

FOUNDATIONS FOR FAITH

Table of Contents

Lesson 1 – Building on the Right Foundation	1 - 3
Foundation for New Believers - Self Evaluation	4 - 6
Lesson 2 - Assurance of Salvation	7 - 15
Lesson 3 - What Happened to Me Since I Believed?	16 - 23
Lesson 4 - Who Is Jesus?	24 - 36
Lesson 5 - The Bible - God's Word	37 - 50
Lesson 6 & 7 - Prayer: Learning How To Communicate With God	51 - 62
Lesson 8 & 9 - The Holy Spirit	63 – 81
Lesson 10 - Get Connected - Stay Connected	82 - 83

Lesson 1: Building On The Right Foundation

CONNECTION:

- Share about how you came to Bethlehem
- Share something you enjoy about being at Bethlehem

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. How do people grow spiritually?
2. Why is it vital for a person to grow spiritually?
3. What are some obstacles to spiritual growth in a person's life?

THE WISE BUILDER:

Matt 7:21-27 (NIV)

21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' 23 Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"

24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

GROWING SPIRITUALLY

6 REASONS TO GROW:

1. We must grow so we will not _____.

2 Peter 3:17-18 (NIV)

17 Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position. 18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

2. We must grow so we will _____ God's _____ for our _____.

Rom 12:1-3 (NIV)

12 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. 2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.

3. We must grow so we will not be _____ by _____.

Eph 4:11-16 (NIV)

11 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 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. 14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. 15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. 16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

4. We must grow so we will be able to _____ and _____ them about _____.

Heb 5:11-14 (NIV)

11 We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn. 12 In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! 13 Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. 14 But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

5. We must grow so that we _____ God _____.

Eph 1:17-23 NIV

17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. 18 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, 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, 20 which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. 22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

6. **We must grow so we can _____ the _____ of _____.**

Eph 6:10-18 (NIV)

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. 16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

CONNECTION AND PRAYER:

Name one thing that is presently keeping you from growing spiritually in your life and pray for each other.

HOMEWORK:

Do Self-Evaluation pgs. 4-6

Foundation For New Believers Self- Evaluation

Assurance of Salvation

Low

High

I am confident that my sins are forgiven and that I will spend eternity with God in heaven.

1 2 3 4 5

I have demonstrated that I trust in Jesus Christ for salvation by telling family and friends what Christ has done for me and by being baptized.

1 2 3 4 5

My assurance of salvation is based on faith in the promises of God's Word, not my feelings.

1 2 3 4 5

Victory Over Sin and Temptation

I can distinguish between temptation and sin.

1 2 3 4 5

I know how to be restored in relationship to God when I have fallen and sinned.

1 2 3 4 5

Prayer

I feel confident that I know how to talk to God in prayer.

1 2 3 4 5

I know that God hears me when I pray.

1 2 3 4 5

My prayer is more than just asking God to meet my needs and answer my requests.

1 2 3 4 5

The Bible – God's Word

I believe that the Bible is God's written Word, faithfully preserved for the benefit of all mankind.

1 2 3 4 5

I know how to study the Bible for myself and apply God's truths to my daily life.

1 2 3 4 5

Foundation For New Believers Self- Evaluation

Sharing Your Faith

Low

High

I can easily tell someone how I became a Christian.

1 2 3 4 5

I can share with a person what he/she needs to know and do to become a Christian.

1 2 3 4 5

Fellowship

I understand the importance of close friendships with other Christians.

1 2 3 4 5

I regularly participate in both Worship Services and a Small Group.

1 2 3 4 5

I can identify two or three close Christian friends that support me and hold me accountable.

1 2 3 4 5

The Attributes of God

I can identify many of God's attributes; those qualities that describe who He is and what He is like.

1 2 3 4 5

I understand that I am created in the image of God.

1 2 3 4 5

The Person of Jesus

I have a clear understanding of who Jesus is regarding both His humanity and His deity.

1 2 3 4 5

I know the key elements of the life of Jesus on earth and I understand how His life, death and resurrection relate to the salvation of mankind.

1 2 3 4 5

Foundation For New Believers

Self- Evaluation

The Holy Spirit

Low

High

I understand who the Holy Spirit is and how He ministers in the life of a believer.

1 2 3 4 5

I know that I have been filled with the Holy Spirit and that my life is controlled, directed and empowered by Him.

1 2 3 4 5

Stewardship

I understand that God has entrusted me with resources that I must use according to His will and for His glory.

1 2 3 4 5

I have a plan for how I manage my life, my time, and my money to the glory of God.

1 2 3 4 5

I have an idea of how God would like to use my life in service to Him.

1 2 3 4 5

Obedience

I greatly desire to be obedient to God.

1 2 3 4 5

I am striving to obey everything that God has revealed for me to do.

1 2 3 4 5

Spiritual Gifts

I have a clear understanding of what spiritual gifts are and why God gives them.

1 2 3 4 5

I know that all Christians have spiritual gifts and I have identified some of mine.

1 2 3 4 5

I have a passion and desire to serve Christ in a specific area of ministry.

1 2 3 4 5

Lesson 2: Assurance of Salvation

CONNECTION:

- Share about a time in your life when you felt unsure about God's presence or God's existence. What did you do about it?

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. Can someone really know for sure if he or she died that they would go to heaven?
2. Can a person be good enough or holy enough to earn eternal life? If yes, then why? If no, then why not?

KNOWING FOR SURE!

My story of how I came to know that I could have full assurance of eternal life.

5 STEPS TO ASSURANCE:

1. Understand _____. _____.

Rom 3:23-24 (NIV)

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Rom 5:12-14 (NIV)

12 Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned— 13 for before the law was given, sin was in the world. But sin is not taken into account when there is no law. 14 Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come.

Example: 3 sins a day could equal 80,000 sins in heaven.

2. God is both _____ and _____.

GOD IS JUST:

Ps 9:7-9 (NIV)

7 The Lord reigns forever; he has established his throne for judgment. 8 He will judge the world in righteousness; he will govern the peoples with justice.

Proverbs 20:8-10 (NIV)

8 When a king sits on his throne to judge, he winnows out all evil with his eyes. 9 Who can say, "I have kept my heart pure; I am clean and without sin"?

3. We cannot _____ by anything we _____ or anything we _____.

Eph 2:8-10 (NIV)

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

Isa 64:6 (NIV)

6 All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;

4. Jesus _____ God's _____ and God's _____ on the cross.

Isa 53:4-6 (NIV)

4 Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

1 John 4:9-11 (NIV)

9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

JESUS PAID FOR OUR SIN IN FULL

Eph 1:7-9 (NIV)

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace 8 that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.

DEFINITION OF REDEMPTION:

REDEMPTION

There are many passages in the New Testament which represent Christ's sufferings under the idea of a ransom or price, and the result thereby secured is a purchase or redemption (comp. Acts 20:28; 1 Cor 6:19,20; Gal 3:13; 4:4,5; Eph 1:7; Col 1:14; 1 Tim 2:5,6; Titus 2:14; Heb 9:12; 1 Peter 1:18,19; Rev 5:9). The idea running through all these texts, however various their reference, is that of payment made for our redemption. The debt against us is not viewed as simply cancelled but is fully paid. Christ's blood or life, which he surrendered for them, is the "ransom" by which the deliverance of his people from the servitude of sin and from its penal consequences is secured. It is the plain doctrine of Scripture that "Christ saves us neither by the mere exercise of power, nor by his doctrine, nor by his example, nor by the moral influence which he exerted, nor by any subjective influence on his people, whether natural or mystical, but as a satisfaction to divine justice, as an expiation for sin, and as a ransom from the curse and authority of the law, thus reconciling us to God by making it consistent with His perfection to exercise mercy toward sinners" (Hodge's Systematic Theology)

QUESTION TO CONSIDER:

If Jesus paid for our sins, what must we do to obtain eternal life?

ROAD TO FORGIVENESS AND NEW LIFE:

REPENT OF OUR SINS AND OUR SINFULNESS

Acts 3:17-20 (NIV)

17 "Now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. 18 But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Christ would suffer. 19 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, 20 and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you — even Jesus.

1 John 1:5-10

5 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. 6 If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. 7 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. 8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.

DEFINITION OF REPENTANCE:

- Recognize
- Confess or admit
- Turn to God ...turn away from sin

5. PUT YOUR FULL _____ IN GOD'S _____ FOR YOUR _____.

Phil 3:4-10 (NIV)

If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless. 7 But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 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 9 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.

EX. CHAIR EXERCISE

Receive the “gift” of eternal life

Rom 6:22-23 (NIV)

22 But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Remind yourself that _____ a _____ of God and _____ life is a _____.

John 1:12-13 (NIV)

2 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

CONNECTION AND PRAYER:

Go around the table and answer the question to consider and then pray for one another.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER:

Why is it sometimes difficult to simply receive a gift from God?

HOMEWORK:

Read pages 11 - 15 and do the homework.

Suggestion: Try to work on your homework each day.

ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

I. OBJECTIVE

To reassure every new believer that their salvation is found in God's grace and through the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

MEMORY VERSE: EPHESIANS 2:8, 9 (NIV)

"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."

II. INTRODUCTION

Many people live their lives with the constant fear of not entering into heaven and/or the very real doubt of being saved and secure in God's love. As a result, these people find themselves on a spiritual roller coaster, wondering whether or not they are ready to meet God.

In order to fully have peace and joy in our Christian life, we must repent of our sins and receive eternal life given to us by the grace of God through Christ Jesus and trust in God's ability to keep us until Christ returns or until we die.

III. ASSURANCE OF ETERNAL LIFE

Your assurance of salvation and eternal life must be based on the FACTS found in the Bible, God's Word. Read 1 John 5:11-13 and answer the following questions:

- According to this scripture, in whom is eternal life found? _____
- According to this scripture, who can enjoy eternal life? _____
- Do you know that you have eternal life? ____ On what basis? (also read Romans 8:32-39 and John 10:22-29)

- If you were to die today, how sure are you that you would spend eternity with God?
0% . . . 25% . . . 50% . . . 75% . . . 100%

NOTES

Use this space to take notes or write down any questions you may have for the teacher.

IV. HOW CAN WE BE SURE THAT WE HAVE ETERNAL LIFE?

1. God's Word says so

God's Word must always be the final authority on everything we feel and believe (Matthew 24:35). What does God's Word declare concerning your salvation? Read the following scriptures and answer:

- Romans 10:9-11

- John 1:12

- Romans 6:23

2. The witness of the Holy Spirit

God the Holy Spirit now lives in you. When you begin to doubt your salvation the Holy Spirit will *always* reassure you that you are God's child. *Never listen to the voice that says that you can never know for sure if you have eternal life.* This is a lie, don't believe it! Read and answer:

- Romans 8: 16

What does this scripture say about whose child you are?

- 1 John 3:24 and 4:13-16

How can we know that we live in Him? _____

3. A changed life

Reflect on the many changes God is *beginning* to make in your life (attitude and actions). List as many as you can think of: _____

Read 1 John 2:3-6

NOTES

V. KNOW THE FACTS

We must understand, and *believe* the Biblical truths (facts) concerning human sinfulness and God's provision of salvation through Jesus Christ.

Fact #1: God created humankind in His image and He loves every person (Genesis 1:27; John 3:16).

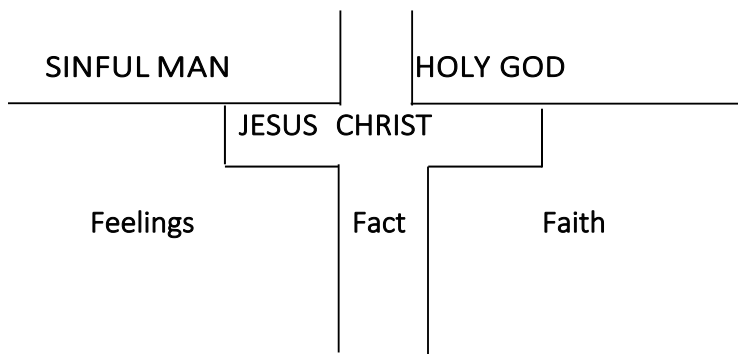
Fact #2: All humans are born with a sinful nature and every person has broken God's commandments by sinning (Romans 3:23). Because of our sinfulness, we have been separated from God (Isaiah 59:2). The only way we can enjoy a personal relationship with Him is by accepting His forgiveness through Jesus Christ (Romans 6:23).

Fact #3: God desires to forgive and restore all those who turn away from their sins and turn to Him (Isaiah 55:6-7; Acts 3:19-20; 2 Peter 3:9).

Fact #4: Jesus Christ is God's only remedy and provision for reconciling us to God (Isaiah 53:6; John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Romans 5:8).

Fact #5: In order to be restored to a right relationship with God we must acknowledge our sin, acknowledge Jesus Christ is Lord, and personally invite Jesus into our hearts to be our Savior and Lord (John 1:10-13; Romans 10:9-10; 2 Corinthians 5:17-19).

NOTES



VI. OBSTACLES TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH

1. Our Feelings

Our feelings and emotions can be very fickle. One day we are full of joy because God loves us so much. The next day we are upset because we feel as though God has abandoned us and doesn't care about us at all. We must prevent these ups and downs by placing our trust in God's Word.

Discussion questions:

- What determines how you feel from day to day?
- How can we learn to control our emotions?
- What is a fact? Are feelings facts?

2. Doubt and disbelief

We all will have to battle against doubt and disbelief from time to time. What are some ways we can defeat doubt and disbelief and increase our faith in God? Read the following scriptures and answer:

- Romans 10:17 _____

- Ephesians 6: 10-17 _____

- Hebrews 10:24-25 _____

What does the Bible suggest we use as an anchor for our Christian life? Read the following scriptures and answer:

- Romans 1:17 _____

- Hebrews 11:6 _____

- Galatians 2:20 _____

NOTES

What is faith? Read the following scriptures and answer:

- Hebrews 11:1
-

- Romans 5:1
-

If you were to die today, how sure are you that you would spend eternity with God?

0%25% . . .50%75%100%

NOTES

Lesson 3: What Does It Mean To Be Born Again?

What Happened to Me Since I Believed?

CONNECTION:

- Take a few moments and go around the table and share where you were born and where you grew up as a child.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. What is the definition of “Being Born Again”?
2. Why does a person need to be “Born Again”?
3. How does a person become “Born Again”?

KEY SCRIPTURE:

John 3:1-15 (NIV)

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. 2 He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him." 3 In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." 4 "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!" 5 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. 6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. 7 You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' 8 The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." 9 "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked. 10 "You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? 11 I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. 12 I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? 13 No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven — the Son of Man. 14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, 15 that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.

UNDERSTANDING THE SINFUL NATURE:

1. We are all _____ with _____.

Rom 5:12-14 (NIV)

12 Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned— 13 for before the law was given, sin was in the world. But sin is not taken into account when there is no law. 14 Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come.

2. We cannot do the _____ for the _____ through our own _____.

Rom 7:21-25 (NIV)

21 So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. 22 For in my inner being I delight in God's law; 23 but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. 24 What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? 25 Thanks be to God — through Jesus Christ our Lord!

3. The result of the _____ nature is _____ and _____ that we cannot be _____ of without _____.

Rom 8:5-9 (NIV)

5 Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. 6 The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; 7 the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. 8 Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

4. We need a _____ heart (a new _____ and a new _____ to do God's will).

Ezek 36:26-28 (NIV)

26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

UNDERSTANDING THE NEW NATURE:

1. The Holy Spirit must _____ and our _____.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

QUESTION TO CONSIDER:

How does the Holy Spirit change us?

2. He comes to _____ within us the moment we _____ God into _____.

Rom 8:9-11 (NIV)

9 You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. 10 But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. 11 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.

2 Tim 1:14 (NIV)

14 Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you — guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us. NIV

3. He _____ and _____ you.

Titus 3:3-6 (NIV)

3 At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. 4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior,

4. He _____ you for _____.

Acts 1:8 (NIV)

8 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."

5. He gives you the _____ to _____.

Gal 5:16-26 (NIV)

16 So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. 17 For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. 19 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. 25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

WHAT ARE SOME INDICATIONS THAT WE ARE BORN AGAIN?

1. A _____ to the _____.

John 16:13-14 (NIV)

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.

2. A _____ for _____.

Matt 5:6-7 (NIV)

6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

3. Evidence of _____.

Rom 6:1-7 (NIV)

6 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? 2 By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? 3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 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. 5 If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. 6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— 7 because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. NIV

4. A _____ to _____ to the Holy Spirit.

TABLE TALK:

Go around the table and share several ways that you have seen change in your life.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER:

Do you see any evidence of the Holy Spirit at work in your life? If so, how?

Homework:

Read and work through pages 20 - 23

WHAT HAPPENED TO ME SINCE I BELIEVED?

I. OBJECTIVE

To explain to new believers the new nature that was given to them in Christ Jesus.

MEMORY VERSES:

JOHN 3:3 (NIV)

"In reply Jesus declared, 'I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.'"

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17 (NIV)

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

II. INTRODUCTION

Jesus did not die on the cross simply to offer us a new religion. Jesus died to take upon himself the sins of the world so we might have access to God. This access gives us the right to become God's children through Jesus Christ. As a result, Jesus sends the Holy Spirit into our lives to give us a new nature. This new nature is commonly referred to as being "born again".

KEY PRINCIPLE: WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU

When you received Jesus Christ as your savior, many wonderful things happened to you immediately, regardless of whether or not you felt any different.

1. You were born again (or "born from above")

Read John 3:1-15 and answer the following questions:

- What did Jesus say concerning entering into the kingdom of God?

- If we are born once in the flesh, how can we be born a second time?

NOTES

2. You received a new nature

Read and answer:

- 2 Corinthians 5:17

What did Paul the Apostle mean when he declared, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation"?

- Romans 3:23

How many of us sin? _____

- Romans 6:1-11

Why did Paul the Apostle tell us that we do not have to sin any longer?

If we were united with Christ in his death and resurrection, what can we now enjoy? _____

What are we now dead to? _____

What are we now alive to? _____

- Ephesians 1:3-4

God chose us in Him to be _____

- Psalm 99:9; 1 Peter 1:15

Who is holy? _____

- 2 Timothy 1:9

Who does God require to be holy? _____

- Romans 8:1-15

Who help us to be holy? _____

Definition of holiness: _____

NOTES

3. You were adopted into God's family

Read and answer:

- Ephesians 1:5-6; John 1:12

Who is adopted into God's family? _____

- Romans 8:14-17

If we are now His children, how should we live? What does it mean to be a child of God? _____

As a result of being a child of God, we have a loving Father who protects us and provides for our needs. We are also part of a family that consists of all the saints of God. These are a couple of the many benefits of being adopted into God's family. Read the following scriptures to learn more:

- Ephesians 1:18

What do we inherit? _____

- 1 John 3:1-2

What will happen to us when God appears? _____

While we reap the benefits of being God's children, there are also responsibilities that go along with this amazing privilege. Try to name as many of these responsibilities as you can: _____

4. You were forgiven of all your sins

Many people who have been Christians for years continue to struggle with the sins of their past. They live in guilt and condemnation even though God has forgiven them. Read Psalm 103:12. Think about what God has done with your sins. Take a moment and thank Him for His forgiveness.

NOTES

What must we continue to do in order to live in freedom from guilt and condemnation?

- Accept Christ's love and forgiveness daily
(1 John 1:8; 2:1-2)
- Refuse to listen to the accusations of the devil
(Zechariah 3:1)
- Walk in God's Grace every day
(Ephesians 2:8-9)
- Confess God's love and mercy over your life daily
(Romans 10:9-10)

5. You were given eternal life

Read John 3:16

Who can receive eternal life? _____

What is eternal life? Eternal life is so much more than existing for eternity! Eternal life is:

- Being born again with Jesus Christ living within every born again believer
(John 15:1-8)
- Enjoying diving fellowship with God forever
(Romans 8:35-39)
- Enjoying a new home in heaven after we die or when Jesus comes to take us home
(John 14:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18; 2 Corinthians 5:1-4)
- Possessing an incorruptible body
(1 Corinthians 15:50-57)

6. You were given victory over your old temptations and sins

Read Romans 6:12-18

7. You were given the Holy Spirit to help you live for God and do His Will

Read John 14:15-16; 16:5-11

What did Jesus promise He would give us when He went to Heaven and why? _____

Lesson 4: Who Is Jesus?

CONNECTION:

- Share with your small group.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. Who do people say Jesus is? Why?
2. What are some reasons we believe Jesus is God?

WHO IS JESUS?

The true understanding of the person of Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of all that we, as Christians, believe and hold as true. There are many false religions in our world which teach that Jesus was a good prophet, but not God. The truth is, if Jesus is not God we could not be eternally saved.

CLASS OBJECTIVE: TO SHOW THAT JESUS IS GOD.

I. WHAT FAMOUS PEOPLE SAID ABOUT JESUS

“A man who was completely innocent, offered himself as a sacrifice for the good of others, including his enemies, and became the ransom of the world. It was a perfect act.” — **Mahatma Gandhi**, Indian political leader (1869-1948)

I know men and I tell you that Jesus Christ is no mere man. Between Him and every other person in the world there is no possible term of comparison. Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne, and myself founded empires; but what foundation did we rest the creations of our genius? Upon force. Jesus Christ founded an empire upon love; and at this hour millions of men would die for Him.” — **Napoleon Bonaparte** (French General, Politician and Emperor (1804-14). 1769-1821)

I am a Jew, but I am enthralled by the luminous figure of the Nazarene. Jesus is too colossal for the pen of phrase-mongers, however artful;”. He further added: “No man can read the gospels without feeling the actual presence of Jesus. His personality pulsates in every word. No myth is filled with such life. Theseus and other heroes of his type lack the authentic vitality of Jesus.” — **Albert Einstein** – Scientist and Mathematician

“If it weren’t for Jesus, I would not be where I am today and my life would be without purpose. I’ve heard kids say they want to be just like me when they grow up. They should know I want to be just like Jesus.” – **Albert Pujols** Professional baseball player

“I am not the King. Jesus Christ is the King. I’m just an entertainer.”

- **Elvis Presley** Singer/Actor

"I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him [that is, Christ]: 'I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God.' That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse.... You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come up with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."

- **C.S. Lewis** Author

II. WHAT JESUS SAID ABOUT HIMSELF:

"I and _____"

John 10:27-33 (NIV)

I and the Father are one." Again the Jews picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many great miracles from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?" "We are not stoning you for any of these," replied the Jews, "but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God."

Before _____ was "_____"

John 8:54-59 (NIV)

Jesus replied, "If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me. Though you do not know him, I know him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and keep his word. Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad." "You are not yet fifty years old," the Jews said to him, "and you have seen Abraham!" "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.

YHWH or Yahweh, the "I AM"

The four-consonant Hebrew word "YHWH" is the name by which God called Himself after revealing Himself to Moses in a burning bush (Exo.3:2a,14) it means "I Am That I Am" or, more simply, "I AM." This signifies that no one fully can describe or define God other than God Himself. "YHWH" is short for "Yahweh," because the entire word was (and still is by many) regarded to be too sacred to speak or write. Many Christians use "Yahweh," since Jesus taught us to speak in a familiar, personal manner to and about God.

While Jesus and His disciples were in an olive grove, Jesus knew that He soon would be betrayed (John 18:1-7). When the soldiers and officials came to arrest Jesus, He asked who it was that they wanted (18:4). When they replied, "Jesus of Nazareth," Jesus' response was, "I am he"—or, literally, "*I am*" (18:5). When Jesus stated this declaration to be God, "...they drew back and fell to the ground" (18:6). Why? Because they were in the direct presence of God in flesh and had experienced a momentary release of His overwhelming Power.

Some may argue that this was an isolated instance. But Jesus also used “I AM” for himself on several other occasions. Let’s look at some of these, trying to imagine our reactions upon hearing Jesus’ radical claims:

“I am the light of the world” (John 8:12)
“I am the way, the truth and the life” (John 14:6)
“I am the only way to the Father” (John 14:6)
“I am the resurrection and the life” (John 11:25)
“I am the Good Shepherd” (John 10:11)
“I am the door” (John 10:9)
“I am the living bread” (John 6:51)
“I am the true vine” (John 15:1)
“I am the Alpha and Omega” Rev.1:7, 8)

“I have been given complete authority in heaven and on earth”.

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Matt. 28:18 NIV

Mark 2:9-12 (NIV)

Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? 10 But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins..." He said to the paralytic, 11 "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." 12 He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

III.WHAT DID THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH LEADERS SAY ABOUT JESUS.

John 1:1-5 (NIV)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

John 20:28 (NIV)

Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

Titus 2:13 (NIV)*While we wait for the blessed hope — the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ*

Col 1:15-19 (NIV)

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.

Phil 2:5-8 (NIV)

5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7 but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

_____ Peter called Christ "God" (Theos). He wrote, "*Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ... by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:1)*", the phrase Jesus Christ here acting as an appositive to God and Savior. (An appositive in Greek means that a noun or a noun phrase is used with another as an explanatory equivalent).

IV. WHAT DID THE EARLY CHURCH FATHERS SAY ABOUT JESUS;

_____ (AD 69-155) was the bishop at the church in Smyrna. Irenaeus tells us Polycarp was a disciple of John the Apostle. In his *Letter to the Philippians* he says.

"Now may the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and **the eternal high priest himself, the Son of God Jesus Christ**, build you up in faith and truth...and to us with you, and to all those under heaven **who will yet believe in our Lord and God Jesus Christ** and in his Father who raised him from the dead."

_____ (AD 50-117) was the bishop at the church in Antioch and also a disciple of John the Apostle. He wrote a series of letters to various churches on his way to Rome, where he was to be martyred. He writes,

"There is only one physician, who is both flesh and spirit, born and unborn, **God in man**, true life in death, both from Mary and from God, first subject to suffering and then beyond it, Jesus Christ our Lord."

For **our God, Jesus the Christ**, was conceived by Mary according to God's plan, both from the seed of David and of the Holy Spirit.

V. TITLES GIVEN TO JESUS

God	Rock
The Lord our healer	Redeemer
Savior	The Lord of Righteousness
Lord	Creator
King	Giver of Life
Judge	Forgiver of sins
Light	

Note: All these titles are used for God in the Old Testament

VI. DIVINE ATTRIBUTES OF JESUS

1. He is _____ – He knows all things – Matt. 16:21, Luke 6:8, John 4:29
2. He is _____ – He is all powerful – Colossians 1:15-20

Note: In His name mighty miracles take place – John 16:24

3. He displays power over:
 - Nature – Matt. 8:26-27
 - Demons – Luke 4:35-36
 - Death – John 11:39-44
 - Sickness and disease – Matt. 8:15-16
4. He is _____ – He is everywhere (only God can be everywhere) Matt. 28:20
5. He is _____ – He does not change – Heb. 1:10-12 13:8
6. He _____ – Only God can forgive sin – Mark 2:1-12

John 5:21-27 (NIV)

He will judge all people and give them eternal life or eternal judgment

Question to consider:

Why is it essential to understand and believe that Jesus is God?

Answer:

Our eternal salvation is dependent on who Jesus is.

ONE SOLITARY LIFE

He was born in an obscure village. The child of a peasant woman
He grew up in another obscure village Where he worked in a carpenter shop Until he
was thirty

He never wrote a book

He never held an office
He never went to college
He never visited a big city
He never travelled more than two hundred miles From the place where he was born
He did none of the things
Usually associated with greatness
He had no credentials but himself

He was only thirty three

His friends ran away
One of them denied him
He was turned over to his enemies
And went through the mockery of a trial
He was nailed to a cross between two thieves While dying, his executioners gambled
for his clothing The only property he had on earth

When he was dead
He was laid in a borrowed grave Through the pity of a friend

Nineteen centuries have come and gone
And today Jesus is the central figure of the human race, And the leader of mankind's
progress
All the armies that have ever marched
All the navies that have ever sailed
All the parliaments that have ever sat
All the kings that ever reigned put together
Have not affected the life of mankind on earth
As powerfully as that one solitary life

Dr James Allan © 1926.

Table talk:

As a result of the Deity of Jesus we can be confident that He has the power and the desire to meet all our needs according to His riches in glory.

Take some time and pray in the wonderful name of Jesus for one another.

Homework: Read and work through pages 28 - 33

WHO IS JESUS?

NOTES

I. OBJECTIVE

To discover the true nature of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

MEMORY VERSES:

JOHN 1:1-2 (READ 1:1-18)

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God- children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will but born of God. 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 testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, 'This was he of whom I said, ' "He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me." From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known."

PHILIPPIANS 2:6

"Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,"

TITUS 2:13

"while we wait for the blessed hope-the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ."

II. INTRODUCTION

The true understanding of the person of Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of all that we, as Christians, believe and hold as true. There are many false religions in our world which teach that Jesus was a good prophet, but not God. The truth of the matter is that if Jesus was not God the Son, part of the Holy Trinity, we could not be eternally saved.

Only the precious, perfect blood of God Almighty could take away all our sin throughout eternity.

The following words are adapted from the famous essay, "One Solitary Life":

"Jesus was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He worked in a carpenter shop until He was 30, and then, for three years, He was an itinerant preacher. He never owned a home. He never wrote a book. He never held public office. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never traveled 200 miles from the place where He was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself ...

While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against Him. His friends deserted Him. He was turned over to His enemies. He endured a mock trial and was nailed upon a cross between two thieves. While He was dying, His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth - His coat. When He was dead, He was taken down and laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

2,000 long years have come and gone, and today He is the centerpiece of the human race. It can easily be stated that all the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the governments that ever ruled and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life."

III. WAS JESUS GOD?

What did Jesus Christ say about who He is? Read and answer:

- John 8:58

Who is "I Am?" _____

NOTES

NOTES

- John 10:30

Who is Jesus one with? _____

- Revelation 1:8 _____

- Matthew 28:18-20 _____

What did His disciples say about Jesus? Read and answer:

- Matthew 16:16-17 _____

- John 11:27 _____

- John 20:25-28 _____

What does scripture say about who Jesus is?

Read and answer:

- Colossians 1:15-17 _____

- John 1:1-2 _____

- Titus 2:13 _____

- Philippians 2:6 _____

IV. JESUS WAS FULLY GOD

Jesus Christ possesses attributes that can only belong to God:

1. He is omniscient

He knows all things about everyone.

Read Matthew 16:21; Luke 6:8; John 4:29

2. He is omnipotent

He is all-powerful.

Read Colossians 1:15-20

Who creates all things? _____

Who is before all things? _____

Who holds all things together? _____

3. In His name mighty miracles take place

Read John 16:24

4. He displays power

- Nature (Matthew 8:26-27)
- Demons (Luke 4:35-36)
- Death (John 11:39-44)
- Sickness and disease (Matthew 8:15-16)

5. He is omnipresent

He is everywhere (only God can be everywhere).

Read Matthew 18:20; 28:20

6. He is immutable

He does not change.

Read Hebrews 1:10-12, 13:8

7. He forgives sins

Only God can forgive sins

Read Mark 2: 1-12

8. He will judge all people and give eternal life to those who believe in Him.

Read John 5:21-27

V. JESUS WAS ALSO FULLY HUMAN

Jesus Christ became a man to bear the sins of mankind in his flesh. Read and answer:

- Isaiah 53:1-12

Who bore our sins? _____

NOTES

Jesus became a man so he could:

- Bear our sins
- Feel our sorrow
- Sympathize with our pain
- Give us a model to follow
- Live a sinless life

- Hebrews 4:14-16

Why can Jesus sympathize with us as humans? _____

- Hebrews 5:7-8

How did Jesus learn obedience? _____

Why did Jesus have to live a sinless life? Reread the two scriptures above in Hebrews and give two reasons:

1. _____

2. _____

VI. JESUS IS LORD

Read and answer:

- Romans 10:9-10

What should we believe? _____

What should we confess? _____

- Philippians 2:9-11

What will everyone acknowledge to the glory of the Father? _____

- Isaiah 9:6-7

What else is Jesus called? _____

VII. CONCLUSION

Almost 2,000 years ago, Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. The great prophets of Israel had predicted His coming hundreds of years before it actually came to pass. Jesus Christ fulfilled more than 300 Old Testament prophecies about His coming.

When he was 30 years old, Jesus began his public ministry. His life, the miracles He did, His teachings, His death on the cross, His resurrection and His ascent to heaven all indicate that Jesus Christ was not just a mere man. He was God in the flesh.

Muhammad was only a prophet; Buddha admitted he was an agnostic; Confucius was a teacher of ethics. Jesus, however, claimed to be God. He asserted His deity when he declared, “I and the Father are one” (John 10:30). “He who has seen me has seen the Father” (John 14:9)

Jesus Christ professed that He was God. You can dismiss his claims as false or you can believe in Him. If He is God then He is Lord and Savior over everyone. You can accept Him as your Lord and Savior or you can reject Him. It’s your choice.

NOTES

Lesson 5: The Bible – God’s Word

CONNECTION:

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. What are some reasons people don’t read the Bible?
2. What are some comments people make about the Bible?

CLASS OBJECTIVE: **TO SHOW NEW BELIEVERS THE IMPORTANCE OF UNDERSTANDING GOD’S WORD AND APPLYING IT TO THEIR DAILY LIVES.**

Psalms 119:9-11 (NIV)

“How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.”

I. INTRODUCTION

Eph. 6:10-12 (NIV)

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so 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 powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

Eph. 6:17 (NIV)

“Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.”

Ephesians 6:10-12 tells us that we are all in a very real spiritual battle against the forces of evil. In order to win this battle, we must fill our minds and hearts with God’s Word. Ephesians 6:17 tells us to use the sword of the Spirit, which is God’s Word, as a weapon against the concepts and philosophies of this world as well as against the schemes of the enemy. King David said to the Lord, *“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you”*. You and I will never be victorious in our spiritual battles against evil if we choose to neglect God’s holy Word.

II. HOW DO I _____ THAT THE BIBLE IS _____ ?

1. By _____ (Hebrew 11:6).

Heb. 11:6 (NIV)

“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”

We must accept God's Word by faith and stand on His promises. When we do this, we see great results in our lives. Read Psalm 19:7-11 and list some of the rewards of following God's Word:

Psalm 19:7-11 (NIV)

*"The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul.
The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.
The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart.
The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.
The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever.
The decrees of the LORD are firm, and all of them are righteous.
They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold;
They are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb.
By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward."*

2. By _____

8 INCREDIBLE FACTS ABOUT THE BIBLE

1. The Bible has incredible _____.

- Written over a span of 1500 years
- 66 books
- 40 different writers
- Spanning 3 different continents
- Thousands of controversial subjects
- One unfolding story from start to finish

2. The Bible has an incredible number of _____.

- The New Testament was written in first century A.D.
- 25,000 early manuscripts in existence,
- Almost 6,000 of which (many being only recognizable fragments) are Greek texts and the others being early translations of the Greek New Testament.
- The earliest textual evidence we have was copied not long after the original.
- The Old Testament has been more accurately transmitted to us than any other ancient writing of comparable age.

- The textual evidence is greater for both the Old and New Testaments than any other historically reliable ancient document.
- The dead sea scrolls found in 1947 confirm scripture
- The ancient scribes were very meticulous.

3. The Bible has incredible _____

- The O.T. Completed 400 years before the birth of Christ.
- The O.T. has 300 plus prophecies that were fulfilled in Jesus
- The mathematical possibility would be astounding

Some examples

Prophecy - "My life is poured out like water, and all My bones are out of joint. My heart is like wax, melting within Me. My strength has dried up like sunbaked clay. My tongue sticks to the roof of My mouth. You have laid Me in the dust and left Me for dead. My enemies surround Me like a pack of dogs; an evil gang closes in on Me. They have pierced My hands and feet." (*Psalms 22:14-16*)

Fulfillment by Christ – "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*)

Prophecy - "I can count all my bones; people stare and gloat over me. They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing." (*Psalms 22:17-18*)

Fulfillment by Christ - "*When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom.*" (*John 19:23*)

Prophecy - "But He was wounded and crushed for our sins. He was beaten that we might have peace. He was whipped, and we were healed! All of us have strayed away like sheep. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on Him the guilt and sins of us all. From prison and trial they led Him away to His death. But who among the people realized that He was dying for their sins – that He was suffering their punishment? I will give Him the honors of One who is mighty and great, because He exposed Himself to death. He was counted among those who were sinners. He bore the sins of many and interceded for sinners." (*Isaiah 53:5-6, 8, 12*)

Fulfillment by Christ – *“He personally carried away our sins in His own body on the cross so we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. You have been healed by His wounds.” (1 Peter 2:24)*

4. The Bible has an Incredible _____

Roger Bruner 02/09/20 - Articles From Our Bulletin

In AD 303, the Roman Emperor Diocletian issued an edict to destroy Christians and their Bibles. The persecution that followed was brutal. Over a burned and extinguished Bible, Diocletian built a monument on which he wrote these triumphant words:

“Extincto nomene Christianorum” (“The name Christian is extinguished”). Diocletian fashioned a medal with the engraving: “The Christian religion is destroyed and the worship of the gods restored.”

Diocletian’s boast was premature, to say the least. Twenty-five years later, Diocletian was dead, and the new Emperor, Constantine, dedicated himself to put the New Testament in all of the churches of his Empire. In fact, Constantine offered a sizable reward to anyone who would deliver a copy of the Scriptures to him. The next day, Constantine was offered fifty copies of the word of God. He then commissioned fifty copies of the Bible to be prepared at government expense. Can you imagine Diocletian’s stunned countenance if he returned to the earth today to discover that more had been written about the Bible than about any other thousand volumes combined? The Bible has been translated into more languages than any other volume, and it has been sent into more regions of the earth than any other book.

French philosopher Voltaire (1694-1778) declared in 1776: “One hundred years from my day, there will not be a Bible in the earth except one that is looked upon by an antiquarian curiosity seeker.” One hundred years later, Voltaire was dead, and his own house and press were being used to print and store Bibles by the Geneva Bible Society. In 1778, Voltaire bragged, “It took twelve men to start Christianity. One will destroy it.” He called Christ “the cursed wretch.”

Geisler and Nix observe that “only fifty years after his death the Geneva Bible Society used his press and house to produce stacks of Bibles.” Moreover, approximately two hundred years after Voltaire’s prediction that the Bible would be eliminated from the earth, a first edition of Voltaire’s work sold in Paris for eleven cents. On that very same day, December 24, 1933, the British government purchased an ancient New Testament manuscript, Codex Sinaiticus, for the Czar of Russia for \$500,000. This ancient manuscript, dating about AD 350, is still highly prized and is on display in The British Museum.

5. The Bible has incredible _____

“We can speak with certainty about events throughout history because of the archaeological evidence we find. Historians write with authority about the rise and fall of empires and the practices of monarchs and rulers. They are able to do the same when it comes to the Gospel accounts of the life of Jesus. Critics sometimes argue there's no evidence for Gospel narrative, but archeology says otherwise. Archaeology gives us independent evidence for cultural practices, beliefs, places and people mentioned in the New Testament. This evidence confirms the historical character and reliability of the Gospel texts.”

Peter S Williams is assistant professor in Communications and Worldviews at Gimlekollen College, NLA University, Norway

“It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical reference” and “scores of archaeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or exact detail historical statements in the Bible”. In the words of another archaeologist, Joseph Free, the field has “confirmed countless passages which had been rejected by critics as unhistorical or contrary to known facts”.

Nelson Glueck was an American rabbi, academic and archaeologist. He served as president of Hebrew Union College from 1947 until his death, and his pioneering work in biblical archaeology resulted in the discovery of 1,500 ancient sites.

6. The Bible has an incredible _____

The Bible is the most-read book in the world. This best-selling book sees up to 100 million copies sold or donated annually. Approximately 20 million copies are sold each year in the U.S. alone.

The Bible has been translated in more than 3300 languages. The Old Testament in more than 2000 and the New Testament in more than 1300! Which makes it, with no doubt, the most translated book in the world breaking all records.

7. The Bible has Incredible _____

“The influence of the Bible is worldwide; it’s mighty power has affected every department of human activity. The contents of the Scriptures have supplied themes for the greatest poets, artists and musicians which the world has yet produced, and have been the mightiest factor of all in shaping the moral progress of the race.”

Arthur Pink Evangelist

The Bible's influence is not limited to Christians; Jews and Muslims also consider the Bible to be a sacred text. If you think of how there are 2 billion Christians, 14 million Jews and 1.3 billion Muslims, that means that more than half of the world's population consider the Bible to be a major influence on their faith.

George Washington (First) – “It is impossible to rightly govern the world without the Bible.”

John Adams (Second) – “The Bible is the best book in the world. It contains more ...than all the libraries I have seen.”

John Quincy Adams (Sixth) – “It is an invaluable and inexhaustible mine of knowledge and virtue.”

Andrew Jackson (Seventh) – “That book, sir, is the rock on which our Republic rests.”

F. Zachary Taylor (Twelfth) – “It was for the love of the truths of this great book that our fathers abandoned their native shore for the wilderness.”

Abraham Lincoln (Sixteenth) – “But for this Book we could not know right from wrong. I believe the Bible is the best gift God has ever given to man.”

Douglas MacArthur – “Believe me, sir, never a night goes by, be I ever so tired, but I read the Word of God before I go to bed.”

William K. Harrison – “The Bible is the Word of God, given by His inspiration for our use and benefit.”

Robert E. Lee – “The Bible is a book in comparison with which all others in my eyes are of minor importance, and in which in all my perplexities and distresses has never failed to give me light and strength.”

Sir Isaac Newton – “We account the Scriptures of God to be the most sublime philosophy. I find more sure marks of authenticity in the Bible than in any profane history whatsoever.”

Sir Francis Bacon – “The volume of Scriptures... reveal the will of God.

8. The Bible has incredible _____.

Millions of people from every walk of life and every situation have been transformed for the power of God's word.

From professional athletes to famous movie stars, great writers and authors to people just like you and I the principles and the truths found in the Bible have had a profound impact in people's lives.

Ronald Reagan (1911-2004), 40th U.S. president, said, "Within the covers of the Bible are the answers for all the problems men face." He also stated, "Of the many influences that have shaped the United States into a distinctive nation and people, none may be said to be more fundamental and enduring than the Bible."

Thomas Jefferson "The Bible makes the best people in the world."

WHY SHOULD I _____ AND _____?

1. God _____ and _____ **us** to do so.

Read Timothy 2:15 and Joshua 1:8.

2 Timothy 2:15 (NIV)

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth."

Joshua 1:8 (NIV)

"Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful."

What do these passages tell us to do?

2. God's Word keeps us _____.

Read Psalms 119:11.

Psalms 119:11 (NIV)

"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."

How can God's word keep us from sinning?

3. God's Word gives us _____ and brings _____ to our whole body.

Proverbs 4:20 (NIV)

"My son, pay attention to what I say; turn your ear to my words."

4. God's Word is an _____ for _____.

5. God's Word is your _____ against the _____ (Ephesians 6:17).

Eph. 6:17 (NIV) *"Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."*

. God's Word offers _____.

. God's Word gives you _____ to _____:

2 Peter 1:4 (NIV)

"Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires."

Read Psalms 119:1-76. It's long but try to read it in one sitting. List as many benefits of reading God's Word as you can:

. God's Word _____ in _____.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

. God's Word helps you _____.

- 1 . God's Word equips you to _____.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV)

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect..."

IV. HOW DO I _____ GOD'S WORD?

1. _____ to God's Word.

List several ways in which you can hear God's Word:

Read Matthew 13:1-23.

What _____ do we need to have in order to _____
_____ God's Word?

2. _____ God's Word.

Revelation 1:3 (NIV)

"Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near."

What does it say about reading God's Word?

New believers often ask, "Where do I start to read in the Bible?" Here is a list of several books to begin with:

- ◆ John (the Gospel)
- ◆ Romans
- ◆ Matthew

It is suggested that you read through the New Testament before you begin the Old Testament.

3. _____ God's Word.

Read Acts 17:11.

Acts 17:11 (NIV)

"Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true."

When studying the Bible, you should ask yourself these simple questions:

- ♦ What is the _____ or _____ of the passage?
- ♦ Do I _____ this passage or do I need to read it again for deeper clarity?
- ♦ What is it saying to me _____?
- ♦ How does the principle found in this passage _____?
- ♦ Do I need to _____ this passage down and ask someone to _____ it to me?

Here are some tips for studying the Bible:

- ♦ Buy a Bible with study notes
- ♦ Buy a Bible with easy-to-understand translation
- ♦ Study the Bible with a seasoned Christian

4. Memorize God's Word

Psalms 119:9-11 (NIV)

"How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."

Read Matthew 4:4-10.

Matt. 4:4-10 (NIV)

"Jesus answered, 'It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down. For it is written: "'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"

How did Jesus _____ the _____ that Satan threw at him?

Homework: Read and work through pages 41 – 44

THE BIBLE – GOD’S WORD

I. OBJECTIVE

To show new believers the importance of understanding God’s Word and applying it to their daily lives.

MEMORY VERSE: Psalms 119:9-11

"How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."

II. INTRODUCTION

Ephesians 6:10-12 tells us that we are all in a very real spiritual battle against the forces of evil. In order to win this battle, we must fill our minds and hearts with God’s Word. Ephesians 6:17 tells us to use the sword of the Spirit, which is God’s Word, as a weapon against the concepts and philosophies of this world as well as against the schemes of the enemy. King David said to the Lord, “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you”. You and I will never be victorious in our spiritual battles against evil if we choose to neglect God’s holy Word.

III. HOW DO I KNOW THAT THE BIBLE IS GOD’S HOLY WORD?

1. By Faith (Hebrews 11:6)

We must accept God’s Word by faith and stand on His promises. When we do this, we see great results in our lives. Read Psalm 19:7-11 and list some of the rewards of following God’s Word:

2. The Bible has withstood the test of time despite thousands of years of persecution.

3. The Bible has withstood the tests of criticism and science.

NOTES

4. The Bible is the best-selling book of all time

It has been translated into more languages and has been distributed more than any other book.

5. The Bible has made hundreds of predictions that were literally and accurately fulfilled.

More than three hundred prophecies about Christ were fulfilled in the Bible. Two examples can be found in Isaiah 53:1-12 and Psalms 22:1-18.

6. The Bible is unique in its continuity.

The sixty-six books of the Bible were written by thirty-five or more authors over a period of 1,500 years. The authors came from various backgrounds, spanned three different continents, and lived in very different settings and time periods. Yet, there is one single unfolding story throughout the whole Bible: God's plan of redemption for humanity and Jesus Christ as the center of God's divine plan.

7. The Bible has great wisdom for practical living.**8. The principles and precepts found in the Bible have changed millions of lives.****IV. WHY SHOULD I READ AND STUDY GOD'S WORD?****1. God commands and encourages us to do so.**

Read 2 Timothy 2:15 and Joshua 1:8

What do these passages tell us to do? _____

2. God's Word keeps us from sinning.

Read Psalms 119:11

How can God's Word keep us from sinning? _____

3. God's Word gives us strength and brings health to our whole body (Proverbs 4:20)**4. God's Word is an instructional handbook for living.****5. God's Word is your defense against the devil. (Ephesians 6:17)****6. God's Word offers comfort and guidance.****7. God's Word gives you promises to stand upon. (2 Peter 1:4)**

Read Psalms 119:1-76. It's long but try to read it in one sitting. List as many benefits of reading God's Word as you can: _____

8. **God's Word helps you make major decisions in your life (Proverbs 3:5-6)**
9. **God's Word helps you face life's difficult problems.**
10. **God's Word equips you to share your faith with others (2 Timothy 3:16-17: 1 Peter 3:15)**

V. HOW DO I LEARN GOD'S WORD?

1. Listen to God's Word.

List several ways in which you can hear God's Word:

Read Matthew 13:1-23

What kind of heart do we need to have in order to listen and learn God's Word? _____

2. Read God's Word.

Read Revelation 1:3

What does it say about reading God's Word?

New believers often ask, "Where do I start to read in the Bible?" Here is a list of several books to begin with:

- John (the Gospel)
- Romans
- Matthew

It is suggested that you read through the New Testament before you begin the Old Testament.

3. Study God's Word.

Read Acts 17:11. When studying the Bible you should ask yourself these simple questions:

NOTES

- What is the background or context of the passage?
- Do I understand this passage, or do I need to read it again for deeper clarity?
- What is it saying to me personally?
- How does the principle found in this passage apply to my life?
- Do I need to write this passage down and ask someone to explain it to me?

NOTES

Here are some tips for studying the Bible:

- Buy a Bible with study notes.
- Buy a Bible with an easy-to-understand translation.
- Study the Bible with a seasoned Christian.

4. Memorize God's Word (Psalms 119:9-11)

Read Matthew 4:4-10

How did Jesus defeat the temptations that Satan threw at him? _____

Lesson 6 & 7: Prayer – Learning How to Communicate With God

CLASS OBJECTIVE: TO TEACH EVERY NEW BELIEVER THE PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES OF COMMUNICATION WITH GOD

Philippians 4:6: (NIV)

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”

I. INTRODUCTION:

There is no greater privilege and no greater responsibility than for every child of God to pray. God our father invites us every day to come into his presence and pray.

WHAT IS PRAYER:

Prayer is _____ with Almighty God. While there are six basic elements of prayer, we must first recognize that God *desires* to be in constant communication with us, this is why Paul the Apostle tells us to “pray continually” (**1 Thessalonians 5:17**)

Prayer is _____

Jeremiah 29:13-14

Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. 13You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. 14I will be found by you, declares the LORD.

3. Prayer is _____

Mathew 7:7-8

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. 8For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened....

4. Prayer is _____

Psalms 118:1

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

5. Prayer is _____

Psalms 95:6

O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD our Maker. 7For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, the sheep under His care.

6. Prayer is _____

Mark 1:35

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.

7. Prayer is _____

Ephesians 6:18

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

III. HOW DO I PRAY?

1. _____

Psalms 100:1-5 (NIV)

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

According to this scripture, why should we worship the Lord with gladness?

Psalms 100:4 says, "Enter His gates with thanksgiving." Why should we approach God with a thankful heart?

Why is it important to be thankful to God?

As a Christian, you should take time every day to thank God for what He has done and praise (applaud) God for who He is. Why? First and foremost, because He deserves it. Also, it helps to remind you of His faithfulness. Acquiring an “attitude of gratitude” will make you a more positive person to be around. Thanking God for His many blessings is lots of fun! Take some time now and list five things you are thankful to God for and can praise Him for:

2. _____

Psalm 96:9 (NIV)

“Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth.”

WHAT IS WORSHIP

1. Worship is _____ to God

Romans 12:1-2

“12 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

2. Worship is _____ with our whole being

Matthew. 22:37-40

37 Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself. 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

3. Worship is _____.

Deuteronomy 11:13

“And it shall come to pass, if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the LORD your God, and to serve him with all your heart and all your soul.”

Note: We serve God primarily by serving others.

Matthew 25:34

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

37 “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?’ 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

⁴⁰ “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

- Worship is _____ our _____ and _____ to God through Physical acts of adoration, thanksgiving, surrender and reverence.

Seven Hebrew words for worship

1. _____—To kneel, to bless God, to bow down

Psalms 95:6

Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;

2. _____—To be clear, to shine, to boast, to show, to rave, to celebrate, to be clamorously foolish

Psalms 95:1-6

Come, let's sing for joy to the LORD. Let's shout praises to the Rock who saves us. Let's come to him with thanksgiving. Let's sing songs to him, because the LORD is the great God, the great King over all gods.

3. _____—To shout loudly, to command

Psalms 47:1

“Come, everyone! Clap your hands! Shout to God with joyful praise!” –

4. _____—To sing praises, singing out of the spirit spontaneously

Colossians 3:16

“Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts”.

5. _____— Acting out of thanksgiving for what has or will be done. Towdah has to do with giving God thanks or bringing God an offering with the attitude of thanksgiving.

EX. The people were commanded to bring God a gift of thanksgiving

Psalms 50:23

But giving thanks is a sacrifice that truly honors me. If you keep to my path, I will reveal to you the salvation of God.”

Psalms 100:1

Enter his gates with thanksgiving (Towdah), and his courts with praise (Tehillah)! Give thanks to him (Yadah); bless his name.

6. _____— Extending the hands vigorously in surrender to God

2 Chronicles 20:21

After consulting the people, the king appointed singers to walk ahead of the army, singing to the Lord and praising him for his holy splendor. This is what they sang: ‘Give thanks to the Lord; his faithful love endures forever!’”

7. _____ – To touch the strings, to make music with instruments, mostly rejoicing

Psalm 150:3-6

"Praise him with a blast of the ram's horn; praise him with the lyre and harp! Praise him with the tambourine and dancing; praise him with strings and flutes! Praise him with a clash of cymbals; praise him with loud clanging cymbals. Let everything that breathes sing praises to the Lord! Praise the Lord!"

3. _____

Holding on to _____ will keep us from truly _____ with God. Therefore, it is important that we allow God to search our hearts and reveal to us any sin, whether it be hidden or known to us (Psalm 139:23-24).

Read and answer:

2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV)

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

What must we do before God will hear us?

Matt. 6:12 (NIV)

"And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."

The major _____ are:

- Let God search you
- Be real with God
- Wait and listen for Him to reveal any hidden sin
- Confess all your sins
- Receive total forgiveness from God
- Feel assured that He has forgiven you and move on to the next phase of prayer

4. _____

Read 1Timothy 2:1-3 and answer the following questions:

1 Tim. 2:1-3 (NIV)

"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior..."

Why should we always pray for others?

Give an example of a time your prayer for another person was answered.

5.

Read Matthew 7:7-9, Matthew 18:19 and Philippians 4:6 and answer the following questions:

Matt. 7:7-9 (NIV)
“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. “Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone?”

Matt. 18:19 (NIV)
“Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.”

Philippians 4:6 (NIV)
“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”

Why did Jesus tell us to ask?

Does God ever get tired of hearing us ask Him for our needs?

How should we ask God for our needs?

- Have faith (Mark 11:22-24)
- Know His promises (2 Corinthians 1:2)
- Ask for wisdom, then be specific (James 1:5)
- Wait patiently for the answer (Psalm 27:13-14)
- Trust Him no matter what the outcome is (Proverbs 3:5-6)

7.

This phase of prayer involves taking time to _____.

Acts 13:1-3 (NIV)

“Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. 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.’ So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.”

How do we do this?

- Be _____ before God
- Read _____
- _____ to the Holy Spirit speaking softly to your heart

It is important to remember to end your prayer time with thanksgiving because God has heard you.

SOME FINAL GUIDELINES FOR PRAYER

Pray _____, before your day begins

This avoids distractions that could keep you from praying later on in the day (work, kids, tiredness), resulting in a more consistent and effective prayer life.

_____ **to pray**

Pick a place where you can spend time alone with God without any distractions.

Use _____

Singing is a great way to worship God. Bring a worship CD with you to help you worship Him. Don't forget to take time to express your love for God in your own words as well.

4. Be _____ with God

Don't try to pray or sound like someone else. God knows you better than you know yourself and He loves you just the way you are! Be transparent with Him; be yourself.

Homework: Read and work through pages 51 - 54

PRAYER: LEARNING HOW TO COMMUNICATE WITH GOD

NOTES

I. OBJECTIVE

To teach every new believer the practical principles of communication with God.

MEMORY VERSE: Philippians 4:6

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

II. INTRODUCTION

Prayer is simply communicating with Almighty God. While there are six basic elements of prayer, we must first recognize that God desires to be in constant communication with us, His children. This is why Paul the Apostle tells us to "pray continually" (1 Thessalonians 5: 17).

What does it mean to pray continually? Does it mean to stay on our knees all day? Should we quit our jobs and stay in a prayer closet all day long? Absolutely not!

III. HOW (AND WHAT) DO I PRAY?

There are six basic elements to communicating with God:

1. Praise and thanksgiving

Read and answer:

- Psalm 100:1-5

According to this scripture, why should we worship the Lord with gladness _____

- Psalm 100:4 says, "Enter His gates with thanksgiving." Why should we approach God with a thankful heart?

Why is it important to be thankful to God? _____

As a Christian, you should take time every day to thank God for what He has done and praise (applaud) God for who He is. Why? First and foremost, because He deserves it. Also, it helps to remind you of His faithfulness. Acquiring an "attitude of gratitude" will make you a more positive person to be around. Thanking God for His many blessings is lots of fun! Take some time now and list five things you are thankful to God for and can praise Him for:

2. Worship

Read Psalm 96:9. Worship is expressing your love for God through:

- Words – "I love you", "I adore you", "I exalt you", etc. (Psalms 51:15)
- Singing (Psalms 9:1-2)
- Bowing (Psalms 95:6)

- Raising your hands (Psalms 119:48)
- Being still before God (Psalms 46:10)

3. Confession

Holding on to sin will keep us from truly enjoying fellowship with God. Therefore, it is important that we allow God to search our hearts and reveal to us any sin whether it be hidden or known to us (Psalm 139:23-24). Read and answer:

- 2 Chronicles 7:14

What must we do before God will hear us?

- Matthew 6:12

God forgives us as we _____

The major principles of confession are:

- Let God search you
- Be real with God
- Wait and listen for Him to reveal any hidden sin

- Confess all your sins
- Receive total forgiveness from God
- Feel assured that He has forgiven you and move on to the next phase of prayer. (Psalms 95:6)

4. Intercession (Praying for others)

Read 1 Timothy 2: 1-3 and answer the following questions:

Why should we always pray for others? _____

Give an example of a time your prayer for another person was answered. _____

5. Petitioning (asking God for your needs)

Read Matthew 7:7-9, Matthew 18:19 and Philippians 4:6 and answer the following questions:

Why did Jesus tell us to ask? _____

Does God ever get tired of hearing us ask Him for our needs? _____

How should we ask God for our needs?

- Have faith (Mark 11:22-24)
- Know His promises (2 Corinthians 1:2)
- Ask for wisdom then be specific (James 1:5)
- Wait patiently for the answer (Psalms 27:14-14)
- Trust Him no matter what the outcome is (Proverbs 3:5-6)

6. Meditation or Reflection

This phase of prayer involves taking time to listen to God's voice (Acts 13:1-3). How do we do this?

- Be quiet before God
- Read scriptures
- Listen to the Holy Spirit speaking softly to your heart

It is also important to remember to end your prayer time with thanksgiving because God has heard you.

IV. SOME FINAL GUIDELINES FOR PRAYER?**1. Pray early, before your day begins.**

This avoids distractions that could keep you from praying later on in the day (work, kids, tiredness), resulting in a more consistent and effective prayer life.

2. Find somewhere to pray.

Pick a place where you can spend time alone with God without any distractions.

3. Use worship aids.

Singing is a great way to worship God. Bring a worship CD with you to help you worship Him. Don't forget to take time to express your love for God in your own words as well.

4. Always bring your Bible with you.**5. Be real with God.**

Don't try to pray or sound like someone else. God knows you better than you know yourself and he loves you just the way you are! Be transparent with Him; be yourself.

Lesson 8: Who Is The Holy Spirit? - Part 1

CONNECTION:

- What have you learned in the past about the Holy Spirit?

I. WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

- a. He is a _____ – (God the Holy Spirit) He knows all things
2 Cor. 2:10-13 (NIV)
“These are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person’s thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.”
- b. He has a _____, and He _____.
1 Cor. 12:11 (NIV)
“All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.”
- c. He is referred to as _____ not _____.
John 16:7- 8 (NIV)
““But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment.”
- d. He can be _____.
Mark 3:29 (NIV)
“But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; they are guilty of an eternal sin.”
- e. He can be _____.
Acts 7:51 (NIV)
“You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit!”
- f. He can be _____ to.
Acts 5:3 (NIV)
“Then Peter said, “Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?”
- g. He can be _____.
Eph. 4:30 (NIV)
“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”

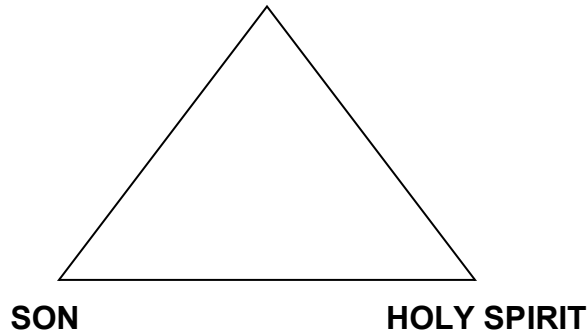
h. He can be _____.

Heb. 10:29 (NIV)

"How much more severely do you think someone deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified them, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?"

i. He is _____ and _____ of the _____.

FATHER – GOD



Elohim – Plural

Matt. 28:18-20 (NIV)

"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, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

HOW DO WE KNOW HE IS GOD?

a. He was part of _____.

Gen. 1:12 (NIV)

"Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters."

b. He inspired _____.

2 Tim. 3:15-16 (NIV)

"And how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,"

c. He is _____

Heb. 9:14 (NIV)

"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!"

d. He is _____

John 16:13 (NIV)

"But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the 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."

e. He gives us _____ (God is love.)

Rom. 5:5 (NIV)

"And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us."

f. He is _____ (He is _____)

JOHN 14:15-16 (NIV)

¹⁵ "If you love me, keep my commands. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth.

Psalms 139:7-10 (NIV)

⁷ "Where can I go from your spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? ⁸ If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. ⁹ If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, ¹⁰ even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast."

g. He is _____ (He is all _____).

Luke 1:35 (NIV)

"The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So, the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God."

h. He is _____ (He _____ all _____)

1 Cor. 2:9-10 (NIV)

"However, as it is written: "What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived" the things God has prepared for those who love him. These are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God."

i. He is _____.

Acts 5:3-4 (NIV)

"Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to God."

j. We _____ in His name putting Him in a _____ with the _____ and _____.

Matt. 28:18-20 (NIV)

"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."

WHAT DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT DO IN YOUR LIFE?

- . He _____ you into the person _____ wants you to be.

Born Again

John 3:17 (NIV)

"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

New Creation

2 Cor. 5:17

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

- b. He _____ to _____ in _____.

John 14:17

The Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

- c. He _____ us all things.

John 16:13-14 (NIV)

"But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the 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. He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you."

- d. He constantly tells us we are _____.

Rom. 8:16 (NIV)

"The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children."

- e. He helps us to _____.

Rom. 8:26-27 (NIV)

"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 through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God."

- f. He helps us to _____

Acts 1:8 (NIV)

"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."

- g. He gives us _____

John 14:16-17 (NIV)

"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you."

- h. He _____ us.

John 16:7 (NIV)

"But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you."

John 16:13 (NIV)

"But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the 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."

- i. He gives us _____ for daily living.

Acts 1:8 (NIV)

"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."

- j. He imparts the _____ of the Spirit.

Gal. 5:22-23 (NIV)

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law."

- k. He _____ the saints.

1 Cor. 12:3-4 (NIV)

"Therefore, I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, 'Jesus be cursed' and no one can say, 'Jesus is Lord,' except by the Holy Spirit. There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them."

HOW CAN I EXPERIENCE THE HOLY SPIRIT'S POWER AND FRUIT IN MY LIFE?

- a. As a Christian _____ the _____ is already _____ in your life.

1 Cor. 3:16 (NIV)

16 "Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?"

- b. Ask God to _____ you in the _____

Luke 3:16 (NIV)

16 "John answered them all 'I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'"

Luke 24:49 (NIV)

49 "I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high"

- c. Be _____ with the _____.

Eph. 5:18 (NIV)

18 "Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit"

- d. Learn to _____, _____ and _____ to the _____.

Gal. 5:16-18(NIV)

16 "So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law"

Gal. 5:22-25 (NIV)

22 *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,*
23 *gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. 24 Those who belong to*
Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 Since we live by the
Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”

Homework: Read and work through pages 61 - 65

THE HOLY SPIRIT

I. OBJECTIVE

To discover who the Holy Spirit is and what He does in the life of the believer.

MEMORY VERSE: Acts 1:8

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."

II. INTRODUCTION

Before Jesus ascended to heaven after he resurrected from the grave, He told His disciples to wait (tarry) in the upper room until they were clothed with power from on high (Luke 24:49). Jesus was referring to the power that comes from the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8). Unfortunately, many Christians never take the time to discover who the Holy Spirit is and how He works in their lives. As a result, these believers live unfulfilled, fruitless, spiritually malnourished lives. They live within the limits of their own human strength instead of tapping into the power of the Holy Spirit.

III. WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

1. He is a person.

How do we know He is a person? Because He:

- Makes decisions (1 Corinthians 12:11)
- Is referred to as "He" not "it" (John 16:7-8)
- Can be blasphemed (Mark 3:29)
- Can be resisted (Acts 7:51)
- Can be lied to (Acts 5:3)

Read the following scriptures and give the evidence you find of the personhood of the Holy Spirit:

- Ephesians 4:30 and Hebrews 10:29

-
- Acts 13:2

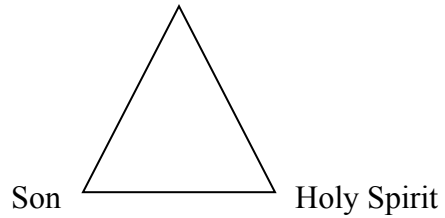
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- John 14:26

-
- John 14:16
-

2. He is God.

He is part of the trinity (Matthew 28:18-20)

Father - God



How do we know He is God? Because He:

- Was part of creating all things (Genesis 1:2)
- Inspired men to write the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16)
- Is eternal (Hebrews 9:14)
- Is truth (John 16:13)
- Gives us love (Romans 5:5)

Read the following scriptures and give the evidence you will find for the deity of the Holy Spirit:

- Psalms 139:9-10

-
- Luke 1:35

-
- 1 Corinthians 2:9-10

-
- Acts 5:3-4

-
- Matthew 28:18-20

-
- 2 Thessalonians 2:13
-

NOTES

IV. SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT

NOTES

1. What does the Holy Spirit do in your life? He:

- Changes you into the person God wants you to be born again (John 3: 17) and a new creation (2 Corinthians 5: 17)
- Comes to live in all believers
- Teaches us all things (John 16:13-14)
- Constantly tells us we are God's children (Romans 8:16)
- Helps us to pray (Romans 8:26-27)
- Helps us to witness (Acts 1:8)
- Gives us comfort (John 14:16-17)
- Guides us (John 16:7 & 13)
- gives us strength for daily living (Acts 1:8)
- Imparts the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5)
- Equips the saints (1 Corinthians 12:3-4)
- Reveals our sins to us (John 16:8)
- Is the guarantee of eternal life (Ephesians 1:13-14)
- Gives us spiritual gifts so we can minister to others (1Corinthians 12:4-11)

2. When does the Holy Spirit come to live in your life?

The Holy Spirit lives in you from the moment you receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior (Ephesians 1:13-14 and Romans 8:16). However, sometimes a person can have the Holy Spirit abiding in him or her and still be living an empty and powerless life. Why does this happen? For three reasons:

1. A person is double minded. You cannot serve both God and yourself. The Holy Spirit is a gentleman, and He will not force Himself upon you (Acts 7:51).
2. A person refuses to yield to the control of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18).
3. A born-again Christian has not experienced the fullness of the Holy Spirit by faith; commonly referred to as the "baptism in the Holy Spirit".

3. What is the baptism in the Holy Spirit?

Jesus said to His disciples in Acts 1:5, "For _____ baptized with _____, but, in a few days you will be _____ with the _____".

In order to understand the baptism in the Holy Spirit, we must first look at the term “baptism”. The definition of “baptism” is to immerse or to bury. Therefore, to be baptized in the Holy Spirit means:

- to be **immersed**
- to be **saturated**, and
- to be **clothed** in the Holy Spirit

It is being enveloped with the

- **Power**
- **Presence**, and
- **Potential** of the Holy Spirit

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is not Spirit indwelling, but Spirit:

- **Immersion**
- **Submersion**, and
- **Empowering**

4. Why is it important to be baptized in the Holy Spirit?

1. It is the clothing of power (Luke 24:49)
2. It is an equipping for service (Acts 1:8)
3. At baptism, we receive the (power) gifts of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:7-11):
 - Prophecy
 - Tongues
 - Interpretation
 - Healing
 - Discerning of Spirit
4. It is the anointing of God, which symbolizes our dedication, consecration, and separation. In the Bible, oil is the symbol of God’s anointing. David and Saul were anointed (in the Old Testament) and Jesus was anointed as well (Isaiah 61:1 and Luke 4:18)
5. It is a commission to go into the world to be God’s witnesses (Acts 1:8 and 2:4)
6. It is being submersed in God’s power, bringing a fuller experience of the Fruits of the Spirit. Read Galatians 5:22-23 and list them:

NOTES

7. It is an empowering and enabling aid in the believer's prayer life:
 - The Holy Spirit helps us to pray and pray through us the divine will of God (Romans 8:26)
 - The Holy Spirit give us direction in prayer (Acts 13:1-3)

5. Who can receive the gift of the baptism in the Holy Spirit?

Anyone and everyone who is born-again and desires to be filled with God's power in order to do His will can be baptized in the Holy Spirit. God tells us that His Spirit is available to anyone who asks, knocks, and seeks (Matthew 7:7-10). God is no respecter of persons and He wants everyone to be equipped with His power and His gifts (Acts 1:8 and 1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

6. How can I be baptized in the Holy Spirit?

1. Confess any known sins to God and tell him your absolute need for the Holy Spirit to cleanse you (J John 1:9)
2. Yield control of every area of your life to God (Romans 6: 12-13).
3. Pray and seek God earnestly (Hebrews 11:6).
4. Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you as He comes upon you (Acts 2:4).
5. Receive prayer from other believers for the baptism in the Holy Spirit (Acts 9: 17)
6. Be open to the supernatural power and manifestations of God's Spirit, i.e. speaking in an unknown language (tongues), prophecy, healing, interpretation, etc.

Lesson 9: Who Is The Holy Spirit? - Part 2

CONNECTION:

1. Have you ever experienced something from the Holy Spirit that you would call supernatural? Share your experience.

I. WHAT IS THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Acts 2:1-21 (NIV)

"When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues^[a] as the Spirit enabled them. Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?" Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine." Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: "'In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'"

In order to understand the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, we must first look at the term "_____".

Acts 1:5 (NIV)

"For John baptized with water, but in a few days, you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

John the Baptist said, "As the people were in expectation, and all men questioned in their hearts concerning John, whether perhaps he were the Christ, John answered them all, "I baptize you with water: but he who is mightier than I is coming, the thong of who's sandals I am not worthy to untie; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."

Definition: Baptism - to _____

to _____

- . To be _____ in the Holy Spirit
- . To be _____ in the Holy Spirit
- . To be _____ in the Holy Spirit

It is being enveloped with the:

- **POWER**
- **PRESENCE**
- **POTENTIAL**

In the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:8 (NIV)

"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."

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is not Spirit indwelling, but Spirit:

- Immersion
- Submersion
- Empowering

II. IS THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT A SEPARATE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The questions we must ask ourselves is:

1. When are we baptized in the Holy Spirit?
2. Is the Baptism in the Holy Spirit a _____ in the believer's life or does it all happen at one time?
Some people teach that a believer needs not to seek another experience in the Holy Spirit, but to apply the work of the Holy Spirit. At salvation, the Holy Spirit comes to live (abide) in every believer. **1 Cor. 6:19** teaches us that we are the temple of the Holy Spirit. As we survey the book of Acts, we discover that born-again believers experienced a baptism in the Holy Spirit after they became born-again.
3. What are the experiences found in the Book of Acts concerning the Baptism in the Holy Spirit?

1. THE EXPERIENCE OF THE DISCIPLES:

- They had confessed Jesus as Christ, the Son of God.

Matt. 16:16 (NIV)

"Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.'"

John 6:68 & 69 (NIV)

"Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.'"

- Their names were written in heaven.

Luke 10:20 (NIV)

However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

- Then the Lord breathed on them, and said, “Receive ye the Holy Spirit.”
- Forty days later He commanded them to “tarry until” – “they were endowed with power.”
John 20:22 (NIV)
“And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”
- Luke 24:48 (NIV)
“I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”
- The same disciples then received another work in the Holy Spirit. (The Baptism)

2. THE EXPERIENCE OF THE SAMARITANS:

- They received Christ and were baptized in water under Philip’s ministry.

Acts 8:5-12 (NIV)

“Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah there. When the crowds heard Philip and saw the signs he performed, they all paid close attention to what he said. For with shrieks, impure spirits came out of many, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. So there was great joy in that city. Now for some time a man named Simon had practiced sorcery in the city and amazed all the people of Samaria. He boasted that he was someone great, and all the people, both high and low, gave him their attention and exclaimed, “This man is rightly called the Great Power of God.”¹¹ They followed him because he had amazed them for a long time with his sorcery. But when they believed Philip as he proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.”

- It was later that they received the Holy Spirit’s Baptism.

Acts 8:14-19 (NIV)

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to Samaria. When they arrived, they prayed for the new believers there that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come on any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles’ hands, he offered them money and said, “Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.”

3. The people of Samaria were _____ before _____.

They believed and were baptized; this is the only qualification for salvation. They were saved!

John 3:16 (NIV)

"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."

Romans 6:23 (NIV)

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Eph. 2:8-9 (NIV)

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast."

THE EXPERIENCE OF PAUL

1. He called _____ "_____".

Acts 9:6 (NIV)

"Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

I Cor. 12:3 (NIV)

"Therefore, I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, 'Jesus be cursed,' and no one can say, 'Jesus is Lord,' except by the Holy Spirit."

2. Three days later he received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Acts 9:9 & 17 (NIV)

"For three days he was blind and did not eat or drink anything. Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.'"

THE EXPERIENCE OF THE EPHESIANS:

1. They were disciples

Acts 19:1 (NIV)

"While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples."

2. Paul asked them, "Have you _____ ... since you _____".

3. They were simply _____.

Acts 19:5 (NIV)

"On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus."

4. Then Paul laid hands on them, and they _____.

Acts 19:6 (NIV)

"When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied."

Note: The experience of the Ephesians took place twenty years after Acts 2:4.

- . Paul's question to the Ephesians, "have you received... since you believed", implies that the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a distinct and separate work of the Holy Spirit.

Important notice: If the "Baptism" in the Spirit came at salvation, then why didn't the apostles teach it as such? Instead, all evidence shows that they themselves taught that the Spirit's baptism came after salvation. **QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:**

1. If the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a _____, we **must** ask ourselves three basic questions:

- . Why should I _____?
- . How can I be _____ in the Holy Spirit?
- . _____ can be _____ in the Holy Spirit?

2. **WHY ARE WE BAPTIZED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT?**

- . Because Jesus _____
to be baptized in the Holy Spirit.

Jesus told His disciples to _____ until they were baptized in the Holy Spirit.

The Giver of the Holy Spirit – "I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been

clothed with power from on high." Jesus stressed the importance of the Baptism in Luke 24:49

Luke 24:49 (NIV)

"I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

2. It is the clothing of power – Luke 24:49
3. It is an equipping for service – Acts 1:8

At Baptism we receive the gifts of the Spirit.

_____ 1 Corinthians 12:7-11

- **WISDOM**
- **KNOWLEDGE**
- **FAITH**
- **HEALING**
- **MIRACLES**
- **PROPHECY**

- **DISCERNING OF SPIRIT**
- **TONGUES**
- **INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES**

4. It is the anointing of God. Example: David was anointed, Saul was anointed.
Oil – is a symbol of God’s anointing.

5. It is a commission to go into the world to be God’s witnesses. Acts 1:8 & Acts 2:4

6. It is a time of:

- **DEDICATION**
- **CONSECRATION**
- **SEPARATION – TO BE USED BY GOD**

Example: Oil was poured upon vessels to be a symbol of dedication, consecration, and separation.

Example: Jesus was anointed – Isa. 61:1 & Luke 4:18

7. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit brings a full experience of the Fruit of the Spirit.
Gal 5:22(NIV)

**JOY
PEACE
LOVE
PATIENCE
KINDNESS**

**GOODNESS
FAITHFULNESS
GENTLENESS
SELF-CONTROL**

8. It is an _____ to the believer’s prayer life.

Romans 8:26 (NIV)

“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 through wordless groans.”

Eph: 6:18(NIV) *And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep praying for all the Lord’s people.*

Jude: 1:20 (NIV) *“But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit.*

Acts 13:1-3 (NIV)

“Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. 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.”³ So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.”

HOW DO YOU RECEIVE THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT?

- . We must be born again. John 3:1-7
- . We must ask. Luke 11:13
- . We must believe. Hebrews 11:6
- . We must receive by faith. Hebrews 11:6
- . We must not doubt. Mark 11:22-24

WHO CAN RECEIVE THE BAPTISM?

-
- God is not a _____.
 - God wants everyone to have power and gifts.
 - God tells us that His Spirit is available to those who _____

Acts 1:8 (NIV)

"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."

1 Cor. 12:4-7 (NIV)

"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good."

Matt. 7:7-10 (NIV)

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. "Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake?"

CONCLUSION:

1. What is the **BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT?**

- _____
- _____

2. Baptism is a _____ according to the testimony of Acts.

3. Baptism in the Holy Spirit is evidenced by _____ according to the testimony of Acts.

4. We should _____ the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

IMPORTANT: There is only ____ Baptism in the Holy Spirit, (we need to receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit only one time), but we should seek to be filled with the Spirit every day.

Acts 2:4 (NIV)

"All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them."

Acts 4:28-30 (NIV)

"They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

Eph. 5:18 (NIV)

"Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit,"

We should receive the Holy Spirit's Baptism by _____
_____ as a result of being baptized in the Holy Spirit.

GET CONNECTED...STAY CONNECTED

OBJECTIVE:

To show believers the importance of establishing solid relationships with other Christians.

Acts 2:42

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

MEMORY VERSE: ECCLESIASTES 4: 12

"Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves.
A cord of three strands is not quickly broken."

II. INTRODUCTION

God did not intend for us to journey through life all alone. In the same way He created natural families, God created spiritual families (the local church) to bless us with people to rejoice with when times are good, and people to support us when times are bad. Also, being in relationship with others helps us to be accountable and authentic in our faith. Who's going to support and encourage you Monday through Saturday if people only see you on Sunday morning? Most importantly, the Bible tells us the world will know we are disciples of Jesus by our love for one another (John 13:35).

III. HOW DO I GET CONNECTED?

1. Get Connected through ONE GROUPS

One Groups are one of the best ways to get to know other people in the church. One Groups were created to be an environment where people can learn to love Jesus and others in a deeper way.

One Groups build meaningful relationships through a community of people who genuinely care in every season of your life. Relationship is the key to One Groups. As the church gets larger, we need to get "smaller". It's easy to get lost in the crowd of a large church, but small groups allow people to get to know one another on a one-on-one basis.

The New Testament Church was made up of small groups. In Acts 2:42, 46, we read that "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts ..." They realized that large group worship in the temple was important, but small

group fellowship was just as vital.

2. Get Connected through SERVING

Serving in the church is another great way to get to know people who have similar interests as you. Not only will you get to know the people you are serving with, but the people you are ministering to will get to know you as well. Being active in the life of the church will put you in contact with many more people as opposed to simply coming and leaving service Sunday after Sunday; but beyond that, serving reminds us that we are called to serve one another. "Just as the Son of Man (Jesus) did not come to be served but to serve..." (Matt. 20:28) If Jesus came to Earth to serve, and we want to be his followers, shouldn't we do likewise? Serving in the church is a great way to get started!

3. Get Connected through SOCIAL EVENTS

Several times a year at Bethlehem we host several events where people can get to know each other outside of the church building. Summer Concerts, Hope Day, and other Outreaches are just a few of these events ...so be there!

4. Stay connected through GROW U

IV. IN CONCLUSION...

The pastors are not physically capable (despite every good intention) of being deeply involved in every single church member's life. That's why it is so important to surround yourself with the right people who are going to encourage you, support you, keep you accountable, and help bring you closer to God. Especially if you are a new believer, it's so important to find support in other Christians. The Bible says that "bad company corrupts good character" (1 Cor. 15:33) so choose your friendships wisely. Don't allow anyone to draw you away from Christ. Our desire is to see you cultivate Godly, life-transforming friendships with others in church that will cause you to grow deeper in your faith.