



Disc 19 ~ Episode 1 Blood Thirsty ~ Blood



Video Summary

This lesson, though seemingly lighthearted, discusses one of the most foundational and important aspects of salvation and relationship with God. The Bible states that where there is no blood, there is no life (Leviticus 17:11). Many people overlook the obvious when it comes to having a relationship with God. As with our natural lives our spiritual lives need blood as well. Dracula is used as an example of someone who confuses the sacrifice of man with the sacrifice of God. Enjoy this humorous look at a very serious issue in all of our lives.



Icebreaker

Converted Thief

When evangelist John Wesley (1703-1791) was returning home from a service one night, he was robbed. The thief, however, found his victim to have only a little money and some Christian literature. As the bandit was leaving, Wesley called out, "Stop! I have something more to give you." The surprised robber paused. "My friend," said Wesley, "you may live to regret this sort of life. If you ever do, here's something to remember: 'The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin!'" The thief hurried away, and Wesley prayed that his words might bear fruit.

Years later, Wesley was greeting people after a Sunday service when he was approached by a stranger. What a surprise to learn that this visitor, now a believer in Christ as a successful businessman, was the one who had robbed him years before! "I owe it all to you," said the transformed man. "Oh no, my friend," Wesley exclaimed, "not to me, but to the precious blood of Christ that cleanses us from all sin!"



Primary Lesson

Blood Thirsty

Blood is necessary for physical life as well as the spiritual life. Dracula is a mythical figure that typifies every human's desire for life and for that life to last eternally. Unfortunately, Dracula and his view of eternal life have permeated many parts of our lives and clouds the real issues of blood.

The Bible says that God has placed eternity in the hearts of all men. Armed with this awareness, we attempt to access eternity, but without Christ and His blood we find ourselves deceived into thinking it is about what we do and not what Jesus did for us. The Bible declares that "without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness for sin" (Hebrews 9:22). The blood that is required is not our blood, but the spotless and blameless blood of God himself. Through a daily application of Christ's blood in faith, we are able to stand blameless in God's view.



Facts, Figures & Illustrations

- An average adult has about 14 to 18 pints of blood.
- One standard unit or pint of blood equals about two cups.
- There are about one billion red blood cells in a few drops of whole blood.
- Bram Stokers book Dracula was first published in 1897, the book has never been out of print and has been translated into over 50 different languages.
- For over 2000 years, leeches were needlessly applied for many ailments as an adjunct to blood-letting. Their use in Europe peaked between 1830 and 1850, but subsequent shortages led to a decline in their use. Today there is a real clinical application in that they are of great value to plastic surgeons when venous congestion of skin and muscle flaps is a problem.
- The bite of a leech is painless, due to its own anesthetic saliva. The Hirudo leech injects an anti-coagulant serum into the victim to prevent blood clotting during feeding.

Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org>



Key Scriptures

(From New King James Version, unless otherwise noted)

Hebrews 9:22b ~ *and without shedding of blood there is no remission.*

Leviticus 17:11 ~ *For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.*

Isaiah 1:18 ~ *'Come now, let us reason together,' says the Lord. 'Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.'*

1 Peter 1:19 ~ *knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.*

Ephesians 1:7 ~ *In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.*

Ephesians 2:8-9 ~ *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.*



Complimentary Story

The Atonement

A father and his young son were viewing a parade in London, England. Because of the chilling wind, they stepped inside a small store and watched through the window. In the course of time a regiment of British troops marched by, and the father exclaimed, "My, aren't those Redcoats pretty!" But the little boy replied, "They aren't red, they are white. If you don't believe me, just squat down here and look." Just to prove the little fellow was wrong, his Daddy got down on his knees and looked out the window. To his amazement the coats were not red; they looked white.

What had happened was this. There was a red band of glass around the storefront window, and at the boy's height he was viewing the parade through that red band of glass.

When you look at a red object through a red piece of glass, the red object loses its red color to your eyes. It appears white. The same thing is true in salvation. When God looks at you through the red blood of Jesus your scarlet sins appear white as snow.



Discussion Questions

1. The importance of blood is obvious to all humans. Discuss the importance of blood naturally and spiritually.
2. Are their sins in your life or the lives of others that "appear" to be too big for the blood of Jesus to cover and cleanse? Can the blood of Jesus cover any sin? How do we apply it?
3. Discuss the application of blood in Exodus 12 and how through obedience to God's command, the children of Israel avoided the death angel. This same principle applies to our lives today. We must apply the blood to areas of our mind and heart to avoid the penalties of sin. Pray and ask God to reveal where the blood needs to be applied in your life (e.g. thoughts, emotions, relationships, etc.).
4. Discuss the video section which depicts Dracula as someone who is "working" to attain eternal life and how our relationship with God can fall into this trap if we do not maintain relationship with Jesus. Are you working to attain your salvation or trying to impress God with your religious practices?