

# ***Equipped Through***

## **Basic Beliefs of Christianity**

**Version 2.1**

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Equippers Group International  
Dallas, Texas USA

## **BASIC BELIEFS OF CHRISTIANITY**

Second Edition

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# Introduction

## A. Intended audience

The **Basic Beliefs of Christianity** was written to instruct the new believer in the basic beliefs of Christianity. A secondary purpose is to provide a tool for Christian pastors and teachers to train church leaders and other believers in Christian doctrine. Since one method of teaching does not fit all groups, these lessons are designed to accommodate different economic and political climates, learning styles and the culture of the local church. They can be used to effectively disciple new believers in foundational Christian truths, to train leaders in the local church and as a self-study program.

## 1. Objectives

The primary objective is to encourage believers to become fully developing followers of Jesus. A believer is to **be** like Jesus in character, **do** like Him in works of service, and **relate** to God and mankind in love - just as He did. This manual is written with these goals in mind. Other objectives are:

- Lead non-Christians to a saving knowledge of Jesus.
- Encourage believers to have an experiential knowledge of Jesus Himself rather than just to gain information about Christian truth.
- Provide “spiritual food” and encourage believers to grow in the application of love, unity and works of service.
- Provide a source of sound teaching to the local church.
- Provide a basis for recognizing false teachers and false doctrine.
- Understand what Jesus has done for and in the believer and therefore encourage greater obedience to His will.

## 2. Study and application

This program stresses the importance of understanding and applying the Word of God. When a person accepts Jesus as Savior, the Holy Spirit comes to indwell that individual. It is the Holy Spirit’s job to guide the believer into all truth. The intention of this book is not to replace the work



of the Holy Spirit but to assist believers in their responsibility to study, understand and apply God's Word. To adequately study the Scriptures it takes three steps:


- Observation – What does the Bible say about the topic?
- Interpretation – What do the Scriptures mean?
- Application – What do the Scriptures mean to me?

The first manual in the Getting Equipped™ Series is entitled **Basic Beliefs of Christianity**. As the title indicates, this manual covers the basic truths.

Each lesson contains a section called “Application” to help the students apply the lesson's truths to their lives. In addition to this, a student may benefit from asking the following questions to further apply God's Word. The application questions are:

- Is there a promise to claim?
- Is there an attitude to change?
- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there an example to follow?
- Is there a truth to believe?
- Is there a sin to confess?

The student's learning is enhanced though looking up the additional verses indicated by “ Read” or “ See also.” Students who participate in the discussion sessions will have greater recall of the lesson. Students should be allowed to question what they hear and seek the answers to their questions through their own personal Bible study and prayer.

There are two kinds of knowing – knowing about Jesus and knowing Him by experience. The lessons presented in this manual are designed to help you know Jesus in a real and personal way. ( See James 1:22-25.)

## **B. To the teacher**

*I believe that no teacher should strive to make men think as he thinks, but to lead them to the living Truth, to the Master Himself [Jesus], of whom alone they can learn anything, who will make in themselves know what is true by the very seeing of it. –  
George MacDonald*



Do you want to be a successful teacher? Use Jesus as your example for effective teaching. Jesus was called “teacher” 42 times in the Gospels – more than any other title. Jesus calls His followers “disciples,” which literally means “learners.” The Great Commission given by Jesus in Matthew 28:19 instructs us to go, baptize and teach. Paul said in his letter to Timothy that he was to teach others so they could in turn teach others.

*And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. (2 Timothy 2:2)*

The lessons in this manual provide truth, but the example of how these truths operate in a disciple’s life comes from the teacher. The teacher must add his or her life examples to the teachings. Teachers are encouraged to make these truths colorful through their insights and life experiences. The power of God is present in both the Word itself and the testimony of His saints.

## **1. Preparing the lesson**

The teacher should prepare the lesson before class begins. A good teacher prepares a lesson as one making a broth-based soup: You start with the liquid, add ingredients, let it simmer, taste it and then add spices. Lessons that have been prepared over time allow the Holy Spirit room to add “spice” to the lesson. The main ingredients are study and prayer.

### **Study**

1. Read through each lesson in this manual and look up all the verses. Additional reference verses are noted as “📖 Read” or as “📖 See also.” You may want to have your students look up these verses during class or on their own time.
2. As you look up all of the verses, study how each one relates to the topic. Sometimes Scripture verses before or after the actual cited verses will help you better understand the overall meaning of the text and their relation to the topic being taught.
3. Know your students. Consider the needs of your students and the time you have to teach the lesson. Prioritize the lesson’s truths. If a student leaves the class with only three truths, what should they be? Prepare your lesson to assure these areas are covered first. Usually you will find that the lessons contain more information than you can teach in a session. You are free to select verses that best suit your class.

4. Consider how much time you want to leave for discussion. The “Discussion Points and Questions” provided are suggestions. Feel free to add any other points or questions that would be more helpful to your class.
5. Determine how you will use the “Application” section found at the end of each lesson. You may want to add more application activities or not use this section at all. You may decide to incorporate it into the discussion period.
6. Determine the class length. You have the flexibility of using all of the material presented or selecting only portions to be studied. It may be necessary to split a long lesson into two sessions to cover the material.

### **Prayer**

1. Pray for those who will attend your class that the Lord Jesus would teach them what they need to know.
2. Ask Jesus what He wants you to learn from the material.
3. Ask Jesus to give you wisdom as to what portions of the lesson you should emphasize in class.
4. Ask Jesus to give you examples of how these truths are experienced in your life or the lives of others you know.

## **C. Qualifications of the teacher**

A teacher is one of the instruments God uses to instruct His people. The following qualifications are to be used as guidelines. In the end, it is the Holy Spirit that is the true teacher of His people. A teacher should:

- Be a born again believer.
- Continue to learn about Jesus and His Word.
- Be committed to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and to teach in a way that makes followers of Jesus and not of the teacher.
- Present the Word of God accurately.
- Realize that the Holy Spirit is the true teacher.
- Avoid pride and arrogance.
- Not distort the Word of God.

# THE BIBLE

## Objectives

- To believe that the Bible is the Word of God
- To understand the purpose of the Bible
- To understand the Bible's benefit to man
- Commit to read the Bible daily as a result of this study



## Key Verse

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.  
(2 Timothy 3:16)*

## A. The Bible is like no other book

God's words are compiled into what we know as "the Bible" from the Greek word biblos meaning "a book." It is God's love letter to people. The Bible is also called "Scripture," "Word of God," "the law," "statutes" or "precepts." Through reading the Bible, we understand God in the way He has revealed Himself – His thoughts, His plans and His promises. The Word of God is like no other book in the world.

### 1. The method in which the Scriptures were written

The Bible is one of the oldest books in the world. It was written on three continents (Asia, Europe and Africa) in three languages (Hebrew,

Aramaic and Greek) over a period of time spanning 1,500 years and 40 generations.

The Bible was written by men but inspired by the Holy Spirit of God. These authors were from all walks of life: kings, fishermen, poets, philosophers, peasants, physicians, shepherds, statesmen, scholars and farmers. (📖 See 2 Timothy 3:16, the key verse for this lesson.)

## **2. The Bible's unified message**

The miracle is that the Bible has a unified message in spite of the fact that it was written over a span of 1,500 years by people of different cultures and diversities. The message is that God loves and wants to have a relationship with people. This was accomplished through Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who came to earth to save sinful people. This message is consistent throughout the Bible – from Genesis to Revelation.

Throughout history, the enemies of God have tried to destroy the Bible, but it has survived. Satan tries to defeat the Scriptures, but they survive.

## **3. The Bible's popularity**

The Bible is timeless – its message is as true today as when it was first written. It is the most popular book in the world.

- It has been printed more than any other book.
- It is translated into more languages than any other book.
- It has sold the most copies.
- It is read more than any other book on earth.

## **4. The Bible changes lives and answers questions**

The Bible has changed the lives of all who read it with a heart to understand God. It continues to change lives today by answering the major questions of life: Where did I come from? Why am I here? Where will I go when I die? The Bible is the source of all spiritual truth.

## B. How is the Bible organized?

### 1. Old Testament and New Testament

The Bible has two main sections: the Old Testament and the New Testament. Each section contains various types of literature: law, history, poetry, prophecy and letters. See the diagram on the following page.

- The Old Testament contains 39 books
- The New Testament contains 27 books

The Old Testament explains how God selected the Israelites to be His chosen people and His plan to provide a Messiah – Jesus Christ.

The New Testament tells about:

- Jesus' birth, His life on earth, His death and resurrection.
- The events after He was raised from the dead.
- Birth of the church.
- Letters written to believers in Jesus Christ.
- Prophecy (predictions of future events).

### 2. Scripture references

The index (list of books) in the front of the Bible gives the page number for the part you wish to study. Translators organized the text as follows:

- Books
- Chapters within the book
- Verses within the chapter

Scripture references are written in the following order: the name of the book, the chapter number, a “:” and then the verse(s). Table 1.1 shows how various Scripture references are found in the Bible.

<b>Reference</b>	<b>Book</b>	<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Verse(s)</b>
Genesis 3:15	Genesis	3	15
Psalms 98:2-6	Psalms	98	2 through 6
Isaiah 10:4, 8	Isaiah	10	4 and 8
Joel 1:1, 5:1	Two references from the same book.		

Occasionally, Scriptures shown in a lesson may skip a verse (or several verses). In this case, the place where the skipped verses would be is noted with "...". An example is Psalms 33:6, 9, where verses 7 and 8 are not written out in the Scripture text provided but are noted with "...".




**The Bible: Books categorized by type of literature**

<b>Old Testament (39 Books)</b>			
The Law (Pentateuch)		Narrative/History	
Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy		Joshua Judges Ruth 1 Samuel 2 Samuel 1 Kings	2 Kings 1 Chronicles 2 Chronicles Ezra Nehemiah Esther
Poetry	Major Prophets	Minor Prophets	
Job Psalms Proverbs Ecclesiastes Song of Songs	Isaiah Jeremiah Lamentations Ezekiel Daniel	Hosea Joel Amos Obadiah Jonah Micah	Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah Haggai Zechariah Malachi
<b>New Testament (27 Books)</b>			
Gospels		Paul's Letters (Epistles)	
Matthew Mark	Luke John	Romans 1 Corinthians 2 Corinthians Galatians Ephesians Philippians Colossians	1 Thessalonians 2 Thessalonians 1 Timothy 2 Timothy Titus Philemon
History		Prophecy	
Acts		Revelation	
Other Letters (Epistles)			
Hebrews James 1 Peter	2 Peter 1 John 2 John	3 John Jude	
Note: The Catholic Bible contains additional books called the Apocrypha.			

Throughout these lessons, some Bible references may be shortened (abbreviated). Abbreviations for each Bible book are shown in an illustration at the end of this lesson.

### C. What the Bible says about itself

Table 1.3 gives insight into the Bible's purpose, power and benefit to mankind. God's Word is filled with treasures for mankind.

<b>Table 1.2 What the Bible says about itself</b>	
<b>Inspired by God</b>	
	<i>For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:21)</i>
	 See also 2 Timothy 3:16.
<b>Absolutely trustworthy</b>	
	<i>The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. (Psalms 19:7)</i>
	 See Psalms 119:89, Matthew 5:18 and 1 Peter 1:25.
<b>Produces life</b>	
	<i>The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. (John 6:63)</i>
<b>Is powerful</b>	
	<i>For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)</i>
	 See also Ephesians 6:17.

### D. The Bible's benefit to mankind

The Bible is God's Word and provides many benefits to the believer as shown in the following table.

<b>Table 1.3 The Bible's benefit to mankind</b>	
<b>Provides for faith</b>	
	<i>So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. (Romans 10:17 NKJV)</i>

**Table 1.3 The Bible's benefit to mankind**

<b>Shows the way of salvation</b>	
	<i>But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (John 20:31)</i>
	📖 See also John 3:16, Acts 4:12 and 2 Timothy 3:15.
<b>Cleanses the soul</b>	
	<i>You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. (John 15:3)</i>
	📖 See also Psalms 119:9, 11, Ephesians 5:25-27 and 2 Peter 1:3-4.
<b>Shows us the way to go</b>	
	<i>Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. ... The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple. (Psalms 119:105, 130)</i>
	📖 See also Psalms 19:8.
<b>Provides food for the soul and causes growth</b>	
	<i>Jesus answered, "It is written: Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:4)</i>
	📖 See also Jeremiah 15:16, 1 Corinthians 3:1-2, Ephesians 4:12-15 and 1 Peter 2:2.
<b>Provides healing</b>	
	<i>He sent forth his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave. (Psalms 107:20)</i>
	📖 See also Psalms 30:2 and 147:3.
<b>Makes us wise</b>	
	<i>And how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. (2 Timothy 3:15)</i>
	📖 See also Psalms 19:7 and 119:98-100.
<b>Helps us to pray</b>	
	<i>If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. (John 15:7)</i>
<b>Provides comfort and strength in times of trouble</b>	
	<i>For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. (Romans 15:4)</i>
	📖 See also Matthew 7:24-27.



♥ **Discussion Points/Questions:**

1. How does God's Word benefit your life?
2. How do you know that the Bible is inspired by God?
3. Explain how the Bible is relevant today.

✍ **Application:**

1. Memorize 2 Timothy 3:16.
2. Look at your Bible. Notice how the books, chapters and verses are arranged. Count how many books are in the Old Testament and the New Testament.
3. Read in your Bible the "See also" Scripture references shown in Tables 1.3 and 1.4.
4. Be prepared to share how the Word of God helped you this week.

## Abbreviations of Bible Books

<b>Book</b>	<b>Abb</b>	<b>Book</b>	<b>Abb</b>
Genesis	Gen	Nahum	Na
Exodus	Ex	Habakkuk	Hab
Leviticus	Lev	Zephaniah	Zep
Numbers	Num	Haggai	Hag
Deuteronomy	Deut	Zechariah	Zec
Joshua	Jos	Malachi	Mal
Judges	Jdg	Matthew	Matt
Ruth	Ru	Mark	Mk
1 Samuel	1 Sa	Luke	Lk
2 Samuel	2 Sa	John	Jn
1 Kings	1 Ki	Acts	Ac
2 Kings	2 Ki	Romans	Rom
1 Chronicles	1 Ch	1 Corinthians	1 Cor
2 Chronicles	2 Ch	2 Corinthians	2 Cor
Ezra	Ez	Galatians	Gal
Nehemiah	Neh	Ephesians	Eph
Esther	Est	Philippians	Php
Job	Job	Colossians	Col
Psalms	Ps	1 Thessalonians	1 Thes
Proverbs	Pr	2 Thessalonians	2 Thes
Ecclesiastes	Ecc	1 Timothy	1 Tim
Song of Songs	SS	2 Timothy	2 Tim
Isaiah	Isa	Titus	Tit
Jeremiah	Jer	Philemon	Phm
Lamentations	La	Hebrews	Heb
Ezekiel	Eze	James	Jas
Daniel	Dan	1 Peter	1 Pet
Hosea	Hos	2 Peter	2 Pet
Joel	Joel	1 John	1 Jn
Amos	Am	2 John	2 Jn
Obadiah	Ob	3 John	3 Jn
Jonah	Jnh	Jude	Jude
Micah	Mic	Revelation	Rev

## GOD THE FATHER

### Objectives

- To know that there is only one God
- To examine the characteristics and nature of God
- To understand the persons of the Godhead
- Take action to know God better

### Key Verses

*You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God. (Exodus 20:3-5)*

*And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God. (Col 1:10)*

### A. Who is God?

God is an intelligent, spiritual and personal being – the creator, redeemer, preserver and ruler of the universe. Although God is above all creation, He still desires to have a relationship with people.

*Come near to God and he will come near to you... (James 4:8)*

*The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. (Psalms 145:18)*

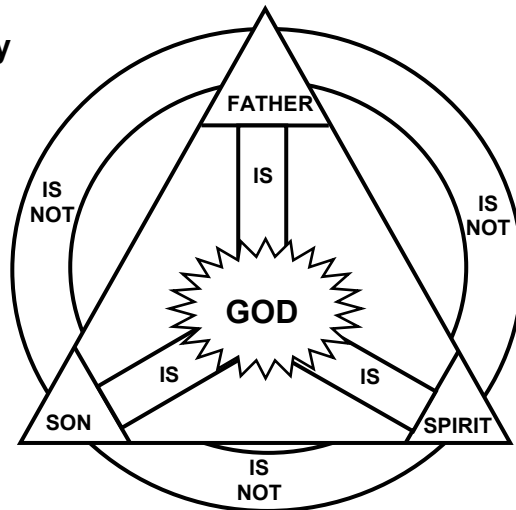
God is far too great for us to fully understand. This lesson uses the Word of God to explain about God: His attributes and names.

## **B. How many persons are in the Godhead?**

While God is one, He exists in three persons (the Godhead) – commonly referred to as “the Trinity” – the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The Godhead is composed of these persons of God – each with His own attributes as they relate to mankind.

- **God, the Father** – All powerful, all loving and all wise. God is Father to those who become His children through faith in Jesus.
- **God, the Son** – Jesus Christ, God’s Son, became a man and, through His death and resurrection, is Savior.
- **God, the Holy Spirit** – The Spirit of God, who regenerates, indwells, baptizes, energizes and sanctifies the believer.

### **The Trinity**



These three persons of God are one God – the same in substance, equal in power and glory. The following table shows the common attributes of all three persons of the Trinity: The Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Look up these Scriptures and learn about the Trinity.


<b>Table 2.1 Common attributes of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit</b>			
<b>Attribute</b>	<b>God the Father</b>	<b>God the Son</b>	<b>God the Holy Spirit</b>
Eternal	Psalms 90:2	John 1:2 Rev 1:8, 17	Hebrews 9:14
Omnipotent (all powerful)	1 Peter 1:5	2 Cor 12:9	Romans 15:19
Omniscient (all knowing)	Jeremiah 17:10	Rev 2:23	1 Cor 2:11
Omnipresent (always present)	Jeremiah 23:24	Matthew 18:20	Psalms 139:7
Holy	Rev 15:4	Acts 3:14	Acts 1:8
Truth	Psalms 31:5	John 14:6	John 14:16-17
Kindness & Goodness	Romans 2:4	Ephesians 5:25	Nehemiah 9:20

The persons of the Trinity are equal but they represent different roles (positions or actions). Some examples of activities that involve all three persons of the Trinity are shown in the following table.

<b>Table 2.2 Activities involving the Father, Son and Holy Spirit</b>			
<b>Activity</b>	<b>God the Father</b>	<b>God the Son</b>	<b>God the Holy Spirit</b>
Creation of the world	Psalms 102:25	Colossians 1:16	Genesis 1:2 Job 26:13
Creation of Man	Genesis 2:7	Colossians 1:16	Job 33:4
Baptism of Jesus	Matthew 3:17	Mark 1:11	John 1:32
Death of Jesus	Hebrews 9:14	Hebrews 9:14	Hebrews 9:14

An example of the authority of the Trinity is in the baptism of believers. Jesus said in Matthew 28:19 that the believer's work of baptizing new believers into the Body of Christ is done in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

*Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
(Matthew 28:19)*

 Read Mark 1:10-11, John 10:30, 14:9, 17:11 and 17:22-23.

Jesus and the Holy Spirit will be covered in more detail in later lessons.

## C. Is there more than one God?

No! There is only one God – the living and true God. Many Scriptures point to this fact.

*This is what the Lord says – Israel's King and Redeemer, the Lord Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God. (Isaiah 44:6)*

*How great you are, O Sovereign Lord! There is no one like you and there is no God but you, as we have heard with our own ears. (2 Samuel 7:22)*

📖 Read Deuteronomy 6:4 and Isaiah 43:10-13.

## D. Why knowing God is so important

- **Eternal life (salvation) is rooted in relationship with God.**

We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true – even in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. (📖 Read 1 John 5:20.)

*Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. (John 17:3)*

- **We are commanded to pursue the knowledge of God.**

*Let us know, let us pursue the knowledge of the Lord. (Hosea 6:3 NKJV)*

- **Knowing God is more important than gaining wisdom, strength or riches.**

*This is what the Lord says: "Let not the wise boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight." (Jeremiah 9:23-24)*

- **Strength in battle comes from knowing God.**






... but the people who know their God shall be strong and carry out great exploits. (Daniel 11:32 NKJV)

## E. Attributes of God the Father

There are many attributes (character qualities) of God the Father. Some of these attributes are shown in the following table.

<b>Table 2.3 Attributes of God the Father</b>	
<b>Spirit</b>	
	<i>God is spirit and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth. (John 4:24)</i>
	📖 See also Genesis 1:2.
<b>Eternal and infinite</b>	
	<i>The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. He will drive out your enemy before you, saying, "Destroy him!" (Deuteronomy 33:27)</i>
	📖 See also Deuteronomy 32:40, Job 11:7, Psalms 90:2, 139:1-8 and Isaiah 57:15.
<b>Changeless</b>	
	<i>Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. (James 1:17)</i>
	<i>I the Lord do not change. (Malachi 3:6)</i>
<b>All knowing (omniscient)</b>	
	<i>Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God. (John 16:30)</i>
	📖 See also Psalms 139:1-6, Acts 1:23-26, Hebrews 4:13 and 1 John 3:20.
<b>All powerful (omnipotent)</b>	
	<i>Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit. (Psalms 147:5)</i>
	📖 See also 1 Chronicles 29:11 and Ephesians 3:20.
<b>Always present (omnipresent)</b>	
	<i>Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? (Psalms 139:7)</i>
	📖 See also Psalms 139:8-12.

**Table 2.3 Attributes of God the Father**

<b>Holy</b>	
	<i>Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under his wings. Day and night they never stop saying: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come." (Revelation 4:8)</i>
<b>Gracious</b>	
	<i>And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin." (Exodus 34:6-7)</i>
<b>Loving</b>	
	<i>And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. (1 John 4:16)</i>
	 See also Jeremiah 31:3, Romans 5:8, 8:38-39 and Ephesians 2:4-5.
<b>Wrathful (severity, anger)</b>	
	<i>The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness. (Romans 1:18)</i>
	 See also Psalms 95:11, Hebrews 12:28-29 and Revelation 6:16.
<b>God can be known by us</b>	
	<i>No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, "know the Lord" because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. (Hebrews 8:11)</i>
	 See also Ezekiel 38:23, John 16:14-15 and 17:25-26.
<b>God a loving Father</b>	
	<i>How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. (1 John 3:1)</i>
	 See also Isaiah 63:16, Malachi 2:10, Romans 8:15 and James 1:17.
<b>God created us in his image – but is not like us</b>	
	<i>"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. (Isaiah 55:8)</i>
	 See also Genesis 1:26-27 and Numbers 23:19.



<b>Table 2.3 Attributes of God the Father</b>	
<b>God does not live in temples – but in the hearts of man</b>	
	<i>Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? (1 Corinthians 3:16)</i>
	📖 See also Acts 17:24-25.

## F. Names of God the Father

God has many names which are associated with His different character traits. These names are the English translation from Hebrew. Several are shown in the following table. Note that Jehovah is a translation for the word Yahweh.

<b>Table 2.4 Hebrew names and meanings of God the Father</b>		
<b>God's Name</b>	<b>Meaning &amp; Significance</b>	<b>Reference</b>
<b>Elohim</b>	<b>God</b> – Refers to God's power and might. He is the only supreme and true God.	Genesis 1:1, 26 Psalms 42:2
<b>Yahweh (Jehovah)</b>	<b>The Lord</b> – The self-existent One, I Am That I Am – The proper name of the divine person.	Genesis 2:4 Exodus 3:13-16 Exodus 6:2-3
<b>El Elyon</b>	<b>God Most High</b> – He is above all gods; nothing in life is more sacred.	Genesis 14:19-20 Psalms 7:17 Psalms 57:2 Isaiah 14:13-14
<b>El Roi</b>	<b>God Who Sees</b> – God oversees all creation and the affairs of people.	Genesis 16:13
<b>El Shaddai</b>	<b>God Almighty</b> – The all sufficient One, God is all powerful.	Genesis 17:1 Job 33:4 Psalms 91:1
<b>Yahweh (Jehovah) Yireh</b>	<b>The Lord Will Provide</b> – God will provide our real needs.	Genesis 22:13-14
<b>Yahweh (Jehovah) Nissi</b>	<b>The Lord is my Banner</b> – We should remember God for helping us.	Exodus 17:15
<b>Adonai</b>	<b>Lord</b> – God alone is the head over all.	Genesis 15:2 Psalms 90:1

**Table 2.4 Hebrew names and meanings of God the Father**

<b>God's Name</b>	<b>Meaning &amp; Significance</b>	<b>Reference</b>
<b>Yahweh (Jehovah) Shalom</b>	<b>The Lord is Peace</b> – God gives us peace, so we need not fear.	Judges 6:24
<b>Aabiynu</b>	<b>Father</b> – God is our Father.	Isaiah 9:6 Isaiah 63:16 Isaiah 64:8
<b>Yahweh (Jehovah) Sabaoth</b>	<b>Lord of Hosts</b> – (Host refers to armies, but also to all the heavenly powers) – God is our Savior and Protector.	1 Samuel 17:45 2 Samuel 6:2 Isaiah 6:3
<b>El Olam</b>	<b>The Everlasting God</b> – God is eternal. He will never die.	Isaiah 40:28 Psalms 90:2
<b>Yahweh (Jehovah) Tsidkenu</b>	<b>The Lord is Our Righteousness</b> – God is our standard for right behavior. He alone can make us righteous.	Jeremiah 23:6 Jeremiah 33:16
<b>Yahweh (Jehovah) Shammah</b>	<b>The Lord is There</b> – God is always present with us.	Ezekiel 48:35

♥ **Discussion Points/Questions:**

1. Describe God in your own words?
2. Why is it wrong to worship other gods?
3. Are other gods worshipped in your culture?
4. Which one of the attributes or characteristics of God brings you the most comfort?
5. How is God not like us?
6. Why is God's attribute of wrath consistent with His love?
7. Which characteristic or attribute of God motivates you to serve, obey or love God?

 **Application:**

1. Memorize Exodus 20:3-5 and Colossians 1:10.
2. Look up the additional Scriptures – think about and examine God's character.

## GOD THE SON: JESUS


### Objectives

- To understand Jesus is God in the flesh
- To understand Jesus' mission and ministry
- To understand that salvation is found in no other name
- Accept Jesus as Savior – make Him Lord of your life daily

### Key Verse

*The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. (Hebrews 1:3)*

### A. Jesus: The Son of God

Jesus is God Himself, coming to earth in human form. Jesus was conceived through the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin. His Father is God. ( Read Luke 1:26-35.) This lesson focuses on the truth that Jesus is indeed God, with no beginning and that He is a person (or part) of the Trinity. One of the names of Jesus found in John 1:1 is the Word.

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (John 1:1)*

The four gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) tell of Jesus' birth, life, death, resurrection and teachings. The book of Hebrews explains His

ministry in light of the Old Testament Law. The entire New Testament is about people's relationship with God through Jesus.

## B. Jesus: The Messiah

Jesus is the Messiah who was prophesied (or predicted, foretold) throughout the Old Testament. *Messiah* means "Christ, the anointed One." God knew from the beginning that a Messiah would be required to save each person from his sin. Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection (raised from the dead) were prophesied in the Old Testament. Isaiah 42:1-4 prophesies about the coming Christ, the Messiah, and Matthew 12:17-21 tells that Jesus fulfilled that prophesy.

📖 Read the prophecy about Jesus, the Messiah, in Isaiah 53. Compare Isaiah 53:7 with Mark 14:61-62. Also compare Isaiah 29:18-19 and Isaiah 61:1-2 with Luke 7:20-22.

*He [Jesus] said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what was written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem." (Luke 24:44-47)*

All prophecies about Jesus' first coming written in the Old Testament were fulfilled. The following table gives a few examples of the Old Testament prophecies and their fulfilment by Jesus.

<b>Table 3.1 Jesus – the Messiah</b>		
<b>Prophecy relating to the Messiah</b>	<b>Old Testament</b>	<b>New Testament</b>
His ancestors	Jeremiah 23:5 Psalms 132:10-12	Matthew 1:6 Luke 3:23-31
Birthplace: Bethlehem	Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:1
Born of a virgin	Isaiah 7:14	Luke 1:34-35
Healer of the sick	Isaiah 35:5-6 Isaiah 53:4-5	Matt 11:4-5
Rejected, despised, hated by his own people	Psalms 69:7-8	John 1:11
Mocked and insulted	Psalms 22:6-8	Luke 23:35-39

<b>Table 3.1 Jesus – the Messiah</b>		
<b>Prophecy relating to the Messiah</b>	<b>Old Testament</b>	<b>New Testament</b>
Betrayed for 30 pieces of silver	Zechariah 11:12	Matt 26:14-15
Died by crucifixion	Psalms 22:16	Luke 23:33
Soldiers gambled for Jesus' clothes while He was dying	Psalms 22:18	Luke 23:34
Raised from the dead	Psalms 16:10	Mark 16:6

### C. Jesus: God incarnate (God in the flesh)

*For in Christ [Jesus] all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form. (Colossians 2:9)*

God's attributes (as studied in a previous lesson) are present in Jesus. Table 3.2 shows how they relate to Jesus the Messiah, the Christ.

<b>Table 3.2 Attributes of God reflected in Jesus</b>	
<b>Eternal and infinite</b>	<i>"I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" (John 8:58)</i>
	📖 See also John 1:1, 4, 17:5, Hebrews 7:3 and Revelation 1:8.
<b>All knowing (omniscient)</b>	<i>Yet there are some of you who do not believe. For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. (John 6:64)</i>
	📖 See also John 2:25, 13:11 and 18:4.
<b>Always present (omnipresent)</b>	<i>... And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. (Matthew 28:20)</i>
<b>All powerful (omnipotent)</b>	<i>He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves: "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. (Mark 4:39)</i>
	<b>Over sickness</b> (Matthew 4:24, 8:5-13)
	<b>Over demon spirits</b> (Mark 1:24-26, 5:1-17)
	<b>Over death</b> (Matthew 9:18-26, John 11:11-44)
	<b>Over nature</b> (Mark 4:37-41, John 6:16-21)
<b>Changeless</b>	<i>Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. (Hebrews 13:8)</i>
	📖 See also Hebrews 1:10-12.

**Table 3.2 Attributes of God reflected in Jesus**

<b>Full of grace</b>	<i>The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)</i> 📖 See also John 1:17 and Revelation 22:21.
<b>Compassionate</b>	<i>I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. (Mark 8:2)</i> 📖 See also Matthew 9:36, Mark 1:41 and James 5:11.
<b>Creator</b>	<i>Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. (John 1:3)</i> 📖 See also John 1:1-18, Colossians 1:15-18 and Hebrews 1:2.
<b>Wrathful (severity, anger)</b>	<i>Jesus entered the temple area and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. "It is written," he said to them, "My house will be called a house of prayer, but you are making it a den of robbers." (Matthew 21:12-13)</i> 📖 See also John 2:14-16.
<b>Loving</b>	<i>Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. (John 15:13)</i> 📖 See also Romans 5:8, Ephesians 2:4 and 1 John 4:9-10.
<b>One with the Father</b>	<i>If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him. ... Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. ... Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. (John 14:7, 9, 11)</i> 📖 See also John 1:18, 10:37-38, 12:45 and 14:7.



<b>Table 3.2 Attributes of God reflected in Jesus</b>	
<b>Lordship</b>	<i>Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:9-11)</i>
	<b>King of Kings</b> (Revelation 19:16)
	<b>Ruler</b> (Ephesians 2:6, 1 Timothy 6:15, Revelation 1:5)
	<b>All authority</b> (Matthew 28:18, Mark 1:21-22)

## D. Jesus: His mission

God the Father sent Jesus to the earth with a mission to enable mankind to return to the Father by having his sin cleansed and forgiven. This was accomplished by Jesus living a sinless life on earth as a man – experiencing the joys and sorrows of a man – yet providing salvation through His death and resurrection. Jesus' life on earth provided an example of how each person is to live.

*For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet was without sin. (Heb 4:15)*

The following table explains how Jesus accomplished His mission.

<b>Table 3.3 Jesus' accomplishment of His mission</b>	
<b>By giving his life as a ransom to buy us back (Redeemer)</b>	
	<i>Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. (Matthew 20:28)</i>
	 See also 1 Peter 2:24.
<b>By giving us new "birth" into God's family</b>	
	<i>Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. (John 1:12)</i>
	 See also 1 John 3:1-2.

<b>Table 3.3 Jesus' accomplishment of His mission</b>	
<b>By giving us eternal life</b>	
	<i>For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ... The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (John 3:16, 10:10)</i>
	📖 See also John 10:28, 14:1-3, 17:2 and 1 John 5:11-12.
<b>By destroying the works of Satan</b>	
	<i>He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. (1 John 3:8)</i>
	📖 See also Acts 26:17-18, Colossians 1:13 and Hebrews 2:14.
<b>By reconciling us to fellowship with each other and with God the Father</b>	
	<i>... His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. (Ephesians 2:15-16)</i>
	📖 See also Ephesians 2:14-18 (context) and 1 John 1:3.
<b>By destroying the power of death</b>	
	<i>Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death – that is, the devil. (Hebrews 2:14)</i>
<b>By being the Savior of the whole world</b>	
	<i>As for the person who hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge him. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save it. (John 12:47)</i>
	📖 See also John 3:17 and 1 Timothy 1:15.
<b>By seeking and saving the lost</b>	
	<i>For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost. (Luke 19:10)</i>
<b>By calling sinners to repentance</b>	
	<i>I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. (Luke 5:32)</i>
	📖 See also Matthew 4:17, 9:13 and Luke 24:47.



<b>Table 3.3 Jesus' accomplishment of His mission</b>	
<b>By bringing healing</b>	
	<i>He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. (1 Peter 2:24)</i>
	📖 See also Matthew 8:16-17, Mark 1:40-42 and Luke 18:35-43.
<b>By being a mediator between God and man</b>	
	<i>For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus. (1 Timothy 2:5)</i>
<b>By being our example and pattern for life</b>	
	<i>Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did. (1 John 2:6)</i>
	📖 See also Romans 8:29, 2 Corinthians 3:18 and 1 Peter 2:21.
<b>By preaching and teaching the Good News</b>	
	<i>But he said, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent." (Luke 4:43)</i>
<b>By bringing sight to the blind (both physically and spiritually)</b>	
	<i>Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind." (John 9:39)</i>
<b>By doing the will of the Father</b>	
	<i>"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me, yet not my will but yours be done." (Luke 22:42)</i>
	📖 See also John 4:34, 5:19 and 17:4.
<b>By fulfilling the Law and the Prophets</b>	
	<i>Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. (Matthew 5:17)</i>
<b>By testifying of the truth</b>	
	<i>"You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world; to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me. (John 18:37)</i>
	📖 See also John 1:17.

**Table 3.3 Jesus' accomplishment of His mission**

**By interceding for the saints**

*Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. (Hebrews 7:25)*

## **E. Jesus: His names**

Jesus is called by many names that represent His character as indicated in the following list.

- **Messiah** (Matthew 26:63-64, Luke 9:20 and John 4:25-26)
- **Christ (The Anointed One)** (Luke 24:46)
- **God** (John 1:1, Romans 9:5 and Titus 2:13)
- **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace** (Isaiah 9:6)
- **Son of God** (Mark 1:1 and Luke 22:70)
- **Son of Man** (John 6:27)
- **Lord** (Romans 10:9)
- **Word** (John 1:1)
- **Emmanuel** (Matthew 1:23)
- **Bread of Life** (John 6:35)
- **Light of the World** (John 8:12)
- **Gate for the Sheep** (John 10:7)
- **Good Shepherd** (John 10:11)
- **Resurrection and the Life** (John 11:25)
- **The Way, the Truth and the Life** (John 14:6)
- **Vine** (John 15:1)
- **King of Kings and Lord of Lords** (1 Timothy 6:15, Revelation 17:14, 19:16)
- **Morning Star, Root and Offspring of David** (Revelation 22:16)
- **Lamb of God** (John 1:29)

## **F. Jesus: His offices**

According to Scripture, Jesus holds three offices:

- **Prophet** – He spoke God's word to mankind. This ministry as "prophet" is seen in the Gospels. (Matthew 21:11, 46)

- **Priest** – He stands before God as our representative and our intercessor. (Hebrews 4:14-16 and 7:15-17)
- **King** – He rules in the hearts of those in His kingdom and the Scripture says that every knee will bow to Him. (1 Timothy 6:15, Revelation 17:14 and 19:16)

### ♥ Discussion Points/Questions:

1. Who is Jesus?
2. What was Jesus' purpose in coming to earth?
3. How does the mission of Jesus, as described in Table 3.3, provide an example for the believer to live his life?
4. What are the offices in which Jesus operates?
5. Read the Apostles Creed shown on the following page. The Apostles Creed was written in third century (200 a.d.). Does this statement of belief match with your confession of faith?

### ✍ Application:

1. Memorize Hebrews 1:3.
2. Read the Gospel of Mark. Outline the major events in Jesus' life.
3. Ask God to give you an opportunity this week to tell someone about Jesus.

## **Apostle's Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy universal Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

### Objectives


- To understand the Holy Spirit is a person (part) of the Trinity
- To understand the purpose of the Holy Spirit
- To know how the Holy Spirit works in a believer's life
- Listen for the voice of the Holy Spirit and obey Him

### Key Verses

*I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. (John 14:16)*

*I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. (John 16:7)*

### A. Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God – the third person of the Trinity. He is God. He is a gift to people and dwells within the believer. ( See John 7:37-39 and Acts 5:3-4.)

*Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38-39)*

He is the primary manifestation of the Trinity on earth today. His main task is to work within and upon believers to complete the work of God in their character and works. (📖 Read Romans 8:1-17.) This lesson focuses on the deity and work of the Holy Spirit. Other lessons will cover the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

## **B. Holy Spirit: Co-equal with Father and Son**

- **He is called God** (2 Corinthians 3:18 and Hebrews 10:15-17)  
*Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit ... You have not lied to men but to God." (Acts 5:3, 4)*
- **He has the attributes of God** (Genesis 1:2 and Hebrews 9:14)  
*... The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him. In the same way, no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. (1 Corinthians 2:10-11)*
- **He is a person of the Trinity** (1 Peter 1:2)  
*May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (2 Corinthians 13:14)*

## **C. Holy Spirit: His names**

The Holy Spirit is known by many names as shown in the following list.

- Spirit
- Spirit of God
- Holy Spirit
- Spirit of Christ
- Comforter
- Spirit of Truth
- Counselor

## **D. Holy Spirit: His attributes**

God's attributes (as studied in a previous lesson) are present in the Holy Spirit. Table 4.1 shows how they relate to the Holy Spirit.

<b>Table 4.1 Attributes of God reflected in the Holy Spirit</b>	
<b>Eternal and infinite</b>	<i>How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God! (Hebrews 9:14)</i>
<b>All knowing (omniscient)</b>	<i>For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. (1 Corinthians 2:11)</i>
<b>Always present (omnipresent)</b>	<i>Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? (Psalms 139:7)</i>
<b>All powerful (omnipotent)</b>	<i>By the power of signs and miracles, through the power of the Spirit. So from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ. (Romans 15:19)</i>
<b>Holy</b>	<i>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)</i>
<b>Creator</b>	<i>The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life. (Job 33:4)</i>
<b>Truth</b>	<i>This is the one who came by water and blood – Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. (1 John 5:6)</i>

## **E. Holy Spirit: His work**

The work of the Holy Spirit is to make the presence of God known – both in the world and in the believers. He indwells the believer. He also gives the believer gifts which enable him to:

- Be like Jesus through the fruit of the Spirit.  
(Galatians 5:22-23)
- Do Jesus' works through the gifts of the Spirit.  
(1 Corinthians 12:8-11)

<b>Table 4.2 Fruit of the Spirit and Gifts of the Spirit</b>	
<b>Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)</b>	<b>Gifts of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:8-11)</b>
<i>But the fruit of the Spirit is:</i>	<i>To one there is given through the Spirit the:</i>
<i>Love</i>	<i>Message of wisdom</i>
<i>Joy</i>	<i>Message of knowledge</i>
<i>Peace</i>	<i>Faith</i>
<i>Patience</i>	<i>Gifts of healing</i>
<i>Kindness</i>	<i>Miraculous powers</i>
<i>Goodness</i>	<i>Prophecy</i>
<i>Faithfulness</i>	<i>Distinguishing of spirits</i>
<i>Gentleness</i>	<i>Speaking in different kinds of tongues</i>
<i>Self-Control</i>	<i>Interpretation of tongues</i>
<i>Against these things there is no law.</i>	<i>All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.</i>

The Holy Spirit is a person. He can be grieved (saddened) just as any other person. 📖 Read Isaiah 63:10 and Ephesians 4:30. If the leading of the Holy Spirit or His gifts are ignored, His influence can be quenched (extinguished, or put out). 📖 Read 1 Thessalonians 5:19. The following table illustrates how the Holy Spirit interacts with mankind.

<b>Table 4.3 Work of the Holy Spirit</b>	
<b>He convicts the world</b>	
	<i>When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment. (John 16:8)</i>
<b>He teaches</b>	
	<i>But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. (John 16:13)</i>
	📖 See also Nehemiah 9:20, 1 Corinthians 2:10-12 and 1 John 2:27.



<b>Table 4.3 Work of the Holy Spirit</b>	
<b>He intercedes and helps believers pray</b>	
	<i>In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. (Romans 8:26)</i>
	📖 See also Jude 20.
<b>He speaks and leads God's people</b>	
	<i>Because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. (Romans 8:14)</i>
	📖 See also Acts 8:29, 10:19-20, 13:2, 16:6-7, 20:23 and Galatians 5:18.
<b>He appoints men to specific service</b>	
	<i>While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." (Acts 13:2)</i>
	📖 See also Acts 20:28.
<b>He testifies of Christ</b>	
	<i>When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me. (John 15:26)</i>
	📖 See also John 16:14 and 1 John 4:2.
<b>He ministers new birth</b>	
	<i>Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. (John 3:6)</i>
	📖 See also Titus 3:5-6.
<b>He brings unity</b>	
	<i>Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. (Ephesians 4:3)</i>
	📖 See Romans 15:5, Ephesians 4:11-13 and Philippians 2:1-2.
<b>He gives us assurance of salvation</b>	
	<i>The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. (Romans 8:16)</i>
	📖 See also 1 John 3:24 and 4:13-14.
<b>He indwells (lives in and fills) the believer</b>	
	<i>Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own. (1 Corinthians 6:19)</i>
	📖 See also Ezekiel 44:4, John 14:17, Romans 5:5, 8:9, 1 Corinthians 3:16, Ephesians 5:18 and 1 John 3:24.

**Table 4.3 Work of the Holy Spirit**

<b>He gives life</b>	
	<i>And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you. (Romans 8:11)</i>
	📖 See also 2 Corinthians 3:6 and 1 Peter 3:18.
<b>He empowers believers to be witnesses</b>	
	<i>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. (Acts 1:8)</i>
	📖 See also Ezekiel 36:27 and Ephesians 3:16.
<b>He sets apart (seals) every believer into the Body of Christ</b>	
	<i>Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. (2 Corinthians 1:21-22)</i>
	📖 See also 2 Corinthians 5:5 and Ephesians 1:13.
<b>He baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ</b>	
	<i>For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body – whether Jew or Greek, slave or free – and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. (1 Corinthians 12:13)</i>
<b>He makes us holy (sanctified)</b>	
	<i>Who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood. (1 Peter 1:2)</i>
<b>He changes new believers to be like Jesus</b>	
	<i>But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. (Galatians 5:22-26)</i>
	📖 See also Ezekiel 36:27, Romans 5:3-5, 8:2-4 and Titus 3:5.
<b>He gives spiritual gifts to the believer</b>	
	<i>God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will. (Hebrews 2:4)</i>
	📖 See also 1 Corinthians 12:1-11.

<b>Table 4.3 Work of the Holy Spirit</b>	
<b>He brings freedom to the believer</b>	
	<i>Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. (2 Corinthians 3:17)</i>

## **F. Holy Spirit: Works in all generations**

### **1. Presence in the Old Testament**

Before Jesus came to the earth as a man, the Holy Spirit was present in the world and worked in selected individual people according to God's will. A few examples are listed.

- Joseph (Genesis 41:38)
- Bezalel – the craftsman (Exodus 31:2-3 and 35:30-31)
- Joshua (Numbers 27:18)
- Job (Job 33:4)
- David (Psalms 139:7)

### **2. During Jesus' days on earth**

The Holy Spirit was instrumental in several events relating to Jesus' life on earth.

- He was involved in the miraculous conception (the "virgin birth") of Jesus. (Matthew 1:20)
- He was at Jesus' baptism. (Matthew 3:16, Mark 1:10 and Luke 3:22)
- He was there during Satan's temptation of Jesus. (Matthew 4:1-11)
- Jesus indicated that the disciples could receive the Holy Spirit by asking. (Luke 11:13)

### **3. In the New Testament church**

The book of Acts has been called the "Acts of the Apostles," but others have titled it the "Acts of the Holy Spirit." The word Holy Spirit (or Spirit) is used more than 50 times in the book of Acts. Some examples of the working of the Spirit in the New Testament church (as reported in Acts) are as follows:

- The Holy Spirit filled the believers on the day of Pentecost. (Acts 2:4) There are many other references to the Holy Spirit filling and baptizing the believers throughout the book of Acts.
- The Holy Spirit told Philip to preach to the Ethiopian eunuch. (Acts 8:29)
- The Holy Spirit encouraged the church. (Acts 9:31)
- The Holy Spirit directed the church to send Paul and Barnabas on a mission trip. (Acts 13:2)
- The Holy Spirit taught the church the truth about food sacrificed to idols. (Acts 15:28)
- The Holy Spirit warned Paul about what would happen to him in Rome. (Acts 20:23)
- The Holy Spirit appointed certain men to be church leaders (overseers). (Acts 20:28)
- The Holy Spirit foretold the future through one of the believers. (Acts 21:11)

### ♥ Discussion Points/Questions:

1. Who is the Holy Spirit?
2. What effect has the Holy Spirit had in your life? Or in your ministry? Or in your witness?
3. What new things did you learn about the Holy Spirit?
4. Can you live a life acceptable to Jesus without the Holy Spirit?

### Application:

1. Memorize John 14:16 and John 16:7.
2. Write down an experience where you were led by the Holy Spirit. Be ready to share with the group.
3. Ask God to help you understand who the Holy Spirit is and to recognize His voice. Be willing to be obedient as the Holy Spirit leads you in your daily life.
4. Have you received a gift from the Holy Spirit? If so, write about the circumstances and how you used the gift given to you.

## NATURE OF MANKIND

### Objectives

- To show that mankind was created by God
- To see mankind from God's perspective
- To understand mankind's value and position in Jesus
- Praise God for your position in Christ

### Key Verse

*This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.*  
(1 Timothy 2:3-4)

### A. Mankind

To understand mankind (human beings, people), the best source of information is to start with the Creator, God. The instruction manual for His creation is the Bible. The whole Bible contains an explanation of God's relationship with people. It explains who they are and what God requires of them.

The term "man" means mankind, the human race, or the whole species of human beings. In the New Testament the Greek word "man" (mankind) is *anthropos*. The Greek word for the male gender is *aner*. In this study, the term "man" is meant to include both male and female. Although men and women are physically different and are assigned different roles to perform, God treats both men and women the same – as mankind.


*This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men [anthropos] to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. (1 Timothy 2:3-4)*

*For God does not show favoritism. (Romans 2:11)*

## **1. Mankind's beginning**

*Then God said, "Let us make man in our image."  
(Genesis 1:26)*

The first few chapters of Genesis describe mankind's beginnings. In Genesis 1:26 (quoted above), the pronouns "us" and "our" show that there is more than one doing the creating. Mankind exists because all three parts of the Godhead created him – the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. God created a perfect man and woman without sin, sickness or death. They lived in perfect fellowship and harmony with God and His creation.

 Read Genesis chapters 1-4 for the whole story of mankind's beginning.

## **2. Mankind's choice: Obey God or sin?**

The creation of men and woman in God's image is a mystery. However there are some things we know. Unlike animals, people have a conscience, knowing right from wrong. They have the freedom to choose to obey God or not obey. This is called free will. In Genesis 2:17 the Lord God told Adam that he should not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If he did eat from that tree, he would die. Adam and Eve chose not to obey the Lord God and they ate fruit from the forbidden tree. They sinned against the Lord God in this way by their own free will and brought sin into the human race. Satan (called the serpent) lied to them and told them they would not die. By tempting them, Satan played a part in this disobedient act.

Satan is an angel created by God who had already rebelled against Him. Satan constantly wages war against God for the soul of every person. (See the lesson entitled "Satan & Temptation" for more detailed information about Satan.)

### 3. The results of sin

As seen in Genesis 3, Adam sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Wayne Grudem defines sin as: "Sin is any failure to conform to the moral law of God in act, attitude or nature."<sup>1</sup> The consequences of that first sin were devastating. Here are some of those consequences:

- Separation from God – man (Adam and Eve) hid from God (Genesis 3:10, Isaiah 59:2)
- Cast out of Eden no longer enjoying the daily walks in the garden with God (Genesis 3:23-24)
- Fear (Genesis 3:10)
- All mankind became sinners with a sin nature passed on to them (Romans 5:12-21, 7:18-24)
- Curses (Genesis 3:14-18)
- Death (Genesis 2:17 and Romans 5:12-14, 17-19)

The remainder of the Bible is the story of God restoring what was lost to Him and to human beings in the garden of Eden due to the sin of Adam and Eve.

### 4. Mankind's only hope of salvation

God did not give up on mankind because of his sin. In the midst of that terrible scene in the garden, God provided animal skins to cover Adam and Eve through the first blood sacrifice (Genesis 3:21). In Genesis 3:15 God promised that Satan would be crushed. That same verse is the first veiled promise of the coming Savior.

It is clear that God loves mankind in spite of his sinful nature. In a person's span of life: he is born, he lives, he dies and he is judged by God. In his own strength, a person is incapable of pleasing God. God provided the way for mankind to please Him through faith in Jesus Christ.

*For just as through the disobedience of the one man [Adam] the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man [Christ] the many will be made righteous. (Rom 5:19)*

### 5. Mankind's resurrection

Sooner or later everyone dies. Jesus taught us that death is not the end. After death each person is resurrected. If you had the opportunity to

believe in Jesus but chose not to, your resurrection will be terrible. God must judge everyone for his or her sin because He is perfectly holy. God does not allow sin in His presence. Those who do not accept Jesus as Lord and Savior will be banished forever from God's presence to a place called hell.

*And I have the same hope in God as these men, that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked. So I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man. (Acts 24:15-16)*

If you choose to receive Jesus, your resurrection will be wonderful. (📖 Read John 1:12.) You will be resurrected in a perfect body and live with Him forever in His beautiful home called heaven. Heaven is so beautiful that no one can imagine it. (See Lesson 11 – “Heaven or Hell.”)

These truths are illustrated in the following pictorial representation of a person's life span. Notice that from birth he makes choices throughout his life. The most important one is whether or not to choose Jesus. If so, he continues to live his life as one of God's children. If not, he is doomed to eternity without God.

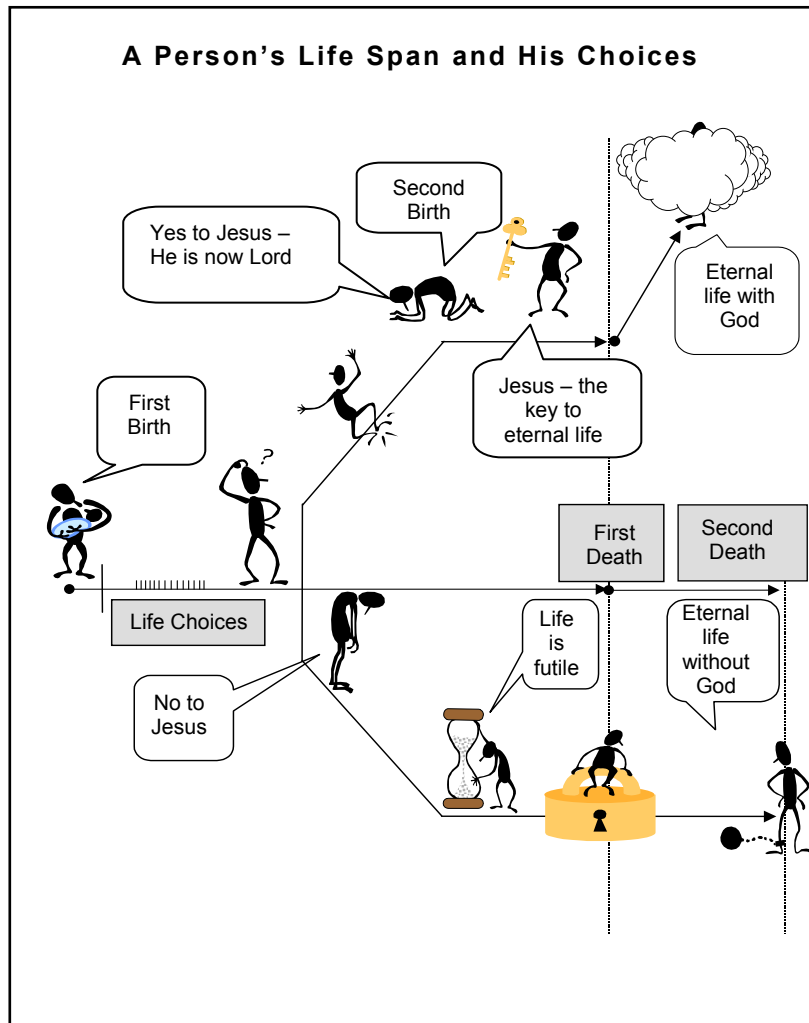
## **6. God's instructions to people**

There are many instructions in the Bible for people to follow. As you study, pray and meditate on God's Word, look for instructions to the believer. One of the basic set of instructions is found in the Ten Commandments (listed below.) They are considered to be God's moral law – and still apply to the life of the believer today.

*And God spoke all these words:*

1. *You shall have no other gods before me ...*
2. *You shall not make for yourself an idol ...*
3. *You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God ...*
4. *Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy ...*
5. *Honor your father and your mother ...*
6. *You shall not murder ...*
7. *You shall not commit adultery ...*
8. *You shall not steal ...*
9. *You shall not give false testimony ...*
10. *You shall not covet ... (Exodus 20:1-17)*





Some other instructions to believers follow.

*... And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8)*




Jesus said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment." And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself ..." (Matthew 22:37-39)

Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. (Matthew 28:19-20)

Come, follow me, Jesus said, and I will make you fishers of men. (Matthew 4:19)

## B. God's view of mankind

The Bible indicates many facts about mankind. Some are listed in the following table.

<b>Table 5.1 God's view of mankind</b>	
<b>All people sin</b>	
	<i>For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)</i>
	 See also Psalms 51:5, Isaiah 64:6 and Romans 1:21-32.
<b>All people die once</b>	
	<i>Just as man was destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him. (Hebrews 9:27-28)</i>
	 See also Ecclesiastes 3:2 and 1 Corinthians 15:22.
<b>All people will have to give an account to God (judgment)</b>	
	<i>For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. (2 Corinthians 5:10)</i>
	 See also Romans 14:10, Hebrews 9:27 and Revelation 20:12-15.

<b>Table 5.1 God's view of mankind</b>	
<b>All people are treated equally by God</b>	
	<i>For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile – the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him for “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” (Romans 10:12-13)</i>
	📖 See Acts 10:28, Galatians 3:28 and James 2:5.
<b>Mankind was created in the image of God</b>	
	<i>This is the written account of Adam's line. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. He created them male and female and blessed them. And when they were created, he called them “man.” (Genesis 5:1-2)</i>
	📖 See also Genesis 1:27 and James 3:9.
<b>People are spiritual beings</b>	
	<i>And the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it. (Ecclesiastes 12:7)</i>
	📖 See Job 32:8, Acts 7:59, 1 Corinthians 2:11-12 and James 2:26.
<b>Each person is of great value to God</b>	
	<i>For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)</i>
	📖 See also 1 Corinthians 6:20.
<b>Each person is known by God before he is born</b>	
	<i>For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. (Psalms 139:13-16)</i>
<b>God wants each person to be saved</b>	
	<i>For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. (Titus 2:11)</i>
	📖 See also Luke 3:6, John 3:17, Acts 2:21, Romans 5:18, 10:13, 1 Timothy 2:3-4, 4:10 and 2 Peter 3:9.


<b>Table 5.1 God's view of mankind</b>	
<b>Every person will confess Jesus as Christ</b>	
	<i>That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:10-11)</i>

### C. Mankind's position in Jesus Christ

The following table illustrates mankind's position in Jesus Christ – some of the things Jesus' death did for the believer. You might want to keep a copy of this table for reference. You may wish to add your favorite Scriptures under these categories as you read and study the lessons.

<b>Table 5.2 The believer's position in Jesus</b>	
<b>Justified (declared "not guilty" of sin)</b>	
	<i>And are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. (Romans 3:24)</i>
<b>No condemnation</b>	
	<i>Therefore, there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. (Romans 8:1)</i>
<b>Set free from the law of sin and death</b>	
	<i>Because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. (Romans 8:2)</i>
<b>Sanctified and made acceptable in Christ Jesus</b>	
	<i>To the church in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ – their Lord and ours. (1 Corinthians 1:2)</i>
<b>Righteous and holy in Christ Jesus</b>	
	<i>It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus who has become for us wisdom from God – that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. (1 Corinthians 1:30)</i>
<b>Made alive at the resurrection of Christ Jesus</b>	
	<i>For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. (1 Corinthians 15:22)</i>
<b>A new creation</b>	
	<i>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! (2 Corinthians 5:17)</i>

<b>Table 5.2 The believer's position in Jesus</b>	
<b>Declared righteous</b>	
	<i>God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:21)</i>
<b>One in Christ Jesus with all other believers</b>	
	<i>There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28)</i>
<b>Blessed with every spiritual blessing in Jesus Christ</b>	
	<i>Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. (Ephesians 1:3)</i>
<b>Holy and blameless</b>	
	<i>For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. (Ephesians 1:4)</i>
<b>Adopted as God's children</b>	
	<i>In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will. (Ephesians 1:5)</i>
<b>Forgiven and redeemed</b>	
	<i>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace. (Ephesians 1:7)</i>
<b>Chosen and brought under Christ's headship</b>	
	<i>To be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment – to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ. In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will. (Ephesians 1:10-11)</i>
<b>Seated with Christ Jesus</b>	
	<i>And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:6)</i>
<b>God's work of art</b>	
	<i>For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Ephesians 2:10)</i>
<b>Brought near to God</b>	
	<i>But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. (Ephesians 2:13)</i>

<b>Table 5.2 The believer's position in Jesus</b>	
<b>Share in the promise in Christ Jesus</b>	
	<i>This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 3:6)</i>
<b>Members of Christ's body – the church</b>	
	<i>After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church – for we are members of his body. (Ephesians 5:29-30)</i>
<b>Fullness in Christ</b>	
	<i>And you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority. (Colossians 2:10)</i>
<b>Set free from sinful nature</b>	
	<i>In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ. (Colossians 2:11)</i>
<b>Owned by God (God's possession)</b>	
	<i>Who [the Holy Spirit] is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession – to the praise of his glory. (Ephesians 1:14)</i>
	 See also Malachi 3:17 and 1 Corinthians 6:19-20.

♥ **Discussion Points/Questions:**

1. Why does God value man?
2. What is your understanding of sin?
3. What are some characteristics of a believer's position with Jesus?
4. Which of "God's instructions" did you not know?

 **Application:**

1. Memorize 1 Timothy 2:3-4.
2. Read about the fall of mankind in Genesis, chapters 1-4.
3. Study the "Life Span of Man" illustration. Prayerfully consider your personal position with God because of Jesus' sacrifice.

<sup>†</sup> Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology, An Introduction to the Biblical Doctrine, (Leicester, England, Inter-Varsity Press, 1994), p. 490

## SATAN & TEMPTATION

### Objectives


- To understand Satan is real, at war with God and a liar
- To understand that Jesus defeated Satan
- To know that you have victory over Satan through Jesus
- Identify Satan's lies that have affected you

### Key Verse

*He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. (1 John 3:8)*

### A. Who is Satan?

Satan is a powerful angel created by God to worship and serve Him continually. However, he chose to rebel from that purpose and became God's enemy. Satan's presence is real both in Bible times and now. At least seven Old Testament books and every one of the New Testament books include references to Satan. The good news is that Christians have power over Satan through Jesus' death and resurrection.

 Read Ezekiel 28:11-19 and Isaiah 14:12-20. These texts give insight into Satan's fall and ultimate end. In Revelation 20:1-10, we see God's judgement on Satan and the other angels (demons) which followed him. The Ezekiel text says that Satan was perfect, wise, beautiful and anointed as a guardian cherub (angel). It also describes him as

blameless until wickedness was found in him. The Isaiah text explains his motives for rebelling against God. Notice the word “I” indicating Satan’s self centeredness. This Scripture says that he wanted to ascend into heaven, exalt his throne above God, sit on the mount of the assembly and be like the Most High (God). His primary sin was pride.

*How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star [Lucifer], son of the dawn! You have been cast down to earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, “I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of the assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.”*  
(Isaiah 14:12-14)

Satan is a liar and deceiver. He is known by many titles and names that describe his various attributes. He is our enemy and is very active in the world today. Satan’s titles, names and descriptions provide a picture of his evil character and works.

#### **Titles of Satan**

- Satan (adversary) (Matthew 4:10)
- The Devil (slanderer) (Matthew 4:1)
- Beelzebub (dung-god) (Matthew 12:24)
- Belial (worthlessness) (2 Corinthians 6:15)

#### **Names of Satan**

- O morning star (Lucifer in some translations) (Isaiah 14:12)
- The evil one (Matthew 13:19, 1 John 5:19)
- The tempter (Matthew 4:3, 1 Thessalonians 3:5)
- The prince of this world (John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11)
- The god of this age (2 Corinthians 4:4)
- The ruler of the kingdom of the air (Ephesians 2:2)
- The accuser of our brothers (Revelation 12:10)
- The prince of demons (Matthew 12:24)

#### **Descriptions of Satan**

- Serpent (Genesis 3:4, Revelation 12:9)
- Dragon (Revelation 12:3-4)
- Angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14)
- Roaring lion (1 Peter 5:8)



## B. Characteristics of Satan

Satan masquerades throughout the world today in many disguises. There are many more Scriptures about Satan, look for them as you study the Word of God. His most common character traits are listed in the following table.

<b>Table 6.1 Characteristics of Satan</b>	
<b>He is a schemer</b>	
	<i>In order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes. (2 Corinthians 2:11)</i>
<b>He is a liar and murderer</b>	
	<i>You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. (John 8:44)</i>
<b>He is a slanderer and an accuser</b>	
	<i>Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down." (Revelation 12:10)</i>
<b>He is a deceiver</b>	
	<i>The great dragon was hurled down – that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. (Revelation 12:9)</i>
<b>He is a tempter</b>	
	<i>Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. (Matthew 4:1)</i>
<b>He is an oppressor</b>	
	<i>How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. (Acts 10:38)</i>
<b>He is a hinderer</b>	
	<i>For we wanted to come to you – certainly I, Paul, did, again and again – but Satan stopped us. (1 Thessalonians 2:18)</i>

## C. Satan's mission

Satan is constantly trying to destroy God's purpose and plan. He wants to hurt God by attacking mankind, especially the believers. Some examples are shown below.

<b>Table 6.2 Satan attempts to destroy God's plan</b>	
<b>In relation to Jesus and God's plan to save mankind</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conflict (Genesis 3:15)</li> <li>• Temptation of Jesus (Matthew 4:1-11)</li> <li>• Destroy the work of Jesus (Matthew 16:23, John 8:43-44)</li> <li>• Possessed Judas to betray Jesus (John 13:27)</li> </ul>
<b>In relation to the nations</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He deceives them now (Revelation 12:9)</li> <li>• He will gather them to the battle of Armageddon (Revelation 16:13-14)</li> </ul>
<b>In relation to unbelievers</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blinds their minds (2 Corinthians 4:4)</li> <li>• Snatches the Word from their hearts (Luke 8:12)</li> </ul>
<b>In relation to the Christians</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He tempts them to lie (Acts 5:3)</li> <li>• He accuses and slanders them (Revelation 12:10)</li> <li>• He hinders their work (1 Thessalonians 2:18)</li> <li>• He uses evil forces to tempt them (Ephesians 6:11-12)</li> <li>• He tempts believers to be immoral (1 Corinthians 7:5)</li> <li>• He sends false teachers into the church (2 Corinthians 11:13-15, Matthew 13:38-39)</li> <li>• He causes persecutions against them (Revelation 2:10)</li> </ul>

Satan's evil ambition has not changed since he first rebelled. He still attempts to usurp (unlawfully take) God's throne and tries to turn man away from God to his kingdom.

## D. Examples of Satan's temptations

Satan will use all of his tricks to turn man away from God. In the lesson on "Nature of Mankind," we studied the fall of man. 📖 Read Genesis 3 again, paying close attention to Satan's part in Adam's and Eve's sin. In

this text we see Satan as a schemer, a liar and a deceiver while presenting himself as a serpent. This is the first reference to Satan's activity in the Old Testament. The following paragraphs compare Satan's temptation of Eve with his temptation of Jesus.

## 1. The first temptation – Adam and Eve

When God created Adam and Eve, He gave them authority over all the earth and told them to take care of it. Many wonderful things grew in the garden of Eden for them to eat. They were free to eat the fruit of all the trees except one. He told them not to eat the fruit of "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil." (📖 See Genesis 2:9, 17.) Since that time, man has had a choice – to choose to obey and follow God or to sin against God.

*The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die." (Genesis 2:15-17)*

Satan deceived Eve by lying to her. He told her not to believe God and that there would be no consequences if she disobeyed God.

*"You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." (Genesis 3:4-5)*

She believed the lie and ate the fruit from the tree. Although he knew it was a lie, Adam also ate the fruit from the tree as given to him by Eve. (📖 See 1 Timothy 2:14.)

*When the woman saw that the fruit was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. (Genesis 3:6)*

This was the first sin. Since the fall (sin) of Adam and Eve, all mankind has been governed by their sinful nature (sometimes referred to as "the flesh").

## 2. Temptation of Christ

The Scripture tells us that Jesus was tempted by Satan in three areas – by the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes and the pride of life. But Jesus did not yield to Satan’s temptations. 📖 Read about Jesus’ temptation in Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 1:12-13 and Luke 4:1-13. We are to follow Jesus’ example in defeating Satan by speaking and praying the Word of God in response to temptation and living our lives in response to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

*For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who was tempted in every way, just as we are – yet was without sin. (Hebrews 4:15)*

## 3. Comparison of responses by Eve and Jesus

The temptations of Eve and Jesus are compared using the following Scriptures.

*For all that is in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life – is not of the Father but is of the world. (1 John 2:16 NKJV)*

<b>1 John 2:16</b>	<b>Temptation of Eve (Genesis 3:6)</b>	<b>Temptation of Jesus (Luke 4:1-13)</b>
<i>... lust of the flesh</i>	<i>... good for food</i>	<i>... stones to become bread</i>
<i>... lust of the eyes</i>	<i>... pleasing to the eye</i>	<i>... showed ... him the kingdoms of the world</i>
<i>... pride of life</i>	<i>... desirable for gaining wisdom</i>	<i>... throw yourself down ... for it is written, he will command his angels</i>

## E. How powerful is Satan?

God is in control – Satan is defeated. God and Satan are not equals! As we learned in a previous lesson entitled “God the Father,” He is ruler over all – and that includes Satan. If this is true, then why does God allow evil? This question has been debated by men and scholars for centuries. Scripture reveals that Satan does not have complete freedom to inflict his

evil on the world or on God's people. Everything that happens to God's people is filtered through the loving hands of God. (📖 See Romans 8:28.)

*No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. (1 Corinthians 10:13)*

The following list shows some examples of God limiting Satan's ability to cause trouble for the believer:

- In the life of Job (Job 1:7-2:7)
- In the life of Peter (Luke 22:31)
- In the life of the church (Matthew 16:17-18)

## **F. Satan defeated by Jesus**

Satan was defeated by the death and resurrection of Jesus. He only seems strong when people believe his lies. When a Christian experiences the cleansing power of Jesus' death and resurrection, the devil's power is neutralized – he is no longer in control. A new power is placed within the Christian – the Holy Spirit. We are instructed to walk in obedience to the inner promptings of the Holy Spirit day by day. It is important to understand the tactics the enemy uses against us so we are not outwitted by him. (The Holy Spirit is covered in Lesson 4 entitled "God the Holy Spirit.")

📖 Read some other Scriptures regarding victory in Jesus: John 12:30-31, Romans 6:8-14, 2 Thessalonians 2:8, Hebrews 2:14 and 1 John 3:8-10.

Satan still comes to tempt Christians to sin; however, through Jesus' death and resurrection, the Christian is delivered from the results of sin – and from the power of sin.

*The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. (Romans 6:10-12)*

We know from Jesus' example that the Word of God is used as a weapon against Satan. We also have the Holy Spirit to lead us in living a life pleasing to God. The Scripture is very clear that Jesus came to destroy the power of Satan.

*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the power of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. (Ephesians 6:10-12)*

📖 Read about the spiritual armor of God – Ephesians 6:13-18.

## **G. What is Satan's end?**

The books of Ezekiel and Revelation tell about the end of Satan and demons. Satan has been punished in part by being driven out from the presence of God in disgrace. He has been expelled from Heaven and has been thrown to the earth. Eventually he will be thrown into hell – forever destroyed and separated from God.

*And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home – these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day. (Jude 6)*

*And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever. (Revelation 20:10)*

## **H. What are demons?**

Demons are angels created by God who followed Satan when he rebelled against God. As their leader, Satan is the prince of all demons, and organizes them into an army to oppose God and His people. Scripture indicates that demons are active in many areas:

- Their primary purpose is to destroy the purpose of God. (Daniel 10:10-14, Romans 8:38-39, Revelation 16:13-16)
- They can inflict disease (Matthew 9:33, Luke 13:11-16)

- They can possess men (Matthew 4:24)
- They can possess animals (Mark 5:13)
- They oppose spiritual growth of God’s children (Eph 6:12)
- They teach false doctrine (1 Timothy 4:1)

Through the Holy Spirit and the Word of God, believers have authority (or control) over demons. (📖 See the following Scriptures for more information about demons: Matthew 25:41, 2 Peter 2:4, Jude 6 and 9.)

## I. Recognizing Satan’s lies

Satan attacks the individual Christian mostly through deception and temptation. We must remember that sin has consequences.

*Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.*  
(Galatians 6:7-8)

Satan lies to us and tells us that in order for us to be happy and secure, we must have the “stuff” of this world. His lies appeal to man in the form of the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life (1 John 2:16 NKJV). The following table identifies a few of Satan’s key deceptions and the truth from God’s Word that counters that lie.

Table 6.4 Recognizing Satan’s lies	
Satan’s lie: God’s truth:	Scripture & Reference
<b>LIE:</b> To be happy and secure, I need things. <b>TRUTH:</b> Everything I need is found in Christ.	
	<i>Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” (Hebrews 13:5)</i>
	📖 See also Mark 8:1-8, 8:36, Philipians 3:7-8, 4:11-13 and Colossians 3:2.

<b>Table 6.4 Recognizing Satan's lies</b>	
<b>Satan's lie: God's truth:</b>	<b>Scripture &amp; Reference</b>
<p><b>LIE:</b> I need approval of others (fame, honor &amp; recognition).  <b>TRUTH:</b> It is only God's approval and acceptance that I need.</p>	<p><i>Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ. (Galatians 1:10)</i></p> <p>📖 See 1 Corinthians 11:19 and 1 Thessalonians 2:4.</p>
<p><b>LIE:</b> I need pleasures of the flesh (illicit sex, gluttony, intoxication through drugs &amp; alcohol).  <b>TRUTH:</b> I must bring my body under the control of the Spirit for a greater good.</p>	<p><i>You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand. (Psalms 16:11)</i></p> <p>📖 See also Proverbs 21:17, Ecclesiastes 2:1-11, Romans 12:2, 1 Corinthians 9:27, 2 Timothy 3:2-4, Titus 2:11-12 and Hebrews 11:25.</p>
<p><b>LIE:</b> I need to have control of everything in my environment.  <b>TRUTH:</b> I need to be controlled by the Spirit.</p>	<p><i>The mind of a sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace. (Romans 8:6)</i></p> <p>📖 See also Matthew 20:26-28, Mark 8:35, 10:43-44 and Philippians 2:3-11.</p>
<p><b>LIE:</b> I need to have worldly knowledge.  <b>TRUTH:</b> I need knowledge and thoughts that are obedient to Jesus.</p>	<p><i>See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ. (Colossians 2:8)</i></p> <p>📖 See Romans 12:2, 2 Corinthians 10:4-5, Colossians 1:9, 2:2-3 and 1 Timothy 6:20.</p>



♥ **Discussion Points/Questions:**

1. Who is Satan and who created him?
2. Why does man have a natural tendency to sin?
3. How can we have victory over the temptation of Satan?



**Application:**

1. Memorize 1 John 3:8.
2. Be ready to share an experience where you were able to overcome temptation.
3. What other lies has the Holy Spirit revealed to you where Satan has been tempting you? Write them down and pray for strength to overcome these temptations.



## BLOOD OF JESUS

### Objectives

- To understand the meaning of sacrifice and shed blood
- To understand what the shed blood of Jesus does for man
- To understand the purpose of the cross
- Appropriate benefits you received through the blood of Jesus



### Key Verses

*In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.  
(Ephesians 1:7)*

*In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.  
(Hebrews 9:22)*

### A. Review

Several key truths were taught in previous lessons that establish the foundation for this lesson on the blood of Jesus. Consider the following truths:

- All mankind has a sin nature. They sin as a result of the fall of man as recorded in Genesis 3. (📖 See Romans 5:12-14.)

- People discovered that just knowing what was right did not give them the ability to do what was right. Without Jesus, mankind will always be a slave to sin. (📖 See Romans 7:18-25.)
- There are terrible consequences to sin. Sin demands the death penalty – physically, spiritually and eternally. (📖 See also Romans 6:23, Ezekiel 18:4 and 1 Corinthians 15:21-22.)
- God could no longer be close to mankind. God is holy and cannot be in the presence of sin. (📖 See Isaiah 59:2.)
- Although sin separates mankind from God, He had a plan to restore this relationship. God’s plan was revealed when he sent Jesus. Through His death on the cross, Jesus became the blood sacrifice for mankind’s sin. (📖 See 1 Peter 1:18-20.)

## **B. Significance of the blood of Jesus**

### **1. Blood sacrifice in the Bible**

Most people today are uncomfortable with the idea of blood sacrifice. Killing a living creature is not a pleasant activity. The ugliness of pain, blood and death associated with killing an animal reveals the ugly nature of our sin. In the lesson called “Nature of Mankind,” the first sin committed by Adam and Eve was discussed. We learned the first blood sacrifice was made by God to provide a covering for Adam and Eve after they sinned.

*The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. (Genesis 3:21)*

There are three things we can learn from this verse.

1. We cannot create our own covering for sin. Nothing man can do will fix sin. Only God can provide a covering for sin as he did for Adam and Eve.
2. The penalty for sin is death. The innocent animal died for the guilty ones (Adam and Eve).
3. Blood was shed when the animal was killed. Blood is necessary to cover man’s sin.

Not only did God sacrifice the first animal for sin, He also commanded His people to practice blood sacrifice in the Old Testament. (📖 Read Leviticus 4:1-35 and 16:1-34 to see the laws in the Old Covenant regarding blood sacrifice [called sin offerings] to cover man's sin.)

An animal was killed as a substitute for the one who sinned. By requiring this sacrifice, God demonstrated what a serious offence sin really is. To have healthy living bodies, both man and animal must have blood. The blood is alive and brings life to every cell in the body.

*For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes **atonement** for one's life. (Leviticus 17:11)*

Atonement is a word not often used in daily conversation. Atonement means to cancel out, clean, or reconcile. To make atonement means to find a way to get rid of the problem about which two parties are fighting. The "atonement" made a way for those at war to stop fighting and forgive each other. Forgiveness is necessary to bring about peace in that relationship. There is a principle or law regarding the covering (atoning) effect of blood for sin.

*In fact the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. (Hebrews 9:22)*

The sacrificing of animals in the Old Testament for man's sin was a picture of what was to come. (📖 Read Hebrews 8-10 for an understanding of how Jesus fulfilled the sacrificial law.)

Jesus was born from a woman but had perfect blood because His Father was God. (Luke 1:26-38) Jesus died on the cross and gave his blood for our sin. He was the perfect and final sacrifice for mankind's sin. Jesus is called the Lamb of God. (John 1:29) The following verse shows that the blood of animals could not make man clean or restore his relationship with God.

*For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God! (Hebrews 9:13-14)*

The blood of Jesus is the currency that buys mankind back from slavery to sin, Satan and separation from God.

*For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. (1 Peter 1:18-19)*

From Genesis to Revelation there are instances where a lamb is sacrificed for sin. 📖 Read the following accounts in the Bible where a lamb was sacrificed.

- A lamb was killed by Noah for his family (Genesis 8:20)
- A lamb was killed for a nation at Passover (Ex 12:1-21)
- A Lamb was killed for the World (1 Peter 1:18-19)

In Revelation, there is a prophecy picturing the Lamb of God being worshiped by all tribes, languages, and peoples.

*Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. ... And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth." (Revelation 5:6, 9-10)*

## 2. Blood and the covenants

A covenant is a pact or an agreement between two or more parties. The Hebrew word for covenant is "berith," which literally means *to cut a compact (made by passing between pieces of flesh)*. Blood is an important part of covenant as seen in this definition. When God initiates a covenant, the covenant contains three main characteristics.

1. Words and promises
2. Sacrifice and blood indicating a covenant is needed for life and death reasons
3. A seal or sign as a reminder of the covenant

These three elements are seen when a covenant was cut (or made) between God and Abraham.

- **Words and promises:** God's promises and words to Abraham are found in Genesis 15:1-6 and 17:1-14.

- **Sacrifice and blood:** Abraham was told by God to cut specific animals in half, spilling their blood. God sealed the covenant by walking between the dead and bloody animals. (Genesis 15:7-21)
- **Seal and signs:** God instructed Abraham to circumcise himself and his descendents as the seal (sign) of the covenant. (Genesis 17:11)

There are several other covenants recorded in the Bible between God and individuals, nations and mankind. The final covenant God cut with man was the New Covenant. The New Covenant is the covenant we have with God through the blood of Jesus Christ. (📖 Read John 6:53-56, Hebrews 9:1-28 and 13:20.) This covenant also has promises, blood, and a sign. Listed below is how each element of covenant is fulfilled in the New Covenant.

- **Words and promises:** There are many promises associated with the New Covenant. (📖 Read Hebrews chapter 8.) Written below is a verse that highlights some of the wonderful promises in the New Covenant.

*The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says: "This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds." Then he adds: "Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more." And where these have been forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin. Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. (Hebrews 10:15-22)*

- **Sacrifice and blood:** Jesus' blood is the "blood" of the covenant.

*Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood for the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." (Matthew 26:27-28)*

- **Seal and signs:** The covenant includes a sign. The Holy Spirit is given to the believer as a seal of the New Covenant.

*... Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit. Who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession – to the praise of his glory. (Ephesians 1:13-14)*

The ordinance of Communion is celebrated in remembrance of our covenant with God through Jesus' sacrifice. (📖 Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-33.) Note that verse 26 is quoted below. (Communion will be studied in more detail in the lesson entitled "The Church.")

*For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. (1 Corinthians 11:26)*

### **3. Mankind's sin problem solved through the blood**

The blood of Jesus provides justification (justified), redemption, atonement and reconciliation (reconcile). The following verses show this truth.

*... For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. (Romans 3:23-25)*

*Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! (Romans 5:9-10)*

These words are at the heart of the gospel and are truly "good news" to the believer. Each one of these words carries with it the solution to awful results of sin. However these words are hard to understand because we do not normally use them. We will explore the meaning of justification, redemption, reconciliation and atonement.

- **Justification** is the act of announcing a law breaker legally "not guilty." The sins we commit make us law breakers. Those without Jesus will stand before the Judge, guilty of breaking the law and sentenced to eternal death. When we receive Christ and believe He died for our sins, His death and blood satisfies the required punishment of the guilty sinner. We are cleared of all charges against us. God has declared the believing and



repentant sinner “NOT GUILTY.” (📖 See also Romans 3:28, 4:2, 5:1-9, Galatians 2:16-17 and Titus 3:7.)

- **Redemption** means to buy back captured goods or prisoners. As a result of the fall of man, through Adam’s sin, people became prisoners of sin and Satan. The price to buy back sinful man was the blood of Jesus. (📖 See also Ephesians 1:7, 14, Colossians 1:14, Hebrews 9:12. Redeem: Galatians 4:5, Titus 2:14 and 1 Peter 1:18-19.)
- **Reconciliation** is the act of changing from being an enemy to being a friend. Through the blood of Jesus, man stops being an enemy of God and becomes a friend of God. (📖 See also 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 and Galatians 4:5.)
- **Atonement** means to cancel out, clean, or reconcile. The word gets most of its meaning from the Old Testament, especially the book of Leviticus. In the New Testament it is often translated as reconciliation. Through Jesus’ death on the cross by the shedding of His blood, he was THE sacrifice for sin by which God shows mercy to sinners. (📖 See also Hebrews 2:17 and 9:5.)


The following table summarizes mankind’s sin problem and how the blood of Jesus provided the answer through redemption, justification and reconciliation.

<b>Table 7.1 The sin problem and God’s solution</b>	
Because of man’s fall (sin), mankind becomes a slave to Satan and sin.	<b>Redemption</b> (buy back out of slavery) In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. (Eph 1:7-8)
Man is sinful, declared guilty, sentenced to death. Mankind has no way to get right on his own.	<b>Justification</b> (declared “not guilty”) Know that a man is not <b>justified</b> by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be <b>justified</b> by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified. (Galatians 2:16)

<b>Table 7.1 The sin problem and God's solution</b>	
Man is separated and hostile to God and no longer communicates with Him.	<b>Reconciliation</b> (enemies made friends)
	All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. (2 Corinthians 5:18-21)

### C. Benefits of the blood of Jesus

Jesus Christ provided justification for man's sin just as if man never sinned. He paid the sacrificial price (redemption) for sin and provided atonement (reconciliation with God) for all who believe in Him. The blood of Jesus satisfied the requirement of God and provided a new relationship with God.

<b>Table 7.2 Through the blood of Jesus, God</b>	
<b>Provided eternal redemption</b>	
	<i>He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption. (Hebrews 9:12)</i>
<b>Did away with sin and provided forgiveness</b>	
	<i>But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. ... If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:7, 9)</i>
	 See also Ephesians 1:7 and Hebrews 9:26-28.
<b>Provided an eternal inheritance</b>	
	<i>For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance – how that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant. (Hebrews 9:15)</i>

<b>Table 7.2 Through the blood of Jesus, God</b>	
<b>Sanctified (set apart) the believer</b>	
	<i>And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. (Hebrews 10:10)</i>
	📖 See also Hebrews 13:12.
<b>Gave entrance to God's presence (Most Holy Place)</b>	
	<i>Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place, by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body. (Hebrews 10:19-20)</i>
	📖 See also John 1:12, Ephesians 2:11-16 and Hebrews 2:11-12.
<b>Justified the believer</b>	
	<i>God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:21)</i>
	📖 See also Romans 5:8-9, Hebrews 9:14 and 10:21-22.
<b>Purchased the church of God</b>	
	<i>Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. (Acts 20:28)</i>
	📖 See also Ephesians 1:22.

## D. Freedom through the blood of Jesus

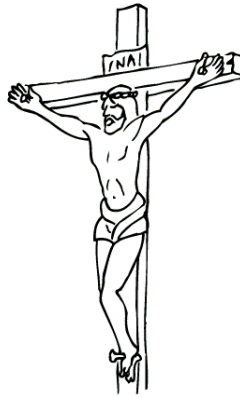
Jesus' death on the cross won a great victory – atonement (reconciliation) for mankind. This means that misery and suffering as a result of sin were cancelled. The blood of Jesus gained new freedoms for man as shown in the following table.

<b>Table 7.3 Through Jesus' death, we have freedom from:</b>	
<b>Satan</b>	<i>And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the Cross. (Colossians 2:15)</i>
	📖 See also Colossians 1:13

<b>Table 7.3 Through Jesus' death, we have freedom from:</b>	
<b>Sickness</b>	<i>He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. (1 Peter 2:24)</i> 📖 See also Matthew 8:17.
<b>The curse (the Law)</b>	<i>Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." (Galatians 3:13)</i> 📖 See also Deuteronomy 28:15-68.
<b>Everlasting death</b>	<i>But it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. (2 Timothy 1:10)</i> 📖 See also John 5:24 and Romans 6:23.

## **E. The Cross – God's plan**

Jesus was crucified – put to death by being nailed to a wooden cross. The wicked men who executed Jesus probably thought they were executing a man who was disturbing their life. Little did they know that God had planned this kind of death from the beginning.



The cross is the place where the love of God and His righteous judgment meet. Judgment demanded the death penalty for sin – the shedding of blood. His love met His own demands – and Jesus died in our place – on a cross. The illustration shows Jesus being crucified on the cross.

*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only this, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. (Romans 5:8-11)*

*For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (1 Corinthians 1:18)*

## **F. Mankind's response to Jesus' death**

So, truly the work of redemption, justification and atonement is done completely by God through the blood of Jesus. Our part is to accept these gifts through faith and follow Jesus. Jesus referred to His death many times during His life and commanded the believer to take up his cross and follow Jesus. This means, in part, to be careful how you live in light of the great price Jesus paid for your salvation. (📖 Read Hebrews 10:24-39.)

*Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it." (Matthew 16:24-25)*

### **♥ Discussion Points/Questions:**

1. What was accomplished by Jesus' death on the cross?
2. What is the meaning of redemption, justification and atonement?
3. How does the cross demonstrate God's love for us?
4. What is the connection between shed blood and forgiveness?

### **Application:**

1. Memorize Ephesians 1:7 and Hebrews 9:22.
2. Read the following chapters – Hebrews 8-10.
3. Have you made the commitment to take up your cross and follow Jesus? Be prepared to share what this means to you.



## JESUS' RESURRECTION

### Objectives


- To know what the resurrection makes available to believers
- To understand Jesus' resurrection
- To understand that the resurrection is important for salvation
- Respond to Jesus' resurrection by obeying the Scriptures

### Key Verse

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.  
(1 Peter 1:3)*

### A. What is “the resurrection?”

Resurrection means that a person who was dead becomes alive again – or “to raise up.” There are examples in the Bible of people being resurrected from the dead, but they all experienced a second death.

[ See John 11:17-44 (Lazarus) and Mark 5:22-43 (Jairus' daughter).] The critical difference between these resurrections and that of Jesus is that He died once for all – and then was resurrected – never to die again.

Jesus' resurrection was not like the resurrection of Lazarus or the others. Lazarus would die again. Jesus rose from the dead and became the “firstfruits” of a new kind of human life. After Jesus rose from the dead,

He had a physical body that could be touched and handled. He ate, walked and talked. His body was made perfect, no longer subject to weakness, aging or death. He had a different kind of body – He was not just a spirit. He had a body that would live eternally.

*Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have. (Luke 24:39)*

📖 See Matthew 28:9, Luke 24:15-18, 28-30, John 20:20 and 21:12-13.

The principle (or teaching) regarding the resurrection of Jesus is the foundation of our faith. Jesus' resurrection was prophesied in the Old Testament (Job 19:25-27) and Jesus talked about the resurrection of the saints (Christians) during his ministry on earth (Matt 24:31 and 27:52).

This lesson is a study of the resurrection of Jesus Christ after His death on the cross. Three days after Jesus was placed in the tomb God raised Him from the dead! This is why Christians celebrate Easter – the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

*And who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 1:4)*

Important evidence of Jesus' resurrection is recorded in the Scriptures relating to the people who saw Him after His death. He also met with the disciples during this time. 📖 Read the accounts of Jesus' death and resurrection in Matthew 26-28, Mark 14-16, Luke 22-24, John 20-21 and 1 Corinthians 15:3-6. There are many other references in the Bible relating to His resurrection.

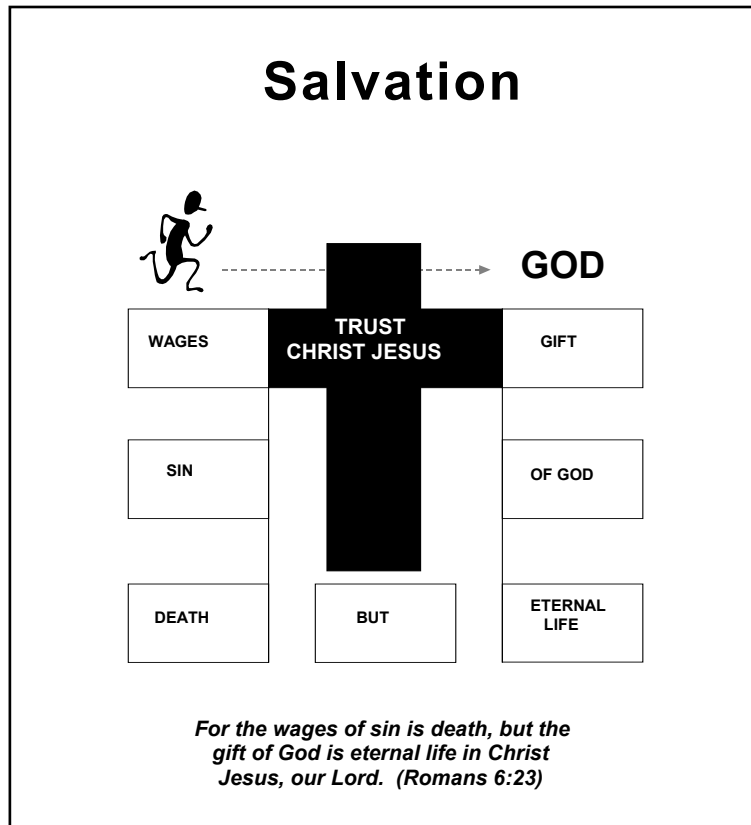
## **B. The resurrection and salvation**

We learned earlier that Jesus provided redemption (to buy back), justification (substitution of Himself for sin) and atonement (reconciliation with God) through His blood. After Jesus died on the cross and was resurrected, the way for man's salvation was complete. It is only through the grace of God and the death and resurrection of Jesus that we can be saved from our sin.



*That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. (Romans 10:9-10)*

*Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name [Jesus Christ] under heaven given to men by which we must be saved. (Acts 4:12)*



Salvation has two requirements for a man to be saved: he must confess Jesus Christ is Lord, and believe in his heart that God has raised Jesus Christ from the dead (the resurrection of Jesus). After this, the Holy Spirit comes to live in the new Christian to lead him in living a life that is

pleasing to God. (The Holy Spirit and blood of Jesus are discussed in other lessons.)

*Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"*  
(John 11:25-26)

### **C. Significance of the resurrection of Jesus**

The resurrection of Jesus is said to be the most important proof for the deity of Jesus, the Son of God. Since the resurrection was prophesied in the Old Testament, it must be fulfilled in order for God to fulfill his Word. Remember, our God is all powerful (omnipotent).

*And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. (1 Corinthians 15:17)*

The list below illustrates the significance of the resurrection of Jesus Christ in the life of a Christian.

- Cornerstone of our faith (1 Corinthians 15:14, Ephesians 2:18-20, 2 Peter 2:6-7)
- Salvation is dependent on the resurrection (Romans 6:4, 10:9)
- Proves Jesus is God (Romans 1:4, 1 Timothy 3:16)
- The end goal of Christian life (1 Corinthians 15:19-20, Philippians 3:10-12)



In the Old Testament, God commanded the Israelites to set aside the Sabbath (the seventh day – Saturday) to remember and worship Him. This day was chosen by God because it was the day He rested from creating the world. Most Christians honor the resurrection of Jesus by observing the Sabbath on Sunday – the day Jesus arose from the dead – the first day of the week. 📖 Read Exodus 20:8-11, 31:12-18, Mark 16:9 and John 20:19.

*On the first day of the week we came together to break bread ...*  
(Acts 20:7)

The following table shows several reasons why Jesus was crucified and then resurrected.

**Table 8.1 Reasons for the resurrection of Jesus**

<b>Jesus arose because of who He is</b>	
	<i>But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. (Acts 2:24)</i>
<b>Jesus arose to fulfill the covenant God made with David</b>	
	<i>You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end. (Luke 1:31-33)</i>
	📖 See also Psalms 89:20-37, Isaiah 9:6-7 and Acts 2:25-31.
<b>Christ arose as the giver of resurrection life</b>	
	<i>Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. (Colossians 3:1-4)</i>
	📖 See also John 11:25 and Ephesians 2:6.
<b>Jesus arose to become head of the church</b>	
	<i>And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, and the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. (Ephesians 1:22-23)</i>
	📖 Read Ephesians 1:19-23 for context.
<b>Christ arose to be the firstfruits of the resurrection</b>	
	<i>But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. (1 Corinthians 15:20-21)</i>
	📖 See also Colossians 1:18.

<b>Table 8.1 Reasons for the resurrection of Jesus</b>	
<b>Christ arose to become the source of resurrection power</b>	
	<i>I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms. (Ephesians 1:18-20)</i>
	 See also Matthew 28:18, Ephesians 1:19-21 and Philippians 4:13.
<b>Jesus arose so our justification would be accomplished</b>	
	<i>He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification. (Romans 4:25)</i>
<b>Jesus arose to give us new birth</b>	
	<i>Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. (1 Peter 1:3)</i>
<b>Through Christ's resurrection, we are seated in heavenly places</b>	
	<i>As for you, you were dead in your transgression and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, ... But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:1-2, 4-6)</i>
	 See also Colossians 3:1-3.

## D. Response to the resurrection of Jesus

Jesus' resurrection is of utmost importance – in fact, it is one thing that sets Christianity apart. The Scriptures instruct us to testify, preach and proclaim the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The following Scriptures show the Christian how he is to respond to the resurrection.

- **Believe it**

*That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (Romans 10:9)*

- **Think about it – be heavenly (or eternally) minded**

*Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. (Colossians 3:1-3)*

- **Live it – by knowing Him**

*But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ – the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. (Philippians 3:7-11)*

- **Preach it**

*With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus and much grace was upon them all. (Acts 4:33)*

*We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen – by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name. (Acts 10:39-43)*

*Explaining and proving that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead. "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Christ." (Acts 17:3)*

♥ **Discussion Points/Questions:**

1. Why did Jesus appear to man after His resurrection?
2. Discuss the reasons why Jesus arose from the dead.
3. How does one become saved?
4. What benefits do we realize from Jesus' resurrection?

 **Application:**

1. Memorize 1 Peter 1-3.
2. Read 1 Corinthians 15 to understand just how important Jesus' resurrection is to His believers.
3. Pray about what your response to the resurrection should be – and make it a point to obey these commands.

## WATER BAPTISM

### Objectives

- To understand the meaning of water baptism
- To know the importance of water baptism
- Be baptized

### Key Verse

*Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. (Romans 6:3-4)*

### A. What is baptism?

Believers in Jesus Christ are baptized signifying they are set apart to a new life. The Greek word baptisma means to dip, to plunge, to submerge or to immerse. When people repent from their sin and believe Jesus died for them, they are to be baptized. Baptism is an ordinance (a ceremony or ritual) in which the person is taken to water, put under it and brought up again to signify new life. This is usually done before many witnesses.

Why would Jesus command that His believers do such a strange thing? By being baptized, the believer is publicly identifying himself with Christ's death, burial and resurrection. Scriptures indicate the importance of

baptism to Jesus. He commanded the disciples to be baptized and then to make disciples and baptize them also.

*Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38)*

Although Jesus commanded believers be baptized, it is not a requirement for salvation. Water baptism is an act of obedience. We know of one example where baptism was not possible – and the believer was saved. The thief who hung on a cross next to Jesus proclaimed his belief in Jesus – and Jesus told him he would be with Him in paradise. (📖 Read Luke 23:39-43.) However, Scripture is very clear that baptism is important.

📖 See Matthew 28:19, Mark 16:16, John 3:5, Acts 10:48 and 22:16.

**Note:** The Bible indicates that Jesus and His disciples were baptized by immersion. There are a variety of ways people practice baptism: immersion, sprinkling and infant baptism. The important point is that the believer recognizes his need for salvation and is obedient to the command of baptism to the extent possible.

## **B. Water baptism in the New Testament**

### **1. Baptism of John**

John the Baptist was a prophet sent by God to preach repentance and to point the way to Jesus, the Messiah. "John's baptism" is mentioned several times in the New Testament.

*People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea ... Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. I baptize you with water for repentance ... But after me will come one who is more powerful than I ... He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire." (Matthew 3:5-6, 11)*

Other examples of John's baptism are John 1:26, 3:23 and Acts 19:4.



## 2. Baptism of Jesus

Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist to fulfill the prophecy of His righteousness.

*Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." (Matthew 3:15)*

The ordinance of baptism has come to be understood as a declaration of one's allegiance to Jesus Christ.

After His baptism, Jesus began His public ministry on earth. He taught about baptism by example – an example for each of us to follow. He commanded His followers (including us) to disciple others, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19)*

## 3. Baptism in the early church

There were many examples of water baptism observed by the early church in the New Testament.

- Believers at Pentecost (Acts 2:38-41)
- Converts in Samaria (Acts 8:12-13)
- Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:36-39)
- Saul of Tarsus (Paul) (Acts 9:18, 22:16)
- Peter at Cornelius' house (Acts 10:34-48)
- Lydia of Thyatira (Acts 16:15)
- Philippian prison jailer and his household (Acts 16:33)
- Believers in Corinth (Acts 18:8)
- Ephesian disciples (Acts 19:5)

## C. Significance of baptism

Baptism is for those who have repented of their sins and believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. It is an outward expression of an inward change of the believer's heart. It is an event in the believer's life he can look back on and remember. Many times, baptism is performed

immediately after the person believes. Baptism is a picture of who the believer is in Jesus.

- Shows identification with Jesus' death and resurrection (Romans 6:3-4)
- Shows we belong to the body of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13)
- Shows that we are Christians (like Jesus) (Galatians 3:27)
- Shows the believer has been cleansed and purified (Acts 22:16)

## D. Symbolism of baptism in the believer

*And this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also – not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 3:21)*

Understanding water baptism is the key to a victorious and liberated Christian life. The act of going under the water and rising up from it again is a picture demonstrating what has happened to the Christian believer.


📖 Read Romans 6:1-11 and Colossians 2:11-12.

<b>Table 9.1 Understanding water baptism</b>	
<b>He died – I died in Him.</b> The old sinful nature of the new believer is put to death by confessing Jesus Christ as Savior.	
	<i>For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be rendered powerless, that we should no longer be slaves to sin – because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. (Romans 6:6-7)</i>
	📖 See also Acts 22:16, 2 Corinthians 5:17 and Colossians 1:13.
<b>He was buried – I was buried with Him.</b> Just as a person is buried after death, the new Christian must “bury” the sinful person that he was before he accepted Jesus – represented by going under the water.	
	<i>Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death ... (Romans 6:3-4)</i>
	📖 See also 1 Corinthians 15:22 and Ephesians 4:22-23.

**Table 9.1 Understanding water baptism**

**He was raised – I have a new life in Him.** The new believer is now alive for eternity in Jesus Christ. This is represented when he is raised up from under the water.

*Having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. (Colossians 2:12)*

 See also Romans 6:4-5, 8-11, Ephesians 2:6 and Colossians 3:1.

**♥ Discussion Points/Questions:**

1. Why must we be water baptized?
2. What stages of Jesus' life are pictured in water baptism?
3. What do we declare to the world through water baptism?
4. What does it mean, in a practical sense, to live "a new life?"

** Application:**

1. Memorize Romans 6:3-4.
2. Write a short description of your baptism. Be willing to discuss your baptism with the class.



# GRACE

## Objectives


- To understand the meaning of grace
- Accept that God's grace is released in your life

## Key Verses

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)*

*Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. (Hebrews 4:16)*

## A. What is grace?

Grace flows to man from God through His gracious character. One demonstration of God's grace was when God revealed Himself to Moses. ( Read Exodus 34:1-8.) God said of Himself:

*The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin ... (Exodus 34:6-7)*

Another example of God's grace related to Jonah. Jonah recognized God's grace toward man as he declared God to be gracious and compassionate.

*He prayed to the Lord, "O Lord, is this not what I said when I was still at home? That is why I was so quick to flee to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity." (Jonah 4:2)*

📖 See Psalms 86:15 and 103:8.

God demonstrated the ultimate act of grace toward man by sending Jesus Christ to earth to die on the cross, paying the price for man's sins. The motive for grace is found in the one giving it. God gives grace to man because it is in His heart to do so – not because of a reaction to man's actions. Grace has been defined in the following ways:

- **Unmerited favor** – Grace is used to express the concept of kindness bestowed upon some undeserving person.
- **Free gift** – Grace is the gift of being accepted before we become acceptable – it is a free gift – we cannot earn it.
- "The **divine influence** upon the heart, and its reflection in the life."<sup>1</sup>

Grace acrostic – This is a good way to remember grace.

<b>G</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>E</b>
God's	Riches	At	Christ's	Expense

## **B. To whom is God's grace given?**

### **1. To all mankind (common grace)**

God's desire is for all people to know Him. This can only be accomplished through God's grace by faith in Jesus Christ.

*For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. (Titus 2:11)*

## 2. To the believer

- **Saving grace**

God's grace and love for man is the only way that he can be saved from the penalty and power of sin. 📖 Read Ephesians 2:4-10 for context.

*But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved. (Ephesians 2:4-5)*

📖 See Acts 15:11, 18:27 and Romans 3:24.

- **Empowering grace**

Our relationship with God began with grace – and continues by grace. Not only does God's grace make us acceptable in the family of God, it also provides the power to live the Christian life. God's grace empowers the believer with the ability to serve – to do the work of God.

*And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need you will abound in every good work. (2 Corinthians 9:8)*

📖 See Romans 12:6-8, 2 Corinthians 4:15 and Hebrews 4:16.

- **Growing grace**

The believer is responsible to grow in God's grace and encouraged to stand in that grace throughout his daily walk with Jesus Christ.

*But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 3:18)*

📖 See Romans 5:2 and 2 Peter 1:2-9.

- **Calling Grace**

Paul is an example of the calling grace of God. Although Paul was not a believer until later, the grace of God was upon him from birth. (📖 Read Galatians 1:15 and the account of Paul's conversion in Acts 9.) Paul was called to preach the gospel to the Gentiles – so that all would come to know the God of grace.

*I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. Although I am less*

*than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ. (Ephesians 3:7-8)*

Before Paul and Silas went on their missionary journey together, the church at Antioch prayed for them and commended them to the grace of the Lord Jesus for the work that was ahead of them. (Acts 15:40)

📖 Read 2 Corinthians 11:22-33 (Paul's description of his experiences) and 12:1-10 (Paul's weakness). It is understandable that he was commended to the grace of God before starting his journey – he needed God's grace to survive! Jesus' answer to Paul's confession of weakness is His promise for us too.

*But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." (2 Corinthians 12:9)*

### C. Need for God's grace

God's grace is necessary for us to know God. We do not deserve it. Without the free gift of grace, we would still be living in sin and without hope. Table 10.1 shows the reasons we are to walk in God's grace.

<b>Table 10.1 Reasons we need grace</b>	
<b>Strength is found in His grace.</b>	
	<i>You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. (2 Timothy 2:1)</i>
<b>Salvation is provided as a result of His grace.</b>	
	<i>For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. (Romans 3:23-24)</i>
	📖 See also Acts 15:10-11 and Ephesians 2:8-9.
<b>God's call to us is because of His grace.</b>	
	<i>Who has saved us and called us to a holy life – not because of anything we have done but because of His own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time. (2 Timothy 1:9)</i>
	📖 See also Ephesians 1:4-7 and 3:7.
<b>Spiritual gifts for works of service are the result of His grace</b>	
	<i>We have different gifts, according to the grace given us ... (Romans 12:6)</i>
	📖 See also Ephesians 4:7-8.



<b>Table 10.1 Reasons we need grace</b>	
<b>Man can't accomplish God's work without His grace.</b>	
	<i>May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word. (2 Thessalonians 2:16-17)</i>
	📖 See also Acts 4:33, 14:3, 14:26 and 2 Corinthians 9:8.
<b>A man without His grace tends toward bitterness</b>	
	<i>See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up; to cause trouble and defile many. (Hebrews 12:15)</i>
	📖 Read Hebrews 12:1-14 for context.
<b>Men who forget His grace fall back into living under the law</b>	
	<i>You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ, you have fallen away from grace. (Galatians 5:4)</i>

## D. Living in grace

### 1. Man's response to others in grace

A believer in Jesus Christ is a new creation; the old nature is gone and replaced with a new nature that is pleasing to God and led by the Holy Spirit. The believer, then, is to extend grace to all around him – just as God extended grace to him. The following table shows some ways we are to extend grace to those around us.

<b>Table 10.2 Responding to others with grace</b>	
<b>With unmerited kindness</b>	
	<i>Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. (Ephesians 4:32)</i>
	📖 See also Proverbs 12:25, 14:21, 14:31 and 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.
<b>With unmerited acceptance</b>	
	<i>Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. (Romans 15:7)</i>

**Table 10.2 Responding to others with grace**

**With words we speak**

*Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. (Colossians 4:6)*

📖 See also Proverbs 25:11, Matthew 12:36, Ephesians 4:29 and Philippians 2:5.

## 2. Cautions

It is sometimes easy for believers to be deceived by Satan and fall into one of the two following categories. Be on guard against both of these traps.

- **Falling back under the Law**

Grace is a free gift from God; it cannot be earned by works. It is natural for man to want to earn his sanctification through works – or by the Law. 📖 Read Galatians 3 to see what Paul teaches about grace and the Law.

*You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard? Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort? ... Does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you believe what you heard? (Galatians 3:1-3, 5)*

- **Living ungodly**

It is by God's grace that you are saved. Be careful not to use this gift as an excuse to live an ungodly lifestyle or allow others to influence you to live in a manner that is not pleasing to God.

*For certain men ... have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord. (Jude 4)*

📖 See Romans 6:14-23, Galatians 5:13 and Hebrews 10:26-29.

♥ **Discussion Points/Questions:**

1. What are the meanings of grace?
2. How was God's grace shown in the life of Paul?
3. How do we receive God's grace in our lives?
4. Tell how you plan to show God's grace to others.

 **Application:**

1. Memorize Ephesians 2:8-9 and Hebrews 4:16.
2. Read about the grace given to Paul at his conversion in Acts 9.
3. Write some situations when God has shown His grace to you.
4. Read Exodus 33:12-34:9 regarding God's grace in the life of Moses. How did Moses use God's grace?

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<sup>†</sup> The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible, James Strong, S.T.D. L.L.D. (Riverside Book and Bible House, Iowa Falls, Iowa 50126), page 77 of the Greek Dictionary of the New Testament.



## Lesson

# 11

## HEAVEN OR HELL

### Objectives

- To understand the reality of life after death – heaven (for the believer) or hell (for the unbeliever)
- To understand the nature of heaven and hell
- To understand that Christians are citizens of heaven
- Live as one who has eternal life

### Key Verses

*God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power. (2 Thessalonians 1:6-9)*

*When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades. (Revelation 1:17-18)*

## A. Heaven or hell

The topic of life after death (heaven or hell) is very important to the Christian – and can be frightening. The truth is very simple: to have eternal life with God, a person must accept Jesus Christ as the Son of God and believe that Jesus died for his sins and rose again.

God cannot tolerate sin because His nature is morally perfect. God wants to remove sin and restore the sinner to a relationship with Himself. He established a plan to accomplish restoration of this relationship – through the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus came to earth to die for mankind's sin. Through Jesus' righteousness, the relationship between God and man (broken by Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden) was restored. It is only through belief and acceptance of Jesus Christ that we have the assurance of eternal life with God in Heaven.

*And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. (1 John 5:11-12)*

## B. Death

What happens when people die? Where do they go? This lesson answers these questions.

Since Jesus' resurrection, everyone will go to one of two places after death:

- **Heaven** – "Heaven is the place where God Most High makes His presence to bless."<sup>1</sup>
- **Hell** – "Hell is a place of eternal conscious punishment – for the wicked."<sup>2</sup>

Every person will die and will be judged. The righteous (believer) will die once and then live eternally with God in heaven. The unrighteous (unsaved) will experience two deaths: the natural death and the second death which the Scriptures say will lead to hell.

*For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. ... I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far. (Philippians 1:21, 23)*

*But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars — their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death. (Revelation 21:8)*

📖 Read Luke 16:19-31. This illustration is about eternity. Lazarus was a poor beggar who asked the rich man for mercy and help. The rich man was only concerned about himself and would not help Lazarus. After he died, he found himself being tormented in the place called hell. Lazarus was in Abraham's bosom. The rich man was concerned that his family not end up where he was, so he asked for Abraham's help by going to warn his brothers. Abraham's response was no. He said they had the Law (Moses) and the Prophets (the Scriptures). If they would not listen to the Scriptures, they would not listen to one who was raised from the dead.

## C. Judgment

There is a day when Jesus will judge all men. There are two different judgments: judgment of believers and judgment of the unsaved.

*Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son (John 5:22)*

📖 See also Acts 10:42, 2 Timothy 4:8 and James 5:7-9.

- **Judgment of the believer (the saved)**

*So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. (2 Corinthians 5:9-10)*

📖 See also Romans 14:10-12 and 1 Corinthians 3:11-15.

- **Judgment of the unsaved (the lost, non-believers)**

*Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The*

sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:11-15)

📖 See also Matthew 25:3-46, Acts 10:42 and John 3:18-21.

## D. What is heaven?

*However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him" (1 Corinthians 2:9)*

God created heaven as His dwelling place. Heaven is the full manifestation of His presence (what God is like). Heaven is a place of holiness, full of glory and without end. It is a real place, not just a state of mind. It is also promised as the place prepared for the Christian for eternity. (📖 See Acts 1:9 and 7:55-56.)

*In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. (John 14:2-3)*

The Scripture gives us glimpses of heaven. The following table provides a description of heaven.

<b>Table 11.1 Description of heaven</b>	
<b>Heaven is the dwelling place of God</b>	
	<i>Look down from heaven, your holy dwelling place ... (Deuteronomy 26:15)</i>
	📖 See also 2 Chronicles 30:27, Psalms 123:1 and Acts 7:49.
<b>Heaven is the throne room of God</b>	
	<i>The LORD has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all. (Psalms 103:19)</i>
	📖 See also Isaiah 66:1.
<b>Heaven is the place of God's full glory</b>	
	<i>After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting: "Hallelujah! Salvation and</i>



<b>Table 11.1 Description of heaven</b>	
	<i>glory and power belong to our God. (Revelation 19:1)</i>
	📖 See also Acts 7:55, 2 Peter 1:17 and Revelation 21:23.
<b>A place that will never end</b>	
	<i>And into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade — kept in heaven for you. (1 Peter 1:4)</i>
<b>Heaven is the future home of believers (the righteous dead)</b>	
	<i>After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.” (Revelation 7:9-10)</i>
	📖 See also John 14:1-3, 2 Corinthians 5:1 and Hebrews 11:9-10.
<b>A place of continual worship</b>	
	<i>After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting: “Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,” ... “Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns.” (Revelation 19:1, 6)</i>
	📖 See also Revelation 5:11-12.
<b>A place untainted by evil</b>	
	<i>Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life. (Revelation 21:27)</i>
	📖 See also Ephesians 5:5.

## E. What is hell?

Hell is the ultimate destination of all wickedness: Satan, the beast, false prophets, demons and all non-believers. It is eternal separation from God.

*He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power. (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9)*

In the New Testament, there are two words used for hell: Hades and Gehenna. Hell has the following characteristics:

- Dark where men weep and gnash their teeth (Matthew 25:30)
- Place of fire (Matthew 25:41 and Mark 9:43, 48)
- Place of eternal punishment (Matthew 25:46 and Revelation 14:9-11)
- Final home for Satan and his fallen angels (demons) (Matthew 25:41 and Revelation 20:10-14)
- Separation from God and His people (Luke 16:26)
- Jesus controls hell – He holds the keys (Revelation 1:18)

**Table 11.2 The place of hell**

<b>Hades</b> is the Greek word for the underworld, the realm of the dead. The word “Hades” is used only in the New Testament.	
	<i>And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. (Matthew 16:18)</i>
	📖 See also Matthew 11:23, Luke 10:15, 16:23, Acts 2:27, 31, Revelation 1:18, 6:8 and 20:13-14.
<b>Gehenna</b> (the Lake of fire) refers to a burning rubbish heap in the Valley of Hinnon, a place of perpetual fire. It symbolizes hell as a place of torment. It represents the final, eternal state of the wicked after the resurrection and last judgment.	
	<i>Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. (Matthew 10:28)</i>
	📖 See also Luke 12:5, James 3:6 and Revelation 19:20.

The GOOD NEWS is that if you believe in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, your destination is eternal life in heaven. (📖 See 1 John 5:11-12.)

## F. Significance of heaven to the believer

As believers, our lives are impacted (changed) because of a new understanding of heaven, made available through the sacrifice of Jesus.

<b>Table 11.3 Benefits of heaven to the believer</b>	
<b>We belong there</b>	
	<i>But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ. (Philippians 3:20)</i>
	📖 See also Hebrews 12:22-23.
<b>We are enthroned there</b>	
	<i>And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:6)</i>
<b>We have our names recorded there</b>	
	However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven. (Luke 10:20)
	📖 See also Hebrews 12:23.
<b>We have our source of life there</b>	
	<i>Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. (Colossians 3:1-4)</i>
	📖 See also Ephesians 1:3.
<b>We have been sent by the One who lives there</b>	
	<i>They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ... As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. (John 17:16, 18)</i>
	📖 See also 2 Corinthians 5:20.
<b>We have our eyes fixed there</b>	
	<i>For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. (2 Corinthians 4:17-18)</i>
	📖 See also Hebrews 11:9-10 and 14-16.

**Table 11.3 Benefits of heaven to the believer**

<b>We have our treasure there</b>	
	<i>Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade — kept in heaven for you. (1 Peter 1:3-4)</i>
	📖 See also Matthew 6:19-21.
<b>We are being called there</b>	
	<i>Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. (John 17:24)</i>
	📖 See also John 14:1-3 and Philippians 3:13-14.

## G. How then shall we live?

Scripture says we should exhibit certain attitudes relative to how we live our lives on earth. Some of these are listed below:

- Make every effort to be spotless and blameless (2 Peter 3:11-14)
- Do good and pursue peace (Hebrews 12:14)
- Lay up treasures in heaven (Matthew 6:19-21)
- Make it your goal to please the Lord Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 5:6-9)
- Be thankful and worship with reverence and awe (Hebrews 12:26-29)
- Rejoice because your name is written in heaven (Luke 10:20)
- Focus on the eternal (unseen) (2 Corinthians 4:17-18)

### ♥ Discussion Points/Questions:

1. What is the purpose of heaven and hell?
2. Why would a loving God permit people to go to hell?
3. Why is heaven important to the believer?
4. How does knowing that we are going to heaven affect our life on this earth?



### **Application:**

1. Memorize 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9 and Revelation 1:17-18.
2. Thank God for all that He has done to redeem you from hell and that He has good things laid up for you in heaven.

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1 Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology, An Introduction of the Biblical Doctrine, (Leicester, England, Inter-Varsity Press, 1994), p. 1159.

2 *ibid*, p. 1148



## JESUS' RETURN – HIS SECOND COMING

### Objectives

- To realize that Jesus promised to come again
- Be prepared for the second coming by being like Christ
- To recognize the events of the second coming

### Key Verses

*For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done. (Matthew 16:27)*

*"Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." (Acts 1:11)*

### A. What is the second coming of Jesus?

Jesus said that He would come again (Matthew 24:30, John 14:2-3, Revelation 22:12), the angels foretold it (Acts 1:10-11) and the early Christians encouraged each other with it (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18). Titus 2:13 says the return of Jesus Christ is the "blessed hope" – and is often called the "day of the Lord."

*For you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. (1 Thessalonians 5:2)*

So, what is “the second coming of Jesus?” Scriptures say that Jesus will return to earth from heaven to establish His kingdom and will judge the world. (📖 See Matthew 25:31-32, Mark 14:62 and 1 Corinthians 4:5.) When Jesus returns, it will be sudden, personal, visible and He will be in His new body.

## 1. Future events

Several major future events are prophesied throughout the Scriptures. Just as Jesus’ first coming was prophesied in the Old Testament, so is His second coming prophesied in the New Testament. (See Lesson 3 entitled “God the Son: Jesus.”) Some of these events are listed below with a brief explanation and Scripture references.

- **The rapture** – The word “rapture” means “to be caught up.” Jesus said He would come **for** His believers – to claim those who belong to Him (those already dead and those still alive). The rapture will happen in an instant; no one knows when. (📖 See 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and 1 Corinthians 15:51-58.)
- **Tribulation and the reign of the antichrist** – The earth will be judged for a period of seven years. During this time, Satan’s antichrist (the beast) will reign over the world. It will be a time of persecution and calamities of all kinds. (📖 See Daniel 9:26-27, Matthew 24:15, 24-25, 1 John 2:18, 4:3 and 2 John 7.)
- **The second coming of Jesus** – This is when Jesus will come back to earth from heaven **with** His believers to establish His earthly Kingdom. (📖 See Revelation 19:11-18.)
- **Battle of Armageddon** – This is the battle between God and all the evil forces of Satan and the beast. (📖 See Revelation 19:19-21.)
- **1000-year reign of Jesus Christ** – Jesus establishes His earthly kingdom and reigns as King for 1,000 years. Satan and the beast are thrown into the abyss during this time. After this, Satan and all his followers will be destroyed forever. (📖 See Daniel 2:44, Isaiah 2:1-4, 11:1-12, 35:1-10, Revelation 20:1-7.)
- **Judgment** – This is when all men will be judged (both living and dead). The believer will be judged at the judgment seat of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 5:10-11). The unbeliever will be judged at the great white throne judgment (Revelation



20:11-15). (More information on judgment is covered in Lesson 11 entitled “Heaven or Hell.”)

- **New Heaven and New Earth** – God will create this place as a dwelling place for all believers. God will dwell there with the believers in peace and security. (📖 See Revelation 21-22.)

Scholars disagree as to the timing of some of these events in relation to Jesus’ second coming – but they all agree that they will all occur because they are prophesied (promised) in the Scripture.

## 2. The description of Jesus’ return

The second coming of Jesus to the earth is a very important truth for the Christian. There are many verses in the Bible which prophesy (predict) Jesus’ second coming. The prophetic books of Daniel, Zechariah, Isaiah and Revelation – and many of the Psalms – prophesy His second coming. We know and believe that the second coming of Jesus Christ is certain!





Jesus taught about His second coming in His teachings. The Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke tell us about Jesus’ teaching regarding the future and His return. 📖 Read Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21. Other key Scriptures about Jesus’ second coming are: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11, Hebrews 10:36-39, James 5:7-9 and 2 Peter 3:11-13.

The last book of the New Testament (Revelation) tells about the future events to happen on earth and prophesies the second coming of Jesus.

*He who testifies to these things says, Yes, I am coming soon.  
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. (Revelation 22:20)*

## 3. Jesus’ return

The Scriptures tell us that Jesus will return in the same manner as He was taken up to heaven. Although Scriptures tell us we won’t know the time of Jesus’ second coming, the following table gives us a glimpse of what the second coming of Jesus Christ will be like.







<b>Table 12.1 Jesus' return</b>	
<b>Unexpected</b>	
	<i>Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying "Peace and safety," destruction will come upon them suddenly. (1 Thessalonians 5:1-3)</i>
	 See also Matthew 24:36-50, 1 Thessalonians 5:4-11 and Revelation 3:3, 11.
<b>In the same way that He left</b>	
	<i>... This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven. (Acts 1:11)</i>
	 See also Mark 13:26-27.
<b>Like the lightning</b>	
	<i>For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. (Matthew 24:27)</i>
	 See also Luke 17:24.
<b>With great power and glory</b>	
	<i>At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. (Luke 21:27)</i>
	 See also Matthew 24:30.
<b>In full view of all</b>	
	<i>Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen. (Revelation 1:7)</i>

## **B. Living in light of His return**

The Scriptures instruct the believers in what attitude they should have and how they should behave while awaiting the second coming of Jesus. Some of these instructions are shown in the table below.

From time to time, there has been a false idea in the church (the group of believers) that honoring the promise of the second coming of Jesus means there is no need to make long-term plans. This is usually the result of someone claiming to know when He will return. The church has

been waiting for His return for about 2,000 years. Since we don't know the day or the hour of our Lord Jesus' return (Matthew 25:13), we are to live in a wise, prudent and practical way. Christians are to live a Christ-like life and fulfill the ministry God has given them to do.

<b>Table 12.2 Conduct while waiting for His return</b>	
<b>Wait eagerly for His return</b>	
	<i>So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. (2 Peter 3:14)</i>
	 Read 2 Peter 3:1-13 for context.
<b>Do not be troubled</b>	
	<i>Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. "You heard me say, 'I am going away and I am coming back for you.' If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I." (John 14:27-28)</i>
	 Read John 14:1-4 for context.
<b>Be alert and self controlled</b>	
	<i>Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day our Lord will come. (Matthew 24:42)</i>
	<i>So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled. ... But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. (1 Thessalonians 5:6, 8)</i>
	 See also Matthew 25:13, Mark 13:33 and Luke 12:40.
<b>Beware of scoffers</b>	
	<i>First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. (2 Peter 3:3)</i>
	 See also 2 Peter 3:4-8.
<b>Beware of false christs</b>	
	<i>Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many." (Matthew 24:4-5)</i>
	 See also Matthew 24:24-27 and Luke 21:8-28.
<b>Encourage each other</b>	
	<i>Therefore encourage each other with these words. (1 Thessalonians 4:18)</i>
	 Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 (for context) and 5:11.

**Table 12.2 Conduct while waiting for His return**

<b>Remember what you have received and heard</b>	
	<i>Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you. (Revelation 3:3)</i>
<b>Persevere, have faith and don't shrink back</b>	
	<i>But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him. ... But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved. (Hebrews 10:37, 39)</i>
	📖 Read Hebrews 10:36-39 (for context), 1 Timothy 6:11-14 and 1 John 2:28.
<b>Be patient and don't grumble</b>	
	<i>Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. ... You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door! (James 5:7, 8-9)</i>
	📖 See also 1 Corinthians 1:7.
<b>Be holy, godly and at peace with Him</b>	
	<i>... You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise, we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. (2 Peter 3:11-14)</i>
	📖 See also 1 Thessalonians 5:23.
<b>Elders to shepherd the flock</b>	
	<i>Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers – not because you must, but because you are willing ... And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. (1 Peter 5:2, 4)</i>

**Table 12.2 Conduct while waiting for His return**

**Live sober and upright**

*It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope – the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. (Titus 2:12-13)*

♥ **Discussion Points/Questions:**

1. How do we know that Jesus will come again?
2. List the events that will occur in the future. How might they affect you?
3. How will Jesus return?
4. What will happen when Jesus returns again?

 **Application:**

1. Memorize Matthew 16:27 and Acts 1:11.
2. Read what Jesus said about His second coming in Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 13.
3. Prayerfully consider whether you are ready for Jesus' return. Allow the Holy Spirit to lead you in correcting your life so you will be ready.



## THE CHURCH

### Objectives

- To understand that people make up the church
- To know that Jesus is the head of the church
- Commit to be an active member of a local church



### Key Verse

*And God placed all things under his [Jesus] feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.  
(Ephesians 1:22-23)*

### A. What is the Church?

The word “church” comes from the Greek word ekklesia meaning the ones who are “called out” or “separated from” the world. The “church” is the community of believers in Jesus who are joined together into one group by the Holy Spirit. It is an invisible living body composed of all believers in Jesus Christ (the saved) from all countries, cultures and generations. The church is not a building; it is the body of believers (Ephesians 2:19-21).


This lesson teaches about the church as a whole (the universal church) and the local church. Reference to the universal church will be



designated as the “church,” while reference to the local church will be designated as the “local church.”

Scriptures refer to the church by several names. Please note that these are **not** references to actual names of local churches or denominations – although some local churches/denominations use these names.

- The church of God (1 Corinthians 1:2, 2 Corinthians 1:1)
- The church of the living God (1 Timothy 3:15)
- The church of the firstborn (Hebrews 12:23)
- The churches of Christ (Romans 16:16)


## B. The church (universal)

God’s people – whether they looked forward to the cross and trusted in the Messiah or looked back to the cross and trusted Jesus Christ as Savior – are all part of the universal church.  Read about the uniting of the Old Testament people of God and the saved after Jesus’ death and resurrection in Ephesians 2:11-22.

Jesus introduced the concept of the church in His teachings.  Read Matthew 16:18 and 18:15-20. The book of Acts records the birth and growth of the church in both Jewish and Gentile cultures. “Gentiles” are all people groups and cultures other than the Jews. Paul was sent to establish churches among the Gentile believers and Peter was sent to the Jewish believers.  See 1 Thessalonians 1:1 and 1 Timothy 3:15.

### 1. Relation of the church to Jesus

Scriptures describe the church and its relationship with Jesus Christ by the use of illustrations (word pictures) as shown in the following table.

<b>Table 13.1 Illustration of the church in relation to Christ</b>	
<b>A flock</b>	<b>Good Shepherd</b> – Jesus is the gate by which His sheep (the believers) enter into salvation. He is the good shepherd who watches over the sheep and is known by the sheep – they follow Him. He gave His life for all of His sheep – both Jews and Gentiles.  Read John 10:1-18 for context.



<b>Table 13.1 Illustration of the church in relation to Christ</b>	
<b>Branches</b>	<p><b>True Vine</b> – The Father is the gardener who trims branches so they bear much fruit. It is through Jesus that we bear fruit – we will bear much fruit if we remain in Him (the vine).</p> <p>📖 Read John 15:1-8 for context.</p>
<b>A building</b>	<p><b>Chief Cornerstone</b> – Jesus is the chief cornerstone of the building made up of the believers in Him. The believers, as living stones, are being built into the spiritual house of Jesus.</p> <p>📖 Read Ephesians 2:19-22 and 1 Peter 2:4-8.</p>
<b>A living body</b>	<p><b>Head of the body</b> – Jesus is the head of the church (the body of Christ). He has given gifts of ministry (apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers) to believers to enable them to perform works of service toward God and mankind. These works of service unite the believer with Jesus and His church in a mature and whole relationship. As a member of the church, each believer is responsible to do his part to build it up.</p> <p>📖 Read 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 1:22-23, 4:11-16, Colossians 1:18 and 2:19.</p>
<b>A bride</b>	<p><b>Bridegroom</b> – Jesus loves the church just as a husband is to love his wife. Jesus gave of Himself to make her clean, holy, without blemish and blameless – as a radiant bride.</p> <p>📖 Read Ephesians 5:25-30 for context and Revelation 19:7.</p>

## 2. Membership in the church

The believer is automatically a member of the church at the moment of belief. Scriptures refer to members of the church by many names. Some are shown in the following list.

- Saints (2 Corinthians 13:13, Philippians 1:1, 4:21-22)
- Brothers (sisters) (Romans 10:1, 12:1, Colossians 1:2, James 1:2, 2 Peter 1:10)
- Christians (Acts 11:26, 26:28, 1 Peter 4:16)
- Believers (1 Timothy 4:12)
- Disciples (Matthew 10:42)
- Chosen people (1 Peter 2:9, Revelation 17:14)
- Royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:5, 9)

- Holy nation (1 Peter 2:9)
- Ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20)
- Workmen (Matthew 9:37-38, 2 Timothy 2:15)

### 3. Its purpose and mission

The primary mission of the church is to distribute the truth (Word of God) to the world – both the saved and the lost. 📖 Read Acts 20:20-21, 1 Timothy 3:15 and 2 Timothy 4:1-4.

*His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Ephesians 3:10-11)*

The purpose and mission of the church is extensive – it covers all relationships which include ministry to God, other believers and the world.

- **Ministry to God – worship**

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. (Romans 12:1)*

The church is to minister to God which involves worship, adoration and thanksgiving – through prayer, praise, song and in all things. 📖 Read Ephesians 5:19-20, Colossians 3:16-17 and 1 John 5:2.

- **Ministry to believers – nurture**

*Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. (Colossians 3:12)*

The church is to minister to one another in an effort to encourage and build up each other in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. This type of ministry involves caring for each other – or nurturing. The following list shows a few examples of how to minister to other believers.

- Love one another deeply, from the heart (1 Peter 1:22, 1 John 3:14)
- Allow for restoration (2 Corinthians 2:5-11, Colossians 3:13-14)
- Encourage each other (Hebrews 10:25)

- Share with each other (Acts 4:32-35)
  - Show proper respect for everyone (1 Peter 2:17)
  - Care for the needs of the saints (1 Timothy 5:1-16, 1 John 3:17)
  - Do good in the world (Galatians 6:10)
  - Teach one another with wisdom (Ephesians 4:14-16)
- **Ministry to the world – evangelism and mercy**

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. (Acts 1:8)*

This type of ministry is extending God's mercy to those who are not believers. Ministry to non-believers is called evangelism. Some are given a special gift of evangelism, but each believer is responsible to show mercy and evangelize those around him. An example of ministry to the world is to preach the Gospel to non-believers. (Matthew 28:18-20, 1 Thessalonians 2:8, 2 Timothy 4:2)

#### **4. Ordinances (ceremonies) of the church**

Most scholars agree there are two main ordinances (or ceremonies) relating to the church: The Lord's Supper and Baptism.

- **The Lord's Supper**

Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper in conjunction with His observance of the Passover, a celebration described in the Old Testament.

God commanded the Jewish people to celebrate the Passover as a lasting ordinance once each year. Its purpose was to remind the Jewish nation of the day God delivered them out of slavery to Egypt. The Passover is celebrated in the form of a meal as a reminder of the day the Lord God literally "passed over" the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared their homes while the Egyptians were struck down. 📖 Read Exodus 12:1-30.

The Lord's Supper was established by Jesus for all Christians (believers). It is a reminder to remember Jesus and all that He did to redeem and justify (save) mankind from sin. Just as God commanded all Jews to remember their deliverance from Egypt in a Passover meal, Jesus commanded all believers to remember Him in a meal called the Lord's

Supper. This ordinance is sometimes called “Communion,” “Holy Communion” or “breaking of bread.”

Jesus’ last observance of the Passover meal was with His disciples. He distributed unleavened bread and wine as symbols of His body and blood – which He knew would be shed the next day to pay the price for mankind’s sin. Jesus commanded believers to remember Him in this way.

*The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes. (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)*

📖 Read Matthew 26:26-29, Mark 14:22-26, Luke 22:14-20 and 1 Corinthians 11:23-33.

The Lord’s Supper became a custom almost immediately and is regularly observed on the first day of the week (the Christian’s Sabbath). Local churches observe the Lord’s Supper at different intervals: weekly, monthly or quarterly.

The Lord’s Supper is a time of worship (one of remembering Christ’s sacrifice) and self-examination. Some things of which we are reminded while celebrating the Lord’s Supper are shown in the following list.

- The great price Jesus paid through suffering death for sins.
- The comfort we receive with God’s promise of forgiveness.
- God’s great love for us.
- The fellowship we have with Jesus and His people.
- Remember the Lord’s death until He comes again.
- The eternal New Covenant we have with God.

Each time we participate in The Lord’s Supper, we are to remember Him and His wonderful sacrifice for us.

- **Water Baptism**

Water baptism is covered in Lesson 9.

## C. Local church

The New Testament teaches the local church (believers) to be pleasing in the sight of God and to live godly lives. It also encourages the believers to continue in their faith in Jesus Christ. The Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) record the life of Jesus and His teachings about the church. Acts records the history of the church. The letters (Romans, Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and Thessalonians) were written to specific local churches addressing problems and giving solutions along with sound teaching. The other books were written to encourage believers in the churches (Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, Peter, John and Jude). Revelation describes the end times and the second coming of Jesus Christ for His church.

### 1. The local church – its organization

The local church is composed of like-minded believers meeting together within a community. The local churches are sometimes called “congregations.” There may be more than one local church within a community. God has given gifts of service to the believers of each local church to allow it to operate as a complete living entity. These gifts are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. The purpose of these gifts is explained in Ephesians as follows.


*To prepare God’s people for works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.  
(Ephesians 4:12-13)*

The local church operates like a body with each member doing his part – just as each part of the human body does its part – to make the whole complete. It is to be self governing, self propagating and self financing. Each member provides financial support for his local church and other churches as needed. 📖 Read Ephesians 4:1-16 (for context) and 1 Corinthians 12.

*From Him [Jesus] the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. (Ephesians 4:16)*

*Now we are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. (1 Corinthians 12:27)*

## **2. The local church – its leadership**

Scriptures identify elders and deacons as leaders in the local church. Some of their qualifications and responsibilities are found in the following Scriptures.  Read Acts 6:1-6, 1 Timothy 3:1-14, 5:17, Titus 1:6-9, 1 Peter 5:1-11 and James 5:14-15.

These qualifications can be broken down into four categories. A short explanation of each category is provided.

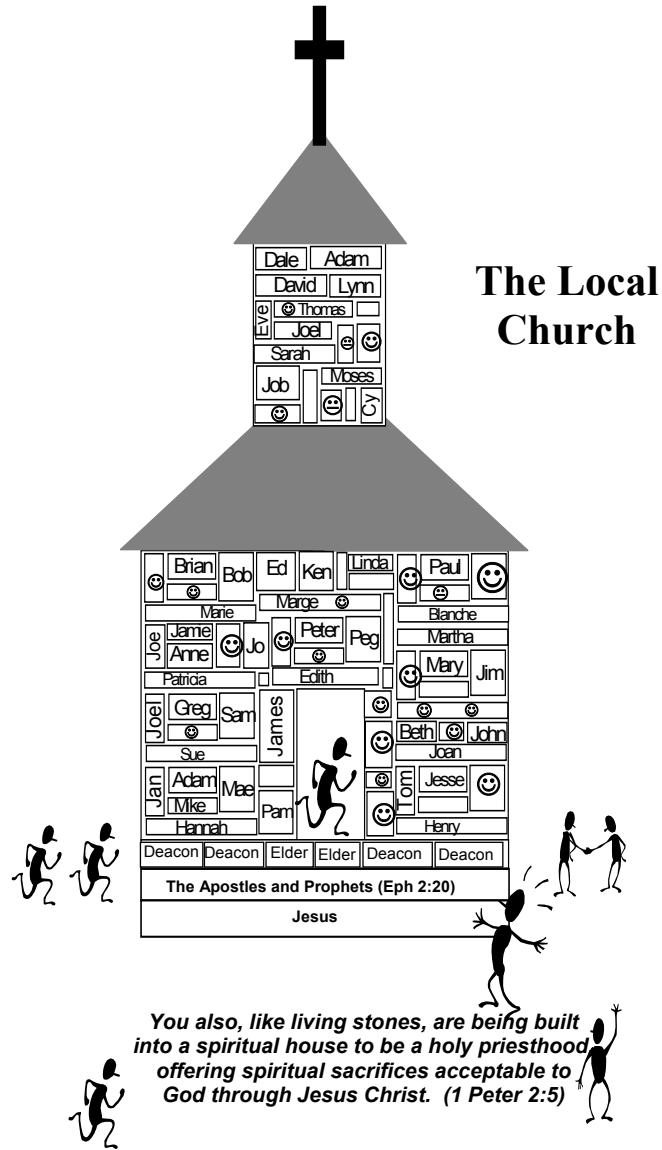
- **Spiritual qualifications** – Leaders must have a personal relationship with Jesus according to Scripture. They must also have a recognized calling from God to shepherd His people.
- **Character qualifications** – A leader's life must be consistent with Scripture. They must be known by good character in the church and in the community.
- **Family qualifications** – The household of a leader must be a model of Christian values and conduct.
- **Ministry qualifications** – Leaders must desire to serve God and others. They must be faithful to the Bible, able to teach and willing to act as a shepherd for those in the church.

### **Elder (overseer or bishop)**

Elders (bishops) are “overseers” who give counsel and leadership to those in their church. This is a position requiring sound judgment and God-given authority. All the early churches mentioned in Scripture had more than one elder.

### **Deacon**

Deacons are selected by the believers in each local church. While a deacon's qualifications are similar to those of elder, their responsibilities are more physical in nature.



## D. A healthy, growing church

The church is a living organism – made up of people (not buildings). As people must grow to stay healthy – so must the church grow to stay healthy. The goal of growth is to make new disciples and save those who are lost – not to increase numbers of people just to have a larger church.

*Then Jesus came to them and said: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18-20)*

Growth is a continuous cycle. There are four basic phases of growth that a healthy local church must experience to bear fruit for the Gospel as described below and shown in the following diagram.

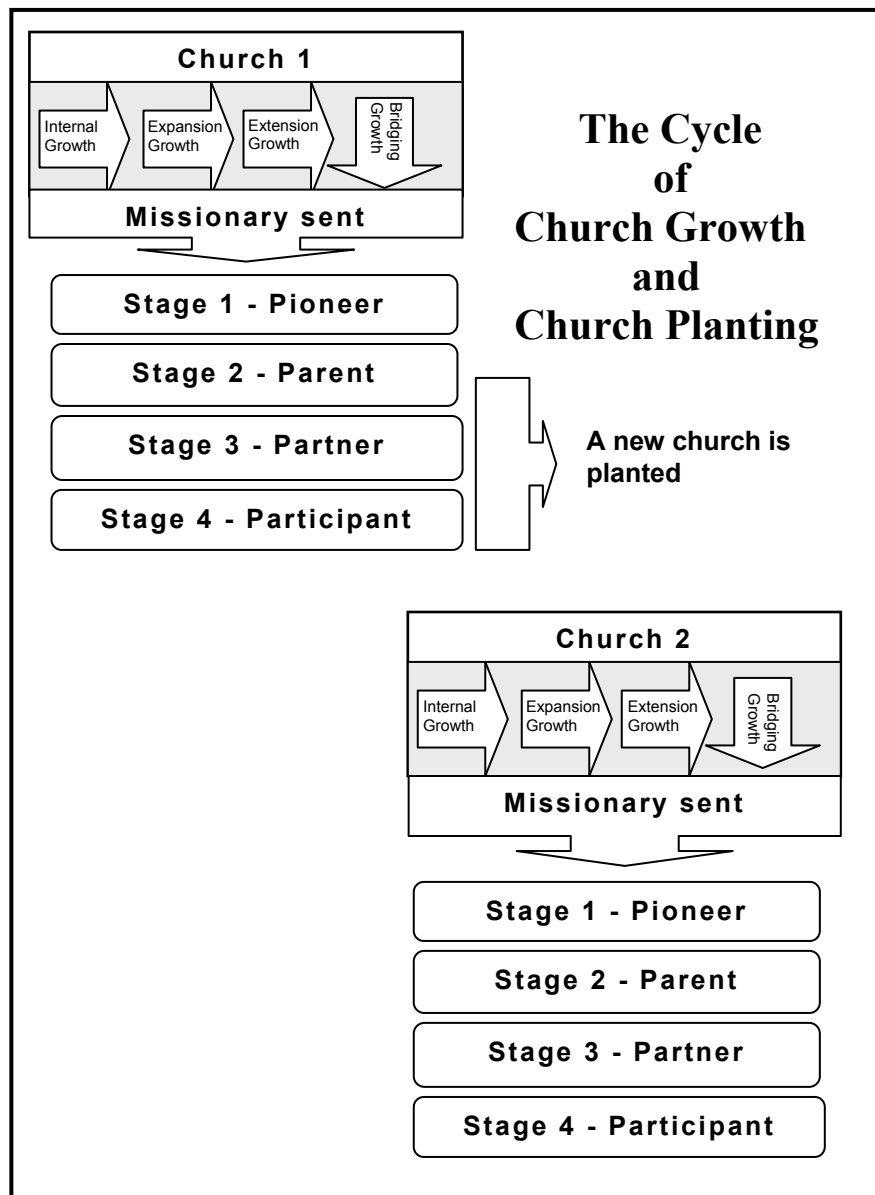
**Internal growth** – Believers grow in Christ’s character by practicing the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-25), the gifts and callings of God. As individual members of the local church grow and mature, they are filled with new strength from Christ and the Holy Spirit – strength to live a life that is pleasing to God. This growth goes forward to the next type of growth →

**Expansion growth** – This growth involves continuously adding new believers from the community through preaching the Gospel. Through expansion, the church is ready for →

**Extension growth** – This is growth that multiplies itself and results in new “daughter” churches within the same culture. By this point, the daughter church is undergoing “internal growth” – and the cycle continues.

**Bridging growth** – Bridging growth occurs when a church extends its witness and church planting beyond its own culture – ministering to other people groups and other nations. As this is accomplished, new “daughter” churches are planted with the cycle continuing.



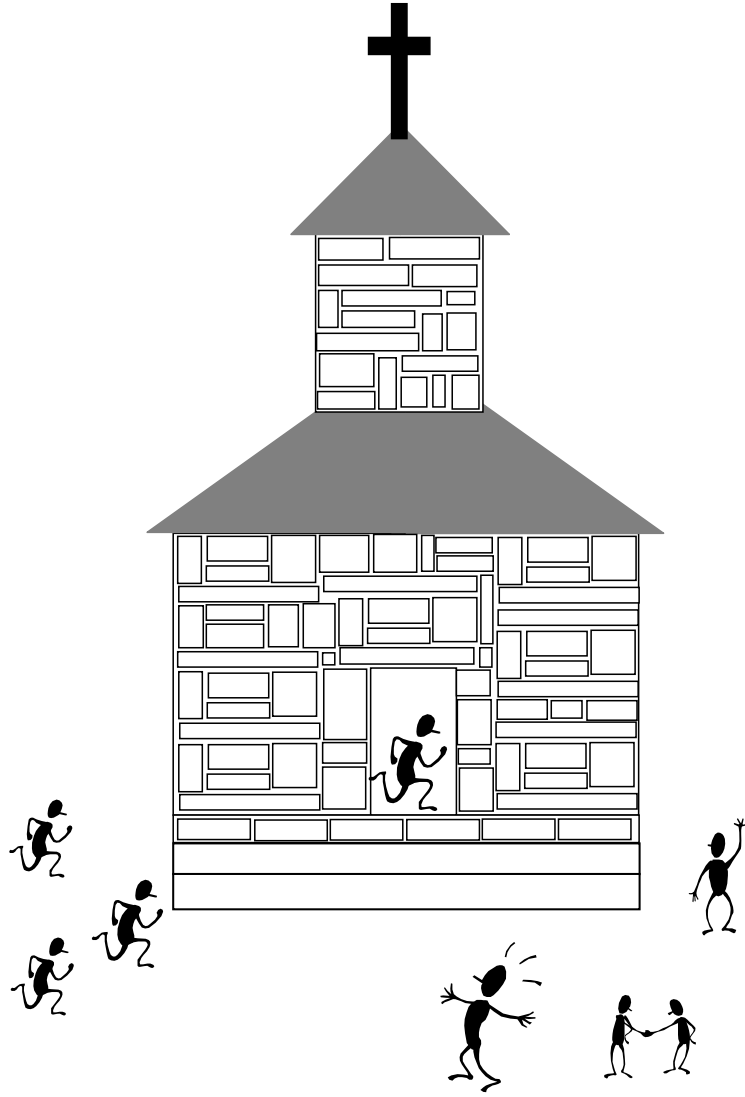


♥ **Discussion Points/Questions:**

1. Explain the meaning of the church – both the universal church and the local church.
2. What are the ordinances common to Christian churches?
3. What leadership positions are present in the organization of the church? Discuss the qualifications for each.
4. Why is it important for the church to grow to stay healthy?

 **Application:**

1. Memorize Ephesians 1:22-23.
2. Consider whether your life would meet the requirements of elder or deacon. If not, how does your life need to change to qualify for one of these positions?
3. Read Paul's farewell to the elders at Ephesus in Acts 20:13-38. List his concerns, cautions, commands and comments.
4. Fill in the following blank illustration with names of the "living stones" for your local church. Be sure to include the church leadership in the foundation stones.





# Appendix 1

## Equippers Group International

### EGI's mission

To provide user-friendly Biblical training and materials to under-resourced parts of the Body of Christ so God's people are equipped to be fully functioning followers and servants of Jesus Christ.

*And the things which you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will be qualified to teach others. (2 Timothy 2:2)*

### The need

The church seems to be growing fastest in places where believers have little opportunity for formal training. This quote is from the founders of EGI:

*After 30 years on the foreign mission field, we have observed that the majority of grassroots leaders in the emerging Church do not have access to seminaries or Bible Schools. Many churches have pastors without any Biblical training whatsoever. EGI was created to provide practical training and materials uniquely designed to meet these urgent needs.*

*Rev. Joseph (Joe) & Jo Hughes  
Founders, Equippers Group International*

There must be a way to reach these fellow believers and equip them with the tools they so desperately need to grow and multiply.

## The vision

EGI's vision is simple and direct: Equip leaders for effective ministry that equips others for multiplication. This vision focuses on these efforts:

- Provide training in each group's own language.
- Provide practical training related to essential elements of Church doctrine and discipline.
- Provide believers with Biblically-based materials to equip them for the Christian journey and use in equipping others.

To meet the need, essential Christian materials must be created that are concise, comprehensive, easy to translate and easy to teach. They should cover the entire range of needs - from basic doctrine and disciplines to church leadership and mobilization. Wherever the Holy Spirit opens a door, partnerships can be made with existing church networks in target areas. EGI works with them to provide training materials, facilitate train-the-trainer sessions and do training as requested.

## The strategy

EGI's strategy to implement the vision is:

- Create Biblically-based training materials that can be freely translated and distributed. EGI is currently creating a series of books for a training system called the Getting Equipped™ Series.
- Develop relationships with leaders of church networks in target areas.
- Strategize with national contacts to determine how EGI can best help believers in that country.
- Partner with the leaders, set priorities and develop a plan to bring needed training to that region of the world.
- Implement the plan. Often, an EGI representative will conduct the initial training session for pastors and church leaders. This "train-the-trainer" session launches EGI's series and materials and begins the process of multiplication and mobilization.
- Celebrate the growth. Release each church to fulfill its unique purpose through local leadership.
- Measure effectiveness through follow-up with church leadership. This assures accountability for each leader and continual improvement and feedback for EGI.

The Holy Spirit is our greatest Partner and Leader in this effort. To the best of our God-given wisdom and ability, we will move whenever and wherever He directs.

*So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. (1 Corinthians 3:7-9)*

## **The Getting Equipped™ Series**

The Getting Equipped™ Series is EGI's response to this urgent need for materials. When completed, it will consist of training manuals that cover the major elements of Christian doctrine, discipline and leadership. While comprehensive in scope, the Getting Equipped™ Series follows guidelines that make it relatively easy to translate and read. It provides a practical, Biblical path that takes believers from early conversion to church leadership. Key points that make this series highly desirable are:

- Biblically based
- Written without church clichés and western cultural references
- Practical and doctrinally balanced
- Each lesson includes application exercises
- User-friendly design

The Getting Equipped™ Series is constantly being expanded with new topics, publications and translations as the need arises. Contact EGI for the current list of publications.

### **Published manuals (as of July 2005)**

*Equipped Through BASIC BELIEFS OF CHRISTIANITY (2004)  
Currently available in English, Spanish and Kiswahili.*

*Equipped Through BIBLE STUDY SKILLS (2005)  
Currently available in English and Spanish.*

## **Manual topics under construction (as of July 2005)**

- Facilitator's Guide to the Getting Equipped™ Series
- Genesis: Book of Beginnings
- Harmony with God
- Missions and Church Planting
- Stewardship
- The Christian Family

## **Translations**

As each manual is published in English, it will also be translated into other languages as the opportunity arises. Contact EGI for the current list of translations.

## **EGI contact information**

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