

Who Jesus Is



CHRISTIAN LIFE SERIES

Who Jesus Is

7th edition

Christian Life Series

Your New Life

Your Bible

Who Jesus Is

The Church

Personal Evangelism

Bible Ethics

When You Pray

How to Study the Bible

Your Helpful Friend

Christian Worship

Christian Workers

Marriage and the Home

God's Design—Your Choice

John's Gospel

We Believe

What Churches Do

The Teaching Ministry

The Christian in His Community

Who Jesus Is

7th edition

by Elton G. Hill



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Seventh edition 2008

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PN 07.01.01

ISBN 978-0-7617-1315-9

www.globaluniversity.edu
www.globalreach.org

Printed in the United States of America

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PREFACE

Jesus Christ was born almost 2,000 years ago. Why should you study a course about Him? What difference does it make to you who He is? This question is vital. You will find the answer to it in these lessons.

Today, more people than ever before in the history of the world are talking about Jesus Christ. Millions claim to be His followers. Why? Whatever your religion may be, you owe it to yourself to know something about Jesus—His life, His teachings, and His claims.

Possibly you are studying this course just to satisfy your curiosity about the life and teachings of Jesus. Or perhaps you have accepted Him as your Savior and want to know Him better. It could be that you are looking for reality in your spiritual life, you want to strengthen your faith, or you want to see if Jesus holds the solution for life's problems.

Whatever your purpose is, keep it in mind as you study. The more you apply the lessons to your own life, the more good you will get out of them.

Elton G. Hill

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE SERIES

Who Jesus Is is one of 18 courses in this practical discipleship program for new believers. The Christian Life Series is a study to help students grow in their relationship with Christ, interact with the Word of God, and better understand God's purposes for their life.

Students will study basic Christian topics under six reoccurring themes. The courses are conversational in style and easy to read. The following chart illustrates how the units of study are organized for the Christian Life Series.

	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3
Spiritual Life	Your New Life	When You Pray	God's Design, Your Choice
The Bible	Your Bible	How to Study the Bible	John's Gospel
Theology	Who Jesus Is	Your Helpful Friend	We Believe
The Church	The Church	Christian Worship	What Churches Do
Service	Personal Evangelism	Christian Workers	The Teaching Ministry
Christian Ethics	Bible Ethics	Marriage and the Home	The Christian in His Community

Before You Begin

How to Use this Book

If you have studied other Christian Life courses, you may have noticed that this book is slightly larger and has a new look. This introduction will explain new features that have been added to make the course easier to study. Carefully read the introduction.

This book is divided into lessons instead of chapters. Each lesson begins with two important pages. After the lesson number are the title and a short introduction to the lesson. On the next page is **The Plan**. This is the outline or plan for the lesson. It is a list of what you can expect to study in the lesson.

Next are **The Goals**. The goals are guidelines for what you should be able to do after studying the lesson. Read the goals carefully; they will help you focus on the most important points in the lesson.

To help you reach your goals, each lesson has questions and activities. The subheading **Application** signals you to answer questions on the material learned. Do not skip over this part. Writing out the answers will help you apply what you have learned. Most of the questions can be answered right in your book. If there is not enough room to write your answers in the book, write them in a notebook or journal that you can use to review the lessons later.

After answering a question, check the answer at the end of the lesson in the section marked **Check Your Answers**. Do not look ahead at the answers until you have written your own answer. This will help you remember what you study much better. Compare your answers to those given at the end of the lesson; then correct those you did not answer correctly. The answers are in a jumbled order so that you will not easily see the answer to the next question.

How to Answer Study Questions

This course uses many different kinds of questions. Below are samples of the three most common types and how to answer them.

MULTIPLE-CHOICE

A multiple-choice question asks you to choose an answer from the ones that are given.

Example

- 1 The Bible has a total of
- a) 100 books.
 - b) 66 books.
 - c) 27 books.

The correct answer is b) 66 books.

In your study guide, make a circle around b) as shown here:

- 1 The Bible has a total of
- a) 100 books.
 - b) 66 books.
 - c) 27 books.
 - d) 2 books.

TRUE-FALSE

A true-false question or item asks you to choose which of several statements are TRUE.

Example

- 2 Which statements below are TRUE?
- a) The Bible has a total of 120 books.
 - b) The Bible is a message for believers today.
 - c) All of the Bible authors wrote in the Hebrew language.
 - d) The Holy Spirit inspired the writers of the Bible.

Statements **b)** and **d)** are true. You would make a circle around these two letters to show your choices, as you see above.

MATCHING

A Matching question or item asks you to match things that go together, such as names with descriptions, or Bible books with their authors.

Example

3 Write the number for the leader's name in front of each phrase that describes something he did.

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| ..1... a) Received the Law at Mt. Sinai | 1. Moses |
| 2... b) Led the Israelites across the Jordan | 2. Joshua |
| 2... c) Marched around Jericho | |
| ..1... d) Lived in Pharaoh's court | |

Phrases **a)** and **d)** refer to Moses, and phrases **b)** and **c)** refer to Joshua. You would write 1 beside **a)** and **d)**, and 2 beside **b)** and **c)**, as you see above.

Suggestions for Studying

1. Set aside quiet and regular times for your study. It will be easier to concentrate if study is part of your daily habits.
2. Pray as you begin each study session. With an open Bible, the Holy Spirit, and this course, you are in the classroom of the Holy Spirit. Ask the Lord to help you understand the lesson and apply it to your life.
3. Carefully read the lesson introduction, the lesson plan, and the goals.
4. Begin to carefully read the lesson. Look up Bible references and take any notes that may be helpful. The Bible verses reinforce important points in the lesson.
5. Answer the study questions in the spaces provided. Use your notebook or journal when necessary.

6. Think about what you have learned and look for ways to apply it in discussion with family and friends, in a Bible study, etc.
7. Take your time. No bell will ring to force you to move on to new material.

Unit Evaluations

At the end of this course, you will find the Unit Evaluations. Questions and Answer Sheets are clearly marked for each unit. Carefully follow the directions given. You should complete and send your answer sheets to your instructor for corrections. If you are not studying with a Global University office you will still benefit by completing the Unit Evaluations.

Ways to Study this Course

This course has been written so that you can study it by yourself. We like to say that the teacher is in the book. However, you may also study this course in various group settings such as mid-week Bible studies, learning centers, home groups, and youth programs. This course can be used as a correspondence or resource tool for prison ministries as well as special ethnic or other community outreach programs. You will find both the content and study methods excellent for these purposes.

If you study this course by yourself, all of your work can be completed by mail. Be sure to use the address of your Global University office. If you are studying in a group or through a Discipleship Training Center, be sure to follow any additional instructions that your instructor may give.

In addition, your church may partner with Global University to open a Discipleship Training Center. Visit us online at www.globaluniversity.edu for more information and start up helps.

Certificate

Unit or individual certificates are available to students upon successful completion of our courses. For instance, if

you are studying through a National Office or Discipleship Training Center, you may receive a certificate from your Global University instructor. If you are studying on your own, you may mail your completed Unit Evaluation Answer Sheets to your local office. National Offices and Discipleship Training Centers may order certificates through the International Office or through GPH in the USA.

Additional Helps

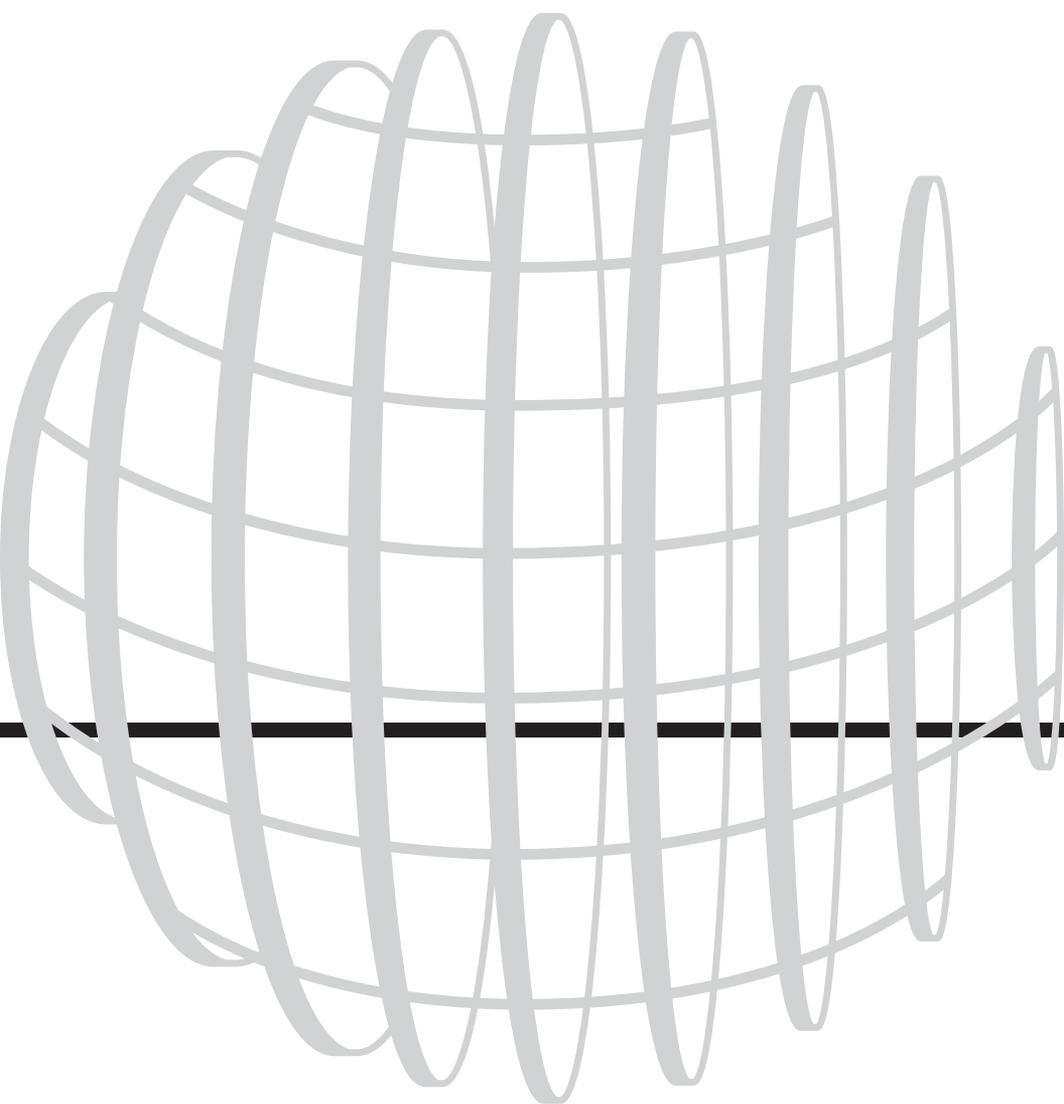
The Center for Evangelism and Discipleship (CED) Catalog, How to Become a Learning Center Manual, the Learning Center Agreement Form, and the CED Order Form are available online for print downloads. Other materials available for this course include supplemental audiocassettes.

Visit us at www.globaluniversity.edu
and www.globalreach.org for additional resources.

About the Author

Most of the material in this course originally appeared as a series of radio messages by Rev. Elton G. Hill. They were widely distributed and appreciated in Sri Lanka and the Middle East. We have adapted and expanded these messages so that they give you a complete and basic study on the person and work of Jesus Christ.

God bless you as you study *Who Jesus Is*. May your heart be opened to the truths in God's Word.



Unit

Lessons

- 1 Finding Out About Jesus**
- 2 Jesus, the Promised Messiah**
- 3 Jesus, the Son of God**
- 4 Jesus, the Son of Man**
- 5 Jesus, the Word**

LESSON 1 Finding Out About Jesus

Who do you think Jesus is? Some people say He was a great teacher. Others say He was a prophet, a philosopher, a Western god, or a good man whose example we should follow.

But Jesus was more than a great teacher, prophet, or philosopher. And He was not from the West, so we cannot call Him a Western god. Jesus was born in the Middle East almost 2,000 years ago. Though He did not build any monuments or command an army, His life affected the whole world. And although He lived so long ago, millions of people today claim to know Him personally. They say He has changed their lives, and they would die for His cause. So who is the Jesus?

In this first lesson, we will begin to find out who Jesus is. We will start by looking at two ways to learn about Him.

The Plan

- A. The Bible Reveals Jesus
- B. Personal Experiences Show Us Who Jesus Is

The Goals

- 1. State why you can depend on the Bible to show you who Jesus is.
- 2. Discuss how we can learn who Jesus is through personal experience.

A. THE BIBLE REVEALS JESUS

Goal 1. State why you can depend on the Bible to show you who Jesus is.

Accuracy of the Bible

To learn who Jesus is we go to the book where we find an accurate record of His life and teachings—the Bible. The Bible is a collection of sixty-six books written by some thirty-five to forty people.

The writers of the Bible were men of many different occupations. They were businessmen, shepherds, farmers, fishermen, prophets, priests, doctors, scholars, government officials, and even kings. They lived at different times over a period of about 1,600 years, and they had the following things in common:

- 1. They all worshipped one God—called Jehovah*—Creator of the universe.
- 2. They each had God revealed to them and received His messages for humanity.
- 3. They all wrote what God told them to write.

*Another way of representing the name Jehovah is Yahweh. Interpreters call this a transliteration.

God kept these writers from making mistakes as they wrote the records of the past, predictions of future events, and His messages for humanity in every age and circumstance. Many years ago, these God-inspired writings were put together in one book—the Holy Bible.

For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:21)

The Bible is accurate in every detail. It is historically and scientifically correct. The exact fulfillment of hundreds of its prophecies about nations and individuals proves that it really is the Word of God. We can depend on what it tells us about Jesus.

Application

1 Three of the following statements are TRUE about all the writers of the Bible. Circle the letter in front of each one.

- a)** They lived at the same time.
- b)** They worshipped the same God.
- c)** They worshipped many gods.
- d)** They received messages from God.
- e)** They wrote whatever they wanted to write.
- f)** They wrote what God told them to write.
- g)** They made mistakes in their books.

2 We can depend on the Bible to tell us who Jesus is because the Bible is

- a)** long with many details.
- b)** a collection of smaller books.
- c)** an accurate message from God.



Theme of the Bible

Why should sixty-six books, written by some forty people over a period of 1,600 years, be put together in one book? It is because one theme runs through them all. Together they show us different parts of the same picture. Books of history, law, songs, prophecy,

biography, and practical teaching in the Bible have one central theme. It is the salvation of sinful humanity by a loving God.

Both parts of the Bible—the Old Testament and the New—show people’s need of a Savior and God’s provision of a Savior in Jesus. The Old Testament, written before Jesus was born, contains many prophecies about Him. The New Testament tells us how the Savior came and how we can be saved by Him. The theme of the whole Bible—salvation for humankind—centers around Jesus, the Savior for all people.

Application

- 3** The theme of the Bible is salvation for humankind through
- a)** better laws.
 - b)** Jesus the Savior.
 - c)** a good environment.
 - d)** improved religion.

4 Write the number of the part of the Bible in front of each phrase that describes it.

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| ... a Tells how the Savior came | 1) Old Testament |
| ... b Describes the life of the Savior and how we can be saved by Him | 2) New Testament |
| ... c Has many prophecies about a coming Savior | |

New Testament Records About Jesus

The New Testament gives us the records of:

1. Jesus’ life and teachings.
2. The church He founded.
3. Instructions for following Jesus.
4. Future events related to Jesus’ return.

We can depend on the accuracy of the New Testament. God chose the men who should write it and inspired them in every detail of their work. Three things assure us that the New Testament

records are true: (1) divine inspiration, (2) eyewitness testimonies of the writers, and (3) the systematic investigation of the facts.

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John wrote the Gospels called by their names. These are the first four books of the New Testament. We call them Gospels because gospel means “good news.” The good news about how Jesus came to give us eternal life is the best news there is.

We see people from different viewpoints. Think of a man you know. To one person he is a neighbor; to another, a friend; and still to others a husband, father, and worker. All could write about the same person, but each would have a different perspective and emphasis.

God inspired Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John to write the good news about Jesus from different viewpoints.

- Matthew shows us Jesus as King—the descendant of King David who would rule the world in righteousness.
- Mark shows us Jesus, the Servant of God, doing God’s will—the suffering Servant described in Old Testament prophecy, who came to die for our sins.
- Luke, a Greek physician, presents Jesus as the Son of Man—the perfect representative of the human race and the remedy for the ills of all humanity.
- John writes his Gospel to let us see Jesus as the Son of God—the Savior of the world.

John’s book is a record of the life of a man he knows and with whom he is closely associated. John writes as a witness to prove who Jesus is. His aim is to convince all who read his record that Jesus is more than a man—He is God come in the form of man. And he declares that all who believe in Jesus will receive eternal life. This is a great statement—almost too good to be true. But as we read in the Bible what other followers of Jesus wrote about Him, we see that they all agree. What they say about Jesus is true.

Matthew and John are two of the twelve disciples who spent three years with Jesus during His ministry. They describe the miracles they saw Him perform, record some of His teachings, and tell what they observed personally of His death and resurrection.

John gives the proof of Jesus' deity and stresses the importance of believing in Him. Matthew was accustomed to working with official documents before he became Jesus' disciple. Step by step, he presents the proof that Jesus is the King of whom the Old Testament prophets wrote. He quotes the prophecies and their fulfillment, traces Jesus' royal lineage, and describes the principles of His kingdom.

Note: We use a term, ministry, often. In one way, ministry is the work or operation of religious service. In another, ministry is simply one's work. A minister can be either a religious official, as in clergy, or a publicly-beneficial worker. In government, some countries have ministers of government departments or a prime minister who heads them all. In saying "Jesus' ministry" we mean the work He did, which therefore was of benefit to all humankind.

Mark was a young man living in Jerusalem at the time of Jesus' ministry there. He was probably among the crowds that heard Jesus preach, saw His miracles, and saw Him crucified. Later, Mark was closely associated with Peter (one of Jesus' disciples) and probably learned from him some of the details given in Mark's gospel.

Luke the physician investigated carefully the reports about Jesus. He wrote two books (his Gospel and the book of Acts) to give a prominent friend an accurate record of the life of Jesus and the growth of His church. Luke interviewed Mary (the mother of Jesus) and many others to learn the details about Jesus' miraculous birth, life, death, and resurrection. He checked on many of the healings that Jesus had performed and described what happened.

The writers of the rest of the New Testament—Peter, James, Jude, and Paul—were well qualified to write about Jesus. Peter had spent three years with Him as His disciple. James and Jude were Jesus' brothers. Paul was a bitter enemy of Jesus and His followers. But then he met Jesus in a way that changed his life completely. From then on Paul spent his life telling others about Jesus.

God inspired these men to write for us (as well as for the people in their days) what they knew about Jesus. Their records all agree. From their experience they tell how we too can know Jesus and enjoy the wonderful life He gives. John sums it up:

We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. (1 John 1:3)

Application

5 Memorize 1 John 1:3.

6 The New Testament account about Jesus is a

- a)** record written by people who knew Him or learned the facts from those who knew Him.
- b)** collection of legends and ideas about a folk-hero of the first century.
- c)** story passed down by word of mouth for generations before it was put into writing.

7 Circle the letter before each statement which gives a reason why you can depend on what the Bible says about Jesus.

- a)** Most of the events described in the Bible happened many years ago in the Middle East.
- b)** The Gospels were written by men who knew Jesus personally or who interviewed those who knew Him.
- c)** All the writers of the Bible were inspired by God.
- d)** The Bible contains songs, history, and law.
- e)** Hundreds of prophecies in the Bible have been fulfilled exactly.



B. PERSONAL EXPERIENCES SHOW US WHO JESUS IS

Goal 2. Discuss how we can learn who Jesus is through personal experience.

Jesus is alive, and we can know Him personally! This is part of the good news of the gospel. Jesus still does the same things for people that He did long ago.

The Experiences of Others

Do you know anyone who knows Jesus personally? This is more than just knowing about Jesus, or being a member of a Christian church. Knowing Jesus personally changes a person's life. Millions of people do really know Jesus today. They would be glad to tell you about Him. Some of them say:

- I used to hate everybody, but when Jesus came into my life He changed me. Now I love people and want to help them.
- I used to have a terrible sense of guilt, but Jesus took it all away when I asked Him to forgive my sins. He gave me joy, peace, and a clean conscience.
- Jesus took away the fears that tormented me. He gives me courage to face my problems.
- Jesus has given me a reason for living, a purpose in life.
- Jesus is the answer to all my problems. I take everything to Him in prayer. He shows me what to do and meets my needs.
- I am not lonely anymore because Jesus is with me all the time.
- I was hooked on drugs, but Jesus took away the craving for drugs when I turned my life over to Him.
- Jesus has healed me many times in answer to prayer.

These testimonies and thousands of others from people who really know Jesus today demonstrate the truth of what God says. Hebrews 13:8 affirms, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

Application

8 Memorize Hebrews 13:8.

9 Something to think about: If you heard people tell about experiences with Jesus like the ones quoted above, what would you think? Would you also want to know Jesus? Do these true testimonies lead you to believe that knowing Jesus might help you solve some of your problems?



Your Personal Experience

How can you best know who Jesus is? You can learn much about Him by studying the Bible. There you find His life and teachings. You discover why He came into the world and what He has done for you. The Bible tells you what He is doing now and what He will do in the future. You can learn about Jesus from the experience of others. Down through the years until this very hour, people have discovered that Jesus makes himself known to those who really want to know Him. And best of all, you can know Him personally and learn from experience that what the Bible says about Him is true.

You may have known about Jesus all your life, or you may never have heard much about Him. You may already know Him and love Him, or like Saul—the enemy of Jesus whose life was changed when he met Him personally—you may be opposed to the gospel. Whatever your knowledge of Jesus and your attitude toward Him may be, these lessons have been written to help you become better acquainted with Him personally. And as you do, we hope and pray that you will enjoy the wonderful benefits that come from friendship with Jesus.

Application

10 From the following statements, choose the three that give the best ways to learn who Jesus is. Circle the letter before each one.

- a)** Study what the Bible says about Him.
 - b)** Study what other religions say about Him.
 - c)** Compare the teachings of various religions.
 - d)** Hear what Jesus has done for people who know Him personally.
 - e)** Know Jesus personally yourself.
 - f)** Listen to what the enemies of Jesus say.
-
- 

Check Your Answers

The answers to your study exercises are not given in the usual order. This is done so you will not easily see the answer to your next question ahead of time. Look for the number you need, and try not to look ahead.

- 4 a** 2) The New Testament
b 2) The New Testament
c 1) The Old Testament
- 1 b)** They worshipped the same God.
d) They received messages from God.
f) They wrote what God told them to write.
- 6 a)** record written by people who knew Him or learned the facts from those who knew Him.
- 2 c)** an accurate message from God.
- 7** All the statements are true. However, statements **b)**, **c)**, and **e)** give reasons why you can depend on what the Bible says about Jesus.
- 3 b)** Jesus the Savior
- 10 a)** Study what the Bible says about Him.
d) Hear what Jesus has done for people who know Him personally.
e) Know Jesus personally yourself.

LESSON 2 Jesus, the Promised Messiah

Promises are part of our lives. Parents promise to do things for children. Politicians, business people, and friends make promises. We have all had the experience of waiting for someone to keep a promise he or she made to us. Sometimes we have had to wait a long time! And sometimes we have been disappointed.

God has also made promises. For many centuries before Jesus was born, God promised that a Messiah, or Anointed One, would come. He spoke through His prophets, describing this person and what He would do.

When Jesus came, many of the people who knew these prophecies noticed something very important. They saw that the things Jesus said and did matched the descriptions. They realized that Jesus was the Messiah whom God had promised to send. God had kept His word!

In this lesson, you will study the different kinds of prophecies that were made about Jesus. You will discover the wonderful things they foretold about Him.

The Plan

- A. Understanding Bible Prophecy
- B. Truths About the Messiah

The Goals

1. State the different kinds of biblical prophecy.
2. Identify several ways in which Jesus fulfills the Bible prophecies about the Messiah.

A. UNDERSTANDING BIBLE PROPHECY

Goal 1. State the different kinds of biblical prophecy.

Bible prophecies are messages that God gave His people through His messengers, the prophets. Through them God let the people know what He wanted them to do and showed them many things that would happen in the future.

God inspired the prophets to write down these revelations, so now we have them in the Bible. Many of these predictions have already come true in the smallest detail. The Bible contains the historical fulfillment of a great number of them. Some of the prophecies are being fulfilled right now. Others will take place in the future.

Prophecies Are Important

The fulfillment of Bible prophecies lets us know that the Bible is what it claims to be—the Word of God. Who else knows every detail of the future and can describe just what is going to happen to certain people in a certain place at a certain time hundreds of years later? God has confirmed the inspiration of the Bible by announcing His purpose ahead of time and then making everything happen just as He had said through His prophets.

The prophecies in the Old Testament about a coming Savior are extremely important to us for three reasons:

1. We can measure Jesus' life against these predictions and see if He really is the promised Savior.
2. We can better understand, through the prophecies, who Jesus is and why He came. We are shown His work in the past, present, and future.
3. We can know that God does what He has promised. Just as the first phase of the prophecies about Jesus has worked out exactly as it was foretold, the prophecies about the future will be fulfilled too.

Application

- 1 Bible prophecies of future events are
 - a) messages that prophets received from the spirits of the dead.
 - b) predictions of the future gained by studying the stars.
 - c) revelations that God gave through His prophets.
- 2 The prophecies about a coming Savior are important because they
 - a) show that God does what He promises to do.
 - b) describe the political situation during Bible times.
 - c) contain many interesting pictures and symbols.



Messianic Prophecies Were Given Gradually

We call the prophecies about the Savior messianic prophecy. This is from the Hebrew title Messiah, which means the “Anointed One.” Priests, prophets, and kings were anointed with oil to show that God had chosen them and set them apart for His work. The coming Messiah would be anointed by God’s Holy Spirit to do His work. He would be Prophet, Priest, and King. The Greek word for Messiah is Christ. When we talk about Jesus Christ, we are calling Jesus the Messiah, the Anointed One, the fulfillment of the messianic prophecies.

God’s promises of the Messiah were written to His people of events that span a period of over 4,000 years. Some of them

described the work that Jesus would do on earth as our Savior. Others refer to His future everlasting kingdom. Some of these prophecies were given in messages about a local situation, but went beyond the immediate problem to the coming of Messiah.

God revealed more and more details about the Messiah as time went by—where He would be born, how He would die, what kind of work He would do. In fact, some Bible students have counted over 300 details about the Messiah in Old Testament prophecy. God wanted everyone to be able to recognize the Messiah when He came.

Application

3 The title Christ means

- a)** Anointed One.
- b)** Conqueror.
- c)** Sacrifice.

4 God gave the messianic prophecies

- a)** more than 4,000 years before Christ was born.
 - b)** at different events for a period of over 4,000 years.
 - c)** to one of His prophets who lived 4,000 years ago.
-

Rituals Pictured the Messiah

The rites of worship that God's people used in the Old Testament were prophetic. God had established a whole system of sacrifices as a picture of the coming Messiah who would give His life to save people from their sins. The work of the priests was a picture of what Jesus would do as a perfect priest for all humanity. The whole book of Hebrews in the New Testament tells how Jesus fits perfectly the prophetic picture given by the symbolic ritual of the Old Testament.

All over the world today we find traces of the prophetic rites and sacrifices that God instituted when man sinned. Many religions have in their worship some of these signs that were

meant to point to Jesus. Members of these religions should study the Christian Bible to discover the true meaning of their ritual.

Application

- 5** Do you know of any rituals of sacrifice that are practiced in your area? What meaning do they have?
- 6** The best way to find out how Jesus fits the symbolic picture given by the Old Testament is to
- a)** think about the religions practiced in your area.
 - b)** learn the names of all the messianic prophets in the Bible.
 - c)** study the book of Hebrews in the New Testament.
-

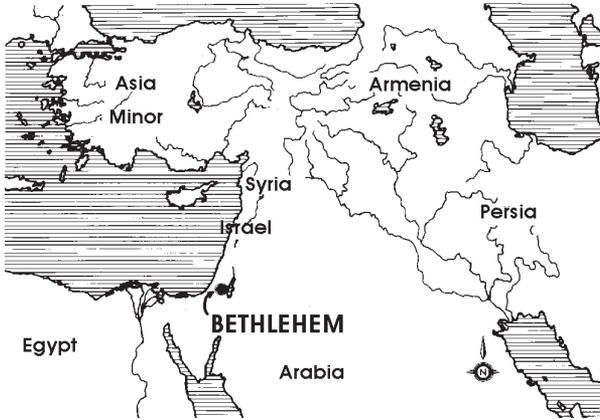
B. TRUTHS ABOUT THE MESSIAH

Goal 2. Identify several ways in which Jesus fulfills the Bible prophecies about the Messiah.

The Old Testament prophets foretold many important things about the Messiah. Five of these are described in this section of your lesson.

Human and Divine

We find the first promise of the Messiah in the first book of the Bible. God refers to Him as the seed of the woman. He would be born of a woman. Adam and Eve, the first man and woman, had sinned. Satan, God’s enemy, had persuaded them to disobey God. This separated them from God and gave Satan power over them. But God promised that a Savior would be born who would fight Satan and destroy his power. God told Satan, ““And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel”” (Genesis 3:15).



Down through the following centuries, God told His people many more details about the Savior. He would be born in Bethlehem, in the land often called Palestine today. Yet He would not be an ordinary man. He was eternal. He had always existed, but would come to earth to be born as a human baby and grow up to be ruler in Israel. Micah prophesied:

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.” (Micah 5:2)

Bethlehem Ephrathah means a village called Bethlehem near a town called Ephrath (see Genesis 35:19; 48:7) or Ephrathah (see Ruth 4:11). In Judges it is also called Bethlehem Judah (17:7). It was necessary to distinguish it because there was a Bethlehem in the territories of other tribes of Israel (Joshua 19:15) but this Bethlehem was in Judah, near a larger town called Ephrath or Ephrathah.

About 700 years before Jesus was born, God showed the prophet Isaiah that the coming Savior would be both human and divine. He would be born of a virgin, without a human father. One of His titles would be Immanuel, which means “God with us.”

“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”
(Isaiah 7:14)

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

In the Gospels of Matthew and Luke you can read about the birth of Jesus. He was conceived without a human father and born of the virgin Mary. This happened through the power of God—the Holy Spirit. Human and divine, He was Immanuel—God with us. Note the final earthly words of Jesus: “‘And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age’” (Matthew 28:20).

Application

7 We know that Jesus is the “Immanuel” foretold in the Old Testament because He was

- a)** born in Bethlehem Ephrathah.
 - b)** conceived by the Holy Spirit.
 - c)** a great and wise teacher.
-

Sacrifice and Savior

God showed several of the prophets that the Savior would give His own life as the sacrifice for our sins. Before Jesus came, animals were sacrificed to God on behalf of the people’s sin. The sinner brought a lamb or goat to the priest to be killed and burned on the altar.

The fifty-third chapter of Isaiah describes how God would make the Savior a sacrifice for our sins, but how later He would live again. Jesus became our sacrifice for sin and our Savior. Prophets told when, where, and how Jesus would be betrayed by

a close friend, falsely accused, put in prison, mocked, scourged, crucified, and buried. Then He would rise again.

Application

8 Jesus fulfilled the rituals of sacrifice for sin in the Old Testament because He

- a)** died for us.
 - b)** did many good deeds.
 - c)** told us about God.
-

Prophet, Priest, and King

Old Testament prophecies show that the Messiah would be anointed by God's Spirit to be our Prophet, Priest, and King. As Prophet He would be God's voice to us. As Priest He would be our voice to God. As King He would be God's hand to help us and direct us. He would set the standard for us to live by and establish God's rule in our lives.

When Jesus began His public ministry, He read this Messianic prophecy to the people to let them know that they were seeing it fulfilled in Him:

“The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor.” (Isaiah 61:1–2)

Prophet. Moses was a great prophet, religious leader, and ruler of the Jewish people about 1,400 years before Jesus was born. God spoke through him to the people. He led them out of slavery. Great miracles accompanied his ministry and proved that God had sent him to be the leader of his people. Moses wrote,

The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own brothers. You must listen to him. (Deuteronomy 18:15)

Jesus was like Moses in many ways. God spoke through Him. He performed great miracles. He freed people from the slavery of sin. As a prophet, Jesus foretold many events, including His own death by crucifixion, His resurrection after three days, His return to heaven, what His followers would do, the coming of the Holy Spirit, the spread of the gospel, and the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem. All this happened just as Jesus said. Some of His other prophecies are being fulfilled right now. And we know that the rest of them will all come true.

Priest. The psalmist wrote of the Messiah, “The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind: ‘You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek’” (Psalm 110:4). Melchizedek was the first priest named in the Old Testament, and it appears that he was chosen directly by God. All the Old Testament priests prayed for the people and also offered sacrifices for their sins.

Jesus prayed much for His followers when He was on earth, and is praying for us now. The sacrifice He offered for our sins was His own life. Now we can go to God for forgiveness through Jesus our Priest. Whenever we go to Him in prayer, our Priest presents our needs to God.

King. What a conquering King the Messiah would be according to the Old Testament prophecies! He would defeat Satan, the enemy of God and of humanity. He would conquer sin, sickness, sorrow, and even death. He would defeat the forces of evil and establish a reign of perfect justice and peace on the earth. He would provide the solution to all the world’s problems. No wonder the people looked forward to His coming! The prophecy you read in Isaiah 9:6 about the Prince of Peace goes on to say:

Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s

throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. (Isaiah 9:7)

You will notice in the gospels that some people called Jesus Son of God. He was a legal heir to the throne of David. His followers recognized in His miracles and His ministry all the characteristics of the wonderful kingdom that the Messiah would establish. Many wanted to make Him King then. But Jesus was not ready to establish His universal kingdom. First He gave us the standards and conditions for His kingdom in our hearts and lives. We are now in a period of inviting people to accept Jesus as King of their lives. He frees from the power of sin and Satan all those who receive Jesus as their King.

Jesus is the true King of the universe. Someday He will come back to earth for those who belong to Him. He will set up His kingdom for everyone to see, and He will rule forever. This is why you should learn all you can now about who Jesus is and what He wants you to do.

Application

9 Write the number of the prophecy about the Messiah in front of each phrase that describes the way in which Jesus fulfilled it.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| ... a Foretold His own death and resurrection | 1) Human and Divine |
| ... b Gave His life for our sins | 2) Sacrifice and Savior |
| ... c Was the legal heir to the throne of David | 3) Prophet |
| ... d Prayed for His followers | 4) Priest |
| ... e Was the son of the virgin Mary | 5) King |
| ... f Was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit | |

10 Suppose a friend asked you, “How do you know that Jesus is the promised Messiah?” Circle the letter in front of the best reply.

- a)** Jesus fulfilled all the prophecies given about the Messiah in the Old Testament.
- b)** Most religious people agree that Jesus was a good man and a very wise teacher.
- c)** Many prophets in the Old Testament told about the coming of an Anointed One.



The Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah were like separate threads. Only after Jesus came did people see that in Him, they were all wonderfully woven together. In our next lesson, we study more about how Jesus is the Son of God.

Check Your Answers

- 6 c)** study the book of Hebrews in the New Testament.
- 1 c)** revelations that God gave through His prophets.
- 7 b)** conceived by the Holy Spirit.
- 2 a)** show that God does what He promises to do.
- 8 a)** died for us.
- 3 a)** Anointed One.
- 9 a)** 3) Prophet
b) 2) Sacrifice and Savior
c) 5) King
d) 4) Priest
e) 1) Human and Divine
f) 1) Human and Divine
- 4 b)** at different events for a period of over 4,000 years.
- 10** All the statements are true. However, statement **a)** is the only one that offers the proof that is needed. It says that the actual life of Jesus matched the predictions given about the Messiah.
- 5** Your answer. The fact that people make sacrifices shows that they know they have sinned and are afraid that God is angry with them.

LESSON 3 Jesus, the Son of God

Some facts about God are easier to understand than others. For example, we can understand how God is like a father without too much difficulty. We can do this because fatherhood—actually being a father or having a father—is part of our experience. We have seen that good fathers provide for their children and love them.

Other facts about God are not as easy to understand. This should not surprise us! Our God is the great, eternal, and majestic Creator, and His thoughts and ways are far above ours. One of the facts about God that is hard to understand is the subject of this lesson—the fact that Jesus is the Son of God. God is one God, yet He has a Son who is equal to Him in power, might, and glory.

This lesson explains what the Bible says about the unique way in which Jesus is the Son of God. It is a very important lesson! Believing that Jesus was a good man is not enough. You must be convinced that He is God himself who came into the world. As you study this lesson, you will see why only Jesus has the power to free you from sin and evil now and always.

The Plan

- A. The Son's Relation to His Father
- B. The Son's Relation to His Followers

The Goals

1. Explain the unique way in which Jesus is the Son of God.
2. Identify what the Bible teaches about the relationship between the Son of God and His followers.

A. THE SON'S RELATION TO HIS FATHER

Goal 1. Explain the unique way in which Jesus is the Son of God.

Father and Son Are United Eternally

Before Jesus was born in Bethlehem, He had always been with God, His Father. In lesson 2, you read the prophecy of Micah from Micah 5:2. There Micah pointed to the ancient origins of the Messiah ““whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.””

The night before Jesus was crucified, He prayed: ““And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began”” (John 17:5).

Jesus was with God, working with Him, in the creation of the world. John calls Jesus the Word and begins his gospel by telling us:

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. (John 1:1–3)

There is a mystery in the Old Testament that has puzzled many readers. Genesis 1:26 records God saying, ““Let us make man in our image, in our likeness.”” To whom was God speaking? What John says helps explain this mystery. Jesus, the

Son of God, was with God at the time of creation. And as you remember from Lesson 2, Isaiah calls the Messiah “Mighty God” and “Everlasting Father” (Isaiah 9:6). But there is more.

The Bible teaches that there is only one true God, the Creator. Yet, the Old Testament uses a plural name for Him—Elohim—over 2,300 times. Elohim, translated God, is sometimes used with plural pronouns and verbs to describe God’s work. They are used in the description of creation. Sometimes Elohim is used with a singular verb as if more than one person were acting as one. The Bible uses the word one to express either unity or number. The divine unity that we call God is made up of more than one person.

In the beginning God [Elohim] created the heavens and the earth . . . And the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters . . . Then God [Elohim] said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness.” (Genesis 1:1–2, 26)

As God’s revelation to man develops in the Old and New Testaments, we learn that three persons are called God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We call them the triune God, or the Holy Trinity—which means the sacred three persons in one. They are one in purpose, power, and nature. They have always worked together in perfect unison and harmony. They did in creation. They did while Jesus was here on earth. And they always will. The name God is used for Father, Son, and Spirit. To distinguish between them, we refer to the Father as God, call the Son by His earthly name—Jesus, and speak of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus spoke of His unison with his Father as being one, or as being in His Father and His Father in Him. John 17:21–23 records, “Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us . . . that they may be one as we are one: . . . I in them and you in me.”

God the Father answered Jesus’ prayer that we read in John 17:5. After Jesus died for our sins, God raised Him from the dead. Forty days later many people saw Jesus go back to heaven. Later, God let several people see Jesus there in His glory with the Father as Stephen did.

Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. (Acts 7:55)

Application

1 According to the Bible, the relationship Jesus has with His Father

- a)** began at creation.
- b)** has always existed.
- c)** started when He was born.

2 The Holy Trinity means

- a)** one God with three persons.
- b)** the sacred three persons in one.
- c)** three Gods, all equal to each other.

3 A Scripture which mentions all the persons of the Holy Trinity is

- a)** Micah 5:2.
- b)** John 17:5.
- c)** Acts 7:55.



Jesus Claims God As His Father

Jesus knew God was His Father and let others know it. He continually spoke of God as His Father (even when He was twelve years old). He addressed God as His Father in His prayers. Jesus told the people that God had sent Him to give eternal life to those who believe in Him.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

Jesus honored His Father by doing what God had sent Him to do. He taught the people how wonderful God is and let them know the source of His power. Jesus said,

“I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me. The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him.” (John 8:28–29)

Application

4 Memorize John 3:16.

5 Something to think about. Some people say that Jesus was a good man but not the Son of God. However, Jesus himself said He was the Son of God. If Jesus were not the Son of God, but merely said that He was, He would be telling a lie! If He were a liar, could He still be a good man?

God Claims Jesus as His Son

We know that Jesus is the Son of God because God himself has made this very clear. God honors His Son. Jesus said,

“My other witness is the Father, who sent me . . .
. . . If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing.
My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the
one who glorifies me.” (John 8:18, 54)

God honored Jesus and testified that Jesus was His Son. The testimonies came through: (1) angels, (2) the Holy Spirit, and (3) supernatural signs.

Angels. God sent His heavenly messengers, the angels, to let people know that Jesus was His Son. Angels told Joseph and Mary that the baby to be born of the virgin would be the Son of God. Angels announced to shepherds in the fields of Bethlehem that the Savior was born. At two times of great crisis in Jesus’ life, angels came to strengthen and reassure Him. Angels rolled away the stone from Jesus’ tomb and told His followers He had risen from the dead. And when Jesus was caught up to heaven, angels appeared to the watching crowd. They said that just as Jesus had gone to heaven, He would come back again someday.

The Holy Spirit. God sent His Spirit to honor Jesus and let people know who He is. The Holy Spirit filled Elizabeth, Zechariah, Simeon, Mary, and Anna, and spoke through them. They told people that the child Jesus was the Messiah. God filled John the Baptist with His Spirit and sent him as a special messenger to introduce Jesus as the Son of God and Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. The Holy Spirit came down on Jesus like a dove when He was baptized. The Spirit anointed Jesus for His ministry as the Messiah—the Anointed One—full of the wisdom and power of God.

Supernatural signs. God used many signs to testify of His Son. A star guided the wise men to the infant Jesus. On three occasions, the people heard God speak from heaven honoring Jesus. When Jesus officially began His work, God affirmed, “‘This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased’” (Matthew 3:17).

At another time, God gave the followers of Jesus a glimpse of His Son’s glory. Jesus was transformed before them, and His face became as bright as the sun. God spoke from heaven again: “‘This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!’” (Matthew 17:5).

God’s voice was heard on a third occasion. This happened when Jesus was speaking about His death. John 12:28 records Jesus speaking: “‘Father, glorify your name!’” Then a voice came from heaven, “‘I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.’”

All the miracles of Jesus during His life on earth were God’s testimony that Jesus was who He said He was—the Son of God. When Jesus died, God also gave many signs. The earth shook. Darkness covered the sun. The veil in the temple, which hung as a barrier in front of the holy place, was torn in two.

Three days later God honored His Son by raising Him from the dead. Later God took Him home to heaven bodily in the sight of a great crowd. Afterwards God allowed several people to see Jesus in heaven beside Him. And when the disciples prayed to God in Jesus’ name, He answered their prayers and worked miracles. Surely all those who believe in God should believe His testimony about His Son Jesus.

Application

6 Memorize Matthew 3:17.

7 Suppose a friend asked you, “How do I know that God said Jesus is His Son?” The best response would be to

- a)** describe three ways in which God showed that Jesus is His Son.
 - b)** explain that Jesus did many good things when He was here on earth.
 - c)** tell the person that he or she just needs to believe.
-



B. THE SON'S RELATION TO HIS FOLLOWERS

Goal 2. Identify what the Bible teaches about the relationship between the Son of God and His followers.

You have seen how both the Father and the Son recognize and claim each other. In the same way, the Son and His followers also recognize and claim each other. The result is that those who follow the Son of God have eternal union with Him.

The Followers Recognize the Son

Those who followed Jesus when He was on earth did so because they believed in Him. They recognized that He was who He said He was—the Son of God. And they openly expressed their faith in Him.

For instance, Simon Peter confessed to Jesus, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:16). And John 20:28 records Thomas’s acknowledgement of Jesus: “My Lord and my God!”

What about Jesus’ followers today? How do we recognize Him? Just by becoming a member of a church? Or by being called a Christian? To be real Christians, we must believe in the Lord Jesus Christ—recognize Him as both the Son of God and our Savior. How do we do this? We turn our lives over to Him, trust in Him, and follow wherever He leads us.

John wrote his gospel to prove that Jesus is the Son of God, so that we could believe in Him and have eternal life. In his epistles John repeats God's message that the only way to have this life is in His Son.

But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (John 20:31)

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

Application

8 According to 1 John 5:11–12, the eternal life God gives us is in the

- a)** good works we do.
- b)** ideas of holy men.
- c)** Son of God.

9 John's purpose for writing his message about Jesus was to

- a)** prove that He is the Son of God.
 - b)** describe all the miracles He did.
 - c)** tell interesting information about Him.
-

The Son Recognizes the Followers

Long before we were born, Jesus knew us. Before the world was formed, God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit saw us in their plan for the human race. They saw us created in the image of God, God's children, sharing His love, enjoying the good things He would prepare for us, living with Him in perfect happiness.

But God saw something else too. He saw that the human race would turn away from Him in rebellion and would choose the paths of sin and death. God saw us suffering the results of sin in the world and condemned to eternal death. Rebellious and

ungrateful as we were, He loved us with a perfect love. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit worked out a plan for our salvation.

While we were yet sinners, the Son of God chose us to be His followers. He saw our guilt and took the sentence of death in our place. He saw our weakness. He accepts all those who come to Him and sets them free from the power of sin.

For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will. (Ephesians 1:4–5)

The names that Jesus used for His followers when He was on earth show us His love for all those who follow Him. He refers to them as His little children, sons of God, light of the world, salt of the earth, His bride, His witnesses, those whom God has given Him, His little flock of sheep, His chosen ones, His church, His brothers, and part of himself as branches in the vine.

Do you recognize Jesus as your Savior and Lord? If so, He recognizes you as His own.

“Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven.”
(Matthew 10:32–33)

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. (John 1:12)

Application

- 10** Ephesians 1:4–5 says that God chose us to belong to Him
- a)** at the same time Jesus was born.
 - b)** before the world was made.
 - c)** when we believed in Jesus Christ.

11 God planned to bring us to himself through

- a) giving us better rules to follow.
- b) Jesus Christ, His Son.
- c) new religious ceremonies and rituals.

12 Write the number of the name Jesus uses for His followers in front of each phrase that describes the idea it teaches about their relationship to Him.

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| ... a Loved and treasured | 1) Vine branches |
| ... b Sharing His life | 2) Bride |
| ... c Having God for their Father | 3) Brothers |
| ... d Under His protection/care | 4) Flock of sheep |
| ... e Pledged to unite with Him | |



The Son and His Followers Are United Eternally

Jesus wants us to be with Him because He loves us and knows that our life, happiness, and future depend on our union with Him. He gives us new life for body, soul, and spirit. In Him we find real happiness, fulfillment, and power to overcome evil. All those who walk with Him day by day now will live with Him forever in heaven. John the Baptist testified of Jesus,

The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands. Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him. (John 3:35–36)

Jesus later testified, “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full” (John 10:10). “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6).

Our union with Jesus is so close that all who believe in Him are in Christ and He is in us. Jesus said, “I am the vine; you are

the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing'” (John 15:5).

Paul describes our union with Christ as being members of His body. Jesus is the Head. His church is His body. All the rights and privileges of the sinless Son of God, all of His riches in glory, all of the love and fellowship between the Son and His Father become ours, too, as members of His body! Paul writes,

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. (Colossians 1:17–18)

Christ in you, the hope of glory. We proclaim him, . . . teaching everyone . . . so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. (Colossians 1:27–28)

Application

13 Memorize John 14:6.

14 Circle the letter before each TRUE statement.

- a)** For us to share in the glory of God, Christ must be in us.
- b)** Jesus said that some people can go to the Father by a different way than by Him.
- c)** The source of life for the church is in following the commands of the people who lead the church.

15 In the previous exercise, there are two false statements. Write the letter of each statement and the reference to the scripture portion which shows that the statement is false.

.....



You have learned that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Because He is, we share in His divine life when we are united to Him. But Jesus also became a man. Why? We will study the reasons in our next lesson.

Check Your Answers

- 9 a)** prove that He is the Son of God.
- 1 b)** has always existed.
- 10 b)** before the world was made.
- 2 b)** the sacred three persons in one.
- 11 b)** Jesus Christ, His Son.
- 3 c)** Acts 7:55.
- 12 a)** 2) Bride
- b)** 1) Vine branches
- c)** 3) Brothers
- d)** 4) Flock of sheep
- e)** 2) Bride
- 5** No, He could not. If you believe Jesus was a good man, you must also believe that He told the truth about himself. He is who He says He is—the Son of God.
- 14 a)** True
- 7** The best response is **a)** describe three ways in which God showed that Jesus is His Son. Though **b)** is true, it does not point directly to what God did. Response **c)** is not helpful because it does not use the evidence God has given us in the Bible.
- 15 b)** John 14:6.
- c)** Colossians 1:17–18.
- 8 c)** Son of God.

LESSON 4 Jesus, the Son of Man

In all the universe, Jesus is unique. There is no other person like Him, for He is both God and man. This is what the Bible teaches.

But why would Jesus want to become a man? What He did would be like a rich man leaving his beautiful mansion and everything he had to become miserably poor. It would be like a powerful king leaving everyone who respected and obeyed him to become hated and despised.

Yet Jesus did this and more. He left His divine place with God the Father willingly. He took the form of man willingly. In fact, the title, “Son of Man,” seems to be the one He used most often to refer to himself. It appears seventy-nine times in the Gospels.

What happened when Jesus joined the human race? Did He become less divine when He became a man? Could He really become a man if He continued to be God?

In this lesson we will look at what the Bible says about these subjects. The truths we will study are very important. We will discover that our salvation depends not only on the fact that Jesus was fully God, but also that He was completely man.

The Plan

- A. How the Son of God Became a Man
- B. Why the Son of God Became a Man

The Goals

1. Explain what the title “Son of Man” says about who Jesus is.
2. Give four reasons why Jesus became a man.

A. HOW THE SON OF GOD BECAME A MAN

Goal 1. Explain what the title “Son of Man” says about who Jesus is.

His Incarnation

Incarnation comes from two words that mean “in flesh.” God came to the world in human flesh. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God incarnate—deity clothed in humanity.

The title “Son of Man” speaks to us especially of the incarnation of Jesus and His mission as the representative of humankind.

Son of Man is a messianic title from the Old Testament prophecies. In Hebrew it is Ben Adham. This can be translated Son of Adam, Son of Man, or Son of Mankind. It emphasizes four things about Jesus:

1. Jesus was a real man. His body was not just a disguise in which God appeared. He had a real human nature.
2. Jesus, the Son of Adam, is the seed of the woman promised to Adam and Eve—their descendent who would defeat Satan.
3. Jesus, the Son of Adam, belongs to the whole human race. He is the Messiah for all humanity, not for just one nation, time, or place.
4. Jesus came to earth on a mission that He could carry out only as a true representative of the human race.

He Was Born of a Virgin

By what act or miracle did the Son of God become the Son of Man? He had to be born as all human beings are born, and He was. Yet there was one very important difference. Though Jesus had a human mother, God himself was His Father. By the miracle of the virgin birth that Isaiah had prophesied, God came to live among humankind and be one of them.

Luke the physician investigated the facts and wrote about Jesus' birth:

God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon 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 . . . For nothing is impossible with God."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her. (Luke 1:26–35, 37–38)

Matthew, one of Jesus' disciples, tells us what happened when Mary's future husband, Joseph, learned that she was pregnant.

Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"—which means, "God with us."

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union [sexual relations] with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus. (Matthew 1:19–25)

Saying that Jesus became a man does not mean that God has turned into a man, or that He ceased to be God when He became man. God the Son was still God. But when He became the Son of Man, He did something that had never been done before: as God, He took on the human nature. Human nature and divine nature were then perfectly united in one being and person—Jesus Christ, true God and true man. This event is called the incarnation.

Application

- 1 The title “Son of Man” points to the fact that Jesus was
 - a) a full member of the human race.
 - b) born of both a human father and mother.
 - c) the son of Adam, the first man.
 - 2 How did the Son of God become a man?
 - a) He ceased to be God completely so that He could become a man instead.
 - b) He came down to earth and lived for a while in the shape of a man.
 - c) He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.
-

He Accepted Human Limitations

To become a real man and our representative, Jesus limited himself to:

1. A human body and human nature
2. Conditions of life among people
3. Spiritual resources available to all

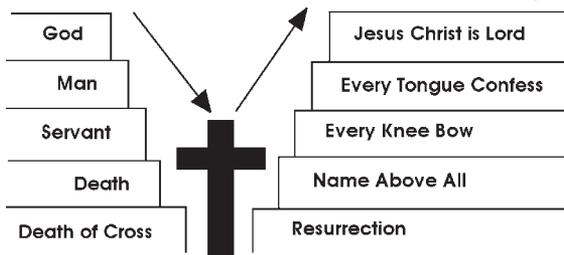
Human body and nature. Jesus laid aside His immortality and took a human body with its weakness. He became subject to sickness, suffering, and death. He was often hungry, thirsty, and weary. He knew sorrow, disappointment, frustration, and heartbreak. He experienced human joys and fears.

Conditions of life among people. The Creator of the universe stripped himself of His power and became a helpless infant. The source of all wisdom and knowledge went to school and learned to read, write, and study God’s Word. He worked as a carpenter. He left His throne in glory where the angels all worshipped Him, and took the place of a servant—scoffed at, ridiculed, persecuted—giving His life in service and sacrifice for others.

Spiritual resources available to all. Jesus showed us God’s pattern for us by limiting himself to the spiritual power and methods available to us all. He prayed, and God answered His prayers. He depended on God for strength and power. He went to God’s house and studied His Word. When Satan tempted Him to sin, Jesus quoted the Bible and applied it to the situation. He told everyone that His miracles were done by God’s Spirit working through Him, and His teaching was simply what God told Him to say.

Paul, writing to the Philippians, describes how Jesus voluntarily humbled himself to become our Savior, and how God has honored him and will honor Him for it. We will quote his description as it appears in the Amplified Version of the Bible.

Who, although being essentially one with God and in the form of God [possessing the fullness of the attributes which make God God], did not think this equality with God was a thing to be eagerly grasped or retained; but stripped Himself [of all privileges and rightful dignity], so as to assume the guise of a servant (slave), in that He became like men and was born a human being.



And after He had appeared in human form He abased and humbled Himself [still further] and carried His obedience to the extreme of death, even the death of the cross!

Therefore [because He stooped so low], God has highly exalted Him and has freely bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, that in

(at) the name of Jesus every knee should (must) bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue [frankly and openly] confess and acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:6–11)

Application

3 Following are four things Jesus did. Circle the letter in front of the two in which He gave us God’s pattern for our spiritual lives.

- a)** He depended on God for strength and power.
- b)** He gave His life as a sacrifice for our sins.
- c)** He studied God’s Word.
- d)** He was born of the virgin, Mary.

4 According to Philippians 2:6–11, God highly exalted Jesus because Jesus

- a)** did many miracles and showed His power over nature.
 - b)** humbled himself to die on the cross to save us.
 - c)** taught the people rules about praying and fasting.
-

He Lived a Perfect Life

Jesus lived a perfect life. There was no fault or weakness in Him. When Jesus was growing up, He faced all the temptations that other boys and young men face, but He remained pure, honest, sincere—full of love for God and others.

Jesus hated sin and spoke against it, but He loved the sinner. He was known as a friend of sinners. Yet He never sinned. He changed sinners. They did not change Him.

Jesus’ perfect life was part of His mission as the Son of Man. As Representative of the human race, He kept every law of God. He earned the right to all the blessings promised to those who keep God’s laws—eternal life and happiness in God’s home. He qualified as our perfect substitute to (1) take our guilt and die for

our sins, and (2) give us His righteousness (right standing with God) and all the blessings promised to those who keep God's laws.

Satan tempted Jesus to sin and turn aside from His mission. But Jesus rejected all temptation and carried out His mission to save us. Jesus' goodness was not just negative (the absence of evil). It was a positive commitment to God's will. He not only refused to do wrong—He was dedicated to doing right. He was love incarnate and He expressed His love in action.

Jesus began His public ministry at thirty years of age. He taught people about God and how they could have a part in His kingdom. He was the greatest Prophet and Teacher that the world has ever known. With only a touch or a command or simple direction, He healed hundreds of sick people. Sinners came to Him and received pardon, peace, cleansing from sin, and wonderful new lives filled with His love.

Peter testified of how ““God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him”” (Acts 10:38).

But the religious leaders of Jesus' day were jealous of Him and refused to accept Him as the Messiah. They accused Him falsely and had Him crucified (just as Isaiah had prophesied). He was nailed to a cross like a common criminal, between two criminals. And the people He had come to save mocked Him while He died. In spite of this, Jesus loved them still and prayed: ““Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing”” (Luke 23:34).

Jesus' perfect life did not end in the grave. God the Father raised Him up on the third day. After forty days more on earth, He went back to heaven, where He is now our Representative. And from there He will come back to earth someday to rule the world in perfect justice and lasting peace.

Application

5 Jesus faced temptation by

- a) living an isolated life away from people.
- b) rejecting it and doing good instead.
- c) yielding to it to show He was human.

6 Something to think about. Why is the perfect life Jesus lived important to you personally?



B. WHY THE SON OF GOD BECAME A MAN

Goal 2. Give four reasons why Jesus became a man.

Why did God become man? Why did He take on himself human nature and limitations? Why was the incarnation necessary? We can sum up the answer in four words (1) Revelation, (2) Preparation, (3) Substitution, and (4) Mediation.

Revelation

Jesus lived as a man to show us what God is like. We can see the character of God demonstrated in Him. By knowing Jesus we can know God.

The Son of God became a man to show us what perfect humanity can be. We see in Jesus' perfect life and character the pattern for humanity, the potential, God's plan for us. He is our example. He is the standard by which our words, thoughts, and actions are measured. He shows us the kind of life that we can have when He lives in us and makes us children of God.

Jesus' life demonstrated also His qualifications for His mission. His sinlessness showed that He was worthy to be our Substitute. His power, wisdom, and love prove that He is qualified to be our King.

Preparation

Jesus' life as a man was necessary preparation for His mission. His experience gave Him an understanding of human nature that prepared Him to be our Representative and our Judge.

Jesus had to become a man in order to become our Priest. He has shared our weakness. He understands our problems. He learned the cost of obedience through His own suffering. Jesus prayed for His followers while He was on earth. And now—with a deep understanding of our needs—He prays for us in heaven.

For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. (Hebrews 2:17–18)

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are, yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. (Hebrews 4:14–16)

Jesus' experience as a man prepared Him to rule over men. The Son of Man—the perfect Representative of Adam's race—will be its Ruler. He will be a perfect King because He knows just what we need. And because He died for us, He has the right to govern our lives. Now He is King in the lives of those who accept Him. Someday He will rule the world for which He died.

“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshipped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.”
(Daniel 7:13–14)

Substitution

Jesus was born so that He could die. The whole human race had sinned and was condemned to die eternally—every one of us. The only way to save us was for God himself to take our punishment. But as God, He could not die. So He became a man to die in our place and save us from our sins.

Jesus did more than take our place on the cross. He rose from the dead and offers to all who accept Him a place in His eternal kingdom. He unites us with himself so we can share all His rights as Sons of God.

But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers.

And again he says, “Here am I, and the children God has given me.” Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity

so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. (Hebrews 2:9–11; 13–15)

Mediation

Jesus became a human to bring God and people together. Sin had opened an impassable chasm between the holy God and corrupt, rebellious humans. But God’s love found a way to bridge the gulf and bring humanity back to himself. Jesus came to be the Mediator of a new covenant or agreement between God and the human race.

Paul writes, “For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men—the testimony given in its proper time” (1 Timothy 2:5–6).

In New Testament times, a mediator was appointed by the court to represent a bankrupt person and take charge of all his affairs. The mediator was responsible to see that all the creditors were paid in full. If what the bankrupt person owned was not enough to pay his debts, the mediator himself paid them.

What a beautiful picture of Jesus! He is our Mediator before God. His death covers all our debt of sin, and in Him we are free from the sin and guilt that separated us from God. His cross bridges the chasm. He gives us a new nature—His nature—and makes us sons of God. By taking our human nature, Jesus reaches us and lifts us to a better world. The Son of God became the Son of Man, so that we would become the sons of God.

But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. (Galatians 4:4–5)

For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit. (1 Peter 3:18)

Application

7 Some people do not pray about certain problems they have because they think God would not understand or be sympathetic. Are they right or wrong? Why?

8 Jesus Christ is the only mediator between God and humanity because He is the only one who

- a)** died for our sins so God would accept us.
- b)** taught many things about God to His followers.
- c)** showed us that we should work for peace and harmony.

9 The Son of God became a man for four reasons. Write the number of each reason (right) beside its meaning (left).

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| ... a To bridge God and people | 1) Revelation |
| ... b To die in our place | 2) Preparation |
| ... c To help those who are tempted | 3) Substitution |
| ... d To rule over humanity | 4) Mediation |
| ... e To show what God is like | |

All through the New Testament are passages that tell us about God's purpose for us and help us understand why Jesus became the Son of Man. Jesus sums it up: "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost" (Luke 19:10).

Check Your Answers

- 5 b)** rejecting it and doing good instead.
- 1 a)** a full member of the human race.
- 6** Your answer. The perfect life of Jesus is important because it makes Him your perfect representative and substitute.
- 2 c)** He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.
- 7** Your answer. They are wrong because God the Son, Jesus Christ, has lived on earth. He faced the same kinds of problems all people do. Today in heaven, He is understanding, sympathetic, and able to help. You can pray to God now, through Jesus Christ, about any problem you have. He will help you!
- 3 a** He depended on God for strength and power.
c He studied God's Word.
- 8 a)** died for our sins so God could accept us.
- 4 b)** humbled Himself to die on the cross to save us.
- 9 a** 4) Mediation
b 3) Substitution
c 2) Preparation
d 2) Preparation
e 1) Revelation

LESSON 5 Jesus, the Word

Can you imagine what it would be like if you were unable to speak? Can you imagine if you had no way of communicating with others? What terrible isolation and frustration!

Most of us can communicate easily with others. Usually, we hardly notice what we are doing! But in fact, every day we use hundreds of words to express our inner feelings, desires, thoughts, and purposes. They give form to what is in our hearts and minds. Through them, others can know us and we can know them.

Our ability to communicate comes from the God who made us. He is the great Communicator, and He wants us to know Him. We do not need to wonder what God is like. He has spoken! How? By sending His own Son into the world. Prophets and wise men have said words about God and from God, and their words have been true. But Jesus Christ has done far more. He has not just spoken God's words. He is God's Word—living, powerful, and full of divine authority. Jesus Christ is the beginning and the end of everything God wants us to know.

As the Word, what does Jesus tell us about God? The answer to that question is the subject of this lesson.

The Plan

- A. God Revealed Himself in Jesus
- B. God Explained His Names in Jesus

The Goals

1. Identify what God showed us about His character, feelings, thoughts, plans, power, and will through Jesus Christ.
2. Explain how Jesus fulfills the names of God.

A. GOD REVEALED HIMSELF IN JESUS

Goal 1. Identify what God showed us about His character, feelings, thoughts, plans, power, and will through Jesus Christ.

God is a spirit. We cannot see Him, hear Him, or feel Him with our natural senses. How, then, can we know Him? How can weak, sinful people understand the all-powerful, perfect, invisible God? How can God show himself to us? Jesus is the answer.

God's Character

Jesus reveals God to us through a human personality. What is God like? We can know by looking at Jesus, His Son.

No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known. (John 1:18)

“Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.” (John 14:9)

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. (Colossians 1:15)

God has spoken to people in many ways, but the clearest revelation of His character is His Son—God's living Word. God speaks to us today as we read about Jesus. Jesus' life, work,

and teachings all express God in terms of human experience, in language we can understand.

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, . . . The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being. (Hebrews 1:1–3)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . . The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory. (John 1:1, 14)

Jesus not only taught people about God; He demonstrated God's character. He spoke of God's holiness, goodness, wisdom, justice, mercy, power, and love. People saw these qualities in Him. He proclaimed the highest moral standard the world has ever known, and He lived by it. The wisdom of His teachings still amazes the world. He was God's love in action as He ministered to human needs and gave His life for others.

On the cross, where Jesus died for our sins, we see the clearest expression of God's justice and love. God's justice demanded the death penalty for sin. God's love for sinners made Him suffer death in the sinners' place. His love made Him pray for forgiveness for those who were crucifying Him. What love! What a wonderful God we have!

Application

- 1** The justice and love of God were shown to us most clearly when Jesus
 - a)** died on the cross.
 - b)** healed the sick.
 - c)** taught the people.

2 Fill in the blanks by writing the correct phrases from Hebrews 1:1–3.

God spoke in the past to and through In these last days, He has spoken toby



God's Feelings, Thoughts, and Plans

Jesus expressed God's feelings, thoughts, and plans in His teachings and His person. Jesus was a great Teacher, yet He said:

“I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me.” (John 8:28)

“Everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.” (John 15:15)

We can depend, then, on Jesus' teachings in the gospels as a true revelation of God and His truth. We see God as an all-wise, loving Father in heaven who cares tenderly for His children. He hates sin and hypocrisy, but He loves the sinner. He tells us how to be saved and gives us the rules for a happy life. He longs for His wandering children to leave their sins and come back home to Him. He lets us know about the wonderful life He has planned for us in His eternal kingdom. We have these truths in God's written Word.

Jesus, the living Word, revealed God's feelings. In Him, God wept over the grief of His friends, the suffering of humanity, and the blind unbelief of a city that rejected Him and was rushing to destruction. God's anger blazed against pretense and against those who made profits from religion. God's pity was stirred as He saw people lost in sin like sheep without a shepherd. God let people know He wanted them to be happy and free from sickness, sin, guilt, and fears.

Application

3 When Jesus wept over the suffering of humanity, we see a clear revelation of God's

- a) feelings.
- b) thoughts.
- c) plans.

4 Circle the letter before each TRUE statement.

- a) Everything that Jesus taught came from His Father.
 - b) The life of Jesus showed that God never becomes angry.
 - c) Through the teachings of Jesus, we can learn about the plans God has for us.
-

God's Power and Will

Jesus showed us that God not only wants to help us, but also that God has the power to help us. While He was on earth, Jesus healed the sick and forgave the sinner. He met the needs of people, whatever they were, by the power of God. He said that He had come to do His Father's will, and He pointed to His actions as proof that God had sent Him. The miracles Jesus did showed that God is both willing and able to help us. They prove that God wants to heal us, forgive us, and meet all our needs today.

“The very work that the Father has given me to finish, and which I am doing, testifies that the Father has sent me.” (John 5:36)

But to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ [is] the power of God and the wisdom of God. (1 Corinthians 1:24)

Jesus also showed us the kind of life God wants us to have. He obeyed His Father and lived in close fellowship with Him. God wants us to do the same.

Application

5 Suppose someone were to say to you: “I believe in God, but I think He is too far away to care about my problems.” How would you respond?

B. GOD EXPLAINED HIS NAMES IN JESUS

Goal 2. Explain how Jesus fulfills the names of God.

We find many names for God in the Bible. Jesus, the Word, helps us understand them because He is the true expression of God.

I Am

When God called Moses to lead His people, Moses asked His name. God answered, “I Am Who I Am” (Exodus 3:14). He told Moses to tell the people that I Am had sent him. This name tells us that God is eternal, changeless, and always present. There is no deceit in Him. He is what He is and does what He purposes to do. We can depend on Him.

But what is it that God is? What will He do? Jesus answers these questions in His sermons recorded in the Gospel of John. Eight times He applies God’s name, I Am, to himself. Once He uses it to describe His own eternal nature, telling us that He existed before Abraham. The other times, Jesus uses the name of God to explain God’s character and His own—to show what God does for those who come to Him. The great I Am will meet all of our needs.

1. “I am the bread of life” (John 6:35).
2. “I am the light of the world” (John 8:12).
3. “Before Abraham was born, I am” (John 8:58).
4. “I am the gate” (John 10:9).
5. “I am the good shepherd” (John 10:11).
6. “I am the resurrection and the life” (John 11:25).
7. “I am the way and the truth and the life” (John 14:6).
8. “I am the true vine” (John 15:1).

Application

6 You have studied eight verses in which Jesus uses the name I Am to explain God’s character and His own. Beside each kind of spiritual need, write the reference and phrase that tells how Jesus meets it as the I Am. (More than one verse may fit a need.) The first one is done to give you an example.

- a) Barren; unproductive . . . *John 15:1, Jesus is the vine.* . . .
- b) Dead or dying
- c) Deceived
- d) Hungry
- e) In danger
- f) In darkness
- g) Separated from God

7 Something to think about. Review the list you made for exercise 6. Mark an X beside each need you have that you want Jesus to meet as the I Am.



Jehovah

“Jehovah” is the way the name I Am is often said in our language. You will also hear it said as “Yahweh,” which uses a different set of letters to substitute for the Hebrew. Whether Jehovah or Yahweh, it is the same name represented into English. As you have learned, it means the Eternal or Self-Existent One. It is linked in the Old Testament with other words to form several compound names. These are all based on personal revelations of God and tell us who He is and what He does for people. Jesus—the Word who reveals God to us—demonstrates the truth of these names of God.

1. Jehovah-jireh—The Lord Our Provider

Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.”
(Genesis 22:8)

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed . . . but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. (1 Peter 1:18–20)

Jesus is the lamb God has provided to take our guilt and die in our place.

2. *Jehovah-rophe*—The Lord Our Healer

“I am the LORD, who heals you.” (Exodus 15:26)

When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. (Matthew 8:16)

Jesus, the Great Physician, heals the body, mind, heart, and broken spirit.

3. *Jehovah-shalom*—The Lord Our Peace

So Gideon built an altar to the LORD there and called it The LORD is Peace. (Judges 6:24)

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.” (John 14:27)

Jesus gives us inner peace that does not depend on circumstances—peace with God, peace with ourselves, and peace with others.

4. *Jehovah-rohi*—The Lord My Shepherd

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. (Psalm 23:1)

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” (John 10:11)

Jesus—the Good Shepherd—died to save us and lives now to take care of all who follow Him.

5. *Jehovah-tsidkenu*—The Lord Our Righteousness

This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness. (Jeremiah 23:6)

God made him [Christ] who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:21)

There is only one way to have a clean heart and life. We can have the right kind of life and right relationship with God only by union with Jesus. He is our righteousness.

6. Jehovah-shammah—The Lord Is Present

“And the name of the city from that time on will be: THE LORD IS THERE.” (Ezekiel 48:35)

“The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”—which means, “God with us.” (Matthew 1:23)

Jesus has promised to be with us always. He is always near to help us.

7. Jehovah-nissi—The Lord Our Banner

Moses built an altar and called it The LORD is my Banner. (Exodus 17:15)

“I [Jesus] have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

This title means that Jesus is our Leader, our Victory, and our Strength. With Him we can be strong and victorious in the daily battle of life.

What do these names mean to you? They mean that if you have Jesus as your Savior, the Lord will provide for you. The Lord will heal you. The Lord will be your Peace. The Lord will be your Righteousness. The LORD will be present with you and be your Victory. Jesus will be all this to you, if you submit your life to Him, confessing your sins and accepting Him into your life.

Application

8 Following is a list of the names of God from the Old Testament which are explained more fully in Jesus. Beside each, write a need that God can fulfill for you or someone in your family.

- a)** The Lord Our Provider
- b)** The Lord Our Healer
- c)** The Lord Our Peace
- d)** The Lord My Shepherd
- e)** The Lord Our Righteousness
- f)** The Lord Is Present
- g)** The Lord Our Banner



Now that you have completed the first unit, you are ready to answer the questions in your student report for UNIT ONE. Review the previous lessons, paying special attention to the verses you have memorized. (These are 1 John 1:3 and Hebrews 13:8 from Lesson 1; and John 3:16, Matthew 3:17, and John 14:6 from Lesson 3.) Follow the instructions in your student report for filling out the answer sheet. Send your answer sheet to the address stamped on the copyright page of the student report.

Check Your Answers

- 4 a** True
- b** False
- c** True

1 a) died on the cross.

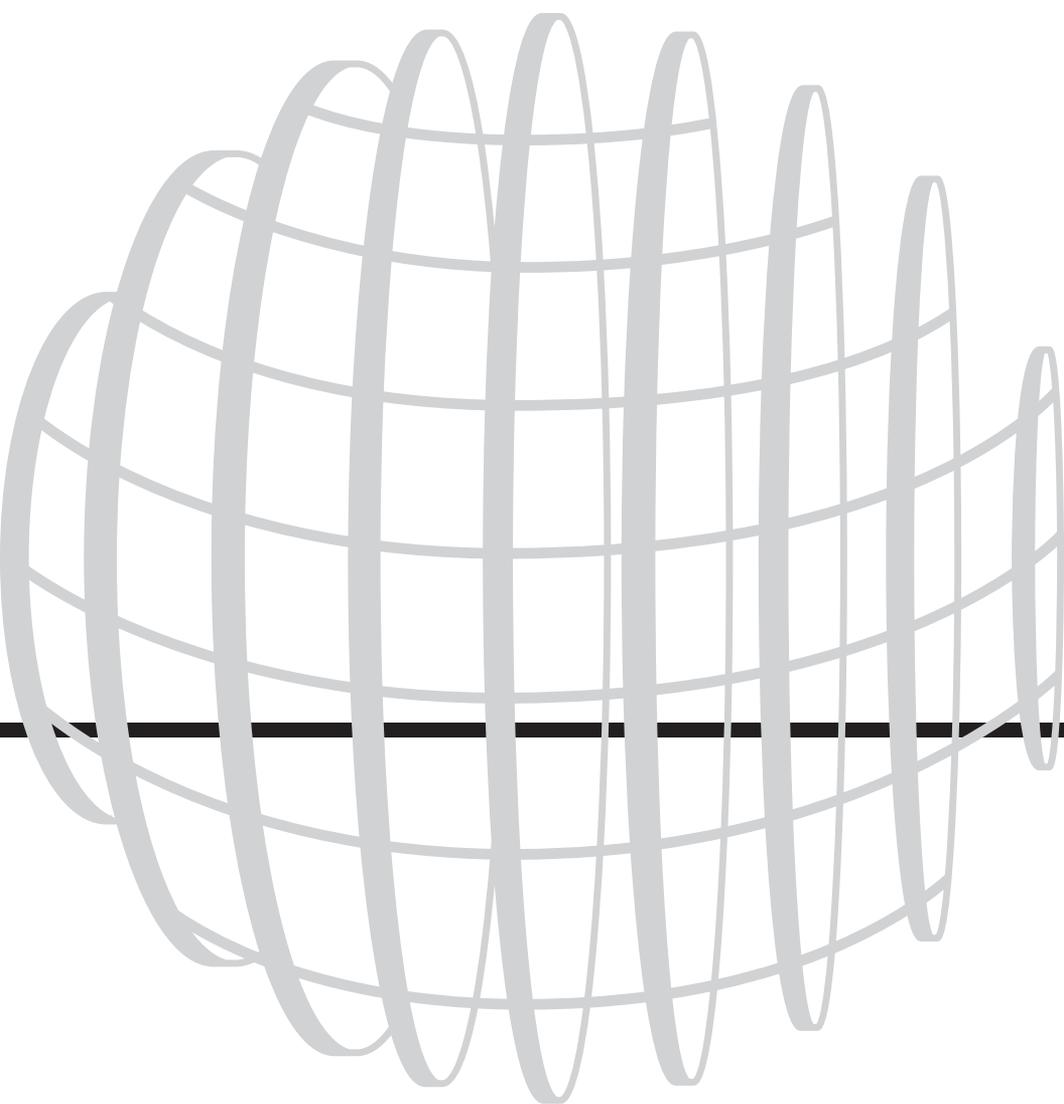
5 Your answer: You could describe the miracles Jesus did for people and explain how they show us that God is both willing and able to help us.

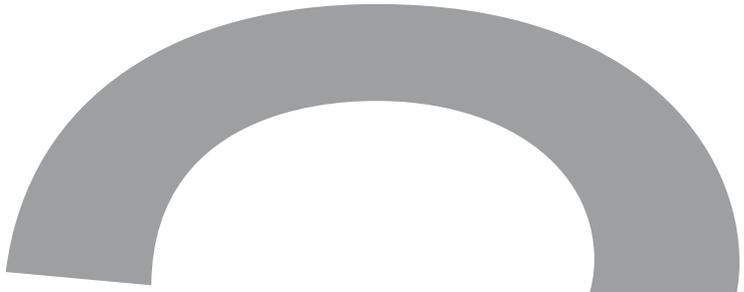
2 to: our forefathers
through: the prophets
to: us
through: His Son

6 Your answers may not be exactly like these, but they should be similar.

- a** John 15:1, Jesus is the Vine.
- b** John 11:25 and 14:6, Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life.
- c** John 14:6, Jesus is the Truth.
- d** John 6:35, Jesus is the Bread of Life.
- e** John 10:11, Jesus is the Good Shepherd.
- f** John 8:12, Jesus is the Light of the world.
- g** John 10:9, Jesus is the Gate; John 14:6, Jesus is the Way.

3 a) feelings.





Unit

Lessons

- 6** Jesus, the Light of the World
- 7** Jesus, the Healer and Baptizer
- 8** Jesus, the Savior
- 9** Jesus, the Resurrection and Life
- 10** Jesus Christ, the Lord

LESSON 6 Jesus, the Light of the World

Have you ever walked in the dark and wished for a light so you could see? You did not know what dangers might be on either side of you or in the path ahead. Maybe you even doubted whether you were going in the right direction. It is so easy to get lost in the dark.

Or perhaps you have spent a night in fear of some enemy, known or unknown. You might have imagined terrible things happening. How different everything seemed the next day in the bright sunshine! The fears of the night faded as the light grew stronger.

You can easily understand why the Bible often uses darkness as a symbol of evil, error, uncertainty, trouble, and death. These are the kinds of things that cause us to be fearful and confused.

In contrast, the Bible uses light as a symbol of life, joy, truth, and all that is good. It tells us that Jesus is the Light of the world. What a powerful and descriptive name for the Son of God!

The Plan

- A. The World Needs Light
- B. What the Light Does
- C. How People React to the Light

The Goals

1. Explain why Jesus came to be the Light of the world.
2. Describe how the life of Jesus is spiritual light for people.
3. List the ways people react to the Light of the world

A. THE WORLD NEEDS LIGHT

Goal 1. Explain why Jesus came to be the Light of the world.

Sin Brought Darkness

Darkness is the absence of light. The world was plunged into spiritual darkness the instant that sin separated the first human beings, Adam and Eve, from God. Why? Because God is the source of light. Without Him, we can only wander in the dark—lost, not knowing where we are going. In the Old Testament, we read about the darkness that separation brings. God sent the prophet Isaiah to the disobedient people of Israel with this message:

“But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.” (Isaiah 59:2)

Speaking then from the perspective of the people:

“So justice is far from us, and righteousness does not reach us. We look for light, but all is darkness; for brightness, but we walk in deep shadows. Like the blind we grope along the wall, feeling our way like men without eyes. At midday we

stumble as if it were twilight; among the strong, we are like the dead.” (Isaiah 59:9–10)

What a vivid picture of misery! The New Testament also speaks of the darkness of sin.

So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. (Ephesians 4:17–18)

But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him. (1 John 2:11)

Application

1 According to the Bible, spiritual darkness has come over the world because of

- a)** fate.
- b)** ignorance.
- c)** sin.



Light Was Promised

God is Light—the source of all light. People are in spiritual darkness until they receive revelation of the light of God. That is why Jesus became the Light of the world; He came to give us God’s light—to reveal to us God’s love and His will for us.

John writes of Jesus, “In him was life, and that life was the light of men” (1:4). Then, later, “This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all” (1 John 1:5).

Listen to Jesus' words about himself:

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” (John 8:12)

“While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” (John 9:5)

It should not have surprised the people to hear Jesus call himself “the light of the world.” The prophet Isaiah had predicted that the Messiah would come as the Light of God. Matthew quoted this Old Testament prophecy and said that it came true in Jesus:

“Who among you fears the LORD and obeys the word of his servant? Let him who walks in the dark, who has no light, trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God.” (Isaiah 50:10)

“The sun will no more be your light by day, nor will the brightness of the moon shine on you, for the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory.” (Isaiah 60:19)

“The people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.” (Matthew 4:16)

Application

2 Memorize John 8:12.

3 Jesus came to be the Light of the world because people are living in

- a)** financial poverty.
- b)** spiritual darkness.
- c)** unhealthy environments.



B. WHAT THE LIGHT DOES

Goal 2. Describe how the life of Jesus is spiritual light for people.

Light Dispels Darkness

Jesus, the Light, drives out darkness. His presence in the heart drives out sin, guilt, and fear. His love drives out hatred. His light brings hope, assurance, comfort, and strength to the soul.

The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid? (Psalm 27:1)

Light is stronger than darkness. All the darkness in the world cannot put out a single candle. If you have Jesus in your life, the powers of evil around you and the dark experiences of life cannot put out His light. D. L. Moody reportedly told of a Christian woman who had been sick for months and was unable to leave her bed. But this woman was always cheerful.

Someone asked her how she could be so happy when she could not even get outside to see the sun. She said, “My room is dark but I have the Son in my heart.” Jesus was her inner source of spiritual light that drove away the gloom. He flooded her soul with His light and presence.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out. (John 1:5)

Though I sit in darkness, the Lord will be my light. (Micah 7:8)

Application

4 The darkness of fear, guilt, sin, hatred, and resentment can be driven out of a person’s heart by

- a)** good education.
- b)** positive thinking.
- c)** rules for right attitudes.
- d)** the presence of Jesus.

5 Are there any dark places in your heart that need the light of Jesus? Pray now and ask Him to drive the darkness out.

Light Reveals

Light makes it possible for us to see things as they are. The only way we can know spiritual truth is with the spiritual light that comes from God. We find this light in God's written Word—the Bible—and in God's living Word—Jesus Christ. Jesus is the Revealer and Interpreter of life. He helps us understand God's Word and shows us God's way for us. He, himself, is the Way.

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)

Jesus helps us to see ourselves as we really are. In His perfect life and teachings, we see how far short we come of God's standards for us. We see our sins, our pride, self-centeredness, and hidden motives. Jesus shows us our need of the forgiveness and new life that He offers us.

Jesus shows us what God is like and how He will meet our needs. In Jesus we see God's love for us, His patience with us, and His provision for our salvation. He shows us how to receive God into our lives and enjoy His light forever:

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. (2 Corinthians 4:6)

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being. (Hebrews 1:3)

Application

6 Suppose someone were to tell you this: “I don’t need to become a Christian. I’m a decent person. I haven’t murdered anybody or done anything that is terribly wrong.” How can the light of Jesus help this person see his or her spiritual need?

Light Is Energy

Light is radiant energy. Scientists are learning more and more about the power of light radiating from the sun. Its energy is a tremendous source of power for human use. People can use it to heat their homes and to operate their machines. But greatest of all is its effect on life and health. Many plants will not grow in the shade. Sunlight kills many germs and contributes to our health and strength. Think of earth without the sun. No warmth. No life. No force to hold it in orbit. A frozen ball lost in a black sky, on its way to destruction.

What the sun is to the earth, Jesus is to us. He brings us life, warmth, health, energy, and power. He holds us close to himself by His love. He heals our bodies and spirits. The light of life that Jesus gives His followers is stronger than death. Nothing, not even the grave, will be able to hold us back when He returns. Like plants, bursting from their seeds and pushing up into the sunlight, we will rise to meet Him. The apostle Paul writes,

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. (1 Thessalonians 4:16–17)

Application

7 In the comparison you have studied, the sun is to the plants on earth what Jesus is to

- a)** His Father.
 - b)** His followers.
 - c)** the angels.
-

Light Is Impartial

Light is for everybody, everywhere. Just as the sun shines on the hilltop and in the valley, on the rich and the poor, on the wise and on fools; so the light of Jesus shines for all the world, on both good and bad. Some people thought the Savior would be just for their nation. But God makes it plain that His light of salvation is for all the world. The Gospels record,

The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. (John 1:9)

“Because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.” (Luke 1:78–79)

A blind man who sat by the roadside begging heard a crowd coming. He learned that Jesus was passing by and that the crowd was with Him. The beggar had heard about Jesus’ power to heal, so he cried out with a loud voice: “‘Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!’” (Luke 18:38). The people scolded him and told him to be quiet. They did not think Jesus had time to help a beggar. But Jesus has time to help everyone who calls to Him. The beggar kept calling. Jesus stopped and had the beggar brought to Him. Then, Jesus healed him.

At once he was able to see, and he followed Jesus, giving thanks to God. (Luke 18:43)

Life took on new meaning and new direction after the beggar met Jesus. His world of darkness turned to day. It did not matter what he had been, where he had sat begging, how he had stumbled in the dark. Now he walked in the light—no longer a blind beggar but a follower of Jesus, the Light of the world!

Application

8 You have learned four ways Jesus shines as the Light of the world. Write the number for the way Jesus shines (right) beside the phrase that describes the kind of error or problem it solves (left).

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| ... a Christianity is only for the uneducated. | 1) Drives out darkness |
| ... b Death is the end of everything. | 2) Reveals |
| ... c I can't understand the Bible. | 3) Is energy |
| ... d I don't think God loves me. | 4) Is impartial |
| ... e My heart is full of hatred and fear. | |



C. HOW PEOPLE REACT TO THE LIGHT

Goal 3. List the ways people react to the Light of the world.

Rejection

Some people do not like Jesus and refuse to accept His light. They want to live like they want to, have their own way, and not do what Jesus tells them to do. When Jesus was on earth, some people hated Him because His teaching showed them what sinners they were. They wanted to put out the light, to kill Him. They fought against the gospel. Jesus let them know that He had brought salvation for everyone. Whoever accepts Him will be saved. But those who refuse His light are condemning themselves to live and die in darkness.

This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. (John 3:19–20)

Acceptance

Jesus promised, “Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” (John 8:12). When you accept Jesus, you have His light as your possession. You also continue to have His light as an experience each day. Jesus is the Light. To have Him is to have the light of life and all that light brings. Having the Light of the world is more than knowledge, more than willpower, more than belonging to a certain religion. It is more than knowing about Jesus or knowing His teachings. It is having Jesus himself as a radiant, energetic, revealing force in your life.

To have the light of God we must follow Jesus, walk in His light. God reveals himself and His truth to those who are willing to accept the truth and follow Him. He guides us day by day.

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. (1 John 1:7)

The path of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, shining ever brighter till the full light of day. (Proverbs 4:18)

Do you want to follow Jesus and have the light of life? Welcome Him into every area of your life now. Let His bright presence drive all darkness away. Follow His light and share it with those around you. Turn your life over to Him so that He can fill it with His light.

Prayer: Jesus, please come into my life. Forgive my sins, and drive away all the darkness in my heart. Change me into the kind of person You

want me to be. Make me radiant with Your light.
Help me follow You every day. Thank You for
Your light.

Application

- 9** To accept Jesus in your life as the light of the world means to
- a)** agree that Christianity is a good religion.
 - b)** decide to become a better person.
 - c)** have His actual presence in and with you.

10 If you have not already accepted Jesus, will you accept Him now? You may use the prayer in this lesson or pray in your own words. If you have accepted Him, thank Him for the light He has brought into your life.



Check Your Answers

- 6** Your answer: You have learned that the life of Jesus is like a light that helps us see ourselves as we really are. If this person were to compare his life to the perfect life of Jesus, he would find many differences. The comparison could help him see his spiritual need.
- 1 c)** sin.
- 7 b)** His followers.
- 3 b)** spiritual darkness.
- 8** These answers match what is said in the lesson. However, other answers are also possible.
- a** 4) Is impartial
 - b** 3) Is energy
 - c** 2) Reveals
 - d** 2) Reveals
 - e** 1) Drives out darkness
- 4 d)** the presence of Jesus.
- 9 c)** have His actual presence in and with you.

LESSON 7 Jesus, the Healer and Baptizer

You have studied many things about Jesus already! You have learned that He is the promised Messiah, the Son of God, the Son of Man, the Word of God, and the Light of the world. These titles tell us important truths about who He is.

Looking at the things Jesus does is another way of understanding who He is. In this lesson, we will examine two of His works: Jesus heals our bodies and souls, and Jesus baptizes us in the Holy Spirit. It is important to know that Jesus can do these things because of who He is. He can heal us because He is the Son of God who created everything—including our bodies. And He can baptize us in the Holy Spirit because He is the Son of Man, the perfect sacrifice who has been exalted at the Father's right hand in heaven. From there He sends the Holy Spirit upon His children. He does these things for us because He loves us. What a wonderful Friend!

Jesus is alive today, and He continues to be the Healer and Baptizer. As you study these ministries of His, you will discover the many wonderful blessings they include.

The Plan

- A. Jesus, the Divine Physician
- B. Jesus, the Baptizer in the Holy Spirit

The Goals

- 1. Explain why Jesus is able to heal people today.
- 2. Discuss what the Bible says about the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

A. JESUS, THE DIVINE PHYSICIAN

Goal 1. Explain why Jesus is able to heal people today.

In the pages of the Gospels, we meet Jesus as the Great Physician, Healer of body and soul. And as we talk with His people, we discover that He continues His practice today.

Healer of Body and Soul

What is a physician? What does he or she do? The answers to these questions help us to appreciate Jesus as our Divine Physician. A good physician:

- 1. Wants to help and heal the sick.
- 2. Is qualified and prepared to treat the sick.
- 3. Examines patients thoroughly.
- 4. Diagnoses his or her patients' problems.
- 5. Prescribes the proper treatment.
- 6. Applies the treatment needed (with the patient's consent).

Are these six statements true about Jesus? Yes. Every one of them! He showed that He cared for those who were sick in soul and body. As our Creator, He does not need to make medical tests to discover our problems. He knows us and understands

our needs. He made us and can easily repair any part that is not functioning properly.

Healing and salvation are both a vital part of the Savior's ministry. In fact, the word salvation in the Bible includes health for the body as well as deliverance and safety for the soul.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed, and he healed them. (Matthew 4:23–24)

This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: “He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases.” (Matthew 8:17)

Jesus healed all who came to Him for healing—the blind, the sick, the crippled, and those whose spirits were warped with fear, suspicion, and hatred. Our Divine Physician came to bring health to the whole person—body, mind, emotions, and spirit. He wants us to enjoy life in all its fullness. John 10:10 records Jesus' words: “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

Continuation of His Work

Jesus is still the Great Physician. He sent His followers out to heal the sick in His name. What He did in person when He was here on earth as a man, He does now in answer to prayer and through the Holy Spirit. Jesus is just the same today. Thousands can tell you how Jesus has healed them in answer to prayer.

“And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues . . . they will place their hands on sick people, and they will

get well.” . . . Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it. (Mark 16:17–18, 20)

Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today, and forever. (Hebrews 13:8)

Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. (James 5:14–15)

Application

- 1** According to the Bible, salvation includes health for the
 - a)** physical body only.
 - b)** soul only.
 - c)** body, mind, and soul.

- 2** Jesus is able to heal us of any kind of disease because He
 - a)** created us.
 - b)** lived on earth.
 - c)** taught about God.

- 3** Suppose a friend were to ask you this: “How can I be sure that Jesus Christ still heals today?” From the following list, select the two Scripture portions that would be the most direct answer to the question.
 - a)** Matthew 4:23–24
 - b)** John 10:10
 - c)** Hebrews 13:8
 - d)** James 5:14–15



B. JESUS, THE BAPTIZER IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

Goal 2. Discuss what the Bible says about the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

We read in the Old Testament about leaders of God’s people—prophets, priests, and rulers—who were filled with the Holy Spirit. You remember that they were anointed with oil to set them apart for God. The oil poured on them was symbolic. They depended on God to pour His Spirit on them to give them the power to do whatever He wanted them to do.

One day, God gave the prophet Joel a wonderful promise. The time would come when God would pour His Spirit out on all His people, not just on their leaders.

“And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.” (Joel 2:28–29)

Centuries later, God told John the Baptist that the Messiah would baptize people with the Holy Spirit. God had sent John the Baptist as His special messenger to prepare the way for the Messiah and to present Him publicly. Great crowds gathered to hear John preach. John baptized many of them in water to show that they had repented of their sins and now belonged to God. Then John told them:

“I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.” (Matthew 3:11)

Not long afterwards, John presented Jesus publicly. He used four descriptions or titles to describe Jesus and His mission:

1. Lamb of God

2. A man who . . . has surpassed me
3. He who will baptize with the Holy Spirit
4. The Son of God (John 1:29–34)

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one I meant when I said, ‘A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’ . . . I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. . . . I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God.” (John 1:29–30, 32–34)

The Bible uses the word *baptize* (which means “immerse” or “dip”) to speak of two different experiences: (1) being immersed in water to show repentance, and (2) receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit. When God pours out, sends, or gives the gift of the Holy Spirit to believers, they are “baptized” or immersed in the Holy Spirit. The result is that they are “filled” with the Holy Spirit.

During the three and a half years of Jesus’ public ministry, His disciples must have wondered many times when He would baptize them with the Holy Spirit. Jesus called this experience “the promise of the Father.” But He had to carry out His mission as the Lamb of God before He could be their Baptizer in the Holy Spirit. He had to die, rise again, and return to heaven. Then He would send the Holy Spirit to them. The night before Jesus died, He told His disciples many things about the Holy Spirit.

“And I [Jesus] will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever . . . But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will

teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. . . . When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me. . . . But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. . . . But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth.” (John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7, 13)

After Jesus’ resurrection, just before He went to heaven, He told His followers: 1) receive the Holy Spirit and His power so they could be witnesses for Him; 2) tell everybody everywhere about Jesus and His salvation.

“Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit. . . . But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:4–5, 8)

Application

- 4** Jesus told His followers about a gift He would ask His Father to send them after He returned to heaven. The gift was the
- a)** Bible.
 - b)** forgiveness of their sins.
 - c)** healing of their bodies.
 - d)** Holy Spirit.

5 Following are several events connected with the coming of the Holy Spirit. Mark them with the numbers 1–5 in the order in which they happened.

- ... **a** Jesus fulfills His mission as the Lamb of God and dies for our sins.
- ... **b** Jesus returns to heaven.
- ... **c** Jesus tells His followers to wait until the Holy Spirit comes upon them.
- ... **d** Joel prophecies that God will pour out His Spirit on everyone.
- ... **e** John the Baptist presents Jesus as the one who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.



Fulfillment

Just before Jesus went to heaven He told His followers that a few days later they would be baptized with the Holy Spirit. They returned to Jerusalem and waited. Ten days later—on the Day of Pentecost—it happened! Jesus baptized them (120 believers) with the Holy Spirit and fire. And they received the power He had promised—power to be His witnesses.

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 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 them speaking in his own

language. Utterly amazed, they asked: “Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? . . . —we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” (Acts 2:1–7, 11)

Peter, full of the Holy Spirit, gave the people God’s message: They were seeing God fulfill Joel’s prophecy. They had refused Jesus as the Messiah and crucified Him. But God raised Him from the dead. Jesus returned to heaven and sent the Holy Spirit to His followers. This proved Jesus was the Messiah.

Luke records,

“God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact. Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. . . . Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” (Acts 2:32–33, 36)

John’s message that Jesus would baptize people with the Holy Spirit was true. Jesus was the Lamb of God, the Baptizer, the Son of God—the Messiah. How terrible that the people had not believed in Jesus! Their unbelief had sent Him to the Cross. Could God forgive them?

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.” . . . Those who accepted his message were baptized, and

about three thousand were added to their number that day. (Acts 2:37–39, 41)

From that point on, the book of Acts is the record of how the Spirit-filled believers were witnesses for Jesus wherever they went.

Does Jesus still baptize with the Holy Spirit? Yes! Joel’s prophecy is being fulfilled more widely now than at any other time in history. Around the world millions of believers have received the Pentecostal experience—the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Jesus is bringing new life and power to many churches. We call this the charismatic renewal. Charisma means “gift.” The Holy Spirit comes as a gift and brings with Him many gifts of spiritual power.

Application

6 Peter said that the proof that Jesus was the Messiah and had been raised from the dead was the

- a)** coming of the Holy Spirit upon His followers.
- b)** miracles done by the prophets.
- c)** signs and wonders God gave in the heavens.

7 When the Holy Spirit came upon the believers on the day of Pentecost, a crowd gathered around them because they were

- a)** healing the sick.
- b)** speaking about God in many different languages.
- c)** baptizing those who repented of their sins.

8 You have studied several things the Holy Spirit can do for you. Draw a line under each way you want Him to work in your life.

- a)** Be your Helper
- b)** Stay with you forever
- c)** Teach you about Jesus
- d)** Lead you into the truth
- e)** Give you power to witness for Christ
- f)** Speak through you in other languages about God’s greatness

9 Do you want Jesus to give you the gift of the Holy Spirit? He can baptize you right now! If you want Him to, pray the following prayer or use your own words.

Prayer: Jesus, please give me the gift of the Holy Spirit. I want Him to be my Helper and to teach me about You. I want Him to give me power to be Your witness. I want Him to speak through me now in other languages about the great things God has done. Thank you, Jesus. I receive Your wonderful gift of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

In this lesson, you have learned more about who Jesus is by studying His work as Healer and Baptizer. He has these gifts and is ready to give them to you. Your part is to ask. He said:

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. . . . If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” (Luke 11:9, 13)

Check Your Answers

- 4** **d)** Holy Spirit.
- 1** **c)** body, mind, and soul.
- 5** The order is as follows **a** 3, **b** 5, **c** 4, **d** 1, and **e** 2.
- 2** **a)** created us.
- 6** **a)** coming of the Holy Spirit upon His followers.
- 3** Your answer. (Matthew 4:23–24) and (Hebrews 13:8) together would form the most direct answer.
- 7** **b)** speaking about God in many different languages.
- 8** Your answer

LESSON 8 Jesus, the Savior

You have learned that Jesus heals and baptizes with the Holy Spirit. These are wonderful truths. But there is something else He does that is the most important work of all: Jesus saves! Jesus died for us and rose again, gaining victory over death, sin, and hell forever. Who is Jesus? He is the only Savior of the world.

The Bible says that Jesus came to seek and to save the lost. This simple statement is the meaning of the Christian religion. Other religions attempt to offer high ideals for life. They tell people why they suffer, how they should live, and how they will be punished if they fail. But they lack the most important thing of all: They do not give their followers any real power to overcome evil.

In striking contrast, Christianity offers God's own solution to man's inability to save himself. To each man and woman, Jesus says, "You have failed God's plan for you, but you can succeed. You are stained with the guilt of sin, but you can be made clean." How God saves us through Jesus is the subject of this lesson.

The Plan

- A. Jesus, the Savior of the World
- B. Jesus, the Lamb of God

The Goals

1. Discuss what the name *Jesus* tells us about God.
2. Explain why every person needs to be saved.
3. State how the title “Lamb of God” helps us understand the mission of Jesus.

A. JESUS, THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD

Goal 1. Discuss what the name *Jesus* tells us about God.

The good news of the gospel is that Jesus has come to be a Savior for all humankind. When Jesus was born, an angel told the shepherds:

“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.” (Luke 2:10–11)

The Name of Jesus

The name *Jesus* means “Jehovah will save”, or “Savior.” God the Father chose this name for His Son. He sent an angel to tell Joseph (Jesus’ foster father) what to name the baby that Mary would give birth to. The name Jesus would remind them constantly of who Jesus was and why He had been born. He was the Son of God, coming down to earth to save us from sin. The angel said, “She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21).

When you speak or hear the name of Jesus, remember its message of good news for you: Jehovah, the eternal, self-existing God came into the world to save you. God will save you. This is the promise that we claim when we pray to the Father in the name of Jesus. Whisper the name of Jesus in worship and in prayer. Sing about Jesus the Savior. Tell others about Him. He is the only Savior—the One whom the Father has sent to save us. Peter and John healed a crippled man through the power in Jesus’ name. Peter explained:

“By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus’ name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see.” . . . “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”
(Acts 3:16; 4:12)

Application

- 1** The name of Jesus tells us that God is the one who
 - a)** creates.
 - b)** judges.
 - c)** saves.
- 2** The name of Jesus was chosen by
 - a)** Gabriel.
 - b)** God the Father.
 - c)** Joseph.
- 3** Memorize Matthew 1:21.
- 4** Some people use the name of Jesus as a curse or swear word. If you have done this, ask God to forgive you. Thank Him for Jesus and for what His name means to you.



Nature of Salvation

Goal 2. Explain why every person needs to be saved.

The word *salvation* in the Bible is a great, inclusive word. To save is to rescue from danger, to deliver from captivity or judgment, to keep in safety, and to heal. Jesus, our Savior, rescues us from the power of Satan, frees us from the captivity of sin, takes our place and guilt in the judgment, brings us to a place of safety, and gives us health for body and soul.

Jesus came to save us from the lost-ness and dangers of a life separated from God. Sin has separated us all from God. We have lost our way. We wander in circles in the darkness of a purposeless, wasted life. Without God, eternal death closes in on us. But Jesus has come to save us, to bring us back to God. He turns us in the right direction, gives us the light of His presence, and brings purpose and meaning into our lives. Jesus calms our fears, gives us joy and peace, leads us away from the destruction that threatens us, and takes us to our eternal home. Jesus said, “The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost” (Luke 19:10).

Jesus came to save us from guilt and punishment for our sins. We have all broken God’s laws and face the penalty of eternal separation from Him. But Jesus took the blame for our sins and willingly died in our place so that we could be forgiven.

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of
God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
(Romans 6:23)

Jesus came to save us from the power of sin and Satan. He sets us free from our own sinful, rebellious, selfish nature and gives us the new nature of the children of God. He breaks the power of temptation and frees us from desires and habits that destroy our health and harm our souls. In Jesus we find safety from the attacks of Satan. We still have battles, but Jesus gives us victory.

When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. . . . 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. (Romans 6:20, 22)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Jesus has come to save us from the effects of sin and even from its presence. He brings us health for body and soul. And someday He will give us a new body that will not be subject to disease. He is preparing a home in heaven now for all those that He saves from sin. When we die, or when Jesus comes back to earth for us, He will establish His rule on earth and purify the earth from all sin. Even nature itself will be freed from violence and destruction. Everything will be perfect. What a great salvation!

“Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” (Revelation 21:3–4)

B. JESUS, THE LAMB OF GOD

Goal 3. State how the title, “Lamb of God,” helps us understand the mission of Jesus.

The title *Lamb of God* refers especially to Jesus’ mission as Savior of the world.

Sacrifice of the Lamb

When Jesus was going to begin His public ministry, John the Baptist presented Him to a crowd saying, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29).

Those who heard John could interpret his words in only one way. Lambs were killed as a sacrifice for sin. Sinners confessed their guilt to God and asked Him to accept the death of the lamb in their place. Jesus was the sacrifice that God had sent to die for all sinners—the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!

The great prophet Isaiah had written about how God would make the Messiah a sacrifice for our sins. He would falsely take the guilt for all our sins. He would die in our place, as our substitute, so that we could be free from sin. Later He would come back to life, see the results of His sacrifice, and be satisfied.

All this happened to Jesus exactly as Isaiah had said.

He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted.

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.

We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

By oppression and judgment he was taken away. And who can speak of his descendants? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was stricken.

He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.

Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.

After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light [of life] and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities.

Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. (Isaiah 53:3–12)

All four gospels tell how Jesus died for our sins. The religious leaders did not want to accept Him as the Messiah. They were jealous of Him and determined to kill Him. They accused Him before the governor and hired witnesses to tell lies about Jesus at His trial. Pilate, the Roman governor, knew that Jesus was not guilty, but gave in to the demands of the religious leaders and the mob they had incited.

They called for His death, and Pilate handed Him over to be crucified. This was the sentence for the worst criminals.

Some have asked, why did Jesus have to die to save us? He had to die because God could not simply lay aside the punishment we deserved. What could bring the solution? Only the death of Jesus, the Son of God. God's justice required a sacrifice for sin, and God's mercy provided it.

Jesus gave His life willingly. Though wicked men gathered against Him, they had no power to kill Him. He could have called on His Father to judge them, but He did not. He freely chose to fulfill His mission.

On that fateful day, His enemies led Him out to the place called "The Skull." They nailed His hands and feet to a cross and lifted Him up for all to see. There, hanging between two thieves, He died, the Lamb of God, the sacrifice for our sins.

Application

5 Circle the letter before each TRUE statement.

- a)** The prophet Isaiah said that people would despise and reject the Messiah.
- b)** Pilate was convinced by the religious leaders that Jesus was guilty.
- c)** The Gospel of John is the only Gospel that tells how Jesus died for our sins.
- d)** Though wicked men crucified Jesus, God made Him an offering for sin.

6 To fulfill His mission as the "Lamb of God," Jesus

- a)** died as a sacrifice for sinners.
 - b)** explained the law of God more fully.
 - c)** showed a perfect example of purity.
-



Attitudes Toward the Lamb

The people who saw the crucifixion of Jesus show us a picture of the whole world. Some looked at Him with hatred, making fun of Him and His claims. Some seemed indifferent, gambling for His clothes while He was dying. Others watched with disappointment. But some looked at Jesus with faith, hope, and love.

Three crosses stood there on the hill. Three men died that day. In their attitudes, we may find the key to our own.

When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals--one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!"

But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise." (Luke 23:33–34, 39–43)

The three crosses speak of rebellion, redemption, and repentance. On one a man was dying *in* sin (rebellion). On the second, the Lamb of God was dying *for* sin (redemption). On the third, a sinner was dying *to* sin (repentance).

Rebellion. On the cross of rebellion hung a man dying in his sins. He had wasted his life in doing wrong. Life had made him bitter and hard. Now he faced death—a final defeat. If he

had only believed, there was help right by his side. He was in the very presence of God. But the rebellion in his heart blinded him to spiritual truth. Within reach of the Savior he died in bitter agony of spirit—full of hate, resentment, and hopelessness.

Redemption. On the cross of redemption, Jesus died for our sins. We were under God's just sentence of death because of our rebellion against Him. We had become slaves of Satan, the enemy of God. The death of Jesus changed everything. When He died, He paid the price for our pardon. He defeated Satan completely. God accepted Jesus as our substitute, and Satan was forced to let us go.

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

Repentance. On the third cross a sinner died to his sins, and was freed from them forever, by trusting in Jesus. This man was willing to face himself and the truth; he confessed his wrong. He recognized Jesus as Savior, the Messiah. Jesus was dying but the repentant thief believed that He would rule the world someday. So he asked the Savior to remember him (have mercy on him) when he came as King. What faith! One of the last things Jesus did before He died was to forgive the sins of the dying thief and give him eternal life.

Every person decides his or her own eternal destiny by what he or she does about the Savior. Both thieves had the same opportunity. One clung to his rebellion and hate, mocking the only One who could save him. The other repented and asked for mercy. One went to hell—a place of eternal suffering. The other went to heaven (Paradise)—place of eternal happiness. These men are a picture for us all. One was rebellious and lost. The other repented, confessed his need to Jesus, and was saved. Which one's example will you follow? You can find eternal life, forgiveness, peace, and help by calling on Jesus in prayer. He is near you now.

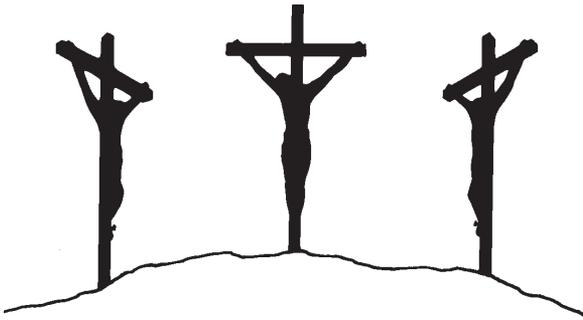
To the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace. (Ephesians 1:6–7)

He [Christ] himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. (1 Peter 2:24–25)

Application

7 Suppose someone says, “I have been taught that I must be baptized or receive forgiveness from a priest before I can be sure that I will go to heaven when I die.” Do you agree? Why, or why not?

8 Write the titles over the three crosses below. Add your name under the cross that represents your position. Explain the drawing to a friend or a member of your family.



First cross

Second cross

Third cross



Check Your Answers

- 5** a) True
d) True
- 1** c) saves.
- 6** a) died as a sacrifice for sinners.
- 2** b) God the Father.
- 7** Your answer. You have studied about the thief on the cross who repented and believed in Jesus. He did not have time to be baptized or talk to a human priest. But Jesus told him that he would be in Paradise “today.”
- 8** The center cross should be titled, “Redemption.” The other two (in any order) are titled “Rebellion” and “Repentance.”

LESSON 9 Jesus, the Resurrection and Life

Death stands at the end of the pathway of every human life—firm, inevitable, and final. Rich and poor alike must face it someday. For most people, even the idea of death strikes fear and terror. But for those who believe in Jesus Christ, there is a sharp difference. They do not need to fear death because they have put their trust in the One who is the Resurrection and the Life.

Jesus did not stay on the Cross where He died or in the tomb where He was buried. He came back from the dead! He lives today in the power of an endless life, and He shares that life with all who are joined to Him by faith.

The religions of the world try to help people cope with their mortality, but they can offer nothing. All of their founders lie buried to this day. How completely different Christianity is! In the face of the great fact of death, it announces an even greater fact: Jesus Christ rose from the dead, and because He lives, we too shall live.

What happened when Jesus came back to life? How do we know that He did? What does His resurrection say about who He is? What does it mean for our lives now and in the future? These are the questions answered in this lesson.

The Plan

- A. Jesus Gains Victory Over Death
- B. Jesus Guarantees Our Resurrection

The Goals

1. State the evidence we have that Jesus has conquered death completely.
2. Explain how the resurrection of Jesus affects your life now and in the future.

A. JESUS GAINS VICTORY OVER DEATH

Goal 1. State the evidence we have that Jesus has conquered death completely.

The evidence we have that Jesus is victorious over death comes from both His ministry on earth and from His own resurrection.

Miracles of Resurrection

Jairus, the ruler, went to ask Jesus to heal his little daughter. When he returned with Jesus, the child was dead.

Meanwhile, all the people were wailing and mourning for her. . . . But he took her by the hand and said, “My child, get up!” Her spirit returned, and at once she stood up. (Luke 8:52, 54–55)

Mourners were taking the dead son of the widow of Nain to the cemetery when they met Jesus. He stopped the funeral procession.

Then he [Jesus] went up and touched the coffin, and those carrying it stood still. He said, “Young man, I say to you, get up!” The dead man sat up

and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother. (Luke 7:14–15)

Lazarus and his sisters Martha and Mary were good friends of Jesus. Lazarus died and was buried. Four days later Jesus arrived.

Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.” (John 11:43–44)

Application

- 1** The person Jesus raised from the dead who was already buried was
- a)** Lazarus, the brother of Mary and Martha.
 - b)** the daughter of Jairus the ruler.
 - c)** the son of the widow of Nain.
-

Proof of the Resurrection of Jesus

The miracles of resurrection, which Jesus did during His ministry showed His power over death. However, the people He raised then died again—they were still mortal. His own resurrection was different. When Jesus rose from the dead, death itself was conquered. He rose with an immortal body, never to die again.

But how do we know that Jesus rose from the dead? We must be sure that He did. If He did not rise, our faith in Him is useless and all who have died believing in Him have been fools. But He did rise! We have not been deceived. Here are ten of the many proofs:

1. **Report of Soldiers.** Soldiers guarded the sealed, cavelike tomb so that no one could steal Jesus’ body and say He was alive again. On the third morning, they saw an angel open the tomb. The earth quaked. Terrified, they saw the grave was

empty! Jesus' body was gone! They ran to report what had happened.

2. **Empty tomb and graveclothes.** Soon afterwards some women came to the tomb. Jesus' body was not there. Two angels told the women that Jesus was alive. Peter and John ran to the tomb and found it empty. Jesus' body was gone, but there lay the bandage-like cloths it had been wrapped in.
3. **Angels' message.** At the tomb the angels said to the women, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!" (Luke 24:5–6).
4. **Appearances of Jesus.** Jesus appeared at different times to:
 - A group of women
 - Mary Magdalene
 - Peter
 - Two disciples on the road to Emmaus
 - Ten disciples in Jerusalem
 - Eleven disciples in Jerusalem
 - Seven disciples at the Sea of Galilee
 - 500 believers at once in Galilee
 - Jesus' half-brother James
 - Disciples at the ascension, near Bethany

After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. (Acts 1:3)

- Jesus appeared to three people after He went back to heaven. They saw Him there.
 1. Stephen, the first Christian martyr

2. Saul (Paul) on his way to Damascus
3. John, in the Revelation
5. **The nature of Jesus' body.** The kind of body Jesus had proved two things: (1) What the believers saw was not just a hallucination or a spirit. Jesus ate with them. They touched Him. He had a real body of flesh and bones. (2) He had not just revived from a coma or from death with the same mortal body. He had a glorified, resurrection body no longer subject to physical limitations, pain, or death. He passed through closed doors. He appeared and disappeared at will. He went to heaven visibly. Resurrection had given new powers to His body.
6. **Baptism in the Holy Spirit.** What happened at Pentecost was a direct fulfillment of a promise made by a risen Christ. The continuing presence of His Spirit proved that Jesus is alive.
7. **Testimonies of Christians.** Jesus' followers testified constantly to the fact that He had risen from the dead. Ordered to deny it or be put to death, they chose death. They would not have died to defend a lie.
8. **Conversion of Saul.** Saul, a brilliant young doctor of the Jewish law, was trying to stamp out Christianity. On his way to arrest Christians in Damascus, he himself was arrested by the Lord Jesus. A light brighter than the sun appeared in heaven. Out of the light Jesus called Saul by name and talked with him. Saul surrendered his life to Jesus and became the great apostle Paul.
9. **Christianity.** The Christian religion is based on the fact of the resurrection. Christianity is built on an empty tomb.
10. **Communication with Jesus.** Meeting Jesus has changed our lives. We talk with Him daily. He answers us. As the song says:

I serve a risen Savior,

He's in the world today . . .

You ask me how I know He lives?

He lives within my heart.

(A. H. Ackley)

Application

2 The best description of the body of Jesus after He was raised from the dead is that it was

- a) revived.
- b) spiritual.
- c) totally real but glorified.

3 You have studied ten proofs that Jesus rose from the dead. Review them. Then try to write from memory the five that are missing from the list below.

- 1) Report of soldiers
- 2)
- 3) Angels' message
- 4)
- 5) The nature of Jesus' body
- 6)
- 7)
- 8) Conversion of Saul
- 9) Christianity
- 10)



B. JESUS GUARANTEES OUR RESURRECTION

Goal 2. Explain how the resurrection of Jesus affects your life now and in the future.

Jesus died on the Cross but He conquered death there. He turned the Cross—a symbol of shame and disgrace—into a symbol of redemption, power, and victory. Jesus’ body was laid in a tomb, but the grave could not hold Him prisoner. He defeated death and rose again to share that victory with all His followers. Paul wrote about knowing Jesus in the power of His resurrection. What is this power?

1. **Proof of Who Jesus is.** Because He rose from the dead, we know He is who He said He was—the Son of God and Savior of the world.
2. **Assurance of Salvation.** Because Jesus rose again, we know that God accepted His sacrifice for us. Whoever believes in Him has forgiveness of sin.
3. **New life in union with Jesus.** Our risen Lord has become Head of the church. We are His body. He is with us always. His life is in us. His power works through us.

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

4. **Victory in Jesus.** Jesus’ resurrection proves that He has defeated Satan, sin, and death. With Him, you need not live in fear or be tormented by guilt and temptation. Jesus turns your defeat into victory.
5. **Hope.** Christians can face death with hope. Jesus’ resurrection is our guarantee of a better life beyond the grave. He said, “‘Because I live, you also will live’” (John 14:19).

6. **Resurrection.** To know Jesus in the power of His resurrection includes being resurrected as He was, with the same kind of body.

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead,
the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.
(1 Corinthians 15:20)

Application

4 Following are listed six truths that are part of knowing Jesus in the power of His resurrection. Draw a line under each one that you have accepted or choose to accept now.

- a) Jesus is who He said He is—the Son of God.
 - b) God has forgiven me of my sin.
 - c) The new life of Jesus is in me now.
 - d) Satan, sin, and death have all been defeated.
 - e) I can face death with hope.
 - f) One day I will have a glorified body.
-

His Promise

Just before raising Lazarus, Jesus said to Martha, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” (John 11:25–26).

When Jesus called into the open tomb, “Lazarus, come out!” Lazarus came out alive and well. Someday Jesus will come back to earth. At His call, bodies that have long since become dust and ashes will spring to new life. We will have wonderful new bodies like His immortal, glorified body.

“I [Jesus] tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. . . . For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have

life in himself. . . . Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out—those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned” (John 5:24, 26, 28–29)

The cemetery in your community has a message for you. For some it is a message of hopelessness. The graves remind us that we all must die. We came into the world with nothing and we leave it with nothing. But that is not all. Remember that the tomb of Jesus is empty! And His resurrection is the guarantee of your resurrection if He is your Savior. Your body may die, but your spirit will never die. Even if your body goes back to dust, Jesus will bring it back to life. He is the Resurrection and the Life.

Application

- 5** Our guarantee of resurrection is the
- a)** renewal of life we see in nature.
 - b)** resurrection of Jesus.
 - c)** strong belief people have in life after death.
- 6** Memorize John 11:25–26.



The Fulfillment

Before Jesus went back to His home in heaven He promised to return for His followers.

“And if I [Jesus] go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.” (John 14:3)

Forty days after Jesus’ resurrection, His followers watched Him ascend to heaven. Then two angels gave them a message:

“Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who

has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.” (Acts 1:11)

God revealed to Paul many details of the resurrection that will take place when Jesus comes again. John wrote about it too.

When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else. But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body. . . . So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. . . . And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven. (1 Corinthians 15:37–38, 42–44, 49)

Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” . . . But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:51–54, 57)

But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,

who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. (Philippians 3:20–21)

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure. (1 John 3:2–3)

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words. (1 Thessalonians 4:16–18)

Application

7 Following are several events that are part of the resurrection of Jesus and the future of those who believe in Him. Arrange them in their correct order by using the numerals 1–7.

- ... **a** All believers meet the Lord in the air.
- ... **b** God's trumpet sounds and Jesus returns.
- ... **c** Jesus ascends to heaven.
- ... **d** Jesus is resurrected.
- ... **e** Jesus prepares a place for His own.
- ... **f** Living believers in Christ are changed.
- ... **g** Those who have died in Christ are resurrected and changed.

8 Another way of saying that believers are glorified when Jesus returns is to say that the

- a)** mortal is changed into the immortal.
- b)** real is changed into the unreal.
- c)** being is changed into the non-being.

9 Suppose someone were to say this to you: “Since we don’t know when Jesus will return, there’s nothing we can do to prepare ourselves.” Which verse in this lesson about the appearances of Christ would help you correct this false idea?



Check Your Answers

5 b) resurrection of Jesus.

1 a) Lazarus, the brother of Mary and Martha.

7 The order is as follows: **a** 7, **b** 4, **c** 2, **d** 1, **e** 3, **f** 6, and **g** 5.

2 c) totally real but glorified.

8 a) mortal is changed into the immortal.

3 Your answers should match the following.

2) Empty tomb and graveclothes

4) Appearances of Jesus

6) Baptism in the Holy Spirit

7) Testimonies of Christians

10) Communication with Jesus

9 Your answer. A passage that may be the most help is 1 John 3:2–3.

LESSON 10 Jesus Christ, the Lord

There are always some people in society who have authority over others. Government officials, policemen, foremen, managers, bosses, and parents all expect—and sometimes demand—obedience. Society was no different at the time Jesus was born. The Romans ruled the world then. Herod sat on the throne in Palestine, and Roman armies kept his position secure.

When news of Jesus' birth and rumors that He had been born King of the Jews reached Herod's ears, Herod was furious. He tried to kill this new king but did not succeed. Jesus lived to fulfill His mission on earth. He offered no visible challenge to the political order. Yet He claimed that His destiny was not only to die but also to reign. He said that all authority in heaven and earth had been given to Him. But what has happened? Rome was not overthrown by the Christians. Jesus went back to heaven, and today the world is full of dictators, tyrants, and oppressors. How is He Lord? What kind of authority does He have? When will He rule over everything? These are the questions this lesson answers.

The Plan

- A. Jesus's Authority as Lord
- B. Proof of Authority
- C. Jesus Recognized as Lord

The Goals

1. Explain what the title *Lord* says about who Jesus is.
2. List the ways in which Jesus proved His authority while on earth.
3. Describe Jesus's Lordship now and in the future.

A. JESUS'S AUTHORITY AS LORD

Do you believe in Jesus as your Lord who rose from the dead? This is extremely important. Your spiritual life depends on it.

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

Title of Authority

Goal 1. Explain what the title *Lord* says about who Jesus is.

What did people mean when they called Jesus "Lord"? Paul specifically called Jesus "Lord" over 90 times. What does it mean to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ in order to be saved? Why does God say that every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord?

Kurios, the Greek word translated "Lord" in the New Testament, was the title of authority. People used it to show respect. It could be simply a form of polite address, like the English word *sir*. The head of the family was the lord of his house. Slaves called their master lord. Subjects recognized their ruler as their lord.

Kurios was also a title of worship given to the gods of many religions, as well as to Jehovah, the true God. In this sense, the

Bible uses the title Lord for both God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ. To call Jesus *Lord* is to recognize His deity, His union with His Father, His supreme authority over the universe, and His right to rule our lives.

When Jesus is our Lord, we report to Him for orders and receive His instructions. We take everything to Him in prayer. His Word is our manual for daily living. We do not have to worry about anything. Our Lord has all power, He knows all things, and He loves us. All we have to do is trust Him and obey.

Application

- 1 Memorize Romans 10:9.
- 2 When we call Jesus “Lord,” we recognize His
 - a) deity and authority.
 - b) friendship and love.
 - c) wisdom and knowledge.



B. PROOF OF AUTHORITY

Goal 2. List ways in which Jesus proved His authority while on earth.

Jesus proved His authority in His teachings. He amazed people by the absolute confidence with which He revealed truths about God and human life. He called himself the way, the truth, and the life.

Jesus proved His authority over nature. He walked on the stormy waves. His words, “Peace, be still,” calmed a tempest. He changed water into wine. He fed 5,000 men, “besides women and children” (Matthew 14:21), with five loaves of bread and two fish.

Jesus proved His authority over disease and death. At His touch, the deaf heard, the blind saw, the crippled walked. He called the dead back to life. He died and rose again.

Jesus proved His moral authority. He lived a sinless life. He established the best code of ethics ever known. He made ruined lives beautiful, pure, and useful. He was a perfect leader.

Jesus proved His spiritual authority. He forgave sins. He drove evil spirits out of their victims. He did the works of His Father and revealed God to humanity. He went back to heaven and sent the Holy Spirit to His church.

Jesus proved His authority over His church. As Lord, He sent His followers out to evangelize the world and gave them supernatural power with which to do it. He backs us up with all the authority of heaven as we obey His orders.

“You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am.” (John 13:13)

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

Application

3 Jesus overcame all temptations and lived a perfect life on earth. This showed His authority in the area of

- a)** morality.
- b)** nature.
- c)** spirituality.

4 Jesus proved His authority in His teachings by

- a)** healing a woman who was crippled and bent over.
- b)** saying that He is the only way to the Father.
- c)** telling His disciples to go everywhere and make disciples.



C. JESUS RECOGNIZED AS LORD

Goal 3. Describe Jesus's Lordship now and in the future.

On earth today, the church recognizes Jesus as Lord. In heaven, He is above all spiritual powers. And someday the whole world will acknowledge Him as its rightful Ruler and Lord.

Which he [God] exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 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. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church. (Ephesians 1:20–22)

Head of the Church

All those who accept Jesus as their Savior and Lord are members of His church. The Bible says that Jesus is our Head and the church is His body. We have studied the privileges of union with Christ. We can enjoy them fully only to the extent that we give Jesus first place in our lives. The head must guide the body; the body must not guide the head. Each member has its own place and function in the body. We should all work together for the good of the body and to carry out the purpose of Christ our Head.

Christ existed before all things, and in union with him all things have their proper place. He is the head of his body, the church; he is the source of the body's life. He is the first-born Son, who was raised from death, in order that he alone might have the first place in all things. (Colossians 1:17–18)

So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We

have different gifts, according to the grace given us. (Romans 12:5–6)

We obey Him in all things. That is part of what being in the body of Christ means. It is not society's ideas, but Christ's plan for the church that we follow. Wherever we go we follow His plan: at home, at work, and at play. This shows those around us that He is Lord. One day we will stand before Him. We will not be judged for our sins, because those have been forgiven. But He will examine our lives and how we lived them.

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. (2 Corinthians 5:10)

The word *bema* was used for the judgment seat of a Roman ruler. In a Roman city, it did not matter what people said if a person's action was approved at the bema seat. The word the Bible uses for the judgment seat of Christ is *bema*. In this way, Christians live in this world to serve their Lord, Jesus Christ. What others think is not important. Jesus's assessment of our lives is what matters.

The Bible gives examples of people faced with rules and customs that go against what is right. Making decisions can be hard, even deadly. Make sure you understand where Christ's commands may be in conflict with the demands of your society, if that is truly the case. Jesus said how His followers should be:

“I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.” (Matthew 10:16)

Remember that you are a citizen of His kingdom and part of His body. If you obey Him as your Lord now, your life will please Him. What a wonderful reward His approval will be! What a shame, though, if we suffer needlessly.

Application

- 5** The Bible says that one day Christ will judge us in order to
- a)** decide which of our sins we must pay for.
 - b)** see whether or not we deserve to be saved.
 - c)** give us the rewards we have earned.
- 6** People can see that Jesus is Lord today especially when Christians
- a)** build beautiful church buildings.
 - b)** obey Jesus in everything.
 - c)** overthrow evil rulers by force.
- 7** Is Jesus truly your Lord? Are you living in harmony with your brothers and sisters as part of the body, the church? Ask Him to help you obey Him as your Lord in everything.



King of Kings and Lord of Lords

We have seen that Jesus is Lord today over the church and in the lives of Christians. But to complete the picture of who He is, we must look into the future. There we may see Him in His full glory, coming to reign over everything.

Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen. “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.” (Revelation 1:7–8)

Jesus is the first—the beginning and the source of reality. Jesus is also the last—the One who will bring about the fulfillment of God’s eternal purpose. He will cause all things to fit together as they should. He will conquer all evil and reign forever as King of kings and Lord of lords.

The Bible says that before Jesus returns, the earth will be filled with wars, epidemics, earthquakes, famines, polluted waters, fish dying, crops destroyed, and political oppression. The words of the Bible are true. Today we see these things happening all around us. But one day, a great change will occur.

Jesus Christ will come to take possession of the world. He has a double right to reign: He created the world, and He redeemed the world with His blood. In the last book of the Bible, Revelation, we see a throne in heaven. In the center of that throne is a Lamb. The Lamb is Jesus Christ, the one who gave His life to save us. He will reign!

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” (Revelation 21:3–5)

In this short course you cannot study all of Jesus’ titles or read all about His wonderful kingdom. However, we hope you know Jesus better now than you did and that you love Him more. We pray that you may know Him better every day as you wait for His return. Then someday when He comes, you will see Him face to face, know Him as He really is, and be able to join in the universal song of praise to the Lamb of God.

John described the vision God gave him of those who were singing to the Lamb.

And they sang a new song: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a

kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.” Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders.

In a loud voice they sang: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!”

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!” (Revelation 5:9–13)

Application

8 Write the number for the title of Jesus (right) beside the phrase which best explains its meaning (left).

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| ... a Deity | 1) Kurios |
| ... b Director of the church | 2) The First and the Last |
| ... c Lord and Master | 3) The Head of the Body |
| ... d One who fulfills all of God’s purposes | 4) The Lamb of God |
| ... e Sacrifice for sins | |

9 The book of Revelation shows us a Lamb on the throne of heaven. This helps us to understand that the One who will rule everything is also the One who

- a)** died as a sacrifice.
- b)** lived a good life.
- c)** taught spiritual truths.

- 10** We will see the fullness of Jesus as Lord, when we look to the
- a)** past before He came to earth.
 - b)** present as He rules the church.
 - c)** future as He reigns in glory.

11 You have studied reasons why Jesus deserves your obedience and worship as Lord. Read Revelation 5:9–13 as your testimony and song of praise to Him.



Check Your Answers

- 6 b)** obey Jesus in everything.
- 2 a)** deity and authority.
- 8 a** 1) *Kurios*
b 3) The Head of the Body
c 1) *Kurios*
d 2) The First and the Last
e 4) The Lamb of God
- 3 a)** morality.
- 9 a)** died as a sacrifice.
- 4 b)** saying that He is the only way to the Father.
- 10 c)** future as He reigns in glory.
- 5 c)** give us the rewards we have earned.

CONGRATULATIONS

You have finished this course. We hope that it has been a great help to you! Remember to complete the second Unit Evaluation and return the answer sheet to your instructor

.....
 (Please insert course title above)

UNIT ONE ANSWER SHEET

Please fill in the blanks below:

Name

Student Number
 (Leave blank if you don't know your number.)

Mailing Address

.....

.....

Country

Directions

When you have completed your study of each unit, fill out the Unit Evaluation answer sheet for that unit. Read each question carefully. There is one best answer for each question. Blacken the space for the answer you have chosen. *Be sure the number beside the spaces on the answer sheet is the same as the number of the question you are answering.*

Example

- 1 To be born again means to
 a) be young in age.
 b) accept Jesus as Savior.
 c) start a new year.

The correct answer is **b) accept Jesus as Savior**, so you would blacken space **(B)** like this:

1. (A) (B) (C) (D)

Turn page over when you are ready to begin.

UNIT ONE ANSWER SHEET

Carefully blacken the correct space for each numbered item.

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------|----|-----------------|
| 1 | (A) (B) (C) (D) | 11 | (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 2 | (A) (B) (C) (D) | 12 | (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 3 | (A) (B) (C) (D) | 13 | (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 4 | (A) (B) (C) (D) | 14 | (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 5 | (A) (B) (C) (D) | 15 | (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 6 | (A) (B) (C) (D) | 16 | (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 7 | (A) (B) (C) (D) | 17 | (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 8 | (A) (B) (C) (D) | 18 | (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 9 | (A) (B) (C) (D) | 19 | (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 10 | (A) (B) (C) (D) | 20 | (A) (B) (C) (D) |

This is the end of the requirements for Unit One. For grading, return your Unit One Answer Sheet to your instructor or office in your area. Continue your study in Unit Two.

*For GU Office Use
Only*

Date

Score

UNIT ONE EVALUATION

- 1** Why can we depend upon the Bible?
 - a)** It was written by good men.
 - b)** It was written by men who wanted to do God's will.
 - c)** It was written by men under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

- 2** Which of the following is the best way to learn who Jesus is?
 - a)** By personal experience: one's own and that of others
 - b)** By studying the prophetic messages of the Bible
 - c)** By considering the wonders of nature and realizing that God created all things

- 3** Hebrews 13:8 says that "Jesus Christ is the
 - a)** same yesterday and today and forever."
 - b)** way and the truth."
 - c)** firstborn son of Adam."

- 4** Which function of prophecy best helps us to understand who Jesus is?
 - a)** The prophecies show us Jesus' work in the past, present, and future.
 - b)** The prophecies tell of the historical period in which Jesus lived.
 - c)** The prophecies were uttered long before the events occurred.

- 5** Why is the Old Testament so important in revealing Jesus?
 - a)** It contains the history of Jesus' people.
 - b)** It contains specific prophecies about Jesus' life and ministry.
 - c)** It symbolizes the sacrifice of Christ, a sacrificial lamb.

- 6** In which way does Jesus fulfill Bible prophecy?
 - a)** Jesus was born in Nazareth.
 - b)** Jesus was like Moses in many ways.
 - c)** The date of Jesus' birth was specifically foretold.

- 7** Where do we find the first biblical prophecy of the Messiah?
 - a)** In the first book of the Bible, the book of Genesis
 - b)** In the first book of the Major Prophets, the book of Isaiah
 - c)** In the first book of the New Testament, The Gospel of Matthew

8 Jesus ascended into heaven

- a) immediately after His resurrection.
- b) three years after His resurrection.
- c) forty days after His resurrection.

9 The miracles of Jesus were God's signs that Jesus was God's

- a) Son.
- b) Messenger.
- c) Prophet.

10 The plan for our salvation was made by the

- a) messianic prophets.
- b) Holy Trinity.
- c) righteous angels.

11 To be a Christian, one must

- a) know Jesus' teaching.
- b) obey the Ten Commandments.
- c) believe on Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

12 The name *Immanuel* means "God is

- a) with us."
- b) almighty."
- c) our Banner."

13 "Jesus is God incarnate" means that Jesus was

- a) acting like God.
- b) God in the form of man.
- c) no longer God.

14 The word *incarnation* comes from two words that mean

- a) self-existing.
- b) in flesh.
- c) anointed one.

15 Jesus is called our Mediator because He

- a) came to earth as a man.
- b) died and rose again.
- c) paid our debts so we could come to God.

16 God became man for the purpose of revelation, preparation, substitution, and

- a)** explanation.
- b)** mediation.
- c)** dedication.

17 What was Jesus' purpose when He ministered to human needs and gave His life for theirs?

- a)** To portray the character of God in His life
- b)** To show that a handsome physical appearance was evidence of a divine nature
- c)** To insist upon a high moral standard of living

18 In what way did Jesus best portray God's character?

- a)** Jesus gave us accurate information about God.
- b)** Jesus performed miracles, but gave special emphasis to healing.
- c)** Jesus' life personally demonstrated God's character.

19 Which of the following statements of Jesus describes His eternal nature?

- a)** Before Abraham was, I am.
- b)** I am the bread of life.
- c)** I am the way, the truth, and the life.

20 Jesus used the name "I Am" to

- a)** describe God's anger and His own.
- b)** describe God's sympathy and His own.
- c)** explain God's character and His own.

This is the end of the requirements for Unit One. Please stop here and return your Answer Sheet for Unit One to your instructor. Continue your study in Unit Two.

.....
 (Please insert course title above)

UNIT TWO ANSWER SHEET

Please fill in the blanks below:

Name

Student Number
 (Leave blank if you don't know your number.)

Mailing Address

.....

.....

Country

Directions

When you have completed your study of each unit, fill out the Unit Evaluation answer sheet for that unit. Read each question carefully. There is one best answer for each question. Blacken the space for the answer you have chosen. *Be sure the number beside the spaces on the answer sheet is the same as the number of the question you are answering.*

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c) start a new year.

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1. (A) (B) (C) (D)

Turn page over when you are ready to begin.

UNIT TWO ANSWER SHEET

Carefully blacken the correct space for each numbered item.

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------|----|-----------------|
| 1 | (A) (B) (C) (D) | 11 | (A) (B) (C) (D) |
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| 9 | (A) (B) (C) (D) | 19 | (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 10 | (A) (B) (C) (D) | 20 | (A) (B) (C) (D) |

This is the end of the requirements for Unit Two. For grading, return your Unit Two Answer Sheet to your instructor or office in your area.

*For GU Office Use
Only*

Date

Score

UNIT TWO EVALUATION

- 1** In John 8:12, Jesus says that He is the
 - a)** good shepherd.
 - b)** light of the world.
 - c)** Son of David.

- 2** In what way is Jesus like light?
 - a)** Jesus' birth was indicated by a bright star.
 - b)** Jesus helps us to see things as they are.
 - c)** Jesus showed early intellectual goals.

- 3** The acceptance of Jesus requires which of the following?
 - a)** Learning Jesus' teachings
 - b)** The exercise of will power
 - c)** Being willing to follow Him

- 4** Evil people hate the light because it
 - a)** reveals their wickedness.
 - b)** shines on the good only.
 - c)** shines on them only.

- 5** The miracles of healing Jesus performed proved that He is our
 - a)** Teacher.
 - b)** Judge.
 - c)** Creator.

- 6** In Scripture, oil symbolizes the
 - a)** Father.
 - b)** Word of God.
 - c)** Holy Spirit.

- 7** John saw the Spirit come upon Jesus in the form of
 - a)** a dove.
 - b)** a flame of fire.
 - c)** oil poured out.

- 8** What does the name *Jesus* mean?
 - a)** Jehovah will save, or Savior.
 - b)** God is with us.
 - c)** The Lord of Hosts, God of Sabbaoth.

9 Among the world's religions, only Christianity offers

- a)** reasons for man's failure and suffering.
- b)** freedom from all aspects of sin.
- c)** high ideals for living.

10 From what kind of problem does Jesus promise to save us?

- a)** From poverty and starvation
- b)** From the guilt and power of sin
- c)** From physical handicaps

11 Jesus was called the Lamb of God because He

- a)** acted meekly and humbly.
- b)** died as a sacrifice for sin.
- c)** lived a pure, clean life.

12 One thief on the cross was saved because he

- a)** was not guilty at all.
- b)** knew he was guilty.
- c)** believed on Jesus.

13 Jesus' death for us satisfied God's mercy and

- a)** power.
- b)** justice.
- c)** unity.

14 Which is the best evidence of Jesus' victory over death?

- a)** Jesus' miraculous birth and sinless life
- b)** An empty tomb, in which the body of Jesus had been laid
- c)** Jesus' personal appearance, after His resurrection

15 Which is a certain result of Jesus' resurrection?

- a)** It provides for an earthly life free of sickness and disease.
- b)** It inspires us to maintain standards of holiness.
- c)** It is the guarantee that Christians will also be resurrected.

16 What does the Bible teach regarding the Christian's body?

- a)** The physical body is mortal but will be changed to an immortal body.
- b)** The physical body will not decay or "see corruption."
- c)** The physical body will be strengthened so that it will last forever.

17 When we are resurrected, we will have

- a)** no body at all.
- b)** a physical, earthly body.
- c)** an immortal, spiritual body.

18 Romans 10:9 says that we are saved when we confess that

- a)** Jesus is Lord.
- b)** God is One.
- c)** Satan is evil.

19 Which best demonstrates Jesus' authority on earth?

- a)** Jesus' attractiveness and winning personality.
- b)** Jesus' forgiveness of sins followed by miraculous signs.
- c)** Jesus' acceptance by all who heard Him.

20 In Revelations 5:9–13, praise is given to the

- a)** Dove who brought peace.
- b)** Lion who conquered.
- c)** Lamb who was killed.

*Please return your Unit Two Answer Sheet to your instructor.
Now that you have completed your study of this course, ask your
instructor to recommend another course of study.*

FINAL WORDS

Dear Student,

We hope this study has made you think about your relationship with God. After studying the lessons and answering all the questions, have you wondered, “Am I really a Christian? Do I know God? Is He real in my life?” We want to give you the opportunity now to have a relationship with God.

We have all done wrong things. We have hurt ourselves and others. The Bible calls that sin and we are all guilty: “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). Our sin keeps us from knowing God as a loving Father. But God loves us in spite of our sin. He loves us so much that He sent His Son to die for us. “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall never perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). Jesus took the punishment we deserved for our sins when He died.

Do you want to make sure that Jesus is your Savior? It is really so simple:

- Admit that you are a needy sinner separated from God and ask Him to forgive you.
- Believe in Jesus with all your heart and let Him know that you accept Him as your Savior.

You can talk to God in your own words by saying a prayer like this:

Dear Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner. Please forgive me. I believe you are the eternal Son of God. Thank you for dying on the Cross for my sins. Come into my life. Make yourself real in my life. Be Lord of my life today. Thank you for saving me! Amen.

If you prayed this prayer and meant it with all your heart, your sins are forgiven and you have eternal life. Jesus is Lord of your life. The Bible says, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

