to grasp that while a man, Jesus obeyed the Law perfectly. His perfect obedience to His Father's will demonstrated His righteousness (1 John 2:1). And Jesus is the only person who was able to live out this full righteousness before God the Father. Why is this important to know?

The answer lies in our own sinfulness. Righteousness is something we could never acquire because of our sin nature. We have sinned and fall short of God's glory (Romans 3:23). We were born in sin and in our own strength will never overcome it. God hates sin (Psalm 5:4–6) and cannot look on it because He is pure and holy (Isaiah 6:3). And yet, Jesus tells us that we are to be perfect just as our heavenly Father is perfect (Matthew 5:48). He instructs that if we love Him, we will keep His commandments (John 14:15). This is impossible for sinful humans. As Isaiah records, we are like an unclean thing, and our righteousness is like filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6). We are disobedient toward the holy, just God. We are not righteous. We can never measure

up to the standard of perfect obedience to God's Law and commandments. Yet that is what God demands.

This brings us back to the perfect obedience of Jesus Christ to the Law—the Law that is impossible for us to keep. You see, Jesus was born of a virgin. He did not inherit Adam's sin nature. He was the perfect Son of God. Jesus's sinless life of obedience fulfilled the righteousness God required (Matthew 3:15). And Jesus is the only one who could have ever fulfilled it. This is where we see the grace, mercy, wonder, and glory of God in His plan for believers. The very righteousness that only Christ could attain is available to us—to all who believe—through faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 3:22). Through our faith in the only righteous one, Jesus Christ, we are made righteous in God's sight. God imputes Christ's righteousness to us when we place our faith in Him. "Imputes" means that God looks on Jesus, sees His righteousness demonstrated through perfect obedience to God and His Law, then applies that righteousness to us.

This exchange was made possible when Christ, who knew no sin, became sin for us and died on the Cross (2 Corinthians 5:21). Christ's righteousness was credited to our account, and our sin was laid on the sinless Son of God. As He suffered for our sins, He made the payment that was due from our account so that the justice of a holy God could be satisfied.

Christ lived a perfect life, and through faith we gain His perfection. At the same time, though, believers still battle sin, as Paul talks about in Romans 6–8. Though we are perfect positionally, having the righteousness of Christ, we still must put to death the deeds of the flesh. That is what sanctification is all about—God changing us more and more into the likeness of Christ.

## HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

Grasping this idea of imputation is absolutely essential to understand your identity in Christ. Historically, we can actually talk about three imputations. The second and third imputations have been introduced above—the sin of man went to Christ's account when He died on the Cross, and Christ's righteousness was credited to all who would believe. We see the first imputation occurring in Genesis in Adam. Adam represented all of humanity when he rebelled against God. His sin was imputed to us—it was credited to our account (Romans 5:12). Every human throughout history has been born with a sin nature and sins in word,

thought, and deed. We carry a sin debt because of our disobedience to God. But God provided a way for the debt to be paid. God's eternal plan of redemption was put in place before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:3–6). God's plan made it necessary for God to step into His creation at some point in history to deal with the problem of sin.

Let's make an analogy. Say you were born with a blackboard representing your heart. Each time you sinned against God, that sin was written on that blackboard as a record against you. The record of those sins will be used to judge you after you die, and the judgment will result in punishment in hell. But there is a solution. God can wipe away all of those sins because Jesus has taken the penalty for those sins on the Cross. Your sins were imputed to Him; He died in your place for your sins. So now you have a clean blackboard—but that doesn't make you righteous, just neutral. This is why Christ's active obedience during His life is important.

Not only is it important that your sins were imputed to Christ, but you need Christ's righteousness imputed to you so that on judgment day, God will see you as righteous. When you repent of your sins and trust in Christ for salvation, your blackboard is not only erased, but you are given a whiteboard. And all of the perfectly obedient acts that Christ ever did get written down on your whiteboard in gilded calligraphy! Adam's sin was imputed to you, your sin was imputed to Christ, and as a believer, Christ's righteousness is imputed to you—three imputations at the core of Christian doctrine. This perfect obedience of Christ is what Paul was referring to in the book of Romans when he stated that it is by Christ's life that we are saved:

For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. (Romans 5:10)

Throughout the last 2,000 years of church history, there have been those who have attempted to tamper with the doctrine of imputation and salvation in Christ alone. Pelagius was a false teacher in the fifth century who denied that Adam's sin was imputed to mankind.

He believed and taught that man could do good deeds and fulfill the Law on his own. This is a form of self-righteousness that denies the need for Christ to fulfill the Law on our behalf. But the Bible is clear that we can do nothing good that pleases God apart from the Holy Spirit enabling us (Romans 8:6–9). Rather than our works making us righteous, once we are made righteous in Christ, we are able to do the things that please God (Ephesians 2:8–10).

The Son of God humbled Himself, coming in the form of a man so that He might identify with us and become our representative. He obeyed in full the Law that we were not able to keep so that He could give us His righteousness. As God, Jesus was able to bear the infinite punishment for sin. Let us look to Christ, the God-man, who for the joy that was set before Him, endured the cross, despised the shame, and is now seated at the right hand of the throne of God (Hebrews 12:2). He Himself bore our sins in His own body on the Cross, that we might die to sin and live for righteousness (1 Peter 2:24). What a glorious mystery and hope-giving truth!



## BEFORE THE THRONE

Lord Jesus, obedient, selfless, and righteous! You accomplished God's perfect will for your life, every day, every hour, every moment—including the humiliation and the suffering that led up to your death on the Cross. Your perfect obedience was necessary to appease a perfect God and Judge. You died for me, and for all believers, that we might live! Help me explain this mystery to my students. Quicken their young minds so they will come to you in humility, repentance, and faith. Move their hearts to understand the sacrifice Jesus made once for all, that they may be saved from an eternity in hell and, by faith and grace, enter into an eternity with the Creator and Sustainer of the universe!



## COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will review the memory verse by completing the Memory Verse Review Sheet. If time allows, they will recite the verse to a friend or to the class.

*This time at the beginning of class should be used to review the memory verse. We have provided an activity sheet on the Resource DVD-ROM for you to use. You may have other ideas and ways to encourage your students to memorize the verse.*



## REVIEW

Using the Lesson Theme Posters provided with each lesson, quickly review the previous lesson(s) with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Theme Posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



## Jesus Obeys Class Notes

### MATERIALS

- Jesus Obeys Class Notes for each student
- Jesus Obeys Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils

### INSTRUCTIONS

*Print the class notes for each student. Pass them out at the beginning of class. Have students fill in the blanks as you study the lesson.*

We will be completing these class notes as we study the Bible passages. Do not work ahead. We'll complete them together during the class.

### CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

As we complete the class notes today, we will see what Jesus's life was like and how His sacrifice on the Cross can impact our lives for eternity.



## Studying God's Word

### READ THE WORD

*Refer to the Lesson 9 Lesson Theme Poster. People reacted differently when they heard about Jesus—the King of kings.*

? What were the reactions to King Jesus? *Some men loved Him! Some men hated Him!*

? Who was the king of Judea? *King Herod.*

? And who were the others that we heard about? *Wise men, Magi.*

► Use the New Testament History Poster included with your teacher kit as you teach the lesson. Emphasize that Jesus ministered only 3 years and He lived only about 35 years. Yet His life changed the world forever and brought eternal life to all who believe.

Some men loved Jesus and some hated Him. King Herod was one who hated Him. He was filled with anger, envy, and hatred when he heard about Jesus. But the wise men, from thousands of miles away, came to worship the child. They knew He was the one who would bring salvation and peace to sinners!

The wise men knew Jesus was the long-awaited King of the Jews. Jesus was fully God and fully man. And today we are going to talk about Jesus as both man in human flesh and as God—a man who could not sin!

Jesus lived a life of perfect obedience. He never broke even one rule! He came to earth to obey God perfectly. And that is what He did, from the very beginning.

Now the Bible doesn't tell us much about Jesus as a child. But there is one historical account of Him as a young man. And it shows us that Jesus, even from an early age, was perfectly obedient to His heavenly Father.

Remember, when Jesus was still very young, King Herod wanted to destroy Him. God protected Jesus and warned Joseph that he had to quickly leave Bethlehem. Joseph took his family to Egypt until it was safe to return. When Joseph returned with his family, he settled in Nazareth, a city in Israel, where Jesus grew up.

Today we will read about a trip Jesus's family made from Nazareth to Jerusalem when Jesus was 12 years old. This is the only time the Bible tells us anything about Jesus as a child growing up in Nazareth. The family had traveled to Jerusalem with a big group of people. And they were already on their way home when Joseph and Mary realized that Jesus was not with the group! Of course, they went back to Jerusalem to find Him.

The Bible tells us what happened. Let's read Luke 2:45–49 and find out what happened. *Choose students to read the verses.*

Luke 2:45–49

## EXAMINE THE WORD

### Observe the Text

- ? Jesus's parents returned to Jerusalem to look for Him. Where did they finally find Him? *Luke 2:46. In the Temple.*
- ? And how long were they searching for Him? *Luke 2:46. Three days.*
- ? And who was Jesus with in the Temple? *Luke 2:46. With the teachers.*
- ? What was He doing with the teachers? *Luke 2:46. Listening to them and asking them questions.*
- ? When Mary found Him in the Temple, what did she ask Him? Look in Luke 2:48. *Why have you done this to us? We have looked for you anxiously.*

Mary was concerned. They had looked for Jesus. And here He was in the Temple listening to the teachers there!

? How did Jesus answer His mother? It is in Luke 2:49. What did He say? *Why did you seek me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?*

? Who was Jesus referring to here when He said "My Father's business"? *Luke 2:49. God.*

? What did Jesus mean by that—that He must be about His Father's business? *Allow discussion.*

Jesus knew God the Father had sent Him. He knew that He came to obey His heavenly Father and to do His will. He knew that He must be about His Father's business and that He must obey perfectly.

? Will someone read #1 on your class notes? How will you answer it? *Assign a reader. Obedient.*

Even at age 12, Jesus knew He was about His Father's business. Let's take a look at a few more Scriptures that tell about Jesus's perfect obedience. The next verses we will read are on your class notes.

Will someone read John 5:19 for us? *John 5:19. Choose a student to read the verse.*

John 5:19

? Who was speaking here? *Jesus.*

? What did Jesus do according to this verse? *Only what He sees the Father do.*

Again we see that Jesus came to earth to do what God the Father wanted Him to do.

? Look at #2 on your class notes. Who will read that? How will you answer it? *Assign a reader. Father.*

Good! Let's move on. Someone read the next verse, John 6:38 please. *Choose a student to read the verse.*

John 6:38

? Why did Jesus come down from heaven? *To do the will of Him who sent Him.*

Yes! Jesus said that He came to do God's will—the will of His Father who sent Him. Jesus was obedient to His Father.

? Will someone read #3 for us? What is the answer? *Assign a reader. Will.*

Let's move to the book of Hebrews. The next verse is Hebrews 4:15. Will someone read that for us please? *Assign a reader.*

Hebrews 4:15

? Who is the High Priest this verse is speaking about? *Jesus.*

Yes. Jesus is our High Priest. This verse tells us that Jesus understands our weaknesses because He was tempted.

? But what else does this verse say? It says He was without something. What was that? *He was without sin.*

That is right. Jesus came to do the will of the Father. And Jesus was without sin. This means that everything He did, He did in perfect obedience. He was tempted to sin, but He never sinned!

Now someone read #4. What is the answer? *Assign a reader. Never.*

## Hebrews 5:8

Jesus never sinned. But the Bible tells us something else about His obedience. Will someone read Hebrews 5:8? *Choose a student to read the verse.*

- ? What did Jesus learn? *Obedience.*  
Jesus learned to be perfectly obedient to His Father and His Father's will. Jesus did not sin!
- ? Someone read #5 on your class notes. What is the answer based on Hebrews 5:8? *Assign a reader. Learned.*

## Hebrews 10:7

Let's move on to Hebrews 10:7. This verse is referring to Jesus Christ. Someone read that for us. *Choose a student to read the verse.*

- ? Why did Jesus come according to that verse? *To do God's will.*  
Again, we read that Jesus came to do God's—His Father's—will.
- ? Someone read #6 on your class notes, please. What is the answer? *Assign a reader. God's.*

## Philippians 2:8

Next on the class notes is Philippians 2:8. This is our memory verse. Let's read it together from the Memory Verse Poster. *Read the verse together.*

- ? How was Jesus found? *In appearance as a man.*  
Yes. Jesus came to earth as a man.
- ? And this verse repeats what we have been talking about. How did Jesus live His life? *He was obedient.*
- ? And what did His perfect obedience lead Him to? *Death on the Cross.*  
Look at #7 on your class notes. Will someone read that? How will you answer it? *Assign a reader. Death.*

### Discover the Truth

Jesus told us plainly that He only did what He knew the Father would do. He did not come from heaven to do His own will, but to do the will of God who sent Him. Jesus was perfectly obedient to everything He was supposed to do. Jesus was tempted like we are, but He never sinned. And His perfect life of perfect obedience led Him to death on the Cross where He became the perfect sacrifice.



### READ THE WORD

- ? Who else on earth is without sin? *Allow discussion. No one.*  
No one is without sin. The Bible says we have all sinned. We all disobey. Only Jesus was able to obey perfectly without sin.
- ? But what does God think of our sin? *Allow discussion.*  
*Refer to the Attributes of God Poster.* God is holy, so He hates our sin. And God is just, so He must punish our sin. You see, because God is perfect, He demands perfection. He cannot look at sin!

**HOLY, JUST**

*(Refer to Attributes poster)*

? So who on earth is perfect? Who can live up to God's standards? *No one except Jesus.*

Well, we certainly can't. We are far from perfect. We are sinners against a holy God. And we can never be perfect while we are living on earth. But because God is perfect, we must be perfect in order to be saved! We must be righteous. This is a big problem.

? What did Jesus do for sinners? *Allow discussion.*

Jesus died on the Cross for sinners. Remember we said earlier that Jesus obeyed perfectly? Well, His death was a PERFECT sacrifice for sins, because God demands a perfect sacrifice. And none of us could EVER do that!

Let's look at the last verse on your class notes, 2 Corinthians 5:21. Will someone read that? *Choose a student to read the verse.*

2 Corinthians 5:21

## EXAMINE THE WORD

### Observe the Text

? Who is this verse about? *Jesus.*

? What does the phrase "knew no sin" mean in this verse? Remember it is talking about Jesus. *Jesus was without sin.*

? Jesus knew no sin. Jesus never sinned. Yet what does this verse say that Jesus became for us? *Sin.*

? Yes. Jesus became sin. And because of that, what were we able to become? *The righteousness of God in Him.*

? Do you know what that means—that we became the righteousness of God in Jesus? *Allow discussion.*

Righteousness means blameless before God. God sees those who are "in Christ" as blameless, because the ONLY perfect man, Jesus, took the punishment for sin, and His righteousness is credited to them. God sees all His children as righteous because of what Jesus has done.

### Discover the Truth

When Jesus became sin and died on the Cross, He took the punishment for all the sins of every person who would ever believe in Him. But He could only do that because He was perfectly obedient to God in every way while He lived on earth. He could take the punishment for sin only because He never sinned!

And then, because He never sinned and lived a PERFECT life, He could give His PERFECT righteousness to those who believe. He took sin on Himself and paid the penalty for sin, and then He gave His righteousness to all who believe.

This is called the great exchange. Because it IS great—for us! You see, Jesus took mankind’s sin on Himself and was punished for it. And then He gave His righteousness to believers so that they would be accepted by God the Father. That is the only way anyone could be made perfect. Jesus is the only way we can ever get to heaven.

► We suggest you perform the skit now. Wrap up this important doctrine as discussed below in the Applying God’s Word Section.

This is a true for everyone who believes what the Bible says about Jesus and trusts that Jesus ALONE can forgive sins. It is true for all who repent, or turn away from their sins because they know their sin offends our holy God. Perfect Jesus became sin so that sinful man could be made righteous through Jesus.

? Let’s go back to the class notes. Will someone read #8 for us? *Assign a reader. Righteousness.*



## The Great Exchange Skit

### MATERIALS

- 4 The Great Exchange Scripts
- One black and one white poster board or black and white sheets of paper

### INSTRUCTIONS

*Assign three students to play the characters. Encourage the actors to speak up and play their roles with enthusiasm.*

Today we read a lot of verses that told us that Jesus lived a sinless life. He was perfectly obedient to God’s will. Because He was perfect, He was able to take upon Himself the sins of those who would believe in Him. When we go to Him in repentance, our sins are forgiven because of what He did. And not only that, Jesus’s righteousness—His perfect obedience to the Father—is transferred to us! It’s all a little hard to understand. Maybe this skit will help us understand it a little bit better. Listen as Oliver and Ashton do their best to

explain this concept to their friend, Brett.  
*Have students perform the short skit.*

### CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

This idea of our sin going to Jesus and Jesus’s righteousness coming to us is called the “great exchange.”

You see, Jesus offers forgiveness to all who will repent of their sins, turn to Him, and accept the free gift of forgiveness through His grace and mercy. And that erases our sins. But not only that, when we believe in Jesus, we also get His righteousness. So when God looks at us, He sees Jesus’s sinless life, not our sinful life. This “great exchange” happened when Jesus died on the Cross. Jesus became sin for us. And when we trust in Him, we become the righteousness of God in Him. Sinners become blameless before God, the holy judge.





# Applying God's Word

## WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

Jesus obeyed His Father in heaven perfectly while He lived on earth. He didn't even sin one time! He was perfectly obedient, so He had perfect righteousness. Then when He died on the Cross, He took upon Himself the sins of all who would believe in Him. The perfect, sinless Christ bore our sin upon Himself so that those who would believe, repent, and trust in Him could be forgiven.

God's plan and Jesus's amazing act of sacrifice doesn't end there. God applied the righteousness of Jesus to sinners by faith, so everyone who repents, believes, and trusts in Him will be declared righteous—blameless—before the holy God!

Does this mean that we never sin or don't need to live holy lives? Not at all. It means that we are perfect in God's eyes because of what Jesus did for us, but we still need to live up to what's true of us, to live holy lives. God gives His Holy Spirit to all believers to help us obey Him.

## GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

What we discussed today—the “great exchange”—is a little hard to understand. But we learn about it in the Bible. And we know the Bible is God's Word and that God doesn't lie.

Many people don't believe this truth about the “great exchange” because they believe that people have to work to get to heaven. They believe that if they are “good” enough, then God will let them into heaven. They just can't believe that Jesus did it all—that Jesus paid all the penalty and took all the punishment.

But what is a “good” person? Remember, the Bible says that everyone sins and that no one is good. And the Bible tells us that God must punish sin and that punishment of sin is God's judgment and hell! The truth is, no one is “good” enough to get to heaven on his own because we all sin.

That's what makes the “great exchange” so amazing! It is the only way we can get to heaven. God is perfect. He demands perfection. Only Jesus was perfect. It was perfect Jesus who took the punishment for sins on Himself so that He could give His perfect righteousness to sinners.

It isn't by good works that we get forgiveness, heaven, or a part in this “great exchange.” Eternal life comes from God and only through faith in Jesus Christ—believing in His life, death, and Resurrection, believing that He alone

➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the students to practice the memory verse this week.

can offer forgiveness of sins, and repenting of your sins with a sorry heart—a heart that hates your sin because God hates your sin, a heart that is sorry for that sin because you know it hurts God when you sin, a heart that truly wants to please the Creator God and Savior of the world.

These are the hearts and lives that Jesus died for. These are the hearts and lives that can be a part of the “great exchange” and receive Jesus’s righteousness so they can be found blameless in God’s eyes.



### MEMORY VERSE

**Philippians 2:8** And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.



### GROUP PRAYER TIME

- Praise God for the amazing way He has provided salvation through Jesus.
- Thank God for making it possible for our sins to be washed away and for Jesus’s righteousness to be transferred to us.