

6) *Be Practical*

You as the teacher may have to teach the background, intent and modern day application. Plan to ask questions like: "What do you think Jesus meant by this?" "What did the people understand?" "What does this mean to you?" Always ask the question "How does this affect or change your life?" Find out where they are at.

7) *Be Patient*

The person you are studying with may not become a Christian today, next week or next month. People accept and obey the Word of God at different paces. Keep persevering. Keep praying. Keep studying. Keep serving and building a relationship.

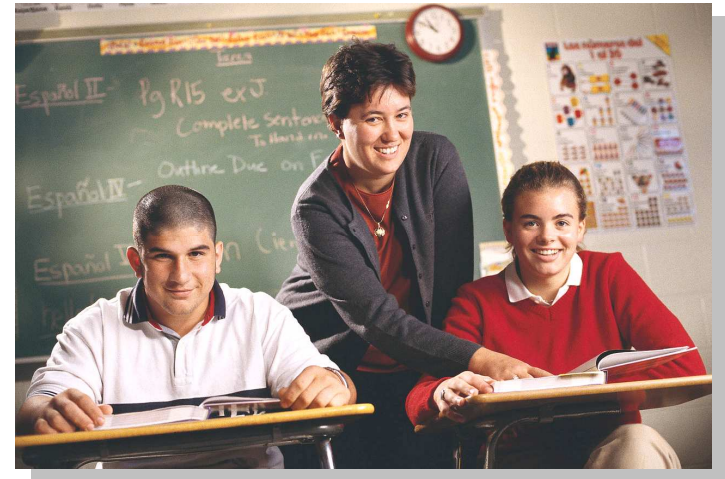
8) *Be Progressive*

This series follows an orderly and logical progression. Since each study is built upon the next, it is important that the student understands and believes the preceding study before advancing. If one does not believe in God it will be hard to convince them the Bible is the Word of God. If one does not believe the Bible is inspired, reliable, understandable and relevant they will not be changed by it nor live by it. If one does not understand the reality and consequence of sin in their own life, forgiveness is of little significance (and so is the life and death of Christ).

9) *Be Positive*

Find, acknowledge and rejoice in those areas where you agree. Your attitude is extremely important. Don't fight or quarrel but be humble and gentle in love. Some may be won or lost because of our attitude.

♥ *May God richly bless you, strengthen you, and encourage you as His Spirit works through you in sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with a lost world. To God be the glory!*



TEACHERS MANUAL

INTRODUCTION TO THE SERIES

The following is a series of studies that have been effectively used in sharing Jesus with others and leading non-Christians to a point where they can make an informed decision to become a child of God. These are designed as an outline that you can use for teaching and discussion. They are not meant to be promoted as the only way or the best way for every teacher or every student as we recognize the individuality of each person.

Ezra 7:10 "For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the Lord, and to practice it, and to teach His statutes and ordinances in Israel."

POINTS TO CONSIDER AS A TEACHER

1) *Be Prepared*

Before you meet with the student, know the material you want to teach that day. This means you will want to know where the student is in their spiritual journey. You may want to have some additional Scriptures ready, knowing you probably won't use them but if questions are asked or objections arise you will be more prepared to answer. (1 Peter 3:15). Try to contemplate what the student may ask or object to so you can be ready with Scripture or questions. Don't be ashamed or intimidated if you don't know the answer. Not knowing today gives you an opportunity to study the subject in detail and come back later.

2) *Be Prayerful*

Prayer is what is going to make you an effective teacher. Prayer is what is going to open doors of effective service. Prayer is what is going to make the Word of God come alive. Prayer is what is going to soften and change your heart and the heart of the student. (Acts 16:14). Paul prayed for open doors (Colossians 4:3) and for boldness in his teaching. (Ephesians 6:19-20). Invite and encourage other Christians to pray for both you and the student.

3) *Be a Partner*

When you have a study planned invite and involve other Christians. This allows the student to build relationships with other people in the church, which may make the decision to become a Christian easier. It also trains other Christians in studying the Bible with others. In most New Testament examples, whenever possible, Christians went two by two. (Mark 6:7). Paul trained Timothy, Mark, Silas, Titus and countless others on the mission field. If you are a man who has a study with a woman invite a sister from church to join

you. She can have a great influence as she builds a relationship and can relate to this student. This will also suppress false accusations, rumors, help keep motives pure and avoid inappropriate words, gestures or actions.

4) *Be a Peer*

Be a friend to the one you study with. Meet together to talk and get to know each other. Have fun and do social things together that you are commonly interested in (eg. sports, movie, dinner, etc.). Paul not only shared the gospel with the people, he shared his life as well. (1 Thessalonians 2:8). People must have a solid relationship in the body of Christ, especially when they must make a decision or when they are persecuted by and are rejected by family and friends for being a Christian.

5) *Be Precise*

When studying a specific topic try to have an objective and know where you want to be by the end of the study. There may be times when you will not complete the study because of questions or roadblocks. Do not fall into the temptation of feeling like you have to immediately answer every question that the student asks, especially when they are unrelated to the study at hand.

Example: In the middle of the Word of God Study the student may ask, "What do you think the book of Revelation is all about?" You can simply reply, "We can study that in-depth subject a little later, but right now let's see if we can understand the basic fundamental truths first before proceeding to more difficult topics."

PLEASE NOTE:

You don't need to teach them every Bible lesson from Genesis to Revelation - this would take a lifetime. Conversely, you don't want to ask them to make a major life decision and commitment when they know nothing about Jesus Christ or the Christian life.

- Q.4 What analogy is used here regarding light and darkness?
- Q.5 What kinds of things do the people of darkness do? (Colossians 3:1-17; Galatians 5:19-23)

1 John 5:2-3

we show our love for God when we sincerely try to do what pleases Him
we must turn from our sinful ways and follow God's Word

- Q.1 How do we show our love to our closest friend?
This is how we show our love for God also!
- Q.2 Can we love God and refuse to do what He says?
- Q.3 Why is loving God not a burden to us?

1 John 2:15-17

we must seek for God and learn what pleases Him
this will also benefit us because His way is right

- Q.1 What does it mean for someone to love the world?
- Q.2 Can someone love the world and love God?
(Matthew 6:19-24)
- Q.3 Do you desire to follow and love God or the world?
- Q.4 What are the advantages and disadvantages of your decision?

Begin reading the Gospel of John to learn more about Jesus and God's will for you.

(* The church has plenty of Bibles for those who would like to have a Bible to read and study.)

----- Reference Material on Apologetics -----

Does God Exist Series, John Clayton
God, Are You Really There, Don England
Evidence That Demands A Verdict, Josh McDowell



WHO IS GOD?

LESSON ONE

The purpose of this first study is to show a basic picture of God. This is not intended to convince or persuade a devout atheist (someone who believes God does not exist) but it will supply a basic understanding of the real God. This lesson also looks at our response and responsibility when seeking and knowing the true God. Pharaoh asked a valid question of Moses, "Who is the Lord that I should obey His voice." (Exodus 5:2)

Isaiah 55:6-9

there is a time in which we can seek the Lord

- the time to seek Him is now

(Ecclesiastes 12:1; Hebrews 3:12-13)

God wants to have a relationship with us, but we have turned away from Him

God is willing and able to forgive us of any sin if we come to Him

we must realize that God thinks much differently than us

- His ways/thoughts are above our ways/thoughts

(1 Corinthians 1:25-31)

- we must submit our thoughts, ideas and will to Him

Q.1 Do you think God wants a relationship with you?

Q.2 What do we learn about God in these verses?

Q.3 In what ways does God think so differently from us?

Acts 17:24-31

God does not need us but we need Him

God desires to have an intimate relationship with us

God has arranged everything in our lives in such a way that we would seek Him . . . and find Him

Q.1 In what ways do we depend on God?

Q.2 Do you think God wants a relationship with you?

Q.3 What does God require of those who want to enjoy a relationship with Him?

Romans 1:18-25

God has made Himself evident to everyone

(no one has an excuse)

God has proved His existence to us by His creation

people have rejected God and served their own

desires, thoughts and heart

Q.1 How has God revealed Himself through the creation?

Q.2 What do people worship if they don't worship God?

Q.3 What will happen to those who continue to live in an ungodly manner?

John 20:24-31

Thomas wanted proof that Jesus was resurrected from the dead

- the Bible has been written so we can know God the Father (through His Son, Jesus Christ) and have a relationship with Him (see: Luke 1:1-4)

Q.1 How did Jesus prove to Thomas that He was resurrected from the dead?

Q.2 Why was the Bible written?

Q.3 How can we learn more about God and know His will for our lives?

John 3:16-21

Jesus came to teach us about God and to offer us a relationship with God

Jesus sacrificed Himself on the cross so we could have a relationship with God

however many people reject Him because He is righteous and sinless

some people hate Jesus because He teaches the truth (love, honesty, kindness, etc.)

these people hate Jesus and love their sinful life (Jesus exposes their sin)

Q.1 Do you know anyone who would sacrifice their life for you?

Q.2 Why did Jesus come into the world?

Q.3 Why do some people not want to follow Jesus?

- Q.1 Why do people change the Word of God?
(see 2 Timothy 4:1-4)
- Q.2 Why do you think there are so many divisions in Christianity today?
- Q.3 How can we be right with God and have unity as followers of Christ?

John 12:47-48

- Jesus came to bring hope and life to everyone
- those who refuse to follow Jesus will be judged by His Word
- we know the standard of judgement God will use on the last day - His Word!

Final exam analogy - we have the final in our hand

- Q.1 Why is it so important to follow God's Word only?
- Q.2 What valid excuse could you offer God for not following His Word?
- Q.3 How are we going to be judged on judgement day?

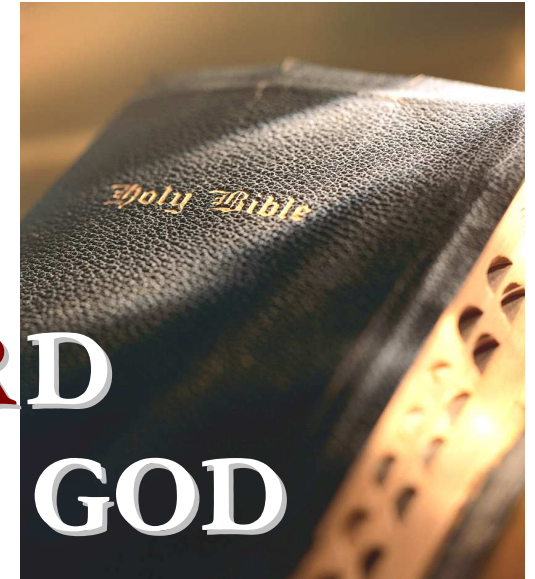
Acts 17:10-12

- the Bereans were of noble character
(honorable, right and worth imitating)
- they were eager to learn and know God's Word
- they examined the Scriptures to see if Paul's teaching was true and right
(people can mislead, deceive or be sincerely wrong)
> check it out yourself!

- Q.1 Are you eager to know God's will for your life?
- Q.2 Do you want to know for certain that what you learn and hear is God's Word?
- Q.3 How much time or study will you devote to seeking after God?

*Begin or continue reading the Gospel of John.
If finished John begin reading the book of Acts
(a history of the early church).*

THE WORD OF GOD



LESSON TWO

The Holy Bible is God's revealed promise, plan and purpose for mankind. Through the Bible we can know God's love, experience God's blessings and receive God's promises. Know, go and grow in the Lord.

Hebrews 1:1-3

In the past God spoke to His people through different prophets in different ways
Now (today) God speaks to us through His Son, Jesus

- Q.1 How do we know what God's will for us is today?
(eg. some follow visions, dreams, voices, feelings, or modern day prophets)

2 Timothy 3:12-16

Timothy became a Christian by knowing the Bible
(specifically the Old Testament)

- only the Scriptures are able to give us wisdom that leads to salvation
- God is the One who is behind the written Word
(cf. 2 Peter 1:19-21)
- the Word of God is practical for everyday living
 - teaching - instruction, direction, tutoring
 - rebuking - stern admonishment, discipline, conviction
 - correcting - restoring to the proper and right position
 - training in righteousness - conditioning, strengthening, developing, character building, the entire process
- we can be thoroughly equipped for every good work

Q.1 What do you think "all Scripture is God-breathed" means? ("inspired" is not the best translation)

Q.2 How much of the Bible do you think is inspired?
"All Scripture ..."

- we can't pick and choose what we think is from or not from God (why not?)

Q.3 Can the Bible help us today?

Q.4 Why will some persecute us because we follow God's Word? (v. 12)

Hebrews 4:12-13

The Word of God is living and active

- > real and relevant for today, for our daily life
 - it also judges our thoughts and motives
 - > not only **what** we do but **why** we do it
- God knows our heart (our inside) even if we have hidden it from everyone else

Q.1 What kind of lines do you think the Word of God (the Bible) draws?

Q.2 How much do you think God knows about you?

Q.3 How can God's Word help us in our relationship with Him and others?

John 8:31-32

- Jesus is speaking to people who believed in Him
- He tells them that they must remain in His Word to be His disciples (followers)
- if we listen, obey and follow Jesus we will know the truth and we will be free

Q.1 What does it mean to remain in Jesus words?

Q.2 What will people be free from by following Jesus?

James 1:22-25

- do not just listen to the Word, but do it
 - > put what we know into practice
- the Bible shows us God's image and we see ourselves in the light of God
- some people are deceived because they stop at knowing (or reading) God's Word
(cf. Matthew 7:24-27 - the religious lost)

Q.1 What do you look for when you look in a mirror?

Q.2 How is the Word of God like a mirror?

Q.3 When is the best time to change?

Matthew 15:1-9

- these people followed tradition and man-made rules and laws instead of the Bible alone
- we must not add to the Word of God, nor take away from what is written
(cf. Revelation 22:18-19; Galatians 1:6-9)

A NEW COVENANT... **A NEW KINGDOM**

Hebrews 9:15-18

Jesus is the mediator of the New Covenant (testament)
- for the will (or covenant) to be executed the One
who made it must die first

Matthew 13:44-45

the Kingdom of heaven is like a valuable treasure
- some must earnestly seek the treasure to find it
- others may stumble upon it
it is a priceless treasure
- worth giving up everything you have

1 Peter 2:9-10

- we are God's chosen people
- we have received mercy

Acts 2:42

the Christians devoted themselves to:
1) the apostles teaching
2) the fellowship
3) the breaking of bread
4) prayer

Matthew 6:33

we must seek first the Kingdom of God
God will take care of the rest (our daily needs)

***The Kingdom is made up of those people who
love, honor and submit to the King, Jesus.***

The Kingdom is the Church universal.



THE KINGDOM OF GOD

LESSON THREE

(OPTIONAL)

This study is an introductory lesson on the Kingdom of God. Jesus came to establish, lead and rule a great kingdom as foreseen and foretold by the prophets hundreds of years before He was born. After studying this lesson one should be able to better comprehend God's purpose and plan for the Kingdom, understanding what it is, and how it effects us.

<u>VERSE</u>	<u>CONTENT</u>	<u>FULFILLMENT</u>
Isaiah 2:1-3	The Kingdom will be established in the last days	Acts 2:17
	All nations will stream to it	Acts 2:8-11, 39
	It will go out from Jerusalem	Acts 1:4
Daniel 2:44	the Kingdom will be established by God	
	it will endure forever	
Daniel 7:18	the Saints will possess it and it will endure forever	
Matthew 3:1-2	John the Baptist preaches that the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand (NIV - "near")	
Matthew 4:17	Jesus also preaches that the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand	
Mark 9:1	the Kingdom will come in the life time of some of those who heard Jesus' words	Acts 1:13
	it implies that some will die before the Kingdom of God is established	Acts 1:15-19
	the Kingdom will come with power	Acts 1:8; 2:1ff

<u>VERSE</u>	<u>CONTENT</u>	<u>FULFILLMENT</u>
Matthew 16:13-19	Jesus speaks about building His church which will not be defeated	
	Jesus gives Peter the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven	Acts 2:14ff
John 3:3-7	One must be born again to see the Kingdom of Heaven (v. 3)	
	One must be born of water and the Spirit to enter the Kingdom (v. 5)	Acts 2:38
Luke 17:20-21	the Kingdom of God is within you	
John 18:36-37	Jesus' Kingdom is not of this world	
Luke 23:50-51	Joseph is waiting for the Kingdom of God	
Luke 24:44-49	The message of the Kingdom:	
	1) Jesus fulfilled Messianic prophesy	Acts 2:16-35
	2) Christ would suffer and rise again	Acts 2:22-24
	3) repentance and the forgiveness of sins	Acts 2:38
	4) this would begin in Jerusalem	Acts 1:4

THE CONSEQUENCE OF SIN

Isaiah 59:1-8

because of our sin God cannot have a relationship with us
we have created a division and a barrier in our friendship
(Isaiah 64:4-7)

Ephesians 2:1-3

the penalty of our sin is spiritual separation or death
we all at one time followed the course of satan

- Q.1 Do most people see themselves following and serving satan when they sin?
Q.2 What is the outcome for those who have sinned? (verse 3)
Q.3 What does it mean to be children of wrath? (Romans 1:18-32)

Romans 6:20-23

the outcome of sin is not joy, happiness and contentment
but the destiny of sinful people is death
when we become Christians we are free from sin and it's eternal consequences

- the wages of sin (we work for it) is death
- the gift of God (we do not work for a gift) is eternal life
- there is good news for sinners - there is hope and life available (next study)

- Q.1 What was our relationship with sin?
Q.2 What is the result of following Jesus?

*Continue reading the Gospel of John
and / or the book of Acts.*



LESSON FOUR

Very few people today understand the total purity of God and the complete sinfulness of mankind. Our society is unsure what sin really is. Some even question if any absolutes exist, which in essence would mean there is no real right or wrong. But the Bible is clear regarding the subject of sin. These next two studies are very important and may be the turning point in a person's life. After studying this lesson the student will be able to identify sin and understand the effect it has on our relationship with God and our eternal destiny.

GOD IS HOLY

Deuteronomy 32:3-5

God is holy, pure, undefiled and without sin
God cannot have fellowship (friendship) with sin or evil
He is like a pure white sheet and sin is a black stain.
- If God wants to remain pure (holy) He must remove the stain from His presence

- Q.1 How is God described in these verses
Q.2 What is the difference between God and us?

Psalm 33:4-12

God is upright and faithful
God loves righteousness and justice
(can we say the same?)
He is full of wisdom, strength and might

WE ARE GUILTY OF SIN

Galatians 5:19-21

the acts (or deeds) of the flesh (sin) are obvious
our conscience often tells us what is right and wrong
(Romans 2:14-16)

- Q.1 Do you see some sins in this list that you are guilty of?
Q.2 What is the consequence of these sins?

Mark 7:20-23

what is in the heart is just as important as the actions
the sinful thoughts in the heart and mind lead to sinful action

- Q.1 Where do evil and sinful actions come from?
Q.2 Can someone have sinful thoughts but not act upon them?
Q.3 Is it sin to have evil thoughts?
(see: Matthew 5:21-22, 27-28)

1 John 2:15-17

- here the Bible doesn't address action but attitude
- sin actually begins in the heart and mind
(see: James 1:13-15)

- Q.1 Where do evil thoughts and actions originate?
(James 1:13-15)
Q.2 Can we love the world and love God too?
(see: Matthew 6:19-24)
Q.3 What is lust?

James 2:10

all sin is sin - it is equal in the sight of God
the final consequence of sin is the same
- murder and lying have the same effect in separating one from God
- different sins will have different effects in our daily lives (eg. time in jail, becoming pregnant, damaged relationships, etc.)

1 John 1:6-10

we are all sinners - no one is exempt
Romans 3:23 - all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

- Q.1 Do you know anyone who has never sinned
Q.2 Do you think there are people who have not sinned?
Q.3 What effect does sin have on us?

- 3) we are united in His resurrection (being living a new life - not for ourselves but for God)

To become a Christian, to have our sins forgiven, to receive the Holy Spirit, to escape eternal separation from God and have a heavenly home we must:

- 1) realize that we have sinned and our sin separates us from God
- 2) believe that God exists and rewards those who seek Him (Hebrews 11:6)
- 3) believe that Jesus is the Son of God and our Savior
- 4) repent of our sin (dying to sin and living for God)
- 5) confess that Jesus is Lord of our life (He is in control, we follow, love & serve Him)
- 6) be baptized (immersed) in water for the forgiveness of our sins

when we submit ourselves to God's plan we are Christians

- our sins are forgiven (and continue to be forgiven as long as we remain faithful)
- we receive the Holy Spirit to strengthen us in our new life
- we are children of God and call upon God as our Father
- we are members of the Church that Jesus came to establish

[Continue reading the book of Romans](#)

[\(Consider watching the video "Jesus" with your friend\)](#)



BECOMING A CHRISTIAN

LESSON FIVE

Ephesians 2:1-10

- sin has separated us from God and we are spiritually dead
- the outcome of our sin is eternal separation from God in hell
- there is good news for everyone who has sinned
- by God's grace we can be forgiven and have a relationship with Him
- this is done through Jesus, God's Son

Q.1 What is the end result of sin?

Q.2 How can we be set free from sin?

Mark 15:16-39

Jesus was crucified on the cross for us

- our sin causes spiritual separation

Jesus took our sin upon Himself and was separated from God

v. 34 - *"My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"*

Romans 5:6-10 - Jesus died for us - He took our place

- our sin cost Jesus His life and relationship with His heavenly Father (cf. Isaiah 53)

Q.1 How do you feel when you read Jesus' death?

Q.2 Do you see that Jesus died for you (for your sin)?

Q.3 Was Jesus' sacrifice more than just physical suffering?

2 Corinthians 7:8-11

when we see what sin does to our relationship with God, others and ourselves (not to mention the price Jesus had to pay) we will want to change - this change is called "repentance"

to repent is more than just sorrow (feeling sad) but it includes a change in desire and action

many people may be sorry they "got caught in the act" repentance is sorry you sinned, hurt God & others and deciding to change

repentance means "to turn" - to turn 180° (a full turn)

Acts 3:19-21 - turning back to God and being refreshed

Q.1 How would you describe repentance?

Q.2 Are there things in your life you know you need to repent of

Q.3 What is the difference between repentance and sorrow?

John 3:1-5

Jesus states we must be born again to enter heaven

- He then explains this is done through being born of water and the Spirit

Q.1 How can a person be "born again"?

Q.2 Do you know how one can be born of water and the Spirit?

Acts 2:36-42

Peter preaches the gospel for the first time after the death and resurrection of Jesus

these Jews came to faith in God and realized that Jesus was the Messiah

- people who want to be Christians today must believe that Jesus is Lord and Savior

- when asked what they should do, Peter states, "Repent and be baptized"

- the outcome was the forgiveness of sin and the Holy Spirit - this is what we all need

Q.1 Why did these people repent and get baptized?

Q.2 What was the promise of all people everywhere?

Romans 6:3-11

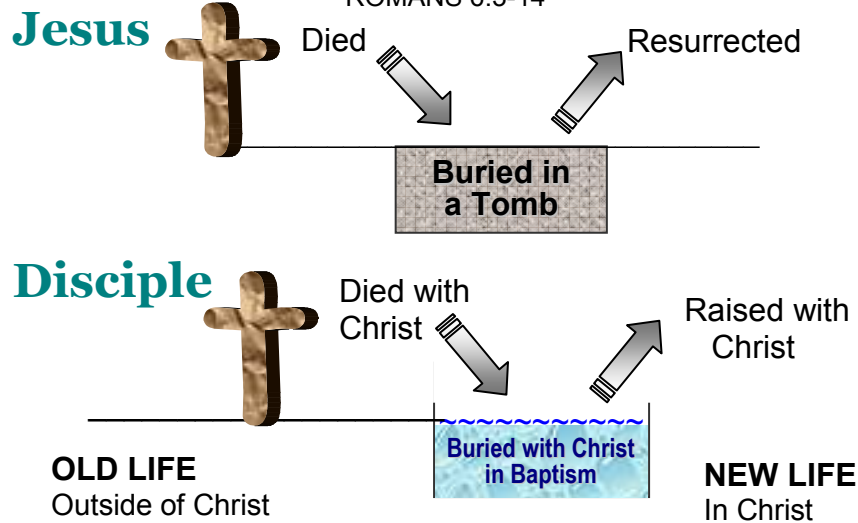
we are united with Jesus in baptism

1) we are united in His death (we die to sin, our old way of life and to ourselves)

2) we are united in His burial (buried or immersed in

BAPTISM ILLUSTRATED

ROMANS 6:3-14



WHAT ABOUT BAPTISM ?

LESSON SIX

(Supplementary to Study Number 5)

THE OLD LIFE <i>Outside of Christ</i>		THE NEW LIFE <i>In Christ</i>
we are all guilty of sin	1 John 1:5-10	we are forgiven of our sin
sin separates from God	Romans 6:23	we are united with God through Christ
we were dead in our sin	Ephesians 2:1-10	we are made alive with Christ
we were slaves of sin	Romans 6:16-18	we are free from sin
we were enemies of God	Romans 5:10	we are friends of God
we were not God's people	1 Peter 2:10	we are the people of God
we received no mercy	1 Peter 2:10	we have received mercy

The following are some questions or comments that people may offer regarding baptism. These may come from people who believe they are Christians yet have never been baptized or aren't sure why they were baptized. Some may have been taught or heard that repeating the sinner's prayer is all that is necessary to become a Christian. It is concluded that all churches do not teach the entire gospel plan of salvation.

Is baptism really necessary?

John 3:3-5 Jesus said one must be born of water and the Spirit to enter the Kingdom

What is the water Jesus spoke of?

- a) the water breaking prior to physical birth?
 - everyone is at least part way into the kingdom
 - it would be like saying, "first you must be born"
 - Nicodemus was thinking in physical terms (v. 4)
 - Jesus has already indicated that it is not a physical birth but a spiritual
- b) what would Nicodemus have thought the water meant?
 - A: John's baptism (see: Matthew 3:1-12)

Mark 16:15-16 the formula here is:

BELIEF + BAPTISM = SALVATION

> the implication is:

BELIEF + NO BAPTISM = BELIEF (not salvation)

NO BELIEF + BAPTISM = BAPTISM (not salvation)

Acts 2:38 the people had to repent and be baptized

Why were they to repent and be baptized?

- 1) for the forgiveness of their sins
- 2) to receive the Holy Spirit

Can one be saved whose sin is not forgiven?

(remember: Isaiah 59:1-2)

Can one be saved who does not have the Holy Spirit? (Ephesians 1:13-14)

1 Peter 3:20-22 just as Noah was saved through water so baptism also saves us

Romans 10:9 says if you confess with your mouth

Paul is writing this letter to Christians (1:7)

- he is not trying to teach them how to become a Christian - they are already Christians (1:6-7) and they had already been baptized (6:3-4)

Some verses say all we must do is believe (have faith)

(John 3:16)

we must look at what Biblical belief (faith) is
the demons have belief but not obedience (James 2:19)
we are justified by action, not faith alone (James 2:24)
faith without deeds is dead (James 2:26)

one must show their faith (belief) in their action

- confess Jesus as Lord (Romans 10:9)
- repenting from sin (Acts 3:19)
- being baptized for forgiveness of sin and to receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:28)

An Example from Paul's conversion (Acts 22:3-16)

22:3 Paul knew the Law of God and was zealous for God

22:14 Paul saw the risen Lord (1 Corinthians 15:9)

22:7 the Lord audibly spoke to Paul

22:8 Paul conversed with the Lord

22:10 Paul called Jesus "Lord"

22:13 Paul had a miracle performed upon him (he regained his sight after 3 days)

22:15 Paul was given a ministry of taking the gospel to the Gentiles (26:16-17)

9:9 Paul fasted (and likely prayed) for 3 days

After all these things was Paul forgiven of his sin and therefore in a saved relationship with God? **NO**

Acts 22:16 - Ananias said to Paul, "And now why do you delay? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name."

When were Paul's sins forgiven?

Answer: When he was baptized into Christ

Paul stated that God did not send him to baptize and that he was glad he didn't baptize the Corinthians

(1 Corinthians 1:10-17)

- 1) God did not command Paul not to baptize in Corinth
Paul did baptize some (v. 14, 16) and that would be sin
 - 2) church - the Christians were following and were divided over those who baptized them (v. 12)
 - 3) verse 17 is an elliptical passage
(an ellipsis is 3 dots . . .)
 - the reader must insert the words "only" and "also"
it should read: "For Christ did not send me only to baptize but also to preach the gospel ..."
- See: John 6:26 (see v. 2); 6:27; 7:16; 12:44

The thief on the cross was not baptized.

- he was still under the Old Covenant (Hebrews 9:15-18)
- Jesus had power on earth to forgive sins (Matthew 9:6)
- the thief could not participate in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus (Romans 6:2-4)
- we do not know the thief was never baptized
(see: Matthew 3:1-6)

I prayed Jesus into my heart (the sinners prayer).

no where is this even mentioned in the Bible

Revelation 3:20 speaks about Jesus standing at the door and knocking

- this admonition was written to Christians who were complacent (vs. 14-22)
- this is not teaching people how to become Christians

Baptism is a work and we are not saved by works

(Ephesians 2:8-10)

usually when the New Testament speaks about works it refers to the Jews trying to be saved by keeping the Law of Moses - they are trying to earn their righteousness

Is it the work (act) of baptism that saves?

NO – salvation is only by the grace of God

but it is at baptism that we receive forgiveness of sin
- it is the final step of the salvation process

eg. a cheque for a million dollars is not good to us unless we (activate it) cash it

- we must do something to receive the gift
- we must go to the bank, stand in line, sign the cheque and show identification

Did we earn the money by doing this?

NO – but until we do all that is required we can't access the cash

I prayed Jesus into my heart and got saved then I was baptized later?

Acts 2:38 baptism is for the forgiveness of sin and ___the gift of the Holy Spirit

Romans 6:3-7 baptism is being united with Jesus
it is not a symbol of what happened earlier
(an outward sign of an inward grace)
at baptism we died to our old way of living
(repent), we are then raised to live a new life
v. 5 - only when we have been united with Jesus shall we be raised with Him

Are all baptisms the same?

Ephesians 4:4-6 there is only one baptism

Acts 19:1-7 - the baptism of John and the baptism of Jesus were different

- John's baptism was for repentance and forgiveness of sin (Luke 3:3)
- but these disciples were not baptized into Jesus

Note: Paul asked if they received the Holy Spirit. The reply was "no" - immediately Paul asked about their baptism (there is definitely a connection between baptism and receiving the Holy Spirit)

I was baptized as an infant.

- no where does the Bible speak of infant baptism
- we must have faith in God and repent of our sin before we are baptized (Acts 2:38)

Can an infant have faith and repent of sin?
Does an infant have sin? (Ezekiel 18:20)
Why would a child be baptized?

Baptizing infants follows the teaching of original sin (total depravity)

Acts 2:38 - repentance and baptism happen at the same time by people who choose to turn to God

Colossians 2:12 - we must have faith in God when we are being baptized

An infant's baptism is the parents' decision, not the child's (see: John 1:12-13)

Is sprinkling the same as baptism?

there is no evidence of sprinkling in the Bible
baptism - literally means to immerse (submerge)
baptism is a transliteration of the Greek word "*baptizo*"
- there are other words in the Greek to describe sprinkling, dipping, pouring

Even in the desert they were immersed - they went down into and came up out of the water (Acts 8:38-39)

Romans 6:3-7 - we are united with Jesus in His death, **burial** and resurrection

When you bury the dead do you just sprinkle a little dirt over the body?

Colossians 2:12 - we were **buried** with Him in baptism and raised up with Him
Can one be raised up out of sprinkled water?

Mark 1:7-11 Jesus was baptized by immersion

I really believed and repented of my sin after my baptism.

Romans 6:3-11 baptism is dying to ourselves and being raised to walk a new life

if we didn't die to the old life (repent) then our baptism was hypocritical

Is baptism for everyone?

Acts 2:38-39 - baptism is a promise for all people
- it is for you, for your children (their decedents), for all who are far off (everyone else)

Matthew 28:19-20 "Make disciples of ALL nations, baptizing them ..."

What if there is no water around.

God will provide for those who truly seek Him

Acts 8:26-40 God provided a seeking Ethiopian with someone to teach him
- God provided water in the middle of the desert
- God miraculously took the preacher away when after the conversion

Matthew 28:18-20

we become a disciple (a Christian) when we are baptized into Christ

the learning process continues throughout our lives

- older, mature Christians continue to teach us the Word (2 Timothy 2:2)
- we are babes in Christ and we must feed on the Word of God (1 Peter 2:2-3)
- we also grow and mature by attending Bible Studies with the Church (Hebrews 10:25)

another purpose as a Christian is to teach other people about salvation found in Jesus

- Q.1 What did Jesus command His disciples to do?
- Q.2 Into what name or authority are we to be baptized into?
- Q.3 What happens after one becomes a Christian?

1 John 1:5-7

God is light (purity) and He has no darkness (sin) at all
We must continue to follow Jesus to be right with God
Walking in the light as Jesus is in the light
(Jesus is the light - John 1:1-14)

- Q.1 What does it mean to walk in the light?
- Q.2 Does a Christian ever sin?
- Q.3 What must a Christian do when they sin?

Conclusion:

Do you want to be a disciple of Jesus?
(Do you want to be a Christian?)
Do you want to be saved?
Do you want to go to heaven to live with God forever?
What do you need to do to become a disciple?

Are you willing to follow Jesus in everything?



THE COST OF BEING A CHRISTIAN

LESSON SEVEN

This is the last study in this series. This study is designed for those who have already made the decision to become a Christian. It may also be helpful for students who aren't really sure about the commitment of living the Christian life. This is an important study for the student to examine the cost and make a solid decision. It may also ward off doubts about repentance and dying to self later on in life.

Luke 14:28-32

Jesus wants us to count the cost before we begin the Christian life

Is this what I really want to do?
What am I holding back?

We must understand a little of what is involved in this decision (it is the biggest decision of your life)
- we do not want to give you little pieces at a time

We want to remain faithful to Christ throughout our life
- beginning and quitting is worse than not starting at all (2 Peter 2:20-22; Luke 12:47-48)

Acts 11:19-26

Disciple = Christian = Saved

"Christian" is mentioned only 3 times in the Bible
(Acts 26:28; Peter 4:16)

"Disciple" is the word used most often
(about 270 times in the New Testament)

- Q.1 What is the difference between a disciple and a Christian?
Q.2 Are all Christians disciples?

Mark 1:14-20

The calling of the first disciples

- a) come follow Me (v. 17)
b) ... make you fishers of men (v. 17)
c) immediately they left everything to follow Jesus (v. 18)

- Q.1 What did Jesus expect from His disciples?
Q.2 What was the response of these men?
Q.3 What should our response be to Jesus when He calls us?

John 8:31-32

to be a disciple we must remain (or abide) in Jesus' words (teaching)

- then we will be His disciples (Christians)
- we will know the truth and we will be set free

- Q.1 In what things do we need to obey Jesus?
Q.2 What does it mean to abide in Jesus' words?
Q.3 What is the result of following Christ?
Q.4 What shall we be set free from?

Luke 9:23-26

if anyone wants to follow Jesus they must

- a) deny self - Romans 6:1-11 (die to self)
b) take up their cross - crucify self, pride, worldly desires, sin, selfishness, etc.
- anything and everything that is between God and us must go

- Q.1 What does it mean to deny self?
Q.2 How often are we to deny ourselves?
Q.3 What do you need to crucify in order to live for Christ?
Q.4 Does this sound very easy?

John 15:1-8

we must remain in the vine (the vine is Jesus)
if we are in Jesus we will bear fruit (v. 2, 4, 8, 16)

- Q.1 How do we know we are disciples of Christ?
Q.2 What is the fruit we will bear?
the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)
winning other souls (Proverbs 11:30)
the fruit of our lips (Hebrews 13:15)
goodness, righteousness & truth (Ephesians 5:9)
Christian character (2 Peter 1:2-11)
true love (John 15:12-13, 17; 1 Corinthians 13)