



FOUNDATIONS

YOUTH EDITION

Contents

Dedication and Acknowledgements	i
Introduction & Goals	ii
Lessons	
1. The Bible	5
2. God the Father	11
3. Jesus the Eternal Son of God	17
4. Sin and Man's Fall	23
5. Biblical Salvation	29
6. Eternal Security and Assurance	35
7. Baptism	41
8. Reading and Understanding the Bible	47
9. Learning to Pray	53
10. Telling My Story of Salvation	59
11. The Holy Spirit is my Comforter	65
12. The Church	71
13. Generosity and Giving	77
14. Why God Made Me Like He Did	83
15. Death and Resurrection	89
16. Jesus is Coming Again	95
Glossary	101

*All Scripture is from the King James Version of the Bible.

Dedication

One of the greatest people who could ever come into your life is a person who is willing to teach you the Bible and live out the teaching in front of you. The greatest thing you can do with what you are taught is to teach it to someone else. That is the essence of **II Timothy 2:2**. Being a disciple maker is teaching someone who the true Jesus of the Bible is and inviting them into a relationship with Him as their Savior. Beyond that, discipleship involves teaching them how to observe all that Jesus taught so that they can become mature, disciple makers (**Matthew 28:19-20**). This book is dedicated to all those who will spend their lives teaching the Bible and making disciples for Christ. Our first disciples are often our own children. God can make discipleship of our children the biggest and most important family tradition that the generations to come will fulfill.

“For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments” (Ezra 7:10).

“You are your child’s first teacher and your home is their first classroom.”
Kathy Jolly

Acknowledgements

No one does anything on their own. This book contains the indirect assistance and influence of so many. Dr. Bob Jolly provided specific guidance and advice, and Shannon Penrod spent many hours on the grammar and structure. Most especially, Jimmy Clanton influenced my life greatly with his own and showed me what true discipleship looks like.

John Pearson

Introduction: How the Foundations Youth Edition Book is Setup



Introduction

Each lesson begins with a general explanation of the biblical truth to be studied. Each week is designed to start with an instructional time for the teacher, which is followed by one to three meetings with the student, depending on how often you would be able to meet. The sections after **Learning Together** can be done by the student on their own, or you can do them together. The goal is that both teacher and student would prepare their hearts to seek the Lord, follow His Word, and teach it to others (**Ezra 7:10**). Each lesson is broken down into the following sections:



Preparing to Teach

The first, and most important step in teaching someone, is for the teacher to first be transformed by the Word of God and the power of the Holy Spirit. The Word must first transform the teacher if it is ever to transform the student. A good plan for this time should be to set aside at least one to two hours for prayer, study, and reflection. The prayer time should include a time of confession of sin, gratefulness to God, and intercession for the student. The lesson material can be reviewed and the verses consulted in approximately one hour, leaving some time for reflection and meditation. Considering the response that each verse or lesson is calling for is vital in the process of transformation. Considering what each verse is inviting us to do is key to understanding God's purpose for writing it. There is no limit to the amount of time you can spend in preparation, but remember that the most important thing is to teach your student how to see Bible truths for themselves and respond to them from their hearts. Perhaps the first response is to accept Christ as their personal Savior if they have not done so already. Rest assured, the Bible demands and deserves a response to each truth. (These sections are shaded in grey.)



Learning Together

Teaching the Bible is a thrill and a blessing. Enjoy the time together. Make it exciting and never a boring time or a chore. Reflection time during your study will help you think of fun illustrations to communicate the truth in creative ways. Leave them wanting more but always go at a pace that the student can handle. The Bible calls this leading on softly (**Genesis 33:13-14**). Each lesson has a memory verse that is used in multiple sections (abbreviated "mv").



Passing it On

A short dialogue is included in this section that will help the student learn how to share Bible truth with a friend. Now the student learns to be the teacher. It is never our goal to win a point, rather to win a person. The Bible and truths about God should always be presented as the glorious things they are. People will have to make up their minds on what they will believe, but in us they should see the results of the righteousness of God by faith.



Now What?

What has been learned and how has it transformed their thinking or motivated them to action? We can learn and we can teach, but our faith must become action at some point. This section is to identify the action required after understanding the Bible truth and to come up with a plan to faithfully move forward.

Goals from Ezra 7:10

Ezra presents a simple but complete model for the Christian of how to walk with God daily. Ezra prepared his heart to seek the Law of the Lord, to do it, and teach it. As you use this guide to help disciple another, remember that the goal is not just academic, but action. It is learning and applying the pattern of Ezra's life to your own, then teaching another how to do the same.

Goals of *Preparation*:

- Preparation of the heart – All teaching must flow out of a full heart.
- Seeking the law – The Law, or the Bible, is at the center of discipleship.
- Doing it – Be doers of the Word, not hearers only.
- Teaching it – Commit these truths to faithful people who will teach others also.

Goals of *Learning Together*:

- Teaching the preparation of the heart – Learn how to commune with God.
- Teaching another how to seek (and find) God – Read and understanding the Bible.
- Teaching another how to be a doer of the word – See the Word lived out in a teacher.
- Teaching another how to teach another – Train a trainer.

Goals of *Passing it On*:

- Good communication of the message will overcome the weakness of the hearers.
- Internalize the message such that it comes naturally into the conversation.
- Consider how to have conversations with people who know Christ and those who don't.
- Learn to defend your faith without being defensive about your faith.

Goals of *Now What?*

- The Word of God deserves a response from the Creation of God. "Let there be light" was followed by light. We are His Creation and His children. He calls us to be disciple makers.
- The real goal of Bible study and discipleship is a changed life. This is the call to action!
- Practice makes permanent, so practicing the right things should be the goal.
- That men may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven (**Matthew 5:16**).

Lesson 1: Teaching about the Bible



Introduction

The Bible is the only reliable revelation we have from God about God. It is the source document for all that we can know about God and redemption. It is greater than historical records in secular history books about Jesus. It is greater than any science book or scholarly work. It is greater than any human experience. It needs no updates to make it relevant to today's society. It only is truth, and truth transcends all history, philosophy, and science. We believe what we believe about God because the Bible says so, not because of any intellectual or empirical information.

It is critical that a person be presented with Bible truth if they are to know Jesus and accept Him as their Savior. They must know the real Jesus of the Bible. The only completely reliable source to reveal Him is the Bible. The Bible was not dropped out of heaven as a volume of sixty-six books, but was given to man over time in an unfolding revelation of God, His nature, and His purpose in the Creation and redemption of mankind. Only Bible truth can properly introduce a person to the real Jesus.

The fact that God chose to put the Bible together over two thousand years of human history shows that He is a God that transcends the ages of time. That is to say that He is the eternal and ever existing God that oversees the temporal Creation and mankind. That means that the Bible should be believed with regard to what it says about itself. It is not one book or one testimony, but a multitude of individual witnesses that all testify to the glory of God.

The Word of God illuminates our hearts and shines the light on our sinfulness. It also illuminates or reveals Jesus to us from whom we receive eternal life. The Bible is a lamp for our feet so we do not trip over sin, and a light unto our path so that we know the right way to go (**Psalm 119:105**). The Bible is a book, yet it is the Word and the words of life. This same title "the Word" is given to Jesus Himself.

We don't know God by his face, but we can know Him by His voice. That voice is the Word of God, the Bible. That makes the study of the Bible a great place to start. This lesson will help teacher and student understand what the Bible says about itself. The Word of God is eternal and will still be true long after this world has passed. The teacher should examine his or her life to see just how important the Bible really is to them and how often it is that a Bible verse decides what will be done in a particular situation. To teach this lesson effectively, the teacher should develop a true affection for reading and reflecting on Scripture daily.



The Bible Is the Word of God



Preparing to Teach

The Bible is the Word of God. This is an absolute truth without which there can be no real understanding about God. The Bible is the primary and clearest way that God has revealed to us who He is, how He acts, and what His purpose is in the whole Creation. The purpose of this lesson is to help teacher and student develop faith in the reliability of the Word of God, which in turn means developing a reliance on God. Having a biblical world view of things will help every Christian navigate all the issues of life with the right expectations. No other book besides the Bible can do that. It is the Word of God, and we can have total confidence in it.

The Bible is the primary and clearest way in which God has revealed to us who He is.

What Does the Bible Say about Itself?

- It is inspired by God, meaning that it is the Word or the breath of God (**II Timothy 3:16**).
- It is so quick and powerful that it discerns the thoughts and intentions of our hearts (**Hebrews 4:12**).
- The Bible works effectively in those who believe it (**I Thessalonians 2:13**).
- The Bible is understood by faith (**Hebrews 11:3**).
- It must be mixed with faith in order to be profitable (**Hebrews 4:2**).
- The Bible does not attempt to prove the existence of God, but just accepts it as fact from the very first verse (**Genesis 1:1**).
- The Bible is the way that God speaks to us today (**Hebrews 1:1-2**).

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works” (**2 Timothy 3:16–17**).

The Infallible Word of God

The Word of God is infallible, which means that what the Bible says is true. It is inerrant as well, which means that there are no errors of fact in it. Every subject it speaks about, it speaks about without error. God used human authors to pen the words, but they are the words of God. God did not change the personalities of the men He used, but allowed them to be guided by the Holy Ghost to write the words God wanted.

The Word of God was Given to Us by God

- Jeremiah spoke God's words to a secretary (scribe) who wrote them down. They were spoken by men, written by men, but they were the words of God. (**Jeremiah 36:4**).
- God used men who respected His Word and were holy (**II Peter 1:21**). More than 40 people over 1,700 years were used by God to write different books of the Bible, yet the Bible is one book, with one eternal author (God).
- The Bible is the very words that came out of the mouth of God (**Matthew 4:4**).
- The Word of God is eternal and will never pass away (**Matthew 24:35**).

The Bible is also God's message of His plan of redemption for fallen man. It is the story of His grace and mercy toward us and His appeal to us to be saved. It is His plan for our eternity and answers all of life's questions. It is the account of the Creation of a perfect world, then the willful disobedience and fall of mankind (part of the Creation) into sin. God did not leave us in our sin however, He sent His Son to bring salvation to this world. He has also told us what will happen after this life when this world is over. It is the most exciting book we could ever hold in our hands. God wants us to read it and understand it.

"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away" (Matthew 24:35).

"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" (2 Peter 1:21)

The Bible Should Be A Daily Routine

- Read it daily and meditate on what it says. To meditate on the Scriptures is to consider them in your mind. Ask God how He wants you to respond to each verse (**I Timothy 4:13**).
- Study the Scriptures in order to be a workman, approved by God and not ashamed. We are workers for God called to spread the gospel to the world (**II Timothy 2:15**).
- Reading and meditating on the Bible each day will allow the Scriptures to show us where we need correction and how to live a godly life (**II Timothy 3:16**).
- Hide the Word of God in your heart (**Psalms 119:11**).

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15)

Learning Together about the Word of God



God is eternal. He created the heavens and the earth, but He is separate from the Creation (**Genesis 1:1**). For us to know Him, He has to reveal (show) Himself to us. One of the clearest ways He has done that is through the Bible. The Bible is the Word of God.

Write down some of the key words from each of these verses about what the Word of God is:

II Timothy 3:16 _____

Hebrews 4:12 _____

I Thessalonians 2:13 _____

The Bible reveals who God is and His plan to save mankind from their sin. It tells about how God came to this world in a body (Jesus) to die on a cross for our sin so that we could have an everlasting home in heaven with Him. It is completely reliable.

Daily Bible Reading

- Read some every day so that you can learn about God. Reading the Bible is like letting God speak to you as if He were with you (**I Timothy 4:13**).
- Make notes in and about your Bible. Underline things that are interesting or exciting and compare Scriptures that talk about the same topic to learn how to teach them to others. (**II Timothy 2:15**).
- Think about what God is saying to you and how it affects your life (**II Timothy 3:16**). Think about what implications it has for you each day.



*Having a **biblical world view** means to look at things as they are described and interpreted by the Bible. That means the things that the Bible calls truth are truth and the things that it calls sin are sin.*

Bible Characteristics:

- The Bible is inspired by God and is truth.
- The Bible is also called the Word of God.
- God has preserved His Word for all generations (**Psalms 12:6-7**).
- The Bible is inerrant. There are no errors in the Bible.
- The Bible is infallible. All of the things it says are true. It never fails (**Psalms 119:160**).
- It is God's revelation of Himself.
- God used human writers to put the words on paper, but they are the Words of God.
- The Word of God is eternal and will never pass away (**Matthew 24:35**).

Memory Verse

"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away"
(Matthew 24:35).

Passing it On

Starting a conversation about the Bible is easier if you carry one with you and let people see that it's important to you. This is how a conversation might go, how you might start one, and how to answer some common questions or deal with some common excuses.

Me: "Hey, let me show you something really great that I found in my Bible."



Friend: "What's that?"

Me: "It says that in the beginning God created everything, including us!"

Friend: "How do you know that's true?"

Me: "Because God said it right here in **Genesis 1:1**. See, 'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.' " (Read directly from your Bible.)

Friend: "But how do you know that what it says is true?"

Me: "Well, I know it is God doing the talking, and I believe that He is telling me the truth."

Friend: "How do you know that it is God doing the talking?"

Me: "He says that He is doing the talking. In **I Thessalonians 2:13** it says these are not the words of men but the words of God" (**Matthew 24:35**).^{MV}

Friend: "I tried to read it once but couldn't understand what it said."

Me: "There are some hard places, but most of it is pretty easy to understand. You just have to read enough of the story to get what is going on."

Friend: "I have heard some of it in church but it seemed boring to me."

Me: "It's the story about how God loves you and what He did for you. How could a story about God loving you be boring?"

Friend: "God and me? I am not really in the Bible, am I?"

Me: "There's only one way to find out. Do you want me to show you?"



Now What? Read your Bible!

The best way to put this lesson into action is to commit to reading the Bible each day and sharing what you read with others. "Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God" (**Romans 10:17**).

Tips for reading through the Bible and doing daily devotions:

- Pick a way to read that works for you. There are Bible apps available, but a regular Bible you can carry will spark lots of conversations.
- Read a portion of Scripture and **highlight**, circle or underline words that stand out or speak to you.
- Ask what God is saying and what it tells you about Him, about you, and about what He is asking you to trust or do.
- Write down questions you have for your teacher that you can ask when you meet again.
- Enjoy your reading and devotion time with the Lord. He wrote the Bible so you could learn about Him.

Sample Daily Reading

Mark 1:1-8

1 THE beginning of the **gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God**; **2** As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. **3** The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. **4** John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. **5** And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins. **6** And John was clothed with camel's hair, and with a girdle of a skin about his loins; and he did eat locusts and wild honey; **7** And preached, saying, There cometh one **mightier than I after me**, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose. **8** **I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.**

Notes in my notebook for today's Bible reading:

- *This is the Gospel of Jesus, and He is the Son of God.*
- *They were baptized, but they confessed their sins first.*
- *John said the one coming after him was mightier than he was.*

Lesson 2: Teaching about God the Father



Introduction

The Bible never attempts to prove the existence of God. That fact is accepted from the very first verse and never questioned. God is misunderstood by so many because they do not read His Word to see what He says about Himself. In the beginning, He created the world and all that was created with it. God reached out of His world, which was spiritual and eternal, to create a physical and temporal world to which He could reveal Himself. He is the Creator, but is not a created being. He is eternal, existing in three distinct persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. All three are God, yet God is undivided.

His attributes can be comprehended by His Creation, and it is those attributes that help us understand Him. Discovering who God is may look like an intellectual exercise, but it is in fact a spiritual journey. God reveals Himself in the Bible, but not without calling on the reader to respond to what he reads. Each verse about God comes with a call to a faith response. If God is who He says He is, and calls on all men to repent of their sins and be saved, a decision or response must be made by every person.

God reveals Himself in nature as the Creator, but it is only from the Bible that a person learns that He is also the Redeemer. God is a Spirit, and must be worshipped in Spirit and in truth (**John 4:24**). God is holy and can only commune with a people that is holy. God will make all those who come to Him for salvation, holy in Him. He desires our fellowship (**II Corinthians 6:16**).

Many are seeking a god that will fix their problems, heal their family members, or find them a good job. They will look to God hoping that He will fulfill those roles. When they find that He is holy, and requires us to admit to being sinners before we can have a relationship with Him, they often turn away and look elsewhere to have their problems fixed. Our God is very misunderstood by those that do not take the time to read the Bible and see what God says about Himself. People must meet the God of the Bible and accept Him on His terms in order to be saved. It is very important that He is taught, not as the God we would like Him to be, but as the God He is.

This lesson will present and discuss some of what the Bible says about God. He, who always existed, made a way for His Creation to know Him. He revealed Himself naturally (in the Creation), so that we could see His handiwork in creating the heavens and the earth, but He also revealed Himself specially through the incarnation of Christ, the Scriptures, miracles, and other wonders, so that we could know how to go to heaven to live eternally with Him. This lesson also discusses how we are to worship God.



God the Father



Preparing to Teach

The Bible is our main source of revelation about who God is. He tells us that He is the Creator and sustainer of the universe, and that He is eternal and has always been. He is one God manifest in three persons, all of which are also God and equal with God. He is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. God is all three, yet God is not divided. The study of the doctrine of God is called “Theology” and is the teaching about God, His works, His will, and what He requires of us. God is truth, and God has revealed attributes about Himself from His Word. He is all knowing, all powerful, and all present (omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent).

Bible Truths About God

- He exists eternally of His own will, and in the beginning of time God already existed (**John 1:1-2**).
- He is the mighty God and everlasting Father (**Isaiah 9:6**).
- God is the Creator of the earth and all that exists (**Genesis 1:1-3, Colossians 1:15-17**).
- He is the Creator of man. He created man to have a Lord and for God to be man’s God (**Genesis 1:27-28**).
- There are no higher powers than God (**Deuteronomy 4:35, 39**). He gave all the other powers their power (**Romans 13:1-6**).
- He is the Father in the Trinity of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit (**Matthew 28:19**).
- He is completely holy and righteous (without sin of any kind) (**1 Peter 1:15-16**).

Finding the Truth about God

God must reveal Himself to us if we are to know anything about Him. It is God’s will that we know Him and that we come to repentance of our sin so that we can have a relationship with Him (**II Peter 3:9**). The fact that God has made Himself known to us proves that God desires a relationship with us. So knowing God is not an intellectual thing, but a relational thing. God has revealed Himself in two main ways: naturally and specially.

God is the one true God, the Lord and Creator of all. He is one God manifested in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

“God is a Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth” (**John 4:24**).

God is the Creator, and is not part of the Creation, or not a created being (**Genesis 1:1**).

Natural Revelation: The Creation reveals that there is a Creator (**Psalm 19:1-2**). The earth was created perfectly by God for His glory and pleasure, and mankind ruined that with their sin (**John 1:1-3, Genesis 3:17**). As a result, God gave a special revelation so that we could know how to find our Redeemer.

Special Revelation: There are many special and supernatural ways in which God has revealed Himself, including angels, miracles, and visions. However, the greatest of His special revelations of Himself to us are His Word and His Son Jesus. We don't know God by His face, but by His Word. Jesus declares to us who God is in the bible (**John 1:18, II Timothy 3:15-17**).

How to Worship God

- God is a Spirit and must be worshipped in spirit and truth (**John 4:24**). That means that a person must be saved to truly worship God. He must also find out from the Bible how God desires to be worshipped.
- We cannot worship God along with other gods or other things. God must be worshipped as the only God (**Exodus 34:14**).
- He must be worshipped in faith, by believing that He is God. He rewards those who seek Him (**Hebrews 11:6**).
- We are allowed to come to His throne and worship Him in confidence knowing that we will receive mercy and grace when we come. It is a throne of grace for His children and not a throne of judgment (**Hebrews 4:16**).

God Is Unique

God, who created the heavens and the earth and all that exists, has called us to come and worship Him in spirit and truth. He has revealed Himself to us in Creation and His Word so that we can know Him and have a relationship with Him. He is holy! He has told us that we are to have no other gods before Him, and that we are to not worship anything else but Him. That is only right since there is none else like Him, and nothing we can say He is like, for He alone is God (**Isaiah 45:18**).

*"All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made" (**John 1:3**).*

A person who does not know God by having a personal relationship with Christ cannot worship God. He can only be worshipped in spirit and in truth.

*"Unto thee it was shewed, that thou mightest know that the LORD he is God; there is none else beside him" (**Deuteronomy 4:35**).*

Learning Together about God the Father



The Lord our God is the one true God. He is one God manifest in three persons, all of which are also God and equal with God. He is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. God is all three, yet God is not divided. God is truth and God has revealed attributes about Himself from His Word. Fill in the blanks with the words that mean who God is:

All knowing (**Isaiah 46:9-10**) _____

All powerful (**Rev. 1:8**) _____

All present (**Jer. 23:23-24**) _____

Bible Truths About God

- When God created the earth, God already existed since eternity (**John 1:1-2**).
- Everything was created by God and for Him (**Colossians 1:16-17**).
- There are no higher powers than God (**Deuteronomy 4:35, 39**), and all other power and authority got their power from God (**Romans 13:1-6**).
- He is the first member of the Trinity of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (**Matthew 28:19**).
- He is completely Holy and righteous (without sin of any kind) (**1 Peter 1:15-16**).

How to Learn the Bible

God revealed Himself to us so that we can worship Him. A person has to be saved to worship God. If He is not saved, he can know facts about God, but he cannot know God or worship God without the Spirit of God (**John 4:24**). To have the Spirit of God in Him, he must be a child of God (**Romans 8:9**).

Attributes or characteristics that God has revealed about Himself:

- **God is love** “He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love” (**1 John 4:8**).
- **God is faithful** “Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee” (**Hebrews 13:5**).
- **God doesn’t change** “For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed” (**Malachi 3:6**).
- **God is truth** “He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he” (**Deuteronomy 32:4**).
- **God is holy** “Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy” (**1 Peter 1:16**).

Memory Verse

“God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth” (**John 4:24**).

Passing it On

Since you started carrying your Bible with you, you may have found it's easy to get involved in a conversation about God. This is how a conversation might go. This is an example of how you might start one, and how to answer some common questions or correct some misunderstandings about God.

Friend: "Why do you carry that Bible all the time?"

Me: "It tells me about God and explains how to worship Him" (**John 4:24**).^{MV}



Friend: "I don't think I could ever do all the things the Bible says I have to do for God to like me."

Me: "Like what things?"

Friend: "Keeping all those commandments would be impossible for me."

Me: "Then you should read the Bible. Jesus keeps all the commandments for you and God loves it when you let Him do that."

Friend: "Why would God let someone else keep the commandments for me?"

Me: "Because of what **John 3:16** says. He loved the world He created so much, that He sent Jesus to redeem it. God is a good, loving, and compassionate God. Not the mean God that some people think He is."

Friend: "Where is He when I need him? Why does He let bad things happen in the world?"

Me: "God made the world perfect, but we messed it up with our sin. Bad things happen because of our sin, not because God is not good."

Friend: "I didn't know all that about God."

Me: "If you want, I can show you some more great things about God from the Bible."

Friend: "Ok."



Now What?

Put the memory verse to work.

“God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth” (John 4:24).

This important truth about God is a great place to start explaining God to someone. Let’s break it down.

- **God is a Spirit:** That means He is invisible to our eyes. That means He is not an idol, or a tree, or the sun.
- **And they that worship him:** That means God is to be worshipped by us, His Creation. Worship is recognizing His greatness and showing our gratitude for all He has done.
- **Must worship Him in spirit:** This means a person has to have a spirit that can worship God. Only one spirit can do that, the Holy Spirit. So, a person has to be saved to worship God.
- **And in truth:** There is a right way to worship God. The right way is in truth. That is His truth, the Word of God.

Having this verse memorized is a great thing! Knowing how to use it is even better. It will explain to people who don’t know God, how it is that they are not able to worship Him without getting saved.

How can I start conversations with people about God?

- Get some invitations to your church and keep them handy.
- Discuss some ways with your teacher how they have been able to get conversations started about God.
- Mark a chain of verses in your Bible that help you lead people in an understanding of God and what the Bible says about Him.
- Ask God to help you have conversations with your friends and family about Him.
- Consider asking your friends if they know who God is, or what they think about God.
- Keep a real Bible with you and make sure it’s visible. Your friends will notice and someone will ask you why you carry it.

Notes and Ideas:

Lesson 3: Teaching about Jesus, the Eternal Son of God



Introduction

Jesus Christ is God. This is called His “deity.” Understanding who He is requires that a person accept the fact that He is God. He is the second member of the Trinity, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. In Jesus, God was able to reach out to sinful man without compromising His own righteousness. Sinful man needed a mediator, or a peacemaker, between himself and God because of the offense of his sin. He needed a perfect man to offer up a perfect sacrifice for the human race so that he could be redeemed and not have to go to hell. Jesus is the mediator between God and man and offered the perfect sacrifice on behalf of man to God. Jesus being God means that God sent Himself in Jesus as the sacrifice for the sins of all mankind, so that whosoever would call upon Him would be saved.

Jesus didn’t just die for those who would accept Him, He died for the sins of all mankind. Every sin that has ever been, or ever will be committed, has been paid for by the blood of Jesus Christ. It takes a person accepting that gift of life for it to be realized in their life. The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus is the main idea of the Bible. Communicating to man the reason Jesus came, and the result of His work on the cross, is the chief purpose of the Bible. Jesus is called the Word because He is the main topic of the Word of God, the Bible.

Jesus lived His life in complete submission to the will of the Father. He came to serve and to minister, not to be ministered to (**Mark 10:45**). He came to do the Father’s will, redeem the world that God created, and to seek and to save the lost (**Luke 19:10**). He made Himself of no reputation when He came, but after doing the will of God and paying the sin penalty for the world on the cross, God highly exalted Him and gave Him a name above all names. That same Jesus is coming back to this earth to claim those He has redeemed, to once and for all put away sin and Satan, and to set up His kingdom on this earth for 1,000 years.

The title of this lesson is no accident. Jesus is the eternal Son of God. He has always existed, and we know He is God because the Bible calls Him God. Since our salvation hinges on the works and claims of Jesus, it is vital that we examine the Scriptures to see if those things are true about Him. Also, it is important to know that Jesus paid for the sins of the whole world and forgiveness by Him means forgiveness from all sin. Because of this, He calls on all people in the world to repent and to come to the knowledge of salvation in Him and Him alone (**Acts 4:12**). The lesson will discuss Jesus as God and Savior, and will remind both teacher and student that He is coming back to this earth soon.

3

Jesus Christ the Eternal Son of God



Preparing to Teach

Jesus is the eternal Son of God the Father. Jesus is the way, or path, to the Father (righteousness), the absolute and dependable truth and everlasting life. There is no other way to heaven where the Father is (**Acts 4:12**).

He is called the eternal Son of God because it is often thought that He did not exist before His birth to a virgin named Mary. The truth is that Jesus Christ is God and has always existed. He took on a body of flesh so that God (in Christ) could become the final and effective sacrifice for our sins, dying in our place, and rising again from the dead (**I Corinthians 15:3-5**).

There is no confusion in the Bible about who Jesus is. He is called God in the Old Testament and the New Testament and is recognized by the Father as His Son.

The Bible Says Jesus is God

- He is God manifest in the flesh (**I Timothy 3:16**).
- He claims to be God and to be one with the Father (**John 10:29-30**).
- The Gospel of John says He already existed in the beginning, that He “was and is” God, and that He *was* made flesh and dwelt among us (**John 1:1, 14**).
- John again says that God the Father, the Word (Jesus), and the Holy Ghost are one (**I John 5:7-8**).
- Isaiah the prophet calls Jesus the mighty God and everlasting Father (**Isaiah 9:6**).
- Thomas called Jesus His Lord and His God (**John 20:28**).
- Paul, writing to the Colossian church, called Jesus the image of the invisible God (**Colossians 1:15**). He then goes on in the next verse to call Him (Jesus), the Creator of all things. Jesus is also God because all things exist and consist by Him (**Colossians 1:17**).
- Jesus tells Phillip that to see Him (Jesus) is to see the Father (**John 14:9**).

All the attributes of God in the Bible are also attributes of Jesus Christ.

God said from the heavens that Jesus is His beloved Son in whom He is well pleased (**Matt 3:17**).

To say that Jesus is not God come in the flesh is to say a false word or be a false spirit (**I John 4:2-3**).

Jesus Is the Savior Who Died for All Mankind

God made Jesus the propitiation, or satisfaction, for the sins of all mankind (**I John 2:1-2**). In doing that, God made it so that all men could accept or reject the sacrifice willingly. There is no person who cannot be saved. God's will regarding salvation is plainly declared that all come to repentance (**II Peter 3:9**). The Bible lets us see that Jesus was born without sin, lived without sin, and died without any personal sin, but took on the guilt of sin for the entire human race. In this way, He became our mediator and reconciled us to God.

- Jesus was born without inheriting the sin of Adam. Jesus' earthly mother was a virgin, and God is His Father. He was not born in sin like mortal men are born, but as the only begotten Son of God (**Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:18, 23**).
- Jesus lived a life without ever committing sin (**I Peter 2:21-22, Hebrews 4:15**).
- Jesus died for our sins completely innocent of any crime. It was our sins that were on Him when He died on the cross (**I Peter 2:24, I Thessalonians 5:9-10**).

Jesus paid the price for the sins of all mankind. Jesus did not only pay the sin debt of those who accept Him, He paid the sin debt of the entire world.

- His will is that all should come to repentance and none should perish (**II Peter 3:9**).
- Jesus is the mediator between the Holy God and sinful man (**I Timothy 2:3-6**). God is our Savior and wants all men to be saved and know the truth. He gave Himself to be a ransom for all.
- Anyone who will repent and receive Him will have the power to become a son of God (**John 1:11-12**).

Jesus Is Coming Again

Jesus promised that He would return to this earth. When He comes again it will not be as a suffering Savior, but as the righteous Judge (**John 12:47-48**). Those who know Him as their personal Savior will be resurrected and go to live with Him forever (**I Thessalonians 4:13-17**).

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (II Peter 3:9).

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:3).

Learning Together about Jesus Christ



Jesus is the eternal Son of God the Father. We know that because the Bible says so. Jesus has always existed and did not begin in Bethlehem, but is eternal just as God is eternal. The Bible also tells us that Jesus knew He was God and claimed to be God.

- He is God manifest in the flesh (**I Timothy 3:16**).
- He claims to be God and to be one with the Father (**John 10:29-30**).
- The Gospel of John says He already existed (*was*) in the beginning and that He *was* God and that He *was* made flesh and dwelt among us (**John 1:1, 14**).
- John again says that God the Father, the Word (Jesus), and the Holy Ghost are one (**I John 5:7-8**).
- Isaiah the prophet calls Jesus the mighty God and everlasting Father (**Isaiah 9:6**).

Jesus Is the Savior Who Died for All

God made it so that all men could accept or reject Jesus willingly. It is God's will that all come to repentance (**II Peter 3:9**). The Bible lets us see that Jesus was born and lived His whole life without sin (**I Peter 2:21-22**). He died for all of our sin.

- His will is that all should come to repentance and none should perish (**II Peter 3:9**).
- Jesus is the mediator between the Holy God and sinful man (**I Timothy 2:3-6**). God is the Savior for all men and he wants them to know the truth. He is a ransom for all.
- Anyone who will repent and receive Him will have the power to become a son of God (**John 1:11-12**).
- He wants all people to be saved (**I Timothy 2:3-4**).
- He is the satisfaction for the sins of the whole world (**I John 2:1-2**).
- His blood cleanses us from all sin (**I John 1:9**).



God promised us in the Old Testament that Jesus would come to be the Savior of the world.

"Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14).

He came!

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11).

Jesus told us while He was on the earth that He would have to go away, but He would return. He cannot lie or change so we know He will keep His promise.

"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:3).

Memory Verse

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).

Passing it On

Talking about Jesus and introducing your friends to Him is one of the greatest conversations you could ever have. This is how a conversation might go, or how you might start one and answer some common questions.



Me: “Who is your favorite person in history to study about?”

Friend: “I don’t know, I never really thought about it. Why, who is yours?”

Me: “Mine is Jesus. More books have been written about Him than any other person. The best of all those books is the Bible. Look at what Jesus said in this verse.” (Read **John 14:6**)

Friend: “Why do you like Him so much?”

Me: “Because He was God, and He came down from heaven as the perfect man so that He could die in our place and save us from our sins. He loved us and gave His life for us.”

Friend: “How do you know that really happened?”

Me: “Because God says it did. That is what the Bible is all about.”

Friend: “I never read the Bible.”

Me: “A lot of people don’t, which is a shame. It has so many great things to say to us. The Bible says that Jesus was and is God, but that He came to this earth as a man with no reputation at all and died on the cross for us” (**Philippians 2:5-11**).

Friend: “That was a long time ago, and Jesus isn’t here anymore. Why are you interested in that now?”

Me: “Even though it happened a long time ago, it is the reason that I am saved today.”

Friend: “I don’t understand Jesus like you do, so I wouldn’t know.”

Me: “Maybe we could look at some verses about Jesus together.”

Friend: “Sure, why not?”



Now What? Put the memory verse to work.

“Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me**” (John 14:6).

This important truth about Jesus is vital to a person’s salvation. Let’s break it down.

- **I am the way:** The desire inside of men to worship God causes them to seek a way to God. They need to know that Jesus is the only way.
- **The truth:** The Word of God is the final authority on God and all that God is. Jesus is the key to understanding the Word of God.
- **The life:** Real life, eternal life, is only in Jesus. He is not an enhancement to life. He alone IS life.
- **No man cometh unto the Father but by me:** There is no way to the true God outside of Jesus. If a person wants to get to God or get to heaven, they will only do that by accepting this Bible truth about Jesus.

This is a simple verse to memorize, but so powerful. Having this handy (hidden in your heart and mind) will let you leave someone with a powerful truth that the Holy Spirit will bring back to their minds.

How can I get others interested in knowing Jesus?

Things in your life that don’t look like Jesus, or bring honor to His name need to go! Things like:

- Thoughts that don’t honor Him
- Things I do that don’t honor Him
- Things I say – Are there some words in my vocabulary that need to go to make room for some new words that help point my friends to Jesus?
- What things in my life could I change so that people would see more of the change Jesus has made in my heart?

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, I want to honor you with my life and all that I am. Help me to live the way you want me to live as you have shown me in your Word, so that I can lead others to you with my life and with my testimony. Amen.*

Notes and Ideas:

Lesson 4: Teaching about Sin and the Fall of Mankind



Introduction

Sin is our willful disobedience to the will and commandments of God. God created the world without sin or any defect of any kind. He allowed the man (Adam), who He created, to have access to everything that the perfect earth had to offer. He also made a wife for Adam so that he would have a helper who was perfect for him. Adam and Eve could enjoy the earth and fellowship with God together. God then gave them one law to keep and one rule to obey. The rule was that they could have anything they wanted on the earth except the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam and Eve were commanded to not eat of it. There was a severe consequence for doing so.

Man allowed himself to be tempted and willfully disobeyed the commandment of God. While man could choose whether or not to sin, he could not choose the consequence of sin. The consequence was death, and Adam, Eve, and all mankind were plunged into death in that moment. The impact of that decision has fallen upon the entire human race. Regardless of where a person is born, or in what level of lifestyle they are born into, they enter the human race as a sinner. As an infant, they bear the consequence of the sin of Adam, which is death. As they grow, they take on their own personal guilt of sin by willfully choosing to disobey the commandments of God (**Romans 3:10, 3:23, and 5:12**).

Man is in a hopeless condition, dead spiritually and dying physically from the moment he is born. Disease, distress, conflicts, and cruelty in the human race are all the product of sin. Worst of all, the wrath of God against sin abides on the sinner causing him to be condemned already (**John 3:36, John 3:18**). The only hope that mankind has is in Jesus Christ. Jesus came and took the guilt of our sin upon Himself and received its punishment on the cross. A person can be free from the guilt of their sin by trusting in Jesus and calling upon His name.

This lesson shows how sin was man's fault and how he brought on himself the inescapable consequences of his own disobedience. It is important to discuss the situation that a person finds himself in because of Adam's original sin, along with each person's decision to sin personally. Also, this is a great opportunity to talk to your student about how it is not at all unfair that God judges the world guilty because of sin. It was not God's fault that man chose sin. He is holy and cannot look at sin. That means that a person who is lost is condemned by his sin. If your student is not saved, or you are concerned that perhaps their salvation testimony is not real conversion, then this discussion on sin can bring biblical conviction from the Holy Spirit.



Sin and Man's Fall



Preparing to Teach

God created man with a perfect body and a divine nature. It was from the dust of a perfect earth that God formed his body, and with His own breath God gave life to mankind (**Genesis 2:7**). Mankind was given everything for the glory of God and for his enjoyment, but was restricted from one thing (**Genesis 2:15-17**). Because of his disobedience, he brought sin upon himself and his race, and a curse upon the once perfect earth (**Genesis 3:6, Romans 5:12**).

Because of our disobedience in breaking the whole law, there is no person who is not sinful, neither is there any person who is not subject to the wrath of God because of their sin. The object of this section is to show the perfect Creation of the earth, the disobedience of man that caused the fall, and the state of mankind without salvation.

God Created the Heavens and the Earth

In the beginning, God the Father created the heaven and the earth in six days, and on the seventh He rested from His work. The days were normal days and the rest was from creating, not from exhaustion. In other words, He finished. He didn't get tired (**Genesis 2:1-3**).

- God created the earth out of nothing (**Hebrews 11:3**). All the things we see were made by God (**John 1:3**). Unseen things (God) made all that we see.
- God said when He finished the Creation that it was "very good" (**Genesis 1:31**). That means there was no sin in what God created.
- God made us in His own image: body, soul, and spirit. He also gave us dominion, or power, over all of the Creation (**Genesis 1:26-28**).
- God made man to have a Lord. He also gave man a job and a purpose. Our job was to tend to the garden like God told us (**Genesis 2:15-17**), and our purpose was to be fruitful and multiply (**Genesis 1:28**).

*"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned" (**Romans 5:12**).*

God created us perfectly and with a free will to worship Him because we loved Him.

*"He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing" (**Job 26:7**).*

The Fall of Man Into Sin

Adam and Eve were given a commandment by God (**Genesis 2:16-17**) to not eat of the tree in the midst of the garden. The punishment would be death. God gave man a free will to obey or disobey and a commandment to keep. Man was tempted by Satan (now a fallen angel) to disobey God, and he did. This was the entrance of sin into the world and the human race.

- Adam and Eve were tempted to sin in the garden because they had been told a lie and deceived by the devil (**Genesis 3:1-6**).
- Satan (the devil) approached Eve and tempted her will with the three avenues of lust (eyes, flesh, and pride) that the Bible warns us of (**Genesis 3:1-6, I John 2:16**).
- Their sinless nature changed and they became conscious of their nakedness and, for the first time, felt shame (**Genesis 2:25, 3:7-11**).
- God came looking for them (**Genesis 3:8-9**) and pronounced a judgment on them and a curse on the earth and on Satan (**Genesis 3:14-19**).

The State of Mankind Without Salvation

Because of the choice Adam made in the Garden of Eden, the entire human race is born sinful. Only Jesus was born without sin. Each person inherits the sin of Adam at birth, then takes the guilt on themselves personally when they get old enough to sin willfully. Because of this, the Bible says that a man who is not saved is in sin. He is:

- sinful (**Romans 3:23, 5:12**)
- condemned already (**John 3:18**)
- unrighteous (**Romans 3:10**)
- cursed (**Galatians 3:10**)
- abides with the wrath of God on him/her (**John 3:36**)

The law of God is the law of righteousness. In order to be righteous, a person must be born without sin and never break the law of God. This is not possible for a man in his own power to do. He must have a Savior. The only Savior that can save him is Jesus.

Sin passed upon the entire human race. No one was excluded from inherited sin that came from Adam.

“They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one” (Romans 3:12).

Only Jesus was born without sin.

Death came upon all men because of sin.

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

Learning Together about Sin and the Fall of Man



God created man perfect in every way. It was from the dust of a perfect earth that God formed his body, and with His own breath God gave life to us (**Genesis 2:7**). We were given everything for the glory of God and for our enjoyment with just one rule (law) to keep (**Genesis 2:15-17**). Man broke God's law and now we have to face the consequences.

The Creation

Man did not evolve, nor was he the result of a big bang. He was created by God (**Genesis 2:1-3, 7-8**). The Bible tells us about the Creation in the book of Genesis and in other books.

- Everything that was made was made by God (**John 1:3**).
- God created the earth out of nothing by His Word (**Hebrews 11:3, Genesis 1:3**).
- God made us in His own image (**Genesis 1:26-28**).
- When He finished the Creation, God said that it was "very good" (**Genesis 1:31**). That means there was no sin in what God created.
- God made man to have a Lord to rule over us (**Genesis 2:15-17**).

The Fall of Man

Adam and Eve were given a commandment by God (**Genesis 2:16-17**) that they were not to eat of the tree in the midst of the garden. The punishment for disobedience would be death. Man willfully broke the commandment and sin entered, leaving man in a "lost" situation before God.

- All people born are born in sin (**Romans 5:12**).
- A person without Christ is condemned by their sin (**John 3:8**).
- The wrath of God abides on them (**John 3:36**).



What does the Bible say about a person who has not accepted Christ as their personal Savior?

They have _____ (**Romans 3:23**).

They are _____

(**John 3:18**).

They are un-_____
(**Romans 3:10**).

Someone who can't keep all the law is _____
(**Galatians 3:10**).

That the _____ of God abides on them (**John 3:36**).

Memory Verse

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned"
(**Romans 5:12**).

Passing it On

People often think that the word sin just refers to drinking alcohol, doing drugs, or some other biblically wrong thing to do. Here is a way to start a conversation with a friend to talk to them about how all people are born sinners.

Me: “Hey! I discovered something absolutely shocking in the Bible. You won’t believe it!”

Friend: “What’s that?”

Me: “There are no good people in the Bible! Not one! Except for Jesus of course, but the rest of them were all sinners.”



Friend: “I always thought guys like Moses and Abraham were good people.”

Me: “Nope! They were sinners, every one of them. Then I realized that if all men are sinners, then I was one as well.”

Friend: “Well, I guess we all do bad stuff sometimes. What’s the big deal? Especially if all the good guys in the Bible were really just bad guys.”

Me: “The big deal is that the Bible says sinners die and go to hell. **Romans 6:23**^{MV} says it’s like getting the wage, or payment, for being a sinner your whole life. That is a huge deal.”

Friend: “That’s not talking about me is it? I do some bad stuff, but I am not like a full time sinner am I?”

Me: “**Romans 3:10 and 3:23** say we are all sinners. **Romans 5:12** says it happened to us when we were born. **John 3:18** says a sinner is condemned already.”

Friend: “You are scaring me now.”

Me: “The rest of the story is that Jesus can take our sin away. You want to study some verses about that?”

Friend: “I think that would be a good idea.”



Now What? Put the memory verse to work.

“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned’ (**Romans 5:12**).

Most people who don’t know Jesus have the notion that “bad” people, those who are murders, liars or drug addicts, are the only sinners. **Romans 5:12** is a verse you should know well so you can teach your friend about how we became sinners.

- **By one man sin entered into the world:** That one man was Adam, the father of the whole human race. His sin was more than just a mistake, it was willful disobedience to the command of God.
- **And death by sin:** With the sin came the punishment that God promised them, which was death.
- **So death passed upon all men:** Everyone born into this world inherits Adam’s sin.
- **For that all have sinned:** We become sinners at birth because of the sin of Adam, but then we become sinners by our own choice to willfully disobey the commandments of God. That brings not only the death of the body, but the eternal punishment for sin.

How can I get sin out of my life?

First, accept Christ as your personal savior if you are not saved.

After salvation:

- Read the Bible to understand what God says sin is, and to find specific sins the Bible talks about. Avoid them!
- Confess your sins plainly and regularly to God. While God has already forgiven you, He wants you to acknowledge how much His grace has accomplished in your life.
- Commit your life to be obedient to Jesus and be filled with His Word.
- Add some accountability to your life so that you keep yourself away from temptations. Ask your teacher, parent, or friend to help you not fall into sin by being alone with things that tempt you.

Notes and Ideas:

Lesson 5: Teaching about Biblical Salvation



Introduction

To be saved, or have salvation, literally means to be rescued. From the last section on sin and the fall of mankind, we learned that all mankind is born in sin and needs to be rescued from the wrath of God. The rescuer is Jesus! He is the Savior because He performed the act that brought about our salvation. Jesus only saves sinners, which should mean that all people get saved because all are sinners. However, all men will not recognize that they are sinners so that they can be saved. First, a person must admit that what the Bible says about their sinful condition is true. They must understand their sinful state and their need for a Savior. This is a hard thing for people to do.

After a person understands and admits that they are a sinner, they must accept and believe that Jesus Christ is God, and that He died for the sins of the whole world. Then a person must call on the name of Jesus Christ as a drowning man calls out for a rescuer. Christ hears the prayer of a person's heart and saves all those who call upon Him (**Romans 10:13**).

What Jesus does for us in salvation is a beautiful and wonderful story of the love of God and the grace and mercy that He shows us. God loved the world so much that He showed it by giving His Son Jesus to die on the cross for us. Because of that, we see our sin, but also we see our Savior. Where sin did abound, grace did much more abound (**Romans 5:20**). Jesus took all of our sin on the cross so that we could have all of His righteousness (**II Corinthians 5:21**).

Jesus fulfills all the law for us so that we are no longer under the curse of sin, but instead we have been made righteous by Him. Our faith in Jesus Christ has been counted as righteousness (**Romans 4:5**). We have been born again (**John 3:7**), made new creatures (**II Corinthians 5:17**), and raised up to walk in a new life with Christ (**Romans 6:4**). Salvation is for all mankind and is there for those who ask.

This could be one of the most exciting lessons that you get to teach. If your student does not yet know Christ, this could be the week they come to know Him as their personal Savior. The last lesson can leave things looking pretty bleak and depressing, but God would not leave His Creation hopeless and in sin. He loved the world so much that He gave us a Savior. Jesus is the only mediator who could reconcile God and man. He will take all of our sin on Him and give us all of His righteousness. Salvation is in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary. In Him alone is salvation. This lesson could lead to an exciting day as you see someone come to Christ or know for sure that they are already in Christ.



Biblical Salvation



Preparing to Teach

God is holy and created mankind and this world perfectly and without sin. Through man's own disobedience, or sin, his perfection was lost. Consequently, he fell under the curse of sin and death. From Adam's original sin until now, every man is born with that sin curse and will have to have a Savior, or face an eternal punishment. The only Savior that could satisfy God is the one He provided for us, His Son Jesus Christ. Since Jesus Christ is God, God has provided Himself for us as the only acceptable Savior.

Recognizing Our Sin Comes First

This is a review from the last section on sin and the fall of mankind to remind us of the state a person is in who does not have Jesus as their Savior. A person must realize this situation and be willing to admit it truthfully about themselves. The condition of a man without Christ or without Christ's salvation is plainly presented in the following verses:

- There is none good, not even one person. No one is righteous and none seek after God. The Bible says **(Romans 3:10-13)**.
- All mankind is guilty of sin. The Bible declares that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God **(Romans 3:23)**.
- The person who does not know Jesus Christ is condemned already **(John 3:18)**.
- Sin carries the penalty of death **(Romans 5:12, 6:23)**.

Believing Jesus Is the Only Savior Comes Next

- Man is not capable of saving himself or paying for his own sin **(Titus 3:5)**.
- He has nothing to give to redeem himself and must recognize that there is only one Savior **(Acts 4:12)**.
- Jesus paid for the sins of all men through his death on the cross **(II Corinthians 5:14-15)**. Jesus takes all of our sin and gives us all of His righteousness **(II Corinthians 5:20-21)**.

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

Sin is a willful disobedience toward God and His law. Every person is guilty of this and must acknowledge that before they can be saved.

Fallen Man Must Be Reconciled to God

God loved us but could not love our sin. Because of our sin, we were enemies with God. **Someone had to reconcile us.** Reconciliation happens through the death of Jesus Christ for us (**Romans 5:10**).

- Jesus took our sin on Him (having never sinned Himself) and placed His righteousness on us who could not be righteous on our own (**II Corinthians 5:18-21**).
- Jesus is both man and God. He alone can understand both His righteousness and our need. (**Hebrews 4:15**).
- Jesus is the mediator (and only mediator) between God and man (**I Timothy 2:5**).

Salvation Is by Faith in Jesus Christ

Salvation happens when a person understands that they are a sinner, repents (regrets and turns away from sin), and accepts Jesus Christ as their personal (personally needed) Savior. **His finished work of salvation on the cross is both effective and permanent.** Salvation is not based on the strength of a person's faith, but on the strength of the object of their faith. The object of our faith in salvation is Jesus.

- Repentance is necessary for salvation as God requires a person to reject sin (**II Peter 3-9, Psalm 119:59-60**).
- He believes with His heart that Jesus is the Savior and that He will save him if he calls on Him (**Romans 10:9-13**).
- He professes faith in Christ and trusts in what the Bible says about the finished work of salvation (**Romans 10:9**).

The meaning of salvation is to be made alive in Christ and no longer be dead in trespasses and sins. We become a new creature (**II Corinthians 5:17**). It means to have everlasting life now and to no longer have to fear condemnation. Salvation is leaving death and entering life (**John 5:24**).

We cannot agree with God to meet in the middle because God does not compromise. Jesus is the mediator that reconciles us all the way to God.

"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit" (I Peter 3:18).

Our salvation is the work of Jesus, not our own works. We have been saved to do good works, but our good works did not save us. The blood of Jesus Christ saved us (Ephesians 2:10).

Learning Together about Biblical Salvation



Coming to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior is the single most important decision in your life. It can only be made in this lifetime and therefore cannot be something you wait to do later in your life. Salvation is necessary because of sin and the fall of mankind. Salvation requires a Savior who is both God and man, a man who has never sinned. The only person who qualifies for this is Jesus.

Salvation Is by Faith in Christ.

- A person must understand that the verses that say all men are sinners apply to everyone (**Romans 3:23**).
- He must recognize his sin and turn away from it and toward Jesus (**II Peter 3:9, Psalm 119:59-60**).
- He must believe with His heart that Jesus is the Savior and that He will save him if he calls on Him (**Romans 10:9-13**).
- He must make a profession of faith in Christ and trust in what the Bible says about the finished work of salvation (**Romans 10:9**).

The Meaning of Salvation

A saved person is now a _____ creature (**II Corinthians 5:17**).

He now has _____ life,

he is no longer under _____,

and he has passed from death unto

_____ (**John 5:24**).

He is a child of God (**John 1:11**).



Salvation is by grace, not by works.

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9).

It’s not the strength of your faith that matters. It’s the strength of the object of your faith. That object is Jesus Christ and He is all powerful!

It is the will of God that you be saved. It is why God sent Jesus to this earth.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

Memory Verse

“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (**Acts 4:12**).

Passing it On

Having a conversation with a friend about salvation is both a blessing and a scary event. This is how a conversation might go, but remember that Jesus does the saving, not you. He works with the Holy Spirit and the Bible, so use plenty of Bible verses.

Me: “I was reading this morning about the best gift ever given.”

Friend: “What’s that, a mansion with golden doorknobs?”



Me: “No, but that goes along with it. The gift is salvation!” **(Acts 4:12)** ^{MV}

Friend: “Like, in the Bible or church, salvation?”

Me: “Right! Salvation from our sin, and from death and hell. Salvation comes from Jesus.”

Friend: “I don’t really believe that stuff, and I don’t go to church.”

Me: “You might want to go. The greatest gift you could ever imagine is there waiting on you. You would go somewhere if you knew you were going to get a gift, wouldn’t you?”

Friend: “But I don’t understand what the gift is, and I don’t really want to be a church guy or a Christian.”

Me: “The great part about the gift of God in salvation is that Jesus did all the hard work for you **(I Corinthians 15:3)**. The gift He gives you is eternal life in heaven b.”

Friend: “What do I have to do to get the gift?”

Me: “Jesus did all the doing. It is His grace, or favor toward us that we didn’t earn, that saves us **(Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 3:5)**. The gift is free. That is why it’s called a gift.”

Friend: “So all I have to do is go to church and I get the gift? How many services?”

Me: “The church doesn’t give it to you, Jesus does. You can learn about Jesus at church though, or we can study about Him together.” If you get to know who He really is from the Bible, I know you will want the gift He offers” **(John 12:32)**.



Now What? Put the memory verse to work.

“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (**Acts 4:12**).

The Bible is full of great verses on salvation. Making a list of them in the front of your Bible, or building a chain of verses like you did in the *Passing It On* section about God, will help keep them handy.

- **Acts 4:12:** Next to that verse write John 3:15-16 in the margin.
- **John 3:15-16:** Next to that verse write John 5:24 in the margin.
- **John 5:24:** Next to that verse write Ephesians 2:9 in the margin.
- **Ephesians 2:8-9:** Next to that verse write Romans 4:5 in the margin.
- **Romans 4:5:** Next to that write Romans 10:13 in the margin.

If you write Acts 4:12 next to Romans 10:13, you can start anywhere in the chain and be able to get all the verses. Then practice working through these verses so that you are ready when someone asks you, like your friend does in the *Passing it On* section, to help them pray for salvation.

How can I get saved or lead someone to Christ?

Examine your heart and life and write below in the notes section about the time you accepted Christ. Discuss this with your teacher or a friend. If you realize you have never been saved, then ask Jesus to save you right now!

The prayer of salvation:

- *Jesus, I believe what the Bible says about me. I am a sinner and have no power in myself to ever change that.*
- *I want to repent of my sin and turn my life over to you. I confess to you that I am a sinner and don't deserve your love and mercy.*
- *Jesus, your Word says you will save those who call on your name (Romans 10:13) and I am calling on you to save me from my sin and make me a new creature in you (**II Corinthians 5:17**).*

If you are saved already, then use this as a guide to lead a friend to Christ.

Notes and Ideas:

Lesson 6: Teaching about Eternal Security of the Believer and Assurance of Salvation



Introduction

The Bible plainly teaches that the work of salvation is the work of Christ. It is a perfect and complete work that leaves no chance for something to go wrong. Jesus is the payment for our sins and the sins of the whole world (**I John 2:1-2**). So there are no sins unpaid for, and no sins that He hasn't taken into account, with respect to your salvation. That means there is nothing you can do that He hasn't already known about and forgiven. Because all of your sins have been forgiven (even the ones you have not yet committed), there are no sins in your future that can separate you from God. You are secure in your salvation because you have been justified. Your legal standing in heaven has been changed from "guilty of all sin" to "not guilty of any sin."

Jesus' work of redemption is perfect. That means that His death brought redemption for all mankind. Since His work is perfect, then our salvation is secure in Him. Our salvation is also eternal because our Savior is eternal. He does not lie, and He does not change (**Revelation 11:15, Numbers 23:19**). He has promised to be with us always and to never leave us nor forsake us (**Matthew 28:20, Hebrews 13:5**). Salvation is eternal because God has the power to keep us saved and to make sure that nothing separates us from His love (**Romans 8:33-39**).

Assurance is something that we have from the Bible based on the promises God makes to us about His nature and the work of salvation. Eternal security is a biblical fact whether a person believes it or not. It is inseparably connected to the perfect work of the Savior, Jesus Christ. Assurance, on the other hand is the peaceful acceptance of the biblical promise of eternal security. Christians can have assurance when they believe what the Bible says about their new life in Christ.

Much of the problem that Christians face with regard to eternal security and assurance comes from a continual cycle of doing right spiritually, then messing up and sinning. We wonder how we could be saved and do the things we often do. The biblical truth is that God understood how awful sin was when He saved us. He saved us from all of its guilt and shame for all eternity! Though God forgave all of our sin, much of it was still to occur in the future. We have to live out the rest of our lives to understand just how big and marvelous His grace is. The sin we commit was seen in the foreknowledge and omniscience of God. Though we sometimes fall in sin, it does not change our standing with God. We are His children forever. This lesson will discuss evidence of salvation, eternal security as a biblical fact and promise, and how to build faith and conquer doubt.



Eternal Security and Assurance



Preparing to Teach

Everlasting and eternal are words that signify that the life Jesus gives us is permanent and does not end (**John 3:15-16**). Additionally, the believer no longer faces the threat or worry of condemnation (**Romans 8:1**). He has life because he has Jesus (**I John 5:12**). Understanding what salvation is helps a person understand eternal security. Confidence in what the Bible says about the permanence of salvation, and the power of God to keep us saved, is how a person can experience the assurance of the eternal security he has in Christ.

Evidences of Salvation

It is a great thing to know the day, date, and time that you accepted Christ. More importantly, is to see the evidences of a changed life. You are saved and are a child of God because the Holy Spirit gives witness to your spirit (**Romans 8:16**). The following things should be happening, or be apparent, in your life:

- You should desire God's will instead of your own (**Psalms 40:8**).
- Your lifestyle or attitude toward sin should change (**I John 3:9**). This should manifest itself in sorrow when you sin and be followed by a desire to go to Jesus and confess it.
- You should desire to live a pure and holy life that is pleasing to God (**I John 3:3**).
- Learning more about Jesus and becoming more and more like Him daily should be important to you (**I John 3:2**).
- A love for the Word of God should be growing in you (**I John 2:3-6, Psalms 119:97, Joshua 1:7-8**).
- Fellowship with believers around the things of God should be our priority (**I John 4:7, John 13:35**).
- The chastening of God when you sin should become recognizable to you (**Hebrews 12:6-8**). Once saved, we are still capable of sinning. We still have our free will and our flesh has a tendency toward sin. We will no longer be content with living that way.

"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God" (**I John 5:13**).

"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates" (**II Corinthians 13:5**)?

A Biblical Fact and Promise

Eternal security (God's power to keep us saved) is a biblical fact and promise. A person's confidence in that does not determine if it is truth or not, only to what extent the person will enjoy and appreciate the blessings of salvation. The Bible makes it plain that the believer is eternally saved and secured based on the power of God. The following verses show the promise of eternal security a believer has in Christ:

- God gives us eternal life and we will never perish (**John 10:28**).
- The believer is sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise until the day of the redemption of our body, soul, and spirit to heaven (**Ephesians 1:13-14, 4:30**).
- The believer is "kept" by the power of God (**I Peter 1:5**).
- The believer has the promise that God will never leave us or forsake us (**Hebrews 13:5**).
- Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus (**Romans 8:35-39**).
- He will not cast us out or reject us (**John 6:37**).
- It is impossible for God to lie. All that He said He will do, will be done. He has all the power He needs to do it (**Hebrews 6:18-19, Numbers 23:19**).

We did not agree with God to meet in the middle because God does not compromise. Jesus is the mediator that reconciles us to God.

Salvation is a rescue from the wrath of God. Eternal security is the power of God to keep you saved after you have accepted Him. Assurance is the confidence you have in the promises of His Word.

Building Faith and Conquering Doubts

All the promises we have about our salvation and eternal security are found in the Bible. That means that we should spend time in the Bible each day to build our faith and fend off doubts. Doubts about our salvation come when we are spiritually undernourished. Daily reading, praying and meditating, combined with regular attendance at church, is the best way to enjoy the assurance you have in Christ and not to be constantly battling doubts. Faith comes by hearing (**Romans 10:17**). A person doubting their salvation and eternal security should examine themselves to see if they are adding to their faith as Peter advised in II Peter, Chapter 1, or risk forgetting that they were ever saved (**II Peter 1:9**).

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17).

Learning Together about Eternal Security and Assurance



Just like salvation is God's work, eternal security or "keeping us saved" is also God's work. Our salvation is by grace through faith, but sometimes after being saved we will sin and feel as if God withdraws His salvation from us. This is not at all the case. Salvation is permanent. It is new birth. We are born into the family of God and have been made sons of God. We can never lose that relationship with the Father.

Bible Truths about Eternal Security

- God gives us eternal life and we will never perish (**John 10:28**).
- We are sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise until the day of the redemption of our body, soul, and spirit to heaven (**Ephesians 1:13-14, 4:30**).
- We are "kept" by the power of God (**I Peter 1:5**).
- We have the promise that God will never leave us nor forsake us (**Hebrews 13:5**).
- Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus (**Romans 8:35-39**).

Building Faith and Conquering Doubts

Daily reading and reflecting on the Word of God, and the promises He makes to His children, is a great way to build faith and conquer doubts. Along with that, every believer should make it a habit to attend church for the fellowship and reinforcing faith of other Christians. Other good practices to build faith and conquer doubts include:

- Be faithful to church (**Hebrews 10:2**).
- Fellowship with believers (**Matthew 18:20**).
- Memorize Scripture verses so that you can think about them (**Psalms 119:11**).



Eternal security is a biblical fact and promise from an unchanging God who does not lie.

"God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?"

(Numbers 23:19)

A person who has been saved is now a son of God and can never get out of the family.

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Memory Verse

"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God" (**I John 5:13**).

Passing it On

This would be a conversation you could have with another Christian who is struggling with their faith, wondering if they are still saved because they committed some sin. Here is a possible way to start the conversation.

Me: "I have missed you lately in church. Is everything ok?"



Friend: "I don't know. I just can't live up to it all. I may have lost my faith."

Me: "I am sorry to hear that. The Bible says you can't lose real salvation, just your confidence in it. What happened?"

Friend: "I messed up. I looked at some things on the internet I shouldn't have."

Me: "Well, that's not good for your fellowship with God, but it doesn't change your relationship with Him if you are saved." (Read **I John 2:1-2** together.)

Friend: "So how do I get it back? My salvation?"

Me: "Salvation is eternal. You can't lose it, but you can feel cold because you stop reading what the Bible says about salvation" (**John 10:28, I John 3:2**).

Friend: "But will God forgive me for the awful thing I did?"

Me: "He already has. He forgave you of all your past *and* future sins when He saved you" (**I John 1:9**). "He counted your faith in Him the same as righteousness" (**Romans 4:5**).

Friend: "I don't feel very righteous."

Me: "That is the Holy Spirit inside of you. Only saved people have that pain over sin" (**Romans 8:9**). "Stop believing your feelings and read what the Bible says about your salvation. That is what you should believe" (**I John 3:19-21, I John 5:13**).^{MV}

Friend: "I need to get back in church and thank the Lord for eternal salvation!"



Now What? Put the memory verse to work.

“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God” (**1 John 5:13**).

Practice teaching this memory verse with confidence.

- **These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the son of God:** God did the writing. The Bible promises were written to those who are in Christ (saved people).
- **That ye may know that ye have eternal life:** The reason God wrote the promises of eternal life down was so that we could know them. We can read them at any time to see if they have changed. They never change! The promise of eternal life is written down for us and made permanent by God. It will never change because He never changes (**Malachi 3:6**).
- **And that you may believe on the name of the Son of God:** Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God (**Romans 10:17**). Reading brings confidence in the words and builds up our faith in Jesus. The more faithfully we read what God wrote to us, the more we will understand how secure we are in Christ.

How can I live with confidence in my salvation?

Christians often struggle with doubts about their faith. Even the disciples doubted sometimes (**Matthew 28:16-17**).

Defeating doubts: Doubts are usually the result of not following God’s instructions to grow spiritually. How can you make room to add more of the following things to your life?

- prayer and personal communion with God
- daily devotional time in the Bible
- faithful church attendance
- involvement in serving God and others

Prayer: *God help me accept what the Bible says about my salvation and not what I feel or think. Help me accept that the real power in salvation is you and not me, and that you have promised to keep me saved. Amen!*

Notes and Ideas:

Lesson 7: Teaching about Baptism



Introduction

Baptism is a symbol of the work of Christ in our hearts and for the sins of the whole world. It is a picture of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. It was the way that John the Baptist revealed Jesus to Israel. He showed them the act by which God was going to heal their nation and send their Messiah. The Lamb of God that would take away the sin of the world would do so by taking on the sin of the world and dying under its penalty. Unlike any other person in history who has given his or her life for a cause, Jesus would give His life for the lives of every person who has ever lived or ever will live. Also, unlike any other person in history, Jesus would rise again from the dead to live forever.

The great truth of the symbol of baptism is that it is more than just the picture of what Jesus did for us, but also of what has happened to us in salvation. We have died with Him (**Romans 6:3-4**), which means that our sin is now gone because we are dead in and with Christ. It doesn't end there. After we have died with Him, we are resurrected with Him to a newness of life. We have come out of the grave of our sin and now have a new life. The symbol of baptism is done in water because Jesus gave that example. The picture is that you cannot keep something living in the grave. It will come up!

Baptism is also part of our profession of faith. In this respect, we identify with Christ, and what He did for us and in us. It tells others that we are not ashamed of Him and that we want to be known as "His." It is something that was practiced immediately after salvation in the Bible, and in some respects, is inseparable from salvation (**Mark 16:16, Acts 8:36-38**). It is often called the first step of obedience and should be practiced by all believers who understand the meaning of the symbol of baptism.

Many times throughout the history of Christianity, the cost of identifying with Christ in baptism has been martyrdom. The serious nature of this should serve as a reminder that baptism is not merely a symbol, but a commitment to Christ and to His church. Baptism and a public profession of faith are necessary before a believer should be given membership in a local church. Without this commitment to Christ and the members of His church, a church would be nothing more than a social group. In baptism, a commitment is made to walk in newness of life and to observe all that Jesus commanded, while doing so in the fellowship of other, similarly committed saints. This lesson is more than just a lesson on the Scriptural basis of baptism and the proper mode in which it is practiced. It is a lesson about our new identity in Christ and our new walk with Christ and His church.



Baptism



Preparing to Teach

“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life” (**Romans 6:3-4**).

Baptism is a picture of what Jesus did for us. His death, burial, and resurrection is also a picture of how we are raised in Him to newness of life (**I Corinthians 15:3-4**).

What Is Baptism?

Baptism is an ordinance and a command from God. It was something done in the New Testament immediately after accepting Christ. It was the way people identified with Christ. It symbolizes that we have joined in His death, burial, and have been resurrected to a new life in Him.

- The church was commanded to baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (**Matthew 28:19-20**).
- The early church immediately baptized new converts as a way to identify them with Christ and to make a public profession of their faith (**Acts 2:41**).
- Phillip baptized those who believed after they heard the gospel preached (**Acts 8:12**).
- Peter commanded those of the house of Cornelius to be baptized after being saved (**Acts 10:48**).
- Baptism is a symbol of what has happened in our hearts. It is part of our testimony that we have been saved by the grace of God.
- It symbolizes our death with Christ, to sin, and our old life (**Romans 6:1-3**). We are crucified with Him (**Galatians 2:20**).
- We are buried with him in baptism (**Romans 6:4**).
- We are resurrected with Christ to walk in the newness of our life in Him (**Romans. 6:5**).

Baptism is often called the first step of obedience because it happened so soon after salvation and was so closely associated with receiving salvation in the New Testament.

“And he said unto them, **Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned**” (**Mark 16:15-16**).

Being Baptized

Knowing now that baptism is a command given to all those who would accept Him as Savior, it is good to understand the facts surrounding the qualifications and the practice of baptism. It's important to remember that Jesus was our example in baptism. In the Bible, only those old enough to make a profession of faith were baptized (which eliminates all infants being baptized), and they were baptized in water (not just with water) quickly after their profession of faith. Baptism never happens before a profession of faith in the Bible and never as a part of anyone's salvation.

- Being baptized is following the example of Christ as He pleased His Father **(Luke 3:21-22)**.
- Baptism is only for those that have received Christ as their Savior **(Acts 8:36-37)**.
- Baptism contains no special grace or merit and is not required for salvation. It is a profession of faith that follows salvation **(Ephesians 2:8-9)**.
- Baptism is by immersion in much water **(Acts 8:38-39)**.
- Baptism should be done in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost **(Matthew 28:19-20)**.

Bible Stories about Baptism

Baptism is a very important step in our Christian life. It is part of our testimony and witness. Every believer's story of salvation should include the story of them getting baptized as well. It says that we identify with Christ and the work of the gospel in us. Every Christian should follow Christ in believer's baptism.

- John the Baptist baptized where there was a lot of water **(John 3:23)**.
- Jesus was baptized to fulfill all righteousness since He was the one who was actually going to rise from the dead **(Matthew 3:15)**.
- On the day of Pentecost, those who believed were immediately baptized **(Acts 2:41)**.

The Great Commission gives the church the command to go, teach, baptize and then teach them to observe all things that Christ commanded **(Matthew 28:18-20)**.

"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life"
(Romans 6:4).

Learning Together about Baptism



Baptism is an **ordinance** and a **command** from God. It is something that they did in the New Testament immediately after they accepted Christ. It was the way that people identified with Christ. It is the symbol of His death, burial, and resurrection. We get baptized to let the world know that we have died with Christ. Our old life is gone and buried with Him, and now we live a new life in Him (**I Corinthians 15:3-4**).



Baptism does not add any merit to salvation. It is not necessary for salvation, but it is something that a Christian does as part of his profession.

What Is Baptism? Why Should I Be Baptized?

- Jesus was baptized and it pleased God the Father (**Luke 3:21-22**).
- It is a symbol of what has happened in our heart. If a person has trusted Christ, they should be baptized because it is a part of their testimony of salvation.
- It represents our death with Him and to sin. Our sin is gone (**Romans 6:1-3**). We are crucified with Him (**Galatians 2:20**).
- The old person is buried and a new one has resurrected to live the Christian life (**Romans 6:4-5**).

Baptism is part of our commitment to Christ to observe all that he has commanded us.

“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen” (**Matthew 28:20**).

Salvation and Baptism

The Bible shows people getting saved, especially in the book of Acts, and baptized immediately afterwards. Salvation and baptism go together in the Bible as the following stories show:

- On the day of Pentecost, those who believed then immediately were baptized (**Acts 2:41**). They were also added to the church that day (**Acts 2:47**). Baptism is not merely symbolic, rather it is part of our commitment to the church we join to practice the spiritual disciplines of a Christian (**Acts 2:41-46**).
- Phillip led a man from Africa to Christ and was baptized the same day (**Acts 8:36-39**).
- The keeper of the jail at Philippi got saved then immediately baptized (**Acts 16:25-33**).

Memory Verse

“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life” (**Romans 6:4**).

Passing it On

You can start a conversation with someone about baptism by asking them about when they were saved, or first telling them your story and asking them afterwards.



Me: “Tell me about when you accepted Christ.”

Friend: “Sure, it happened at camp when I was ten years old.” (Listen intently to their story and take a serious interest.)

Me: “What a great story! I love hearing a person give their testimony. Did you get baptized at your home church then, after camp?”

Friend: “I have never been baptized. I am a little bit nervous to tell you the truth.”

Me: “I understand. There is nothing to be nervous about. It is a beautiful symbol of what Christ has done in your heart” **(Romans 6:4).**^{MV}

Friend: “I should get baptized. I want God to be happy with me.”

Me: “Baptism doesn’t save you, it just symbolizes the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ and how that has happened in your life.”

Friend: “Will that make me a better Christian?”

Me: “It will make you an obedient one, and let everyone know that you belong to Christ and are serious about serving Him.”

Friend: “What do I need to do?”

Me: “First, make sure you know that Jesus is your Savior. Then, go tell your pastor you want to be baptized **(Acts 8:36-38)**. He will ask you to tell him about when you got saved and ask if you know what baptism is all about. He may teach you some more things before he baptizes you.”



Now What? Put the memory verse to work.

“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life” (**Romans 6:4**).

Discuss this verse with your teacher and learn how to teach it well. You could help a person, who is already saved, get baptized and become a faithful church member.

- **We are buried with him by baptism:** You learned that being put under the water is like being buried.
- **Like as Christ was raised up from the dead:** Christ was buried after He died for our sins, and He did that in our place. He also rose from the dead after being buried.
- **Even so we should also walk in newness of life:** We are risen with Christ. Baptism is symbolic of what Christ has done in our lives. It also is the way we publicly profess what He has done in our hearts, and that we identify with Him.

After someone has given you their testimony, ask them about baptism. If they have not been baptized, invite them to study what the Bible says about baptism. Be ready to teach it to them!

How can I live out the newness of life that I have in Christ?

The memory verse says that our baptism is an agreement to walk in our new life and turn our back on our old life.

The old life: Discuss with your teacher some pieces of your old life that you no longer want to participate in. Some examples are:

- sins and bad habits that should fall off
- thoughts and feelings that I need to ask Jesus to help me conquer
- laziness or carelessness about spiritual things and church

Prayer: *Jesus, you gave me a new life and that is the life I want to live. Help me turn my back on sin, selfishness and anything that does not honor you. Help me be an example of the new life I received and the baptism that symbolizes it. In your name I pray, Amen!*

Notes and Ideas:

Lesson 8: Teaching about Reading and Understanding the Bible



Introduction

In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. This is the testimony of the apostle John as the Holy Spirit guided him in what to write. That Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld Him and saw some of the glory of the Father (**John 1:1, 14**). Many then wrote down what they saw and heard about Jesus, again under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (**Luke 1:1-4**). Those words are our Bible. We have been given, in writing, a revelation of God Himself to us, and all that we need for life and godliness (**II Peter 1:3**). It's not all that Jesus did, and not all that there is to know about God, but it's what we need for redemption and service to Him.

To read the Bible and study it is not only our privilege, but the path to living a full Christian life. Daily reading means that we will allow the Bible to speak to us each day. The Holy Spirit can renew our minds by bringing Bible truths to our remembrance as we live for Christ. The Holy Spirit will also explain Bible truths found in one passage with Bible truths from other passages that have been read before. The Holy Spirit only has one voice, and that voice is the Word of God. He speaks to us and engrafts the word into our hearts. We don't read the Bible to expand our intellect, but to change our conduct.

Studying is designed to make us skilled in using the Bible to teach, preach, and witness. We are to be workmen, and the Bible is our main tool to do the work. We will never know all there is to know about the Bible. Only God knows everything, but we can grow our ability to be used by God if we will study His book. Studying is different than reading. It involves searching out what the Bible has to say about a given topic using as many passages about the subject as you can find. Reading is a daily practice that we do because it helps us go all the way through the Bible systematically. Reading and studying go hand in hand.

The first goal of reading or studying the Bible is the transformation of the reader. The Bible must first work a transformation in us and bring us to a faith response. Every verse in the Bible teaches, but it also calls on the reader to reflect on their own life, consider the implications of the verse, and decide if they will respond in faith or not. We, as readers and studiers, often read too much and reflect too little. The verses are powerful. God's desire is that we be transformed into the image of His Son. In this lesson you will find some guidance on how to prepare for reading, studying, and also teaching. You will also find some tools to help you develop good study habits and methods. If you find someone to teach, you will have plenty of reason to read and study.



Reading and Understanding the Bible



Preparing to Teach

It is the will of the Lord that we study His Word so that we can be workmen who rightly divide (or rightly interpret) the Word of God. If we are workmen, then the Bible is our main tool. We should be skilled in its use so that we do not have to be ashamed when we have the opportunity to use it.

Christians accept the Bible as their final authority on all matters of faith and practice. It is good practice therefore, to both read and study the Bible. It is important as disciple makers that we learn to study and become teachers of the Bible. Above reading and studying, workmen in the Bible should expect to prepare their hearts for the Word of God and also prepare themselves to be examples of what the Bible teaches (**Ezra 7:10**).

I Timothy 4:13 explains that diligent Bible reading is for both exhortation and doctrine. Reading is exhortation in the faith, seeing the goodness and severity of God, and collecting doctrines and pictures of doctrines as you go.

How to Read the Bible

Regular Bible reading requires diligence and discipline. It is how you build the base for the Holy Spirit to bring things to your remembrance (**John 14:26**). As daily Bible reading becomes a habit, your Bible study time will become more fulfilling.

- Find a convenient time you can dedicate each day to Bible reading. Early morning is best, but consecrate it and make it a special time to meet with God in His Word.
- Start with prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you understand each passage (**Psalms 119:18, I John 2:27**).
- Prioritize the time you spend reading the Bible (**Job 23:12, Psalm 132:4-5**). Make it as necessary as your daily meals, and don't go to bed unless you have read.
- Read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. If you left off in Numbers last time you tried to read it through, start back there this time.
- Don't get discouraged because you don't understand all or (some days) even some of what you are reading.

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (II Timothy 2:15).

Ezra is a great model of who we should be as Bible teachers. He prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, to do it and to teach it. It is much easier to teach something from your heart that you are also practicing.

Things in the Bible are spiritually discerned (I Corinthians 2:12-14).

- Mark things in your Bible or make notes in a notebook. You will learn the Bible gradually as you read and as the Holy Spirit uses the verses to put together little pieces into bigger blocks of understanding (**Isaiah 28:9-10**).

How to Study the Bible

The Bible teaches us in II Timothy 2:15 that study prepares a workman. The Scriptures we study are the Word of God and are very powerful (**Hebrews 4:12**). They are also very profitable (**II Timothy 3:15-17**). They took a young child named Timothy and made him a man of God.

- Study is the pursuit of understanding a certain topic or passage. Studies can involve a verse, passage, book, or survey. They can also be topics, biographies of Bible characters, or events. The possibilities are vast.
- Consult commentaries only after a thorough reading of the passage, parallel passages, and other supporting Scripture references are consulted. Remember, commentaries do not replace Scripture, and are not infallible like Scripture.
- Things you want to study can come out of your daily reading, your Sunday school classes, or sermons delivered in church.
- The Bible is understood by knowledge and by faith (**Hebrews 11:1-3**). Some things will be easy to grasp and others (like Creation) will require faith to understand because they are the works of an infinite, eternal God.

The Basics of Bible Study

- **Observation** - read what it says. It is important to read the passage many times and pay attention to the context. Be a Bible believing studier (**I Thessalonians 2:13**).
- **Interpretation** - find out what it means. Here again, context usually provides the interpretation of the passage, and usually the simplest explanation is correct.
- **Application** - consider how it applies. Probably the most important part is the application. Through application of the Bible comes godliness and more knowledge.
- The application can often differ, but the theological truths of the passage are always the same. The application should not influence the text. The text influences the application.

The context of the passage is key. It is important to note who is being spoken to, what events are happening, and in what Bible age the passage occurs.

The Word of God works effectually in those who believe. Be a Bible believing studier (**I Thessalonians 2:13**).

“So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused *them* to understand the reading” (**Nehemiah 8:8**).

Learning Together about Reading and Understanding the Bible



Reading the Bible daily is an essential habit for a believer to grow in the faith. Reading the Bible doesn't mean understanding everything you read, it means committing to reading consistently each day and asking God to help you understand. As you take notes about the things you read, your list of things to study starts to appear. Study is the way we can deepen our understanding of Bible truths (**II Timothy 2:15**).

Reading the Bible

- Set a time each day dedicated to the Lord for Bible reading (**I Timothy 4:13**).
- Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand (**Psalms 119:18, I John 2:27**).
- Make reading your Bible as important as eating (**Job 23:12, Psalm 132:4-5**).
- Read the Bible through from Genesis to Revelation. Get a friend to read with you for encouragement and accountability.
- Don't get discouraged. Some days it will be hard to understand (**Psalms 25:4**).
- Get a notebook for daily thoughts and questions, or mark them in your Bible. You will learn a little more each day (**Isaiah 28:9-10**).

Studying the Bible

The Bible works best in us when we believe what it says (**I Thessalonians 2:13**). The Bible is a living and powerful book and will speak to us if we give it our attention (**Hebrews 4:12**). Three simple questions you can ask yourself about any passage you are reading that will help you understand the Bible are:

- **What?** In simple terms, what does the Bible say?
- **So what?** How does this apply to me?
- **Now what?** How should I respond to what I read?

The following list are things to underline, or make notes of, from your daily Bible reading. (Use a notebook if you don't want to mark your Bible.)

- ✓ promises (**Jeremiah 33:3**)
- ✓ examples to follow (**I Peter 2:21-23**)
- ✓ commands to obey (**Ephesians 4:31-32**)
- ✓ sins to avoid (**Colossians 3**)
- ✓ ideas or truths that keep showing up

Memory Verse

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (**II Timothy 2:15**).

Good Bible Interpretation involves:

Observation
Interpretation
Application

Passing it On

As Christians we should be Bible readers, studiers, and teachers. We should seek to get our friends involved in teaching the Bible. That will make us readers and studiers! Here is a simply way to get someone involved in a Bible study with you. This can be for saved or lost people.



Me: “I am going through the Foundations book with my friend (parent, older sibling).”

Friend: “What is Foundations?”

Me: “It’s a series of lessons from the Bible about our Christian life. The best part is that I get to spend time with someone I really like who is teaching me” (II Timothy 2:2).

Friend: “Is it like school work?”

Me: “There are some parts of it I do on my own, but it’s not like homework, and I am learning how to read and study the Bible. It is really great to be able to understand more.”

Friend: “I have lots of questions about the Bible and Christianity. I don’t always understand the sermons at church or in Sunday school classes.”

Me: “If you want, I can get you a book and you can go through it with me.”

Friend: “You don’t know what my questions are. How do you know if you can answer them?”

Me: “I can’t answer them all, but I will read, study, and ask my teacher for help. I have learned to read my Bible every day and how to find answers about some passages by looking at the context, or finding a parallel passage. It’s great!” (II Timothy 2:15)^{MV}

Friend: “I would be willing to give it a try. I would sure like to get some answers to these questions and be able to understand the Bible on my own.”

Me: “We could meet on Sunday mornings before Sunday school!”



Now What? Put the memory verse to work.

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (II Timothy 2:15).

Reading and understanding the Bible is the key to learning to teach it. As you read, look for the following things:

- **Simple Bible truths:** God meant for us to read and understand the Bible. Look for simple but powerful truths in verses.
- **Learn to look at the verse and say what it says:** Use Bible words to explain Bible verses. Get used to just making simple and plain explanations of the verse.
- **Ask yourself these three questions:** (1) What does it say? (2) What does that mean? (3) How does it apply, or now what am I supposed to do?
- **Look for ways to share what you learned:** The best part about knowing is getting to teach what you learned.

We study the Bible because there is work to do! Every Christian is responsible for spiritual, eternal work. This is the first step in becoming a disciple maker for Christ.

Why should I study the Bible?

Since you are not the pastor, or a Sunday school teacher, you may wonder; why should I study? Great question. Consider these things:

- The Bible can change the way I believe and act. How has the Bible done that already?
- I can grow spiritually. What spiritual habits have you developed in your life?
- I can be ready to teach others also (II Timothy 2:2). How do I feel about my responsibility to teach others?

Prayer: *Lord Jesus help me to be an approved workman for you. Not ashamed that I don't know your Word, but confident in the plain teaching of each verse. Help me find someone to share what you have taught me. In Jesus' name, Amen!*

Notes and Ideas:

Lesson 9: Teaching about Prayer



Introduction

This lesson on prayer talks about asking, waiting, and receiving. However, the aspect of prayer that is vitally important to our Christian life is the communion with God that prayer brings. The disciples themselves asked Jesus to teach them to pray (**Luke 11:1**). This was at a time when Jesus was physically right there with them. It would seem like they could just ask Him a question and He would answer it. They watched Jesus pray to the Father and wanted that communion with God themselves. Jesus will later tell them that they ought always to pray and not to faint (**Luke 18:1**). Jesus was letting them know that praying was more than just asking and receiving, it was communing with God and drawing strength from that.

The practical aspect of prayer is that we are told to come to God with confidence because He receives us at His throne of grace. It's not a throne where we get judged or criticized, but a throne where we are received and welcomed as sons. There is no rejection because our prayers are not grammatically and spiritually perfect. There is only a welcoming Father who is glorified in the honest and sincere prayers of His children. We should come bringing Him praise and glory. We should come often and stay awhile when we get there.

The other practicality of prayer is that we come to God in dependence on Him. We are told to ask, seek, and knock (**Luke 11:9**), and that God will respond. He does not promise to respond in any specific time, but that He would respond. We are told that He does hear us (**I John 5:14-15**), and our petitions are brought to Him. The Holy Spirit is our prayer helper (**Romans 8:26-27**). Prayer is not about us getting things from a vending machine, but about seeking communion with God and His will in things. Much of the waiting time in prayer is God working in our hearts to desire His will more than the specific outcome we asked for.

Prayer is also a spiritual discipline that is developed with practice. It takes a commitment to be silent before God as well as telling God what is on our hearts. Honesty is the best policy in prayer, as there is no hiding anything from God. God sees our heart. Daily prayer time can begin with meditation on a particular verse, or as the lesson discusses, praying the Psalms. In any event, it is good to consider the things you think about as you pray. There is a biblical promise to bring thoughts to your remembrance. A great practice is intercessory prayer. That is when we bring the needs and situations of others to God on their behalf. This also helps us be less selfish in our prayer time and sets our hearts on others. There are plenty of passages on prayer that we know very well, but the practice of prayer is a spiritual discipline that must be developed. This lesson will help you develop the habit of prayer.



Learning to Pray



Preparing to Teach

Prayer is talking to God. It is the presentation of our desires and burdens before the throne of grace with the confidence that we shall obtain mercy and grace (**Hebrews 4:15-16**).

The three main components of prayer are: **asking, waiting, and receiving**. The Bible tells us that if we ask we shall receive. There are no verses however, that tell us how long the wait will be. The difficult part of prayer is the patience during the waiting period. The time between the asking and the receiving is often a beneficial time of spiritual growth for us while we learn to want the will of God more than the specific outcome.

Asking

Jesus told His disciples to ask (**John 16:23-24**), and James says we have not because we ask not (**James 4:2**). Asking demonstrates dependence, which is pleasing to God. He calls us His little children. As children, we need things from our Father. As our Father, He would not answer us in a cruel fashion or trick us, but loves to give good things to His children (**Matthew 7:7-11**). The Bible lists these examples as some of the things to ask for:

- Cast your cares on Him (**1 Peter 5:7**). This means we are to ask Him for answers and help, then leave the answer and outcome to Him.
- Pray for others (**1 Thessalonians 5:25**). This is called intercessory prayer. It is good to practice this so that our prayer life is not all about us.
- Pray for wisdom (**James 1:5**).
- Pray for those in authority (**1 Timothy 2:1-3**).
- Pray for courage (**Acts 4:23-32**).
- Ask for our needs to be met (**Philippians 4:6**). In praying for our needs to be met, we are sowing our dependence on God.

How should we ask?

- Ask like a son - The son is allowed to ask whatever he desires of the Father (**Luke 15:11-12, John 15:7**).
- Ask like someone who needs help from God (**Matthew 6:8**).
- Ask like a friend asks a friend (**John 15:13-16**).
- Ask with confidence knowing He will answer (**Matthew 21:22**).
- Ask boldly, to a throne of grace (**Hebrews 4:16**).
- Ask diligently seeking Him (**Hebrews 11:6**).

We should pray regularly during each day (**1 Thessalonians 5:17**).

Waiting

Waiting times are difficult times. It seems like God did not hear and the answer is not coming. It seems as if God has forgotten about you and your prayer and that He does not care. Nothing could be further from the truth. The waiting time is an important time to trust God and get closer to Him. It is also a time of examination to see if there are hindrances to prayer in your life. There are no formulas in the Bible to know how long you have to wait on the answer to a prayer, just know that God is at work in you in the way that pleases Him (**Hebrews 13:20-21**). **Hindrances to prayer can include:**

- not asking in faith (**James 1:5-7**)
- asking for the wrong things (**James 4:3**)
- not keeping a good relationship with your spouse (**1 Peter 3:7**)
- un-confessed sin in our lives (**Psalms 66:18**)
- bitterness, un-forgiveness, or willful disobedience (**Hebrews 12:15, Mark 11:25-26**)

Waiting is a good time to examine ourselves to see if there may be things in our lives that God wants us to deal with before we can receive the answer to prayer. It is also a time to learn to trust God.

Receiving the Answer

The answers will come in the Lord's timing. There is nothing we can do in the meantime except trust Him. Some answers will come when we get to heaven, but they will come. Here are some things He has promised:

- He will not leave us or forsake us (**Hebrews 13:5**).
- He knows what we need even before we ask (**Matthew 6:8**).
- He says He will answer (**Jeremiah 33:3**).
- He is for us (**Romans 8:31**).
- He gave us Jesus who was His greatest gift. All other things are of lesser value, and He would not withhold them from us (**Romans 8:32**).
- Don't forget to thank God for answers to prayer as soon as they come (**Luke 17:11-18**).

Praying for others or intercessory prayer helps keep our prayer life from being self-focused.

Things to do while waiting on God to answer prayer.

1. Give thanks (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

2. Trust Him (Numbers 23:19).

3. Consider your request and your motives (James 4:3).

"And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive" (Matthew 21:22).

Learning Together about Prayer



Praying is simply talking to God. It is telling Him truthfully about your thoughts and desires. It is confessing your sins and being honest about the things you struggle with. It is asking, waiting and receiving, but most of all it is a vital part of your relationship with God (**Philippians 4:6**).

Asking God

- Jesus told His disciples to ask Him for things (**John 16:23-24**).
- We are to cast our troubles and problems on Him (**I Peter 5:7**).
- We are to pray for others (**I Thessalonians 5:25**).
- We are to pray for wisdom (**James 1:5**).
- We should pray for our leaders (**I Timothy 2:1-3**).
- We should pray for courage (**Acts 4:23-32**).

Waiting

Waiting on an answer is hard because we are so impatient. God is not a vending machine. There is no secret formula to make Him do things. You simply have to wait on Him. He is not too busy or confused about what to do. He is working all things together for our good (**Romans 8:28**). While you wait:

- Give thanks to God for all things (**I Thessalonians 5:18**).
- Trust Him. He does not lie (**Numbers 23:19**).
- Consider your request and my motives (**James 4:3**).
- Thank Him for prayers He has already answered (**Psalms 66:19-20**).

Receiving the Answer

The answer will come in the Lord's timing. It will be the best answer possible, even better than what we asked for (**Ephesians 3:20, Romans 8:28**).



Follow this modeled prayer from the book of Matthew:

"After this manner therefore pray ye:
Our Father which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name."

"Thy kingdom come. Thy will be
done in earth, as *it is* in heaven."

"Give us this day our daily bread."

"And forgive us our debts, as we
forgive our debtors."

"And lead us not into temptation, but
deliver us from evil:"

"For thine is the kingdom, and the
power, and the glory, for ever. Amen"
(**Matthew 6:9-13**).

Memory Verse

"And all things, whatsoever ye shall
ask in prayer, believing, ye shall
receive" (**Matthew 21:22**).

****Praying using the Scriptures
(especially the Psalms) is good
practice.***

Passing it On

Most Christians wish they had a better prayer life. Many believers think that prayer doesn't seem to work for them, so they just give up on it. Having a conversation with someone about prayer is easier than you think. Here is a way to get one started.



Me: "Hey there, how are you doing?"

Friend: "Not so well. I found out that my friend has cancer."

Me: "I am very sorry about that. What is his name? I will put him on my prayer list."

Friend: "Do you really think that will help? I have prayed for things in the past, but they never seem to turn out like I want them to."

Me: "I know that prayer works because God has promised to hear our prayers. He has answered many of my prayers, not always like I wanted, but always in the best way."

Friend: "How do I get Him to answer prayer the way I want Him to?"

Me: "Sometimes the answer is what you wanted, but God answers prayers in a way that brings the best result and glorifies Him. Sometimes our prayers are selfish, and we just want what we want without considering what is best" **(Matthew 21:22).**^{MV}

Friend: "So God is just going to do what He wants to do whether we pray or not?"

Me: "What God wants to do with prayer is get you close to Him so that He can answer your prayer, but also help you understand why His answer is best. I have asked Him for lots of things that He didn't give me, and later I am glad He didn't!"

Friend: "So if I spend time in prayer with God, I will know what He wants and how to know what to pray for in different circumstances."

Me: "That's right. And in the meantime, He has promised to give you mercy and grace to help you in your time of need" **(Hebrews 4:15-16).**



Now What? Put the memory verse to work.

“And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive” (**Matthew 21:22**).

It is not an easy thing to develop a consistent prayer life. It takes dedication for it to become a habit, and some accountability is a great help.

- **All things can be brought to God in prayer:** The God who wants you to confess your sins to Him for forgiveness, wants to hear about everything that is in your heart.
- **Believe that He is the God that answers prayer:** Don't miss out just because you didn't ask Him. We have not because we ask not (**James 4:2-3**).
- **Expect that God will answer with the best answer for you:** Don't sink your happiness into the answer that you want, but accept the fact that God knows what is best. Trust Him to answer with the best result possible.
- **God doesn't reveal how long it will be before He answers:** Use the time between the asking and the receiving to seek His will for the result. We ask for His will all the time. We must be willing to accept it.
- **Don't forget to thank God for answered prayer.**

How can I make prayer work in my life?

We would probably pray more if we saw prayer work in our lives. We pray for something, and if it doesn't happen, we lose confidence in praying. Set a time this week to pray. Try following these guidelines:

- Plan shorter, but more frequent prayer times. If your mind wanders after five minutes of prayer, then stop there until you get better at it.
- Don't try to pray super spiritual prayers. Go to God and tell Him the truth about how you are feeling. Tell him when you are hurt, jealous, envious, obsessed, or angry about something. He knows already, so you can't fool Him.
- Pick a Psalm in the Old Testament where the person writing was feeling like you are feeling. Then let the Psalm be your prayer guide. Just substitute you for him.

Notes and Ideas:

Lesson 10: Teaching about Telling Your Story of Salvation



Introduction

The most personal thing we have in our Christian life is our testimony of when God saved us. It is a story that you tell best and is one of your first and most powerful tools to give witness of the change that Christ has made in your life. We witness with both our life and our lips. That means that our works should glorify God, since that is what we were saved to do (**Ephesians 2:10**). Our testimony of salvation is something we should talk about as often as possible. The apostle Paul was always ready to give his testimony, and Peter says to be ready to give an answer to every man who asks you the reason for the hope that is in you (**I Peter 3:15**).

First you have to have that story. Be sure that your faith is in Jesus and not in religion, heritage, or something other than Christ. Remember, childlike faith in a super strong object (Jesus) is all it takes. It's not the strength of your faith, but the strength of the object of your faith that matters. Your testimony will be made powerful by the Holy Spirit of God, and He will make you a witness who can reach both your community and the rest of the world (**Acts 1:8**). Those who witnessed His resurrection and saw the resurrected Jesus turned from men who denied Him at His crucifixion and hid, to men willing to die for Him. We are the witnesses of the resurrection today as seen in the Bible. We need to talk about what we have seen.

Jesus was the light of the world while He was in the world. Now that He is not here in a physical body anymore, we are the light of the world (**Matthew 5:14**). We are more than just the light, we are His ambassadors (**II Corinthians 5:20**). That means that we are to go, in His place, and take His message to everyone we meet. His message convicts the lost to repent and be saved. We are the messengers, light bearers and salt of the earth. Salt should make a person thirsty for the water of life: Jesus. If the Gospel is hid (**II Corinthians 4:3**), then it is hidden to them who are lost. Since we are the ones who have it, we should know it and should testify of it. We are the ones hiding it if we don't share it. Our testimony is more than just a story, it is one of the most powerful witnessing tools we have.

Turning a conversation into an opportunity to witness is no easy task. It is another spiritual discipline that must be practiced so that it becomes natural. Human beings are great at turning conversations into stories about themselves. We usually offer details about ourselves to cause others to think highly of us. Our fear is that they will think us strange for believing in Christ. That is a fear which can be chased away by a little courage, practice, and some good responses by those to whom we witness. This lesson should help both the student and teacher develop the habit of regularly witnessing about the resurrected Christ and our new life in Him.



Telling my Story of Salvation



Preparing to Teach

No one can tell your story of salvation better than you. We should find ways to bring up our testimonies when we talk to people. Our light (that Jesus placed in us) is to shine so that men will see it, the change in us, and glorify God (**Matthew 5:16**). We (as born again believers) have been given the Holy Spirit to indwell us and to give us power to witness of the things that Christ has done in our lives. It is natural for a Christian to witness of his Savior (**Acts 1:8**). That means, the evidence of a Spirit-filled life is a life full of our story about how Jesus saved us.

Your Personal Testimony

Your testimony is not only the account of the time that you placed your faith and trust in Christ, but also includes your daily walk and the growth of your relationship with Him. Giving your testimony should be a normal part of your life and conversation since it is the single most significant thing that has ever happened.

- Paul gave his testimony as the way to explain all the rest of the things he did (**Acts 22:1-15**).
- He liked to talk about where God brought him from (**1 Timothy 1:12-15, Galatians 1:13-14**).
- He wanted to tell people how God had used his life (**Galatians 1:15-24**).

The story in **John Chapter 9** gives us great comfort in the fact that we do not have to have deep theological training to give our testimonies.

- His testimony was simply, “I used to be blind and now I see” (**John 9:11, 21, 25**). He did not try to answer all of their theological questions, but simply used his testimony of salvation.
- He gave this testimony the same day he was saved. It was impossible to deny that he had been changed by the power of God.

Jesus said, “As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world” (John 9:5).



Since Jesus is not here bodily anymore, we are the light of the world. We reflect His light to the world.



“Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid” (Matthew 5:14).

A witness is a person who has **seen, heard, or experienced something** and is called on to give testimony, or testify, about it. For example, in **John 4:39**, many Samaritans believed because a woman accused of adultery became a witness of the grace of God.

Why Should I Tell My Story?

Jesus came to seek and to save that which was lost (**Luke 19:10**). He prayed for laborers to go into His harvest of souls (**Matthew 9:38-39**). Jesus' mission to this earth was to seek and save the lost and get others to help Him reach them. Understanding the following Scriptures should make us want to witness:

- He saved us when we were sinners (**I Timothy 1:15**).
- God so loves mankind (**John 3:16**).
- Mankind is condemned already (**John 3:18**).
- The light of the gospel can open men's eyes (**John 3:19**).
- God's will is that everyone get saved (**II Peter 3:9**).
- Believers owe their lives to God (**Romans 12:1-2**).
- We are the witnesses of the resurrection of Jesus (**Acts 2:32**).

We have been given the ministry of reconciliation. That means that we can offer salvation to any person on behalf of God, and God will honor the offer. We have the Word of reconciliation, which is the Bible. We are able to show the promises of God to anyone and let them know they can be saved if they repent and believe (**II Corinthians 5:14-21**).

Things to Remember

The best ways to tell your story is to follow examples in the Bible. Remember what it says about the Christian when it comes to telling your testimony of salvation. Not everyone wants to hear about it, and some will even make fun. That could never change the truth about what happened in your life when God saved you from your sin. When you tell your story, remember the following precepts from the Bible:

- Let your good works glorify God (**Matthew 5:16**).
- Invite your friends and family to hear about God (**Acts 10:24, 10:33-35**). Cornelius invited a preacher to his house and gathered his friends to hear the message.
- Be salt and light (**Matthew 5:13-16**).
- Sow the seed of the gospel often and patiently. Water and cultivate it (**I Corinthians 3:6-7**).
- Pray to God to give the increase (**I Corinthians 3:6-7**).

Because we have the truth, we have become debtors to all those who do not have the truth. We owe it to them and to Christ (**Romans 1:14-16**).

Some special things about my story are:

- *the date*
- *the place*
- *the person who led me to Christ*

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (**Act 1:8**).

Learning Together to Tell Your Story



Our testimony is both the story of how Jesus saved us, and how He can save anyone else who believes on Him (**John 1:12**). Our story starts back in the section on sin and the fall of man. That is the situation we were in before we got saved. Now we are new creatures in Christ Jesus (**II Corinthians 5:17**).

Why Should I Share My Faith?

- We are to let the light in us shine so that men will glorify God (**Matthew 5:16**).
- It is natural for a Christian, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to be a witness for Christ (**Acts 1:8**).
- Jesus declared that He came to seek and to save that which was lost (**Luke 19:10**).
- He prayed for laborers to go into His harvest of souls. This was His main prayer (**Matthew 9:38-39**).
- God loves man and sent Jesus to die on the cross for all men (**John 3:16**).
- Man is condemned already (**John 3:18**).
- The light of the gospel can open their eyes if it gets to them (**John 3:19**).
- God's mission and will is that none should perish but that all come to repentance (**II Peter 3:9**).
- It's shame on us that all the world doesn't have the gospel (**I Corinthians 15:34**).

How Do I Tell My Story?

Learning to make your testimony, or your witness, of Jesus part of everyday life is important for your spiritual growth. Some ways to get started are:

- Invite your friends and family to hear about God. (**Acts 10:24, 10:33-35**).
- Be salt and light (**Matthew 5:13-16**).
- Sow the seed of the gospel often and patiently. Water and cultivate it (**I Corinthians 3:6-7**).



The man, in John, Chapter 9 whom Jesus healed, gave a very simple explanation the same day of what happened to him.

“He answered and said, A man that is called Jesus made clay, and anointed mine eyes, and said unto me, Go to the pool of Siloam, and wash: and I went and washed, and I received sight” (**John 9:11**).

“Then again the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. He said unto them, He put clay upon mine eyes, and I washed, and do see” (**John 9:15**).

“He answered and said, Whether he be a sinner *or no*, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see” (**John 9:25**).

All he did was talk about Jesus and what Jesus did for him.

Memory Verse

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” (**Acts 1:8**).

My testimony goes like this:

Passing it On

For creatures who love to talk about themselves (humans), we find it very difficult to give out our testimonies of salvation. Here is a way you can get that conversation started with a friend.

Friend: “You want to hang out Saturday night? Or, you want to . . . do something?”

Me: “Sure, but I need to get ready for church tomorrow, so I can’t stay too late.” (Or, you can say other things that bring God into the conversation.)



Friend: “You sure do a lot of church stuff.”

Me: “I know. I didn’t used to, but that all changed when I accepted Christ” (**II Cor. 5:17**).

Friend: “What made you change?”

Me: “Jesus changed my heart. I was living for myself and just doing whatever I wanted to do. A friend told me about how Jesus changed his life, and I wanted to know if He would do that for me as well.” (At this point share your testimony of how you got saved.)

Not everyone will want to hear it, but almost no one will cut you off or show disrespect.

Friend: “So now you don’t get to do fun stuff anymore?”

Me: “Actually, I have never enjoyed life as much as I do now. Jesus has filled my heart with joy. I love serving Him. Not only that, but now I know that I will go to heaven when I die. I don’t have to worry about death anymore.”

Friend: “So you don’t have any worries anymore?”

Me: “Oh yes, I still have worries, and sometimes even fears, but I also have Jesus with me all the time to comfort me and care for me.” (Continue to share your story and lead the conversation, hoping for a chance to ask your friend if they would like to see how Jesus can change their life.) (**Acts 1:8**)^{MV}



Now What?

Put the memory verse to work.

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” **(Acts 1:8)**.

Let’s break this verse down so you can understand how to live it out.

- **You shall receive power when the Holy Ghost comes on you:** Every child of God has the Holy Spirit inside them **(Romans 8:9)**. It is the Holy Spirit that gives you the power to witness. He also has the power to touch and convict a heart. That is His job, not ours. Our job is to tell the story of how Jesus worked in us.
- **The power of the Holy Spirit WILL make you a witness:** We have to open our mouths and do the talking. It is in our willingness and courage to tell the story that will allow the Holy Spirit to work in others. We are the witnesses of the resurrected Jesus. He is the subject of our witness.
- **There is no limit to how far your witness can go:** Philip witnessed to a man from Africa **(Acts 8:27)** and he got saved. His faithfulness to listen to the Holy Spirit and witness affected two continents. Discuss that story with your teacher.

How can I share my story about how Jesus changed my life?

We love to talk about ourselves, but we don’t always feel comfortable giving our testimonies. Here are some ways to make that a natural part of your conversation:

- Thank Jesus each day for saving you. Your attitude of gratefulness will create a willingness to talk openly about Him.
- Ask God each day to put someone in your path who you can witness to. This is His will, so you know He will answer.
- Courage will come as you practice telling your story. He promised to always be with you.
- Have confidence in His power, not in your ability to tell the story. You never know what will move the person you are talking to.

Notes and Ideas:

Lesson 11: Teaching about the Holy Spirit, Our Comforter



Introduction

The Holy Spirit of God is the third member of the Trinity, and like Jesus, is fully God. He is third only in mention as all the members of the Trinity are equally God, yet all fill a different role as God. It takes a triune God to approach sinful man without compromising His holiness. The work of the Holy Spirit starts in Genesis as he broods (hovers) over the earth, striving with the hearts of men to respond to the Gospel message and be saved. The Holy Spirit was sent to this world by the Father and by the Son for several reasons (**John 16:8-11**). The first was to convict the world of sin. The Holy Spirit uses the Word of God (**Ephesians 6:17**) on the conscience of men (**Romans 2:15**) to show them their sinfulness and lost condition before God.

Second, the Holy Spirit is the agent in salvation that renews the one who believes on Jesus and calls on His name (**Titus 3:5**). The Holy Spirit indwells the believer and becomes His guide to the Scriptures and discerner of truth (**Romans 8:9**). The Holy Spirit is called the Comforter as well. It is His role to comfort us since Jesus is not here with us in bodily form any more. The Holy Spirit gives us the presence of God in our hearts, but also as we assemble as a church. He is there in our midst (**Ephesians 2:22**) and makes the assembly of believers a habitation of God. It is through the Holy Spirit that Jesus can say He is with us, even to the end of the world (**Matthew 28:20**).

The Holy Spirit fills other roles as well. He helps us pray (**Acts 8:26-27**) and brings together believers of all different walks of life as one body in Christ in the local church (**I Corinthians 12:13**). It is the Holy Spirit who is the administrator of the church. The Holy Spirit has just one voice, and that voice is the Word of God. It is very important to remember that the Holy Spirit operates fully within the bounds of Scripture. He is often misunderstood. Subjective things are often credited to Him that He didn't say or do. He only talks about Jesus, and He only uses Bible words to do it.

The Holy Spirit actively helps us understand the Word of God. He does not do this with an audible voice, rather by bringing the Scriptures together in our mind as we read the Word of God. He will remind us of things we have read in the Old Testament as we are reading the New Testament. He will connect Spiritual things in one passage with those in another, and fill in the blanks for us (**I Corinthians 1:11-13**). Even without a teacher or commentary, a person can understand the Scriptures through the work of the Spirit's teaching (**I John 2:27**). To have the Spirit work in us this way requires that we spend much time in the Bible and in reflection. This lesson should help the teacher and student understand the multi-faceted role of the Holy Spirit, sense His comfort, and receive the benefit of His guidance.



The Holy Spirit



Preparing to Teach

The Holy Spirit (also called the Holy Ghost and the Comforter) was sent to us from God to teach us about Jesus and to bring His Words to our remembrance. The Holy Spirit is a person and not a thing. He is not just a bundle of spiritual energy; He is God (**I John 5:7**). The Holy Spirit speaks about Jesus and not of Himself. He also does some very special things in the life of the believer and is, as previously stated, our Comforter. The word comforter signifies one who comes alongside us to help us in our Christian life.

The Holy Spirit and Conviction

Conviction is the work of the Holy Spirit to show a person that they're guilty, before God, of breaking His holy law.

- There are eternal consequences (**Romans 6:23**).
- The Holy Spirit works in hearts as the Scriptures are preached (**Ephesians 6:17**).
- He convicts our conscience of our sin by helping us realize we are guilty of the sin we see in the Bible (**John 16:8-9**).
- He strives with men about their sin, but will not do that forever if He is ignored (**Genesis 6:3**).
- He stabs, or sticks a pin, in our conscience that is hard to kick back against because it's true (**Acts 9:5**).
- Conviction is a legal term. It means that a person's guilt has been proven. A penalty now hangs on them. This is pictured by the story of the woman taken in adultery (**John 8:7-9**).
- It is under this weight of guiltiness (conviction) that a person calls on Jesus to save them (**I Corinthians 12:3**).

The Holy Spirit and Salvation

Once the work of conviction has happened, the Holy Spirit then becomes the agent of salvation. Forgiveness is realized by the guilty person through the power of the blood of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit then does both the immediate work of sanctification in the believer and the on-going work of helping the believer sanctify himself (**I John 3:1-3**).

The Holy Spirit is God and is the third member of the Trinity. That can be seen in how He came to us as the Comforter.

God the Father gave Him.

“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you” (John 14:26).

Jesus the Son sent Him.

“Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you” (John 16:7).

The Holy Spirit Came.

Jesus went away and the Comforter came (John 16:7).

- We are renewed by the Holy Ghost (**Titus 3:5**).
- We change from being dead in trespasses and sins to being alive in Jesus (**John 5:24**).
- The Holy Spirit makes us alive when we get saved and comes to indwell us (**Ephesians 2:1, John 14:17, Romans 8:9**).
- We cannot lose or undo our salvation, but we are sealed into everlasting life by the Holy Spirit (**Ephesians 1:13, 4:30**).
- The Holy Spirit becomes the earnest of our inheritance (**Ephesians 1:14**). This means that Jesus, who has promised to return for us, has given us His Holy Spirit to prove to us that He will return for us.

The Holy Spirit and Our Christian Life

The Holy Spirit was not just given to us to comfort and seal us, but is the divine power of God alive in us. He wants to guide us into righteousness and godliness and yield our lives as instruments of the same to bring glory and honor to Jesus.

- The Holy Spirit immediately begins working in us after salvation to bring about fruit in our lives (**Galatians 5:22-26**).
- Walking in the Spirit should be the natural thing for us now (**Romans 8:1**) since we are no longer in the flesh (**Romans 8:9**).
- The Holy Spirit gives us the power to be witnesses of Jesus and testify of the resurrection of Christ (**Acts 1:8, 4:8**).
- The Holy Spirit gives us the power to understand the Scriptures. The Bible is a spiritual book and is spiritually discerned (**I Corinthians 2:14**).
- The Holy Spirit teaches us the Bible by letting us see things in the verses that He compares with other verses as He brings them to our remembrance (**I Corinthians 2:10-13**).
- He is our Bible teacher (**I John 2:27**).
- He helps us pray (**Romans 8:26**).

The Holy Spirit is our Comforter and guide. He is also the fulfillment of the promise of Jesus that He would be with us always, even to the end of the world (**Matthew 28:20**). It is important to remember that, as a person, the Holy Spirit can be grieved in the life of the believer (**Ephesians 4:30**). That happens when a believer does things that are embarrassing to Christ and lives in a way that does not bring honor to God. Every believer should work to set his life apart for Jesus through the Scriptures and the power of the Holy Spirit.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law” (**Galatians 5:22-23**).

***The Holy Spirit
indwells the believer
and helps him live out
who he is in Christ.***

“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you” (**John 14:26**).

Learning Together about the Holy Spirit



The Holy Spirit plays a big part in our Christian life. He is our Comforter (**John 14:26**), who first came to us to convict us of our sin. Then He made salvation possible in our lives and made us alive in Christ. Now He guides us, fills us, and helps us understand the Scriptures. The Holy Spirit is a person, not a force. He has feelings and can be grieved because of things we do. He lives in us now, and we should pay attention to His leading (**Romans 8:14**).

The Holy Spirit in Conviction

The Holy Spirit does not begin to comfort and guide until a person has responded to His convicting power.

- The Holy Spirit works in hearts as the Scriptures are preached (**Ephesians 6:17**).
- He convicts us of our sin by helping us realize we are guilty of breaking God's law (**John 16:8-9**).
- He works on men's consciences to show them they are guilty before God. (**John 8:7-9, Hebrews 10:2**).
- It is under this weight of guiltiness (conviction) that a person calls on Jesus to save them (**I Corinthians 12:3**).

The Holy Spirit and Salvation

Conviction is not meant to condemn, but to bring us to salvation in Christ. That is the work of the Holy Spirit.

- We are renewed by the Holy Ghost (**Titus 3:5**).
- The Holy Spirit makes us alive when we get saved and comes to indwell us (**Ephesians 2:1, John 14:17, Romans 8:9**).
- We cannot lose or undo our salvation. We are sealed into everlasting life by the Holy Spirit (**Ephesians 1:13, 4:30**).
- The Holy Spirit keeps us eternally secure in Christ.
- The Spirit sanctifies (sets us apart) us (**I John 3:3**).



The Holy Spirit living in us is the guarantee from God that Jesus will return for us and take us to heaven with Him (**Ephesians 1:14**).

The Holy Spirit is:

Comforter
(**John 14:16**)

Teacher
(**John 14:26**)

Guide
(**Romans 8:14**)

Our power to witness of Christ
(**Acts 1:8**)

Our Helper when we pray
(**Romans 8:26**)

Memory Verse

"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you" (**John 14:26**).

Passing it On

Teaching about the Holy Spirit is important because He is often misunderstood. More than likely, He will usually be a topic in a conversation with a believer.



Friend: “How do I know when the Holy Spirit is speaking to me?”

Me: “Well, the Bible says He indwells the believer. So, He is with you all the time. He speaks to you through the Bible (**I Corinthians 2:13**). So to hear Him speak, you should read the Bible.”

Friend: “Does He speak to me in other ways?”

Me: “He is bound by what the Bible says about Him when it comes to speaking. He will also bring things to your remembrance that you read in the Bible some other time” (**John 14:26**).

Friend: “Will He tell me specifically what the will of God is for my life?”

Me: “He won’t use an audible voice, or send you a telegram, but as you follow Christ and do the plain and obvious things the Bible tells you to do, He will guide you to the specifics. All the plain truths of the Bible are the ways that the Holy Spirit leads you. That puts you on a path and heading in a direction. The Holy Spirit will then set things in the path for you that will let you know what to do next” (**John 14:26**).^{MV}

Friend: “I have asked Him to explain Bible verses to me, but I still don’t get them.”

Me: “The Holy Spirit teaches, compares Bible verses, and brings all things to your remembrance, but He doesn’t do it automatically. He does it as you read and study the Bible.”

Friend: “So the Holy Spirit speaks and works best through the Bible.”

Me: “Now you are catching on. **Ephesians 6:17** calls the Bible the sword of the Spirit.”



Now What?
Put the memory verse to work.

“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you” **(John 14:26)**.

The disciples had Jesus with them to answer their questions and deal with issues. We have the Bible and the Holy Spirit. Practice these things from the memory verse to understand how the Spirit speaks to you.

- **The Comforter is the Holy Ghost and is sent from God:** The Holy Ghost is God, just like Jesus is God, but the Holy Ghost is a spirit like God the Father. He does not have a body like Jesus.
- **The Holy Spirit is a he:** He is a person and is very personal. He lives in the believer!
- **He teaches us the things that Jesus said to the disciples and to the world:** The Holy Spirit has a voice and that voice is the Word of God. Here is how you know if He is speaking to you – if you are reading or hearing the Bible, then the Holy Spirit is speaking. That’s easy!
- **The Holy Spirit teaches us the Bible.** His job is to help us understand the Bible.

What is my relationship like with the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is called our Comforter because He uses the Bible to put us in the presence of Jesus, just like the disciples.

- Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your thoughts as you read the Bible. Know that He uses Bible verses to explain other Bible verses.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your thoughts as you pray.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you witness for Jesus.

Discuss with your teacher:

- The Holy Spirit speaks to us through the church and its community of believers.
- The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin and pokes at us to keep our lives pure for God.
- The Holy Spirit speaks to my spirit and gives me assurance of my salvation.

Notes and Ideas:

Lesson 12: Teaching about the Church



Introduction

The church was formed by Jesus and is built upon Jesus. Those who profess Christ as their Savior, and who identify with Him publicly through baptism, can become members of a local church and actively serve God and others. Membership in a local assembly is like a promise each member makes with the other. Many churches write out their promise as a covenant so that prospective members know what commitments are expected. The word church is found over one hundred times in the New Testament, and each time it refers to either a local assembly or the institution itself. Mostly, it refers to local assemblies.

After Jesus' ascension in **Acts Chapter 1**, the assembly was told to wait for the day of Pentecost. On this day, the Holy Spirit would take over the administration of the church, leaving the members to be the stewards of the local assemblies. The church is the body of Christ and is the organization to which Christ left the responsibility of the Great Commission. Every Christian should become part of a Bible preaching, Bible teaching, and most of all, Bible practicing church. It is the will of God that we assemble together to worship the Lord and to reach the world with the gospel.

The church has two offices and two ordinances. These are briefly described in the lesson. The office of the pastor is for the preaching and teaching of the Word of God and the oversight of the flock. The deacons are servants who assist the pastors to make sure they are free to give themselves to their preaching and guiding. The ordinances are baptism and the Lord's Supper. (See lesson 7 for baptism.) The Lord's Supper serves as a time to reflect on our lives and remember what Christ did for us on the cross. It also focuses our attention on His return. Every student of the Bible should seek to find their place in the local assembly to grow spiritually and to serve God and others.

Perhaps more important than understanding the structure, offices, and ordinances of the local church is understanding our role in it. Jesus Christ founded His church upon His finished work on the cross, and to be the gathering of those who profess Him as their Savior. The gathering statement being, "thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (**Matthew 16:16**). Each local church of baptized believers is charged with carrying out the Great Commission (**Mark 16:15**). Believers willingly submit themselves one to another to practice the spiritual disciplines, care for the church, and one another. The church is called a body and is made up of many members (**I Corinthians 12:12**). Those members each have a special function and the body is not complete unless each member does his part. This lesson will explain what the church is and how its offices and ordinances are given by God to guide it in the Great Commission.



The Church



Preparing to Teach

Jesus is the founder and builder of the church. The word “church” means a body, or a group of believers, called out together to worship the Lord and carry out the Great Commission. The church is at the center of everything that Jesus is doing in the New Testament. It would be impossible to be involved in the work of God in this age without being a part of a New Testament church. The ordinances, offices, and instructions given to the church convey the plans and the methods that Jesus has laid out for the redemption of the world and the glory and worship of God.

What Is the Church?

The church is a group of called-out believers who are organized to carry out the Great Commission. The study of how the church functions is a study of how Jesus led His disciples and how the church teachers and writers of the epistles instructed the churches. Membership in a local church is a commitment to Christ and the other members of the church. It is not something to take lightly or casually.

- The formation of the church is first seen in the Gospels, where Jesus announces to His disciples that He will be forming His church upon Himself as its foundation (**Matthew 16:13-18**).
- The disciples are the stewards of the assembly, keeping as much purity and unity as possible (**Matthew 18:15-17**).
- A person can be a member of a local church, but the church belongs to God (**Matthew 16:18, Acts 20:28**).
- Christ is the head of the church, and the church is called the body of Christ (**Colossians 1:18-19**).
- He gave the Great Commission to His church. This is the command to teach the gospel to every person in the world (**Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15, Luke 24:46-48, John 20:21, Acts 1:8**).
- The Great Commission is the purpose of the church, and God’s plan to get the gospel to the world.

Things to look for in a church:

- The Great Commission is the mission (**Acts 1:8**).
- Bible text driven preaching and teaching (**2 Timothy 4:2**).
- Separation from worldliness (**2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1**).
- The Word of God is central to everything (**2 Timothy 3:15-17**).
- Discipleship is a primary ministry (**2 Timothy 2:1-3**).
- Evangelism and believer’s baptism by immersion (**Acts 8:36-38**).
- They desire to meet together for encouragement and worship (**Hebrews 10:25**).

How Is the Church Set Up?

The church has two ordinances and two offices. The ordinances (baptism and the Lord's Supper) are to recognize our identity with Him and the sacrifice of Christ for our sins. The offices (pastors and deacons) are for the care and spiritual growth of the church.

- Baptism is part of the believer's profession of what Jesus has done in his life. It pictures the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus and the believer. The believer now walks in newness of life (**Romans 6:3-6**).
- The Lord's Supper is a time of reflection on what Jesus did for us already. His death and shed blood are symbolized with the bread and juice. It is also a time to recognize that He is coming again for us, and a time of self-examination (**I Corinthians 11:23-34**).
- Pastors are gifts from God to the church (**Ephesians 4:11**). They are to be overseers of God's heritage and not lords over the people. They are to feed the flock spiritually (**I Peter 5:2-4**).
- Deacons are men in the church who have almost the same qualifications as pastors (**I Timothy 3:1-18**), but are servants to the church and the pastors. They are men who are full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and are willing to spend their lives serving the church (**Acts 6:1-3**).

The church is an assembly not a building. It is made up of believers who have made a covenant together to worship the Lord and carry out the Great Commission (**Hebrews 10:25**).

Membership in a Local Church

Members make a promise to meet together to love God and to serve Him. With this membership comes great privileges and also great responsibilities!

- You must be a born again believer in the Lord Jesus Christ (**Acts 2:47, Colossians 1:1-2**).
- You must be baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost (**Acts 2:41-42**).
- You must be determined to live out your new life in Christ (**Ephesians 5:15**).

"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (**Matthew 16:18**).

Learning Together about the Church



The church is not the building. The building is where the church meets. A church is an organized group of baptized believers who have come together to get the gospel to their community and the world. Jesus organized the church during His earthly ministry and left it in the hands of the apostles when He Left (**Matthew 16:18**).

- Christ is the head of the church, and the church is called the body of Christ (**Colossians 1:18-19**).
- He gave the Great Commission to His church. This is the command to teach the gospel to every person in the world (**Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15, Luke 24:46-48, John 20:21, Acts 1:8**).

Ordinances and Offices

- **Baptism** is part of the believer's profession of what Jesus has done in his life. It is a symbol of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ that the believer has partaken of in Jesus (**Romans 6:3-6**).
- **The Lord's Supper** is a time to recognize that Jesus died for us and is coming again. The juice represents His shed blood, and the bread represents His body broken for us (**I Corinthians 11:23-34**).
- **Pastors** are gifts from God to the church. Their purpose is to grow the people spiritually, do the work of the ministry and to build up (edify) the church (**Ephesians 4:11-12**).
- **Deacons** are men in the church who have given themselves to be servants to the church and the pastors. They are men who are full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and are willing to spend their lives serving the church (**Acts 6:1-3**).



Every believer should desire to become part of a local church as soon as possible after accepting Christ.

Ordinances are commands or instructions given by Jesus on what things the church should do.

Requirements for Membership

*You must be a born again believer in the Lord Jesus Christ (**Acts 2:47**).*

*You must be baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost (**Acts 2:41-42**).*

*Be determined to live out your new life in Christ (**Ephesians 5:15**).*

Memory Verse

"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it (Matthew 16:18**).**

Passing it On

We should always be ready to invite people to church. Many Christians also have trouble finding a church where they can serve. Here is how you can pass on what you know about your church to someone who doesn't know Christ or go to church.

Me: "If you are not doing anything Sunday, how about coming to church with me?"

Friend: "I am not really the church going type."

Me: "Really, what type is that?"



Friend: "A devout Christian, or church member, or religious."

Me: "Lots of people come to just check it out. They all aren't members. Some people want to find out what church is all about. Jesus actually started the church with new believers who had never been to church before because there wasn't one yet" **(Matthew 16:18).**^{MV}

Friend: "What do you do? How long does it last?"

Me: "We meet together, sing worship music, and hear a message from the Bible. Come and see" **(John 1:38-9).**

Friend: "I don't think I have any church clothes."

Me: "What you normally wear will be fine. The important thing is that you come. I want to introduce you to my friends."

Friend: "I have heard church people are judgmental. They might think I am strange."

Me: "We may have a few like that, but most are just regular people. They would like you."

Friend: "How long does it last?"

Me: "Just a little bit over an hour, but time flies. We have great music and a message from the Bible. I am sure you will get something out of it. See you Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m."



Now What? Put the memory verse to work.

“And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” **(Matthew 16:18)**.

Every believer should become a member of a local church. Discuss these important parts of church membership with your friends.

- **Jesus started the church.** The church was founded by Jesus Himself. He invited all those who believe to come and be a part of this great fellowship.
- **The church’s first members were the apostles.** The church today is the same church that was started by Jesus and the apostles. That means it has been going on for about two thousand years!
- **It is more powerful than hell itself.** Hell and the devil have declared war against the church, but they can never defeat it. That is how powerful it is. It is God’s church.
- **No perfect people, just saved people are members.** Jesus didn’t let any perfect people in the church because there weren’t any to be found. He opened it up to any person who believed on Him and was saved.

How can I be a good church member?

Jesus didn’t start the church so believers would have a place to meet and fellowship. His church has a mission and a purpose.

Questions to ask yourself:

- The church is a body, and each member has a function or duty. What is my duty? Who can I go help?
- How do I look at faithfulness? Am I missed when I am not there?
- Do I give when the offering is being collected? Do I help support the ministries of the church?
- What is my attitude when I go to church? Am I going to worship God or just hang out?
- What is my attitude when the Word of God is being preached? Am I ready to learn and take notes?

Notes and Ideas:

Lesson 13: Teaching about Generosity and Giving



Introduction

Learning to give means you are growing spiritually. Giving is not theory or philosophy, it is faith in action. Learning to give sacrificially in order to support the work of God in the local church is part of being a Christian. Much of our lives will be spent earning the money we need to live. It will involve making financial decisions and dealing with financial pressures. Those pressures will push back against our desire to give and make us feel like giving might cause us to run out and not have enough for our own needs. Learning to give requires an understanding of how God uses money in our lives. God does not operate according to the economy of this world system, but has His own economy. The believer has access to God's economy through faith in Him.

God is the Creator, and therefore, the owner of everything. All things were created by Him and for Him (**Colossians 1:16**). We are not really the owners of anything we have. God owns the silver and the gold (**Haggai 2:8**). He also gives us the power to earn money. Not just so we can use it to live an easy and comfortable life, but so we use it to reach the lost with the gospel. Giving is trusting that God will take care of us. Giving comes with a big blessing and the promise that God is able to make all grace abound toward us so that we will always have all sufficiency in all things (**II Corinthians 9:8**). Not for ourselves primarily, but that we may do good works.

Generosity is born in the heart of a grateful person. When we are grateful, we realize that we don't deserve to have anything, but have been blessed with so very much. That gratefulness gives us the desire to show gratitude back to the one who blessed us so much. That person is Jesus. Christians should learn giving first as a recognition of gratitude and a response to a plain commandment. As we mature, giving should become a normal part of our Christian life. Tithing is presented in the Bible as God's plan to teach us systematic giving. Regularly, as God prospers us, we should bring at least ten percent of our income to the Lord. Then, as we grow in faith and trust in Christ, we go on to make offerings and missions giving above our tithes and offerings.

The Bible has a lot to say about giving and generosity. Most of the passages in the Bible that appear to be about money are really about character. Money can have a strange effect on us and gain a hold on our attention. It can become a god to us. As God prospers us and allows us to be stewards over larger amounts of wealth or possessions, our character must grow as well. We will soon find, as many rich men have, that money makes a good servant but a poor master. We cannot serve two masters (**Romans 6:24**). This lesson is both about developing generosity as well as becoming stewards, not owners, of what God has blessed us with.

13

Generosity and Giving



Preparing to Teach

Generosity is a quality of being a giver. Understanding all that God has given us, from eternal life to our basic necessities, will help a person become generous. We should give to God and to His work for so many reasons, but it will start with the realization that all that exists belongs to God. We must accept that we are stewards over God's possessions, rather than owners.

Everything Belongs to God

God is not in need of anything that we have. He is the Creator and sustainer of everything. It was all made by Him and for His pleasure.

- God is the Creator and owner of all things (**1 Corinthians 10:26**).
- We don't own anything (**Haggai 2:8**).
- All things were created by Him and for Him (**Colossians 1:16**).
- We come into the world with nothing and that is how we will leave the world (**1 Timothy 6:7**).

God Provides

Whether it is through a job or some other way, God gives us the ability to make money so we can give and buy the necessities of life. So, our jobs don't provide our money, God does. He simply uses our job (whether common laborer, executive, pastor or missionary), and the work we do, to be the channel of income for us. The real purpose for our income is to do His work in this generation.

- God gives us the power to get wealth so that He can establish His work in this world (**Deuteronomy 8:18**).
- God warns us that sometimes we forget Him after He gives us wealth and blesses us with stuff (**Deuteronomy 8:12-14**).
- God wants us to be content with our wages. We should do our best at work, but never pursue money (**Luke 3:14**).

"Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver" (**2 Corinthians 9:7**).

Contentment with what we have promotes generous giving (**1 Timothy 6:6-11**).

- Godliness with contentment is great gain.
- We brought nothing into this world and will take nothing out.
- The measure of contentment is food and clothing.
- Those that desire to be rich will find that pursuit of riches brings a painful life with no peace.

Becoming a Generous Giver

God has given us a system to recognize His blessings toward us each week. Learning to give back to Him a portion of what He gave us is called “tithing,” which means a tenth, and is the biblical way to learn systematic (regular) giving. Since everything already belongs to Him, we are giving back to Him what is already His (**I Chronicles 29:14**).

- Tithing is giving a tenth of everything received or earned each week (**Genesis 28:22**).
- Faithful men like Abraham tithed willingly before the law on tithing ever existed (**Genesis 14:19-20**).
- Under the law, the Levites collected tithes from the people as the way to support the priesthood. They cared for the spiritual needs of the nation (**Numbers 18:21-24**).
- In New Testament church times, tithing is still taught as a means to support the work of God in the church (**I Corinthians 16:1-2**), but the early Christians were so filled with joy and enthusiasm that they gave way beyond tithes (**Acts 4:32, 34-37**).
- The Christians of Macedonia set an example for sacrificial giving by giving in the midst of their own deep poverty (**II Corinthians 8:1-5**).

Getting the Gospel to the World

Tithes and offerings go to support the work of the church you belong to and take care of all ministry expenses. To get the Gospel to the world, as we are commanded in the Great Commission (**Matthew 28:18-20**), we give to missions. This is sacrificial giving, above regular tithes and offerings, so that the church can send missionaries to people who haven’t heard the gospel (**Romans 1:14-16**).

- How shall they hear without a preacher (**Romans 10:14**)?
- How shall the preacher get to them except he be sent out by us (**Romans 10:15**)?
- In the Old Testament Ezra went out to re-build the temple. Those who stayed behind sent money and precious things to “strengthen the hands” of those who went (**Ezra 1:6**).

God wants us to enjoy the things we have been given without guilt, but we should be generous toward good works with them (**I Timothy 6:17-18**).

“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.”

Jim Elliot

“Money is a great servant but a bad master.”

Francis Bacon

You cannot out-give God.

*“Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again” (**Luke 6:38**).*

Learning Together about Generosity and Giving



We learn to give and be generous through acknowledging the greatest act of giving that ever happened. God so loved the world that He gave His only Son for us so that we could have eternal life (**John 3:16**). Giving recognizes that God gave us all that we have. Giving back to Him is just a natural response to our relationship with Him (**I Chronicles 29:14**).

God Owns It All

- God is the Creator and owner of all things (**I Corinthians 10:26**). We don't own anything (**Haggai 2:8**). He owns it all.
- All things were created by Him and for Him (**Colossians 1:16**). We come into the world with nothing and that is how we leave (**I Timothy 6:7**).

Giving Attitudes

Our attitude in giving is important. God commands us to bring offerings to Him in recognition of who He is and His glory (**I Chronicles 16:29**). God does not take money from us for an offering, but He will receive willing offerings from us. Therefore these attitudes are very important:

- **Willingness** is the key attitude to develop about giving to God. He desires us to give because we want to and because we love Him (**Exodus 25:2, Exodus 35:29**).
- **Cheerfulness** is a quality that God says He loves in a giver. A cheerful attitude in bringing our offering brings a blessing to the giver (**I Corinthians 9:7**).
- **Gratefulness** is the recognition that God cares for us always even though we don't deserve His love. We should gratefully bring Him an offering of, not just money, but of praise (**Matthew 6:30-34**).



Generous giving is a virtue that every Christian should develop.

Steps in learning to give:

Begin by tithing. Give 10% of everything that comes into your hands, whether you earned it, or you received it as a gift (**Genesis 28:22**).

Give to the work of evangelizing the world through **missions giving**. Send preachers to carry the gospel to the world
(**Romans 10:14-15**).

Move up as you grow spiritually to **sacrificial giving**. Giving generously means that you are growing spiritually (**II Corinthians 8:3-5**).

Memory Verse

“Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver” (**2 Corinthians 9:7**).

Passing it On

Starting a conversation about giving may seem unusual or awkward, but it can happen very easily if you decide to be intentional about it. This is how a conversation can be started out of simple, ordinary daily activities.

Friend: "Let's go to the movies this weekend."

Me: "I would really like to, but I have spent all my spending money this week, and the rest is for my offering to God this Sunday."



Friend: "Why do you have to give money to the church? Do your parents make you do that?"

Me: "No. My parents taught me to do it by showing me how everything I have belongs to God. He gave it to me. I am just giving back to Him some of what He gave me."

Friend: "So why is He making you give it back?"

Me: "He doesn't make me give it back. He lets me give it willingly. Besides that, I like giving because it means I am an important part of my church. I help make sure we have a place to meet and a pastor to preach. Also, we are able to send missionaries to the rest of the world through our giving" (**Luke 6:38, II Corinthians 9:7**).^{MV}

Friend: "But isn't that money just gone after you give it?"

Me: "Not at all. God gives way more back to me than I give to Him. He blesses me."

Friend: "I think I would feel bad if I had to give some of my money to the church."

Me: "Jesus gave His whole life and all that He had for me. I am very grateful He did that, so it makes me happy that I can give something back to Him. It's all His anyway."

Friend: "I don't understand that. All I wanted to do was go to the movies!"

Me: "Instead of a movie, maybe you can go to church with me Sunday?"



Now What?

Put the memory verse to work.

“Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Part of being a church member is giving. Giving is one of the best ways to grow spiritually. Look at the memory verse and make plans start giving this week.

- **Set your purpose on God:** Our mind goes where our treasures are, and our treasures end up where our mind is (**Matthew 6:21**). So set your mind on the things of God and you will find it easy to give.
- **Don't give grudgingly or of necessity:** That means, don't give like you just got a bill from God. He doesn't work that way. Make sure you remember all He has done for you freely. Then give from a grateful heart.
- **God loves a gift given from a cheerful heart:** Stop and think about it. God doesn't need your money, but the ministry work of the church does. Remember who started the church? It was Jesus. So give to the work that Jesus started with a cheerful heart. God loves it when we do that.
- Discuss **II Corinthians 9:8** with your teacher. God is able to take care of all your needs.

Giving 101

If you are not giving, then the best way to put this lesson to work is to start right away.

Start with tithing. It's easy.

- Take ten percent of what you earned (even if you are still on an allowance) and set it aside for God. Put it in a church envelope and you will be ready to give it on Sunday.
- If you don't have a job, find out what you can do around the house to earn some money, or maybe help a neighbor.
- Above what you give as a tithe, make a promise by faith to give an amount each week or month to missions. That helps missionaries take the gospel to other countries.
- Ask God to help you be faithful to giving and to let others know when He blesses you because of it. He loves it when you praise Him!

Notes and Ideas:

Lesson 14: Teaching about How God Made Me



Introduction

God is the Creator and we are His Creation. These facts are unchangeable and wonderful. It was an all knowing, all powerful, and all present God that created us. He is completely separate from His Creation, yet is involved in every part. One of the key passages of Scripture in this section is **Psalm 139**. It talks about how God knows us, sees us, and thinks about us. He never intended to create us randomly or haphazardly. He also never intended to create us and not be involved in our lives. He is both present and involved with the part of His Creation that is made in His image. Accepting that our divine Creator made us just the way He wanted us, is part of understanding our identity in Him.

We know that in Christ we have been made righteous, justified, and redeemed. It is easy to separate those factors from the physical or familial aspects of our life such as: where I was born, what my family looks like, and in what socio-economic class I belong. Whatever special advantages I had when I came into this world were designed by God for His glory, not mine. Any disadvantages I was given were also designed for His glory and not for my misery.

God made me on purpose and with a purpose. The first act of living out who God made you to be is to get saved. You cannot live out your purpose without Christ as your life. Then, He desires that we use our advantages and disadvantages to His glory. Your past may be full of terrible events and memories. Your new past (in Christ) is wonderful because you have changed families, and now God is your Father. Your past is now an advantage to help others with similar situations find Jesus (**II Corinthians 1:3-4**). Since our strength is found in submission to Christ in all our weaknesses, then our weaknesses become the place where we can experience real strength (**II Corinthians 2:10**).

It is a normal human insecurity to be self-conscious. It is a blessing and a curse to be aware of who we are, and how we measure up or don't measure up to the person beside us. The Bible lets us know that God created us on purpose and with purpose, then saved us to a personal relationship with Him. The Christian should recognize that no person measures up to God's standard on their own, yet all believers now measure up in Jesus (**Colossians 3:3**). God also designed His church to be made up of many different members. He delights in giving more honor to those members who seem to be less (**I Corinthians 12:23-34**). God takes those things that the world thinks are low in value and makes them of great value. This lesson should bring great hope and comfort to anyone who thinks they don't measure up. In Jesus, we are made who we were meant to be.



How God Made Me



Preparing to Teach

I am created by God in His image and through His workmanship. All God creates is good. God has designed a purpose for me and a specific way that He wants to use me to honor His name and His work. Some things about me were decided by God before I was born, like: who my family would be, what gender and race I would be, how tall I would be, and into what generation I would be born. Some of these things just cannot be changed (**Matthew 6:27**). God wants me to use my circumstances to my advantage and for His work. *Things I must learn to accept include:*

- **My past** cannot be changed and is forever a part of history. I must recognize that God was at work in so many things and ways that may not be readily apparent. I must trust Him.
- **My present** is the only moment that I can live in and the only opportunity to work for the Lord. I must learn to accept the things that God allows to be in my path as His will and leave the outcome up to Him.
- **My future** is in the hands of the Lord. I am not promised of tomorrow, but I know whatever future I have is in the hands of the Lord (**James 4:13-15**).
- **My weaknesses** are there to glorify God, not to hurt me (**II Corinthians 12:7-9, John 9:3**).

God Made Me on Purpose

God has designed a special, unique personality into each person. As a part of the body of Christ, the Holy Spirit has given each member a specific function. A purpose for living that is best fulfilled by that person. The body functions properly only when all of its members are together and working together in their role. According to **I Corinthians 12:18-24**, no one is insignificant to God. He loves giving great honor to the weak and seemingly insignificant parts of the body. We must have the biblical confidence to trust what God says about us even though society may say otherwise.

“I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well” (**Psalms 139:14**).

“Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off” (**Psalms 139:2**).

“Thou compassed my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways” (**Psalms 139:3**).

“For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether” (**Psalms 139:4**).

Be Who God Made You to Be

Trying to be someone else, or not being the person God made you to be, can have some dangerous side effects. It can create a life of fear and worry about being rejected or not measuring up. It can cost you your joy. The following examples are ways we can hinder the work of God:

- We use everything as an excuse and hide our talents in the dirt for fear (**Mathew 25:24-25**). We learn to blame our situation for all the things we do not want to do.
- We start to believe that everything is just a waste of time because of some deficiency we have, or some trait that others have that we don't.
- We fail to recognize all the blessings that God has placed in front of us, or are not grateful for them.
- We carry around bitterness and anger constantly wishing that our situation was different.

Critical Truths

Knowing that God made you like He did is important in living out His will for your life. He made each person with a lot of similarities because we are made in His image. He also made each person unique and gave us different circumstances. What I perceive as deficiencies or liabilities are actually advantages He gave me if I would merely focus on them as blessings and not as a curse. By understanding these truths, we will accomplish the following:

- We will learn to trust God (**Matthew 25:15, 1 Corinthians 12:11**) and recognize that all the things He allows in my life are for my good and His glory.
- We will use all the advantages He did give us and use them to the fullest to glorify Him even if the world considers them handicaps (**Proverbs 30:24-28**).
- We will use our past experiences to help others. Even if those experiences were painful (**2 Corinthians 1:3-4**).
- We will give God the glory for fearfully and wonderfully making us the way He did (**Psalm 139:14**).

“My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth” (**Psalm 139:15**).

“Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them” (**Psalm 139:16**).

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end” (**Jeremiah 29:11**).

Learning Together about How God Made Me



We are fearfully and wonderfully made (**Psalm 139:14**). This is how God describes His own work in creating us.

At the end of His Creation week, He looked at the work of His own hands and said that it was “very good” (**Genesis 1:31**). His work of salvation in our lives makes us “His workmanship,” created for good works (**Ephesians 2:10**). Against what we sometimes think or feel, we have to trust what God says about us. *God says that we are:*

- Fearfully and _____ made
- God’s creation which He described as _____ good
- Saved, which makes us _____ workmanship

Unique and for a Purpose

If He made me unique, then there must be some reason for that. My past is part of the way God has specially prepared me for ministry. Today is an opportunity to use my ministry in the unique way God has made me ready. Tomorrow will be filled with new experiences from God that will continue to shape who I am. All of this is part of His plan for me.

- **My weaknesses** are there to glorify God, not to hurt me (**II Corinthians 12:7-9, John 9:3**).
- Whatever talent or situation God allows in my life should be used for Him, not hidden in the dirt (**Mathew 25:24-25**).
- I must learn to trust God and recognize that all the things He allows in my life are for my good and His glory (**Matthew 25:15, 1 Corinthians 12:11**).
- I must learn to use all the advantages He did give me (**Proverbs 30:24-28**). The spider got in the king’s house when a full grown strong man could not.



We were made in the image of God, which makes us all very similar. We were also uniquely made, which shows us how great our God is. There are over 7.5 billion people in the world and no two are exactly alike.

The church is made like a body with many members. Each member brings something unique to the body (**Ephesians 4:16**).

God assembles churches with the members He wants so that everything the body needs will be there. No one part is better than the other, in fact God gives more honor to the little members (**I Corinthians 12:14-23**).

Memory Verse

“I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well” (**Psalm 139:14**).

Passing it On

Very few conversations will ever happen when someone doesn't talk about themselves, either positively or negatively. These are great opportunities to start a conversation about how God made us and how we are living out His plan.



Me: "You want to ride bikes on the trail this Saturday?"

Friend: "I can't. I have to go stay with my mom this weekend. My family is so messed up. Some are in jail and I think some others are trying to get in jail. "

Me: "I am really sorry to hear that."

Friend: "Yeah, it's bad. I don't know why God let this happen. I don't think He likes me very much."

Me: "What? He loves you! He made you. The Bible says so." **(John 3:16, Ps 139:14)**^{MV}

Friend: "I believe that, and I am a Christian and all, but I don't understand why I have a family like this and others have a normal family."

Me: "Sometimes it's hard to understand, but you know that God puts families together, not splits them up. That is sin that does that. But your family doesn't define who you are."

Friend: "It sure feels like it. I worry that I will end up like them."

Me: "God made you with a purpose, not to mess up your life, but to grow through all the trials you face and glorify Him. You can be the one that turns your family around."

Friend: "How can I do that?"

Me: "By living like who God says you are, a new creature in Him **(II Corinthians 5:17)**, and changing the pattern of sin by living for Jesus. You could be the generation that has a great and loving family that lives for Jesus, and your kids could grow up in a great home."

Friend: "That is a wonderful dream and a great idea!"



Now What?
Put the memory verse to work.

“I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well” (**Psalms 139:14**).

The Lord only does one kind of work. Perfect! That means that He formed us to be just what He wants us to be. You can help your Christian friends and yourself by knowing this verse and being able to share its truths.

- **I will praise God for how He made me:** I am wonderfully made. Everything about me is just like He wanted it. I don’t want to live anyone else’s life because that would cause me to miss out on the one God planned for me.
- **I will praise God that He keeps me:** I am fearfully made as well. If God doesn’t keep me breathing then I have just three minutes to live! God is my life and sustaining power. I will praise Him and not regret my life or wish I was someone else.
- **My soul knows He does marvelous works:** You are the Lord’s doing, so you might as well just believe what your Creator said about you. You are marvelous! Even though we don’t act like marvelous creations of God some days, that does not change what and who we are. We are marvelous in His eyes.

God makes no mistakes.
You were made with a purpose.

Trying to live someone else’s life, or trying to live up to anyone else’s image but that of Jesus Christ, is a recipe for disappointment.

Discuss these things with your teacher. They were put into your life for God to use for His purpose.

- where and when I was born
- my family and our family issues
- hard times I have faced
- disappointments and crushing moments
- the language(s) I speak
- the friends I have
- my physical characteristics

Prayer: Dear God, I know that you made me like I am and you made choices for where and when I would be born. I trust you that all the choices you made for me were the best for me. Help me to see how you want to use the things in my life to serve you and others. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Notes and Ideas:

Lesson 15: Teaching about Death and the Resurrection



Introduction

Death is never an exciting topic to discuss, unless you are studying the Bible. The reason is that death is not the end of living for the child of God. Death is merely the separation of the soul and spirit from the body. The great truths that follow are the exciting part. Our soul and our spirit go immediately to be with the Lord (**II Corinthians 5:6-8**). Our soul is the essence of what we are and our spirit is the life of our body, which has been made new by the Holy Spirit. So in death, the believer goes to sleep here on earth and immediately wakes up in the presence of Christ. That is why Paul could say in **Philippians 1:21**, “For to me to live is Christ and to die is gain.” Talking about death to an unbeliever is not an exciting topic because they will wake up in the eternal punishment of hell (**Luke 16:23**). This is why it is vital that we tell our lost friends and those we meet about Jesus.

Death no longer has a sting for the believer. Even though there is sorrow in the hearts of those left behind, there is joy in knowing that our loved one has gone to be with Jesus and is no longer bound by the cares or sin of this world. That is worthy of our rejoicing. Along with this comfort we have from God, is the promise of the resurrection of our bodies when Jesus returns. We will receive a new and incorruptible (sinless, eternal, and glorified) body in which we will live forever with Jesus.

Christ made the resurrection possible for us through His own death, burial, and resurrection. Because He rose from the dead, we will as well. If a believer has died before the rapture (first part of His return, **I Thessalonians 4:13-17**), then they will be resurrected and receive a new body. If the believer has not yet died when the rapture happens, then he or she will be instantly changed and go up to meet Jesus in the clouds with those who have just been resurrected (**I Corinthians 15:54**). Death is a sad topic for those who don’t know Christ, but for the believer, death will be our gain.

Jesus said to Martha that He was the resurrection and the life (**John 11:25-26**). He said that to comfort her over the death of her brother Lazarus. The comfort was that Lazarus would live again. The separation of death is only temporary for the believer. Once reunited in the resurrection, believers will never be separated again. Understanding that death is temporary for the believer is understanding the blessing of eternal life in Christ. The man, who has the promise of the resurrection, does not have to wonder, or be ignorant of what happens after death (**I Thessalonians 4:13**). This lesson should bring comfort to the believer knowing that death is not something to fear.

15

Death and the Resurrection



Preparing to Teach

Death is not a tragic thing for a Christian. It can have circumstances around it that are tragic, and it can cause a lot of sorrow for those left behind. But for the Christian, to die is to be released from a body of sin and death. He or she will immediately be in the presence of the Savior, experience instant healing from all disease or pain and no longer be plagued by sin. The believer who dies will no longer be in want of anything.

- Death is a separation of the soul and spirit from the body. The body will go back to the dust (grave) from which it came and the soul and spirit will go instantly into the presence of God (**II Corinthians 5:6-8**).
- The Bible uses the word “sleep” for death with respect to the body because it lies in the dust waiting for its transformation, or resurrection (**John 11:11-14**).

Death of the Body

Adam’s willful disobedience to God in the Garden of Eden brought sin upon himself and, by inheritance, it was passed on to the entire human race. All have sinned in Adam, and the penalty for sin is death (**Romans 6:23**). The Bible is very plain about the fact that this body will die one day because of sin.

- The body was originally formed out of dust (**Genesis 3:19**), and God promised that one day it would return to the dust.
- Death is a natural process brought on by sin (**Romans 5:12**) that hangs over every person.
- A limit was put on how long a body can live (**Psalms 90:10**), and for the most part, our bodies are weak and dying (**Psalms 103:15-16**). Man is alive, but his life is like the grass that passes away quickly.
- All of us have an appointment with death unless the return of the Lord happens before we die (**Hebrews 9:27**).
- Understanding that the body is a temporary home we use to live in this world is key to understanding how Paul could say, “For me to live is Christ and to die is gain” (**Philippians 1:21-24**).

Death is the separation of the soul and spirit from the body (**Ecclesiastes 12:7**).

Death is often called “sleep” in the Bible because it has been made temporary through the resurrection of Christ (**Mark 5:39, Luke 8:32**).

Our bodies are slowly dying because of sin (**Genesis 2:17**).

Our Soul and Spirit

The soul is the eternal essence of who we are. God gave it to us. There was a time in which it did not exist, but will now never cease to exist. The spirit is the life of the body. Once the spirit is separated from the body, the body dies. While the body is now dead (sleeping if the person is a Christian), the soul and spirit wake up instantly in the presence of Jesus.

- The body returns to the dust, and the spirit returns to God who created it (**Ecclesiastes 12:7**). It was God that breathed into man's nostrils and made him a living soul.
- Jesus told the thief on the cross that he would be with Jesus, that day, in paradise (**Luke 23:43**).
- In the story of the rich man and Lazarus, the eternality and consciousness of soul and spirit are seen (**Luke 16:19-31**).

The Resurrection

The resurrection separates Jesus from all other men in history, and asserts the fact that He is God. Jesus was raised from the dead by His own power (**Romans 1:4, John 2:19**), by the power of God (**Acts 3:36, Acts 10:40**) and the Holy Spirit. No one has ever raised themselves from the dead except Jesus. In salvation, the believer is resurrected to a new life and has the promise of a bodily resurrection when Jesus returns. If he has not died before Jesus comes back, then Jesus will turn his mortal body into an immortal one (**I Corinthians 15:54**).

- If we have been crucified with Him in our acceptance of His death for the payment of our sin, we are also raised to newness of life with Him (**Romans 6:3-11**).
- Just as Jesus' physical body rose from the dead, the believer has the promise of the same resurrection (**I Corinthians 15:51-58, I Thessalonians 4:15-17**).
- Jesus is the resurrection and the life (**John 11:21-27**).
- Those who die before Jesus returns will be resurrected from the dead. Their corrupted (decaying) bodies will be made into new eternal bodies. Those who are still alive when Jesus returns shall never die physically but be instantly changed.

On the day they both died, the rich man and Lazarus woke up somewhere.



The body of a saint and the body of a lost man were left behind that day.



Both men were immediately conscious and aware of the present and the past.



Lazarus is no longer a beggar, but is in the presence of the angels and the fathers of the faith.



*Their bodies are in the dust, but their spirits are in the place of their choosing during their lifetime (**Luke 16:19-31**).*

Learning Together about Death and the Resurrection



15

The resurrection is one of the greatest truths about Jesus and one of the greatest promises that the believer has in Christ. It takes away the fear of death for the Christian because death is not the end of the believer, it is the day they go to be with Jesus. Death is the separation from the body, and the resurrection is the moment in which the believer receives a new body that will never die (**I Corinthians 15:51-58**).

Death of the Body

- Death is a separation of the soul and spirit from the body (**II Corinthians 5:6-8**).
- The Bible calls death “sleep” because it is temporary for the body (**John 11:11-14**).
- Only the body is asleep or dead. The soul wakes up consciously, with full awareness, immediately after death in either heaven for the believer, or hell for the unbeliever (**Luke 16:19-31**).
- Our body is just dust, and when we die our spirit leaves it. The body then returns to dust and decays (**Genesis 2:7, 17, Ecclesiastes 12:7**).
- For the believer, to be separated from the body is to be present with the Lord (**II Corinthians 5:6**).

The Promise of the Resurrection

- Jesus was raised from the dead by His own power (**Romans 1:4, John 2:19**). No man in history has ever done this. He is God and has power over death, hell, and the grave.
- Jesus has promised to every believer that He will come again (**John 14:1-3**) and take us to be where He is. That means that we will be resurrected (**Romans 6:5**).
- His promise to raise us from the dead is also His promise to return for us (**I Thessalonians 4:15-17**).

The Gospel

The gospel is the truth of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus (**I Corinthians 15:3-4**).

We are alive spiritually now in Christ.

The believer is “alive” or has been “quickened” by the resurrection of Christ (**Ephesians 2:1, Romans 6:3-4**).

Our bodies will die one day if Jesus does not come first.

Because of sin, the body must die and be buried (**Romans 6:23**).

We have both the promise and the fact.

The Savior will return one day and take all believers to be with Him. On the day He rose from the dead, He took many of those that had already died out of the graves to be with Him. We have both the promise and the fact of His resurrection and ours (**Matthew 27:52-53**).

Memory Verse

“For me to live is Christ and to die is gain” (**Philippians 1:21**).

Passing it On

Talking about death can feel a bit strange sometimes. Lots of people don't want to talk about it, but it is a natural part of living. Others want to talk about it, but don't know anyone who can talk about it who knows about it. The believer can talk about it with confidence! Here is a possible conversation between a believer and a non-believer.



Me: "My grandpa passed away this day last year."

Friend: "Wow, sorry to hear that."

Me: "Thanks, I sure miss him. He was the greatest. I will get to see him again one day."

Friend: "What do you mean by that?"

Me: "Grandpa was a believer. He lived his whole life, from the day he got saved, for Jesus. When he got old and started getting sick, he would say, 'for me to live is Christ and to die is gain'" **(Philippians 1:21)**.

Friend: "That makes no sense to me. Seems like living would be better than dying."

Me: "That's not true for the Christian. We have the promise that immediately after we die, we go to be with Jesus, in His presence, no more sin, or worries or cares."

Friend: "I don't know what happens. I suppose I just never wake up again. I hope I don't go to the bad place." (You could hear all kinds of strange ideas about death.)

Me: "The Bible says that those who trust Christ as their Savior go immediately to heaven (our soul and spirit), then our bodies are resurrected when Jesus comes back" **(II Corinthians 5:8, I Thessalonians 4:13-17)**.

Friend: "What happens to those that aren't Christians?"

Me: "You really should come to church with me and find out."

Friend: "Maybe I should."



Now What?
Put the memory verse to work.

“For me to live is Christ and to die is gain”
(Philippians 1:21).

This is an easy verse to learn, but if you are talking with someone about death and the resurrection, it will take some extra explanation. Here we go!

- **The Christian doesn’t fear death:** Death is not something that the believer has to fear. It is just the separation of soul and spirit from the body to go to be with Jesus.
- **However long we live, we will live for Jesus:** Christ is life! My life revolves around Him and His life. Living for the Christian means loving Him, serving Him, and worshipping Him. For me, to live is Christ because He is my life.
- **When you die, you will gain heaven:** People use the word heaven to describe things they really love. This ice cream is heavenly! But this verse is talking about the real heaven, where God is. That is where the believer goes.
- **There is a resurrection for all believers who die before Christ’s return:** That means we will live with Jesus in a body like His for all eternity.

How can I talk about death and dying with my friends?

Most people watch death and killing on television and video games all day long, but don’t want to talk about their own death.

Discuss some ways to bring up death and dying with your friends to see what they think will happen to them.

- Talk about a believing family member or friend who died and whose funeral was a celebration.
- Ask a friend if they think death is real. Since people die in movies and come back in the next movie, death can look unreal.
- Mention that you look forward to seeing your loved ones again and see what conversation starts from there.

Notes and Ideas:

Lesson 16: Teaching about the Return of Jesus Christ



Introduction

One of the most exciting things about our Christian life is our future! The believer has been given the promise in the Bible that Jesus is returning to take His saints out of this world before the end of this age and the destruction of sin. The key detail of this Bible promise is that it is immanent. That means there is no event standing between this very moment and the return of Christ. That is both exciting and challenging at the same time. We are to live our lives as if Jesus could come at any moment, and as if He will not come before we have lived all our years on this earth. Jesus coming at any moment means that we must urgently reach the lost with the gospel. We are compelled to not waste time, but rather to share Christ daily with those we meet. We also have to live like Jesus may not return in our lifetime. That means diligently planning and thinking about what affect my decisions today will have on tomorrow.

The Old Testament foretold that Jesus would come the first time and dwell with us. Immanuel! God with us (**Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:23**)! The New Testament is the account of Jesus doing just that. Both Old and New Testaments speak about Him coming the second time to take His children out of this world and to destroy sin. The believer can have total confidence in this prophecy because of the fulfillment of the prophecy of His coming the first time. We have a more sure word of prophecy because we have the fulfillment of all the Messianic prophecies of His first coming (**II Peter 1:19**).

Careful Bible reading and study are the keys to understanding His second coming. It will occur in two parts. The signs and conditions preceding each part are important to understand so that you know which part is being referred to in the different passages of the Scriptures that speak of His second coming. This lesson covers both parts of Christ's return. The first part of Jesus coming is known as the rapture. In this part, Jesus returns to take His saints out of this world before the time of the Tribulation occurs. The word rapture is not found in the Bible, however it refers to a catching away of believers out of this world. In the second part, Jesus comes back with His saints to defeat sin and Satan and sets up His kingdom on this earth for 1000 years. The child of God should live his or her life with this in mind each day. Jesus is coming again!

The return of Jesus Christ is called the "blessed hope" (**Titus 2:13**). It's not hope in the sense that we are not sure that it will happen, but we hope so. It is a confidence that Jesus will return as He promised. Titus calls it a glorious appearing of the great God and Savior Jesus Christ. Every believer should be able to show others from the Bible how we know that Jesus is returning. This lesson should answer some questions about the rapture and return of Jesus Christ.

16

The Return of Jesus Christ



Preparing to Teach

Jesus declared plainly that believers are not to be troubled by His departing out of this world because He was going to prepare heaven for His children, then return to take us there. It is important to understand that while there are many references to the return of Christ, it will take place in two parts. Knowing the difference between the two is important to properly interpret Bible verses. First, Jesus will come at the end of the church age (this present age) to take His saints to be with Him in heaven. This is commonly referred to as the *rapture*. Secondly, seven years later after the tribulation, Jesus will return with all of His saints. This is His revelation.

Part One – The Rapture

The word *rapture* is not found in the Bible. It is a term used to denote a catching-away of the saints from this world. It will be sudden and without warning, or immanent. There are no prophecies to be fulfilled and no conditions that have to occur before it happens.

- Jesus told us that if He went away, He would come again (**John 14:1-3**).
- He promised to return in the same manner as He was taken up from this earth. “A cloud received Him out of their sight” (**Acts 1:9-11**).
- Those who are looking for Him, or those who are His, shall see Him (**Hebrews 9:28**).
- Christians are to be patient in serving Him until He comes (**James 5:7**).
- The Lord shall descend from heaven and will receive His children to Himself (**I Thessalonians 4:15-17**).
- He purchased the believer for Himself so that He could take His possession to be with Him (**Ephesians 1:13-14**).
- The redemption of the purchased possession is His coming again to take us to be with Him (**Ephesians 4:30, I Thessalonians 5:9-10**).
- Revelation gives us a picture of a door opening in heaven and a voice that tells us to come up to Him (**Revelation 1:7, 4:1**).

The rapture will happen quickly and without warning.

Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not (**Luke 12:40**).

He told us that His coming is imminent.

Even the apostles looked for His coming in their lifetimes (**Titus 2:12-13**).

It is likely that a person who hears the gospel before the rapture and rejects Christ will not be able to accept Him after the rapture (**II Thessalonians 2:7-11**).

What Happens When Christ Returns for His Saints?

Jesus will descend from His place at the right hand of God and will come only as far as the clouds. The two men in white apparel, who were present at His ascension, said He would return the same way he went away (**Acts 1:9-11**). His saints will be caught up together with Him when He returns. Those in the grave will be resurrected and those still living will be transformed. All the saints will go up together and meet Jesus in the clouds (**I Thessalonians 4:13-18**). After that, we will always be physically with Jesus.

- Bodies in the dust will rise up (**Daniel 12:2, John 5:25**). Jesus will bring the souls of those who have been with Him since their bodies went to the dust to sleep (**I Thessalonians 4:14**).
- It will happen suddenly and without warning (**I Corinthians 15:51-52**). It is immanent.
- These truths are meant to comfort and encourage believers. We are people of hope (**I Thessalonians 4:13, 18**).

Part Two – The Revelation of Christ

Immediately after the rapture, the world will enter the time of Tribulation (**Matthew 24:21-22**). That Tribulation will be to allow sin to reach a climax and for God to defeat it. At the end of this time, Jesus shall return with all of His saints to set up His kingdom on this earth. This will be the revelation of Christ. This time, His coming will be preceded by signs and wonders.

- False Christs, wars and rumors of wars, famines, pestilence, earthquakes, martyrdom and persecution shall be signs before the revelation of Christ as King (**Matthew 24:4-10**).
- The heavens open and Jesus appears on a white horse, wearing a vesture dipped in blood (His own blood), and He is called great names like Faithful and True (**Revelation 19:11-16**).
- He has another name, which only He knows, eyes of fire to judge the works of men, and crowns on His head as King of kings and Lord of lords (**Revelation 19:16**).
- His armies of saints and angels are with Him, and He is come to rule on this earth with a rod of iron (**Revelation 12:15**).
- When Christ returns He will defeat the systems of this world and will reign on this earth for 1,000 years (**Revelation 20:4**).

End Time Events

Timeline



The rapture – any moment



The Tribulation – seven years



The battle of Armageddon (Revelation 16:16) – at the end of the Tribulation



The revelation - The return of Christ with His saints



The thousand- year reign of Christ on the earth



The new heavens and the new earth (Revelation 21:1) – eternity with God

The revelation will be preceded by signs:
“when ye see these things” (**Luke 21:25-31**).

Learning Together about the Return of Jesus



Jesus told us to comfort our hearts with the promise of His return (**I Thessalonians 4:18**). The second coming of Jesus happens in two parts. We refer to them as the rapture and the revelation. The rapture is a term that describes how the saints will be taken off the earth to meet Jesus in the clouds. The revelation is the term that describes how Jesus will return to the earth seven years later to defeat sin and Satan.

The Rapture

- Jesus said that if He goes away, He will come again (**John 14:1-3**). He also promised to return in the same way He left. A cloud received Him out of their sight (**Acts 1:9-11**). He will return in the clouds.
- The Bible says He will descend to the clouds and call us out to meet Him there. There will be a great resurrection that day (**I Thessalonians 4:15-17**).
- Revelation shows a door opening in heaven and a voice that calls us up to Him. (**Revelation 1:7, 4:1**).

The Revelation

Right after the rapture is the time of Tribulation (**Matthew 24:21-22**). Sin will be allowed to run wild. Jesus shall return with all of His saints to defeat sin and set up His kingdom on this earth. This will be the revelation of Christ. This time, His coming will be preceded by signs and wonders (**Matthew 24:4-10**).

- At Jesus' return the heavens will open and Jesus will appear on a white horse with all of His saints (all the saved) (**Revelation 19:11-16**).
- When Christ returns He will defeat the systems of this world and will reign on this earth for 1,000 years (**Revelation 20:4**).
- Jesus will be revealed as King of kings and Lord of lords (**Revelation 19:16**).

The rapture will happen quickly and without warning.

"Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not" (**Luke 12:40**).

No one should put off getting saved.

A young person may have the expectation of many years of life and think they can get saved when they are old. The rapture can happen at any moment, and those who are left behind may not be able to get saved (**II Thessalonians 2:7-11**).

The revelation will be preceded by signs:

"when ye see these things" (**Luke 21:25-31**)

The saved person does not have to worry about the terrible things that will happen during the Tribulation, for all the saints will be with Jesus (**I Thessalonians 4:17**).

Memory Verse

"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (**John 14:3**).

Passing it On

We are instructed to encourage one another with the truth that Jesus is coming again (**Titus 2:12-14**). We often live our busy lives forgetful of this truth. Encouraging others will encourage us to redeem the time and remember His coming.

Me: “Did you know there is nothing stopping Jesus from coming back today?”

Friend: “Well, I had not really thought about it.”



Me: “I was reading last night, and the Bible says He can come in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye” (**I Corinthians 15:51-52**).

Friend: “So, is that saying that He could come today?”

Me: “It does! I was reading some verses about when He was with the disciples and talked about leaving them and going back to heaven. He said He was going to get heaven ready for us so that He could come back and get us” (**John 14:3**).^{MV}

Friend: “I thought there were a bunch of signs that had to happen before He comes back. I used to always hear that the seasons would be all messed up and the moon would be a different color. Doesn’t all that stuff have to happen first? We have time right?”

Me: “No! The truth is that Jesus first returns to get all the believers and takes them out of the world before things get bad. That is during the Tribulation time, seven years of really bad stuff on the earth.”

Friend: “So do we miss the bad stuff?”

Me: “You will if you know Christ. The Christian won’t just miss the Tribulation, he will be with Jesus from there on out, new body and everything.”

Friend: “Can you show me where you read all that stuff?”

Me: “Sure! Come with me to my Bible study and church this week.”



Now What?

Put the memory verse to work.

“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also” (**John 14:3**).

One of the greatest promises of the Bible is that Jesus is coming again. He is coming to take us to heaven to be with Him. This is an important verse to be able to teach. Let’s break it down.

- **Jesus said if I go away, I will come again:** This part of the promise has already happened! Jesus ascended and went back to heaven. So, there is nothing else that must happen before His return.
- **He has prepared a place for us:** The place is especially designed by God for us. That means it is perfect for us.
- **We will be with Jesus:** Heaven is not the best part of the second coming. The best part is that once Jesus comes back for us, we will be with Him for eternity. The person we will be with (Christ) will be better than the place!
- Not just Jesus, but also all those that are saved will be there too (**I Thessalonians 4:13-17**).

Jesus is coming again!

The immanent return of Christ means that we may not have another day to witness to our lost friends.

There is no time to waste to get the message of salvation to the lost.

- Make a list of some people you know who need Christ, and start praying that God would help you reach them.
- Discuss with your teacher how you can witness to them or get them to church to hear the gospel.

Prayer: *Dear Jesus, I am glad that you have made a place in heaven for me, and I praise you for the promise of your return, but I have lost friends and family who I have not witnessed to. Please help me to be a bold witness for you. I know there is no time to waste. In Jesus’ name, Amen!*

Notes and Ideas:

Glossary

The glossary of terms is a simple reference guide that is sorted alphabetically. It is a supplement to the lessons that include explanations and Scripture references of each term. The definitions are not exhaustive, but are meant to be a quick reference guide to help the student understand the basic terms that are used to describe the Christian faith.

Apostle – A disciple of Christ who lived during his life and was part of an authoritative group sent to preach the gospel. Paul was also named as an apostle by the Bible.

Assurance – Confidence that what the Bible says about salvation is true.

Atonement – Means “to cover” and refers to the way the blood of a sacrifice covered the sins of the offeror.

Baptism – The act whereby a believer publicly professes his faith in Jesus Christ. It is immersion in water to depict the death, burial, and resurrection of the believer in the image of Christ’s work within him.

Church – A called out, local assembly of baptized believers organized to carry out the great commission.

Comforter – Another name for the Holy Spirit and His work on this earth among believers.

Condemnation – The weight of a penalty or punishment that a person faces.

Confession – The act of admitting to God that you are a sinner and that you have willfully disobeyed His law.

Conviction – When a person has been personally and formally declared to be guilty of sin. The term is used to describe how the Holy Spirit uses the Word of God to show a person their guilt and their own responsibility for sin.

Covenant – A promise made that is either unconditional or conditional. God made some unconditional covenants that do not require man to do anything and some conditional covenants that require action on our part. Covenant also refers to the promise within the membership of a local church as to how they will carry out the mission of the church.

Creation – The act of God wherein He made the earth and the universe out of nothing. The Creation was completed in six literal days.

Deacon – A servant, or helper of the church, that ministers to the people so that the pastor can focus his attention on the preaching of the Word of God.

Deity – Literally means a god, or the true God of the Bible. The deity of Christ refers to the fact that He is God.

Disciple – One who trusts Christ as Savior, becomes a student of the Bible, and imitates the life of Jesus Christ.

Divine – Things that belong to deity, as in the attributes of God.

Eternal – Something that will last forever, or to eternity.

Eternal Security – The absolute and unchanging nature of salvation that provides the assurance that the new life in Christ is permanent and everlasting.

Faith – Trusting that what God says in the Bible is true.

Glory – The greatness, magnificence, and majesty of God.

Gospel – The word Gospel can refer to one of the first four books of the New Testament. It refers to the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, and is also used to describe the message of salvation (good news).

Grace – The undeserved favor of God.

Great Commission – The mission of the church to make disciples of every creature in every nation.

Heaven – The abode of God. Also used sometimes to describe the sky and outer space.

Imputation – The act of God where He takes our sin and places it on Jesus while taking the righteousness of Christ and places it on us.

Inerrant – The Bible does not contain any errors.

Infallible – All that the Bible talks about is true and correct.

Inspiration – The process wherein God communicated His words to men in order to have them written down. God breathed or spoke to the mind of the writer.

Judgment – A determination made by a judge against a person who has broken the law and deserves a punishment.

Justification – The act of God whereby our legal standing is changed and we are declared righteous.

Mercy – Being shown compassion and forgiveness instead of punishment.

Obedience – Following God's Law.

Offering – Something brought to and given to God by giving it to the church.

Only Begotten – The uniqueness of Jesus Christ as the Son of God. Jesus is God begotten in a body of flesh through the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary.

Pastor – The leader of a local church, called to the gospel ministry by God, and chosen by the assembly to be the pastor. It is one of two offices in the local church.

Preservation – The process whereby God's Holy Spirit oversees the preservation of the inspired Word of God through the ages.

Propitiation – The satisfaction of a debt. In the Bible, it refers to the death of Jesus Christ as the satisfaction, or payment, of the debt for the sins of all mankind.

Rapture – The event of Jesus' return to the clouds to receive the believers of the end of the church age. This event is also called the catching away of the saints. The word rapture is not found in the Bible, but describes the event found in **I Thessalonians 4:13-18**.

Redemption – To buy something back. Redemption is the act of God providing the payment for the sins of man and allows them to be redeemed from condemnation.

Resurrection – The act whereby a physical body that was dead comes back to life.

Revelation – The things God has made known about Himself to man. It is also the last book in the Bible in which God reveals His glory very plainly to this earth.

Sacrifice – Something offered to God that comes at a cost to the offeror. In the Old Testament, a sacrifice is usually an animal that was offered as a substitute for the offeror to make atonement, or cover his sin.

Salvation – The rescue from the wrath of God. Salvation is found only in Jesus who died for the sins of the whole world.

Sanctification – To set apart. The process whereby God sets those apart for Himself who accept Jesus as their personal Savior.

Satan (devil) – A fallen angel and the enemy and accuser of the believer.

Scripture – The inspired, written Word of God.

Sin – Disobedience to the law of God.

Testimony – The witness of a person as to what they have seen, heard or experienced, particularly with respect to their salvation.

The Law – The written, divine, and righteous commands of God. The Ten Commandments are part of the Law, but there are many more.

Tithe – Ten percent. This term refers to the system of giving in the Bible that helps a person recognize the blessing of God and systematically give to His work.

Trinity – God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, in three persons, yet God is one, undivided God.

Virgin Birth – The conception and birth of Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit to a woman named Mary, who had never known a man.

Witness – The testimony of a person as to what they have seen, heard or experienced about Jesus Christ.

Worship – The act of adoring, admiring, and bringing offerings to God. This is often expressed in music, but includes all acts that bring praise to God.