

SALT

“**S**cripture **A**pplication & **L**eadership **T**raining”

SALT Outlines & Posters

SALT



THE SALT PROJECT
Revision 2013

SALT Topic Outlines

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GOD & PEOPLE

Lesson 1: WHY AND HOW WE SEEK AND SEARCH FOR TRUTH

Most important thought: Our beliefs affect the way that we live. Not everybody knows this. We must test that which we believe. The Bible is the absolute truth. Therefore, we must use the Bible to test our beliefs. In this way, God's truth will control our lives. Jesus is the only person on earth who has perfect truth!

1. People who have truth and those without truth need to seek to find and get it.

1.1. Non-Christians have many false beliefs.

Read: Romans 1:18, 21; 2 Thessalonians 2:9-11; [Psalm 14:1]

1.2. The dangers of non-Christian philosophy

Paul tells the Christians in Colossae about the danger of non-Christian philosophy. Non-Christian philosophy can make people believe that which is not true. Paul was telling Christians this. It can happen that Christians believe lies (false beliefs).

Read Colossians 2:8; [1 John 2:26]

1.3. Sincere *worship

God is looking for people who *worship him in a genuine manner. He is looking for people who are offering sincere *worship to him. Genuine and sincere *worship requires truth.

Read: John 4:23-24

1.4. Truth instead of lies

As Christians, we are learning more about God. We are also learning how to live as Christians. With God's help we will discover what lies we believe. With His help we will discover that our beliefs are not perfect. Therefore, we must remove these lies and wrong ideas. Instead, we must have truth. Read: Colossians 1:9-10; 2 Peter 3:17-18

1.5. Truth in the Bible

Christians need to seek and search for truth in the Bible. The truth in the Bible will help us to remove lies and wrong ideas. Read: 2 Timothy 3:16-17

2. A man without truth shall seek and find it in God's Word: "Then you will know the truth. And the truth will make you free." John 8:32

- Non-Christians are not free because they have false beliefs.
- New Christians often still have many false beliefs. Therefore, it is possible that new Christians are not completely free.
- Even people who have been Christians for a long time at times have false beliefs. Jesus is the only person on earth who has perfect truth.

3. It is important to find God's truth because ideas will have results.

Roots	→	Tree	→	Fruit
Ideas	→	Choice	→	Actions

3.1. The roots of a tree affect its fruit. In the same way, our beliefs about God affect the way that we live.

3.2. Truth and false beliefs (deception) have two different results:

Truth → We are free → We have peace

John 10:10

Deception (false beliefs) → We are not free → We suffer

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12

- **Non-Christian** – All of us have seen people with sad lives. They damage their own lives and they hurt other people (Poster 1: tree on the left)
- **New Christian** – Even when we become Christians, we may believe many lies. We may believe lies about God and about how He deals with people (Poster 1: tree in the middle).
- **Mature Christian** – Even people who have been Christians for a long time have the potential of following/believing some lies. No one has perfect knowledge. Everybody has some false beliefs. Only God has perfect truth. Christians read their Bible to remove those lies (Poster 1: tree on the right).

4. Truth changes us.

The truth about Jesus changes one person. Then, it can change many more people. The truth of the Bible has changed whole villages and countries.

- The good news about Jesus changes one person.
- The new Christian starts telling other people about Jesus. And they teach them to follow God. This is called making *disciples. Matthew 28:18-20
- *Disciples help other people to follow God.

5. In small groups read one passage. Then answer these questions:

Read: John 8:31-32; John 14:6-7; Galatians 5:7-10; [John 8:44-45; Hosea 4:6]

- What do these *verses say about truth?
- What does it mean to know Jesus?
- What do these *verses say about your life? How should your life be different?

6. What truth is : *Truth describes reality correctly. Truth is how things really are!*

7. The Bible is important. It is important to read the Bible well. As a result, we will find truth.

- Be ready to learn (like the Christians in Berea). How did the people of Berea determine if Paul was teaching the truth? Acts 17:10-12
- Be a good worker who teaches and explains the truth in the Bible. 2 Timothy 2:15
- All that is in the Bible came from God. 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- God's truth in the Bible is powerful. Hebrews 4:12
- The *Holy Spirit will help. (The *Holy Spirit will guide you, so that you will know the truth.) John 14:26, John 16:13
- Teach others about the truth. Then they will also teach other people. 2 Timothy 2:2

8. What wisdom is

If you know God's truth, you must use it in your life. It is dangerous not to use God's truth.

8.1. Wisdom is to use God's truth in your life. Read Luke 8:16-18.

8.2. Read what Jesus says about the wise and foolish men in Matthew 7:24-27.

Lesson 2: GOD LOVES US LIKE A GOOD FATHER

Most important thought: God looks after us as a father. It is very important for us to know this. This lesson shows us God desires to be close to His children. Also, God wants human fathers to be an example for us. Our fathers should show us what God the Father is like. But human fathers can give us wrong ideas about God. Then we do not understand God the Father's character in a right way. We discussed the false beliefs about God in Lesson 1. We need to replace any incorrect ideas about God.

1. God the Father loves us with a great love (Poster 2a) Read: 1 John 3:1

*Note: In this book the heart ♥ represents two different things. On the Poster 2a heart ♥ means love. On the Posters 9a and 9b heart ♥ represents the inner person (*liver, stomach, bel bilong yu.)*

2. The role of a father is this: to show and teach his children what God the Father is like.

Read: Ephesians 6:4; [Deuteronomy 6:4-7]

3. A father or mother may be a bad example.

When we become Christians, we might think God is like our father or mother. At first, we can think about God in the same way that we think about people with authority. This may not be the right way. So, we must allow God to correct our ideas. Then, we will know God better. We will find out who He really is.

Now we will think of some of the ways our earthly fathers can cause us, by their actions, to think wrongly of our Heavenly Father.

3.1. An angry father: This makes us think that he is always unhappy with us.

3.2. A father who gives his children everything: He may give us things even if we are not ready for them. This may make us think that we should have everything we want.

3.3. A distant father: This makes us think that he is always busy. He has no interest in our problems or in what we really need.

3.4. A father who punishes his children to be perfect: We can never do enough to please him.

4. We must replace any wrong ideas about God that we may have. We can replace the wrong ideas by means of Bible study. (Poster 2b)

4.1. In Luke 15 Jesus taught about God's kingdom. Jesus gives us three stories to explain God's kingdom. God's kingdom shows us God's character. Those three stories are there, but now we will only look at one of them.

In Luke 15:11-32 Jesus tells a story. This story shows us God the Father's character. These are the things we can see:

- He loves us completely.
- He wants to forgive us.
- He waits for us.
- He is happy when we are sorry because of our *sins.

- He will never forget us.
- He has *compassion and *mercy on us.

4.2. In Romans 8:15- 17 we see that we can have a relationship with Him and that we can call Him: “Abba” Father. (This means ‘Daddy Father’.)

5. Two different reactions. Read Luke 15:11-32. Answer the following questions in small groups.

In Luke 15:11-32 we see two reactions to the younger brother’s return. The father had one reaction. The older brother had a different reaction.

5.1. These *verses show a good father’s character. Answer these questions:

- What is the father like?
- What did he do?

5.2. Say what the older brother’s reaction was.

- What is the older brother like?
- What did he do?

5.3. Say what you think about God:

- Is God angry?
- Is God too generous?
- Is God distant?
- Does God expect us to be perfect?

5.4. Look at the love that Jesus talks about in Luke 15. Is that love different from your ideas about the way that God loves us? If it is different, take time to read all of Luke 15. Then you will see why Jesus told these stories.

6. God loves us like a good father.

6.1. God has chosen us. 1 Peter 2:9 says: “You are the people whom God chose...”

6.2. God has adopted us. Eph. 1:5 says that God has adopted Christians. So Christians have certain benefits because they are God’s children.

6.3. Love includes discipline. Hebrews 12:6-11 says that we should carry on with life. We should continue even when life is difficult. We should think of this as discipline because God uses discipline with all His true sons and daughters.

6.4. God sees and knows us. Psalm 139:13-16 says: “God, you made me grow in my mother’s *womb...”

6.5. God looks after those who cannot defend themselves. God is “the father of those who have no father. He gives help to women whose husbands have died...” (Psalm 68:5)

6.6. God does not forget us. “[God said], ‘Can a mother forget the baby at her breast? Can she have no love for the child that came from inside her body? Yes, these [mothers] may forget, but never will I forget you.’” (Isaiah 49:15)

6.7. God has a plan for our life. “I want to do many good things for you...” (Jeremiah 29:11)

Note: People wrote this book to provide more study for any person or group. Therefore, some sections may not be talked about in the course. Also, the Bible sections that appear inside [brackets] provide extra study. Any person or group that studies these will understand better. This extra study will encourage them. Also, do not neglect reading the Bible in public. Paul told Timothy to do that: **“Read the Bible aloud to the people. Teach them to understand and to obey the message about Christ.”** (1 Timothy 4:13b)

In some places you will see three dots (...). This means that it is not a complete *verse.

Lesson 3: WHAT GOD IS LIKE

Most important thought: In this lesson, we look at what God is like. We will look at that which the Bible teaches about God. He has no beginning or end. He has made everything. He has power over everything. He knows everything. God is everywhere. No one can see Him. God cares about people. In addition, this lesson tells us what the Bible teaches with regard to another truth about God. God is one God in three parts: Father, Son and *Holy Spirit. In English, we call this the *Trinity. This is a very important truth. Many groups, which do not believe this truth, teach false ideas about God.

God is great and awesome. We can fall into error if we do not understand this.

- Jesus spoke of the power of God. Matt.22:29
- Those in His presence give all the honour and glory to God. Rev. 15:3-4
[also: 1 Tim. 1:17; Rom 11:33-36; Ps. 96:5-10; Ps. 104:31-33; Isa. 40:12-18]
- We see God's greatness. Rev. 1:12-18, Rev. 4 [Acts 4:31; Isa. 6:1-5; Ex. 33:18-23]

1. God has no beginning and no end. (Poster 3a)

God is *eternal. This means He has no beginning or end.

Read: Rev. 22:13; Rev. 1: 8; 1 Timothy 1:17; [Psalm 90:2-6; Psalm 93:2]

2. God made everything. No one made God.

Read: Colossians 1:15-16; [John 1:1-3; Genesis 1:1]

3. He has power over everything. He is able to do all things.

“When Abram was 99 years old, the *Lord appeared in front of him. The *Lord said, ‘I am God who can do anything...’ ” (Genesis 17:1)

Read: Romans 1:20; Matthew 19:26

- Examples from the *New Testament:
Read: Luke 8:22-25; Luke 11:14-23; Luke 5:17-26
- Examples from the *Old Testament:
Joshua: Joshua 10:12-13. **Hezekiah:** 2 Kings 20:9-11. **Moses:** Exodus 14:21-31.

4. God knows everything. He sees everything. He knows all that there is to know.

Read: Romans 11:33-34; Hebrews 4:13; [1 Corinthians 1:25; Psalm 139:1-4]

5. God is everywhere. He is everywhere at all times. God holds all things together.

Read: Ps. 139:7-12; Hebrews 4:13; [Jeremiah 23:23-24]

- Example from the *Old Testament: **Jonah:** Jonah 1:3; Jonah 2:1-2a.

6. No one sees God. God is *Spirit.

Read: John 6:46; John 1:18; [John 4:24; Col. 1:15, 19; Hebr. 1:3]

7. God cares for people. He wants to be our friend. He wants to have a relationship with us that involves our mind, will and emotions.

Read: Mark 1:11; John 15:15; Galatians 4:4-7.

8. God is one God who is in three persons. (Poster 3b)

The Bible describes God as one God, yet three persons. These three persons are Father, Son, and *Holy Spirit. All parts of the Bible write about this truth. Every time that Jesus speaks of His Father He refers to this fact. In Hebrews 1:5-9 God the Father speaks about His Son: “*Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever...*” (Hebrews 1:8). Here, God the Father calls Jesus God. Whatever God says is true. This is important. Many groups teach false ideas about the *Trinity. In this way, they leave the Christian belief.

Example: A tree has roots, branches, and leaves. It has three parts but is one. If there were only leaves, it would not be a complete tree. If there were only branches, it would not be a complete tree. If there were only roots, it would not be a complete tree. For a tree to be complete it must have all three: roots, branches, and leaves. It is three, yet one.

8.1. Description of the *Trinity in the *Old Testament (note the underlined words are plural):

- “Hear, O Israel: The *Lord (Jehovah) our God (Elohim) is one *Lord (Jehovah).” (Deuteronomy 6:4)
- “Then God said, ‘Let us make people in our image, that is, like ourselves.’” (Genesis 1:26)
- “And the *Lord God said, ‘The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil.’ ” (Genesis 3:22)
- “Come let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other.” (Genesis 11:7)
- “Then I heard the voice of the *Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?’ ” (Isaiah 6:8)

8.2. Description of the *Trinity in the *New Testament:

8.2.1. In Matthew 28:19 Jesus says: “Go, make *disciples, *baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and *Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all I have commanded.”

8.2.2. Jesus told His *disciples to *baptize in the name of:

- Father
- Son
- *Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19)

8.2.3. Compare this to Isaiah 48:11 where God says: “...I refuse to be dishonoured. I will not share My praise with any other god.”

The honour that is due to God does not belong to anyone else. Jesus speaks of *baptizing in the name of the Father, Son, and *Holy Spirit. These are all persons of the *Trinity. The phrase ‘in the name of’ marks the authority and character of that person. Jesus would not have given this instruction if it did not honour God. If Father, Son, and *Holy Spirit

were not all God, this would not honour God.

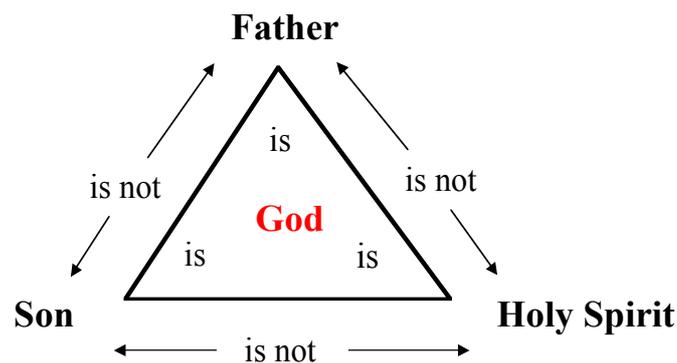
8.2.4. At the *baptism of Jesus, the Father and *Holy Spirit are there. All three are there together. Matthew 3:16-17

8.2.5. Jesus talks about the *Trinity in John chapters 13 and 14.

Jesus said that He is leaving. Then He said that His *disciples could not follow now. John 13:36.

- Philip said: “Show us the Father”. Jesus replied: “If you have seen me, you have seen the Father.” John 14:8-9
- Jesus said: “I will ask the Father, He will send another Counselor.” John 14:16-17
- Jesus tells them this other counselor is the *Holy Spirit. “The Counselor, the *Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name...” John 14:26
- Jesus tells His followers “...we [Jesus and the Father] will come to him and make our home with him.” John 14:23

At first these things do not seem to make sense. The Father, Son, and *Holy Spirit all have a name but are one God. When the *Holy Spirit comes into a Christian’s heart, all three persons of the *Trinity are there together. This is what Jesus is saying in John chapters 13 and 14.



8.2.6. The *Trinity comes together in three ways:

- * Purpose
- * Power
- * Love

Read: 1 Corinthians 1:18, 24-25.

Lesson 4: WHAT GOD'S ACTIONS ARE LIKE

Most important thought: The *New Testament tells us that Christians are God's children. God's children are to be like their Father. Lesson 3 described God's nature. We cannot achieve most of those qualities. (We do have relationships with other people like God does). So how are we to be like our Father in heaven? Our character is to grow more and more like God's character.

1. God is love.

1.1. God shows His love in everything that He does.

Read: 1 John 4:9-10; [John 3:16-17]

1.2. Love chooses the maximum benefit for other people.

Read: Philippians 2:2-8, [1 Corinthians 13:4-7]

1.3. Each member of the *Trinity shows love. 2 Cor. 13:14 (Tok Pidgin Bible vs 13)

- **Father**: Read: John 3:16; [2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 John 2:15]
- **Jesus**: Read: John 10:11; [John 15:9; Ephesians 3:17b-19; Romans 8:35-39]
- ***Holy Spirit**: Read: Romans 5:5; [Romans 15:30; Galatians 5:22-23]

2. People should follow God's example and choose to love.

Read: Ephesians 5:1-2; 1 John 4:16-20; [1 Cor. 13:1-8, 13; 1 Cor. 16:14; 1 John 4:8-10]

3. Expressions of God's love

3.1. God's character qualities

Out of God's heart of love comes each of His character qualities.

3.1.1. God is honest: He tells things as they really are.

Read: Jer. 10: 10a; John 14:16-17 [Malachi 3:6; Psalm 89:34]

3.1.2. God is wise: He uses His knowledge with love.

Read: James 3:17 [Jeremiah 51:15; 1 Corinthians 2:7-8; Mark 6:2]

3.1.3. God is *righteous: He always does what is good and right.

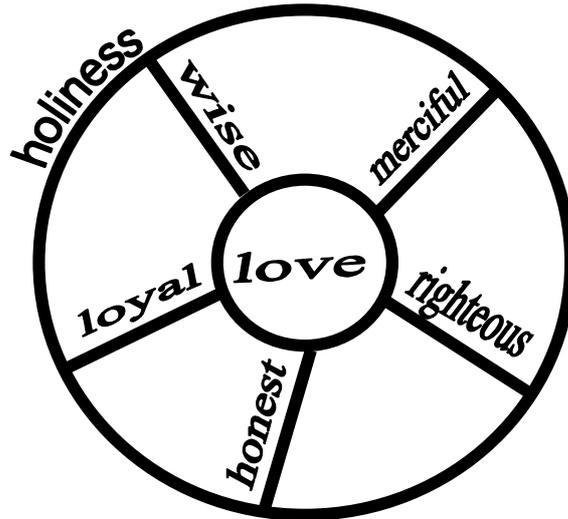
Read: Hebrews 1:8-9; [Romans 2:6-8; Deuteronomy 32:4]

3.1.4. God is full of *mercy: He is good to those who do not deserve it.

Read: Ephesians 2:4-5; [Titus 3:4-5; James 5:11; Psalm 86:5]

3.1.5. God is loyal: We can always depend on Him.

Read: James 1:17; 2 Timothy 2:13 [1 Corinthians 1:9; Isaiah 49:15-16]



4. We are to imitate God.

Ephesians 5:1-2 tells us to imitate God.

4.1. God is present everywhere.

Think about whether we can imitate God in this way. The answer is no.

4.2. God knows everything.

Think about whether we can know everything. The answer is no.

4.3. We have to imitate God.

Think about how we can obey Ephesians 5:1-2. We cannot imitate God's nature. However, we must imitate God's character.

5. God's love 1 John 4:7-8; Romans 5:8; Ephesians 3:16-19

God's love is at the centre of His character. God's holiness joins His wisdom, *mercy and complete goodness. His goodness means He is completely loyal and honest. All these qualities working together mean that God is perfect. God's desire is to have a relationship with men and women. This is because God loves people. But there is a problem. God is perfect, but people are not perfect. How can a holy God relate with *sinful people?

God loves people and He is holy. His *mercy and the fact that He is *righteous have equal importance. God forgives the wrong things that we do. This is because the qualities in His character work together. The qualities of God's character work together because He is holy and perfect. Later in this course we will talk more about how God forgives us.

6. God is holy. The Bible says God is light. This is a picture of God's moral purity.

Read: 1 John 1:5

Holiness is love. It is perfect love. God's holiness, wisdom, and love are all connected.

Read: James 3:17

6.1. **Holiness is to be separate.** To be separate is to be different from the world.

Read: Revelation 21:1-2, 22-23, 27

6.2. Holiness is *clean and pure.

Read: Matthew 17:1-7 [Ephesians 1:4; Psalm 24:3-4]

6.3. God wants us to be holy. God is holy. He wants us to be like Him.

Read: 1 Peter 1:15-16; Hebrews 12:14; Matthew 5:48

6.4. God promises to produce holiness in us.

Read: 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; Hebrews 10:10

6.5. We work together with God to make the changes.

Read: Philippians 2:12-13; [Romans 8:28-29]

6.6. Jesus describes this working together:

Read: Matthew 11:28-30. Jesus says that it is easy to work together like this. Jesus shares the work of following Him. For the *yoke to be easy, both you and Jesus must pull in the same direction.

Lesson 5: HOW WE BECOME A BETTER FRIEND OF GOD

Most important thought: We need to spend time with God to become a better friend of Him. That is how relationships grow. We need to pray and study the Bible. We need to pray and be with other Christians. In this lesson, we will look at how we can become a better friend of God.

1. This is the reason that God created us: He wants to have a close relationship with us for His glory.

1.1. Jesus talks about His very personal and close relationship with God.

Read: John 15:9, 13- 15, 17; John 10:30; [Mark 1:35; Mark 6:46]

1.2. God the Father talks about His close relationship with Jesus.

Read: Matthew 3:16-17; [Matthew 17:1-6; John 12:27-28; Luke 3:21-22]

1.3. God wants people to become His friends.

Read: John 15:13-15; Matthew 11:19; [John 6: 57; James 2:23; Exodus 33:11]

1.4. Read about Mary and Martha. They were friends of Jesus.

Read: Luke 10:38-42; [John 11:14-15, 34-36]

1.5. Jesus' life: When we look at the life of Jesus, we see His purpose. He did what the Father wanted Him to do. This is because Jesus knew the Father and *trusted Him.

Read: John 5:19, 30; John 8:28; [John 10:17-18; John 12:49; John 14:10; Mark 1:35-38]

2. Here are the things that make us better friends of God. (Poster 5a)

2.1. When we pray we are talking to God. Matthew 6:5-13

2.2. When we listen to what God says. John 10:27

2.3. When we study the Bible. This is the strongest way God talks to us. Philippians 4:8-9;
Ps. 1:1-3 [Colossians 3:1-3,16-17]

2.4. When we *worship God. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-22; Matthew 12:7

3. We talk to God when we pray. (Poster 5b)

3.1. Jesus taught about prayer. He said:

- Do not pray so you will get praise from people. Read: Matthew 6:5-6
- Do not pray using empty words. Read: Matthew 6:7-8

3.2. Jesus said this is what our prayers should be like: Read: Matthew 6: 9-13

1) Thank and praise God. (*verse 9)

2) Ask that the good that God desires will be done. (*verse 10)

3) Ask God for what we need today. (*verse 11)

4) Ask God to forgive our *sins. And we need to ask those we hurt to forgive us. (*verse 12)

5) Ask God for the help that we need in our *spiritual life. (*verse 13)

3.3. The most important thing in all our prayers is to be honest. Here is a prayer of David from the *Old Testament:

“Before I say a word, *Lord, you know all about it. You are all round me. You are behind me. You are in front of me. You have put your hand upon me. I am amazed at how well you know me. It is more than I can understand. Where can I go to run away from you? If I went up to heaven, you are there. If I go to the grave, you are there also. If I go to where the sun rises or sets, your hand would still hold me close. If I say: I am sure that darkness will hide me, I will travel by night. Darkness and light are the same to you!”

“Search me, O God, and know my heart. Test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends You. And lead me along the path of everlasting life.”
(Psalm 139:4-12, 23-24)

4. How God speaks to us: (Poster 5c)

As a friend of God, we talk and listen to him. If He is our friend we will do this.

Read: John 10:27

These are some of the ways that God may speak to us:

1) *God speaks to us in the Bible.* This is the strongest way God talks to us.

Read : 2 Timothy 3:16-17

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” (Psalm 119:105)

2) *God may guide us in what we think.* Acts 8:29

3) *Ask wise people who love God.* These people can help us. People who love God and are good friends of God: Acts 8:34-35

4) *Things that happen in our lives.* God uses circumstances to show us what He wants us to do. 1 Corinthians 16:8-9

5) *Things that we cannot explain.* It can be by means of an *angel. God can also speak to us in dreams. Or we may see pictures in our mind. This is a vision. We cannot explain them. But they might be a sign that God is speaking to us. Here are some examples from the Bible:

Acts 5:18-20 An *angel frees the apostles from prison.

Acts 10:9-16 Peter receives a vision from God.

Luke 2:8-11 *Angels told about Christ’s birth.

Acts 16:9-10 Paul has a vision.

Acts 16:25-30 God does wonderful works to free Paul and Silas from prison.

Acts 12:5-11 Peter escapes from prison in a special way.

Acts 9:3-4 A voice from Heaven spoke to Paul.

Ex. 3:2 The Angel of the Lord appeared to Moses in the burning bush.

Num. 22:28, 32 God talked through Balaam’s donkey.

6) *Peace in your heart.* In your heart, you know when something is right. God will give you peace inside yourselves. John 14:27; Philippians 4:6-7.

5. How you know that you have heard God correctly:

We must test what we see and hear. Everything that God speaks will agree with the Bible. If it does not agree with the Bible, God did not say it. You can be sure about that.

Read: Acts 17:11; James 1:17; [2 Timothy 3:16-17]

- Maybe you have a vision. In that vision you have sex with someone. That person is not your wife or husband. Is that vision from God? No. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:3; Ephesians 5:3; Jude 1:8.
- Maybe you think God wants you to get *revenge. Is God speaking to you? No. Read Romans 12:17-18, 21.

6. We study the Bible and think about what we learned. We call this *meditation:

Psalm 1:1-3, Joshua 1:8 (Poster 5a, point 3)

6.1. What *meditation is: Think about what the Bible says, all the time. But we will not think of it in a surface way. No, we will think of it in depth.

Read: Colossians 3:1-3, 16-17; Philippians 4:8.

6.2. How we *meditate:

- *Ask the *Holy Spirit to show the truth to you.* Ask him to give you the desire to *meditate. Think about what you read in the Bible.
Read: John 16:13; John 5:37-39.
- *Ask yourself these questions as you study the Bible:*
 1. What does this passage tell me about God? (If you do not understand the passage, read what came before that passage.)
 2. Is there something that I need to learn from this passage? Is there something that I need to do? Is there something that I need to stop doing?
 3. Is there a promise for me?
 4. Does the passage warn me of something?

7. Praise and *worship God (Poster 5a point 4)

7.1. This is the reason we *worship: We thank God because of who He is and because of what He has done. Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 12:28

7.2. If we truly worship God, we *worship not only with our words. We also *worship God with the way that we live. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Philippians 1:11; Hebrews 13:15-16; [1 Corinthians 10:31]

7.3. If we truly follow God, we *worship God with the way that we deal with other people. Matthew 12:7, Matthew 5:23-24; Romans 15:5-7

7.4. What happens when we *worship: We love God and other people. We do what God wants us to do. We serve God. John 15:14, 17; Matthew 22:36-40

8. What you can do now:

- 8.1.** Read and *meditate on Philippians 4:5-7 or Eph. 3: 14-21. Write down what God says to you about this passage.
- 8.2.** Write a love letter to God.
- 8.3.** Write a prayer plan every week. Ask God what you can pray for. Then pray what you think that God has shown to you. Write down what God has said. Your prayer plan might look like this: Monday: *family; Tuesday: friends; Wednesday: *church; Thursday: your country; Friday: world (or a country that interests you).

Lesson 6: GOD MADE US WITH A DESIGN AND PURPOSE

Most important thought: This lesson discusses why God made us and our great value to Him. We were created in God's image. We are moral beings with mind, will and emotions. God made us this way to have a love relationship with Him and other people.

1. In the Bible we see:

1.1. **God has a mind.** To create the world and all that it contains requires a mind and thought.

“In the beginning, God created the skies and the earth.” (Genesis 1:1)

1.2. **God has a *will.** The *will is the power to make moral choices.

“So the *Lord said, ‘I created man on the earth. But I will completely take away man. I will take away people and animals alike...’” (Genesis 6:7)

1.3. **God has emotions.**

“The *Lord was very sad that He had made man on the earth. God's heart was filled with pain.” (Genesis 6:6)

2. God created the universe.

A. God spoke, and **created**: the sun, moon, stars, earth, air, ocean, animals! He made them by just a word.

God spoke: "Light!" And light appeared. God saw that light was good and separated light from dark. God named the light Day, he named the dark Night. It was evening, it was morning-- Day One. God spoke: "Sky! In the middle of the waters; separate water from water!" God made sky. He separated the water under sky from the water above sky. And there it was: he named sky the Heavens; It was evening, it was morning-- Day Two. (Gen. 1:3-8 MSG)

B. But God ‘fashioned’ man from the dust of the earth, and woman from the rib of the man. This shows us that people are a special creation.

GOD formed Man out of dirt from the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life. The Man came alive--a living soul! (Gen 2:7 MSG)

GOD put the Man into a deep sleep. As he slept He removed one of his ribs and replaced it with flesh. GOD then used the rib that He had taken from the Man to make Woman and presented her to the Man. (Gen 2:21-22 MSG)

God spoke: "Let Us make human beings in Our image, make them reflecting Our nature so they can be responsible for the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, the cattle, and, yes, Earth itself, and every animal that moves on the face of Earth." (Gen 1:26)

Man and woman are the most important part of what God created. We are created in the image and likeness of God to rule over all creation. Genesis 1:27

“So God made man. He made both male and female. He made them to be like God.”

Read: James 3:7-9

3. God made men and women with a mind, a *will, and emotions:

3.1. Mind (able to think) Read: Romans 12:2, Philippians 1:9

- Explanation: *We are able to think with our minds.*
- We are able to create new things.
- God gave us a memory so that we can learn. Then we can teach other people what we learn.
- God made us able to communicate. We can use complex language and speak to other people.
- God made us conscious of Him. He made it possible for us to know God. Read: Romans 1:19-20.

3.2. *Will (the power to make moral choices) Read: Philippians 1:9-11

- Explanation: *We are able to choose our own actions.*
- God gave us a conscience to guide us in our choices. Read: Acts 24:16; 1 Corinthians 4:4-5
- We are able to choose so that we can relate with God and other people. Read: 1 Peter 2:15-17; [Matthew 6:33; Matthew 7:7-8, 12]

3.3. Emotions Read: 1 John 4:18

- Explanation: Because we have emotions, we can feel *happy, joy or deep sadness, fear and anger.* Phil. 4: 4-7

4. We make choices. Philippians 4:8,9

We use our mind, *will, and emotions together. In Colossians 3:15-16, notice that ‘in your hearts’ is about the emotions. Also, notice that ‘wisdom’ is about the use of the mind. The words ‘teach’ and ‘warn about’ are examples of the right choices that we make with our *will.

4.1. If we love another person, we choose the best thing for that person. We use our *will to do that. Read: Matthew 22:37-40.

4.2. Since we have a mind, a *will, and emotions we can choose God. But we can also refuse to accept God.

4.2.1. We can refuse to accept God. Read: John 12:48,49; [2 Timothy 4:3-6].

4.2.2. We can choose to believe in Jesus Christ. Read: Romans 3:20-22.

4.3. God has no favourite people: men, women or nations. Gal. 3:26-29; [Acts 10:34-35]

5. The reason God created us:

5.1. God made us in His own image, so that we can love Him and other people.

Read: Mark 12:29-31; Acts 4:32-33; Colossians 1:3-4

5.2. He has a purpose for our lives. Read: Acts 17:26-28; Ephesians 2:10.

5.3. People are very important to God. Read: 1 Peter 1:18-19; Ephesians 1:7,8

In 1 Peter 1:1,2 we are told the life of our ancestors was not good. God did not want us to live like that. So God sent Jesus to *save us from our bad lives. Jesus died for our *sins. That is how important we are to God.

5.4. ***Spiritual gifts** - God made each of us as a special person. God gives one or more *spiritual gifts to every Christian. We should use these *spiritual gifts to serve other people. When we do this, we can all develop into more mature Christians. Read: Ephesians 1:13 [1 Corinthians 12:7-11]

Lesson 7: GOD GAVE LAWS TO US BECAUSE HE LOVES US

Most important thought: God gave us the Law. The Law is a list of rules. The Law helps us to understand that God is holy. God designed us to live in a certain way. His rules show us how to live God's way.

1. The most important rule

Someone asked Jesus which rule is the most important. Read Jesus' reply in Matthew 22:36-40.

2. The *10 Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17)

The *10 Commandments are God's rules. God gave us the *10 Commandments. They show how He wants us to live. The *10 Commandments give boundaries to us. If we stay in the boundaries, our lives and hearts will be calm.

2.1. Commandments 1 to 4 teach us how to love God.

1. God wants us to love Him more than anything or anyone else.
2. We must not have any other gods in our lives.
3. We must not use God's name in a wrong way.
4. We must rest on the 7th day. This teaches us rest is important. It also teaches us God will take care of us.

2.2. Commandments 5 to 10 teach us how to love other people.

5. We must respect our parents.
6. We must not *murder anyone.
7. We must not have sex with someone to whom we are not married.
8. We must not steal from anyone.
9. We must not lie to anyone.
10. We must not want the things that other people have.

The *10 Commandments are only a part of the Law. There are many laws in the *Old Testament.

3. The real meaning of the laws

People did not understand what the laws really meant. So Jesus taught the people the real meaning of the laws. Here are some examples:

- 3.1. Even if you only hate your brother, you have not obeyed the 6th rule. The 6th rule is that you must not *murder anyone. But Jesus said that to even hate someone is breaking this commandment. Read: Matthew 5:21-22
- 3.2. The 7th rule is: Do not have sex with someone to whom you are not married. But Jesus said that to even desire another man or woman is breaking this commandment. Read: Matthew 5:27-28

3.3. The Law teaches that we must love our neighbour. We must love our neighbour as we love ourselves. [Leviticus 19:18] But the *Jews taught something that is not in the Bible. The *Jews taught that you are to love your neighbour but to hate your enemy. Jesus said that this is wrong. Jesus told the people to love their enemies. Jesus said that we are to pray for our enemies. Read: Matthew 5:43-44

4. God created us for two reasons:

4.1. To bear His image so we would love Him. Read: Gen. 1:27; Matthew 22:36-38

4.2. To live for His glory so it would reflect by loving our neighbours:

Read: 2 Cor. 3:18; Matthew 22:39-40

4.3. Jesus said the root of all the Law is these two commandments.

5. It is easy to break the Law

If anyone does not obey even one part of the Law, that person is *guilty. It is as if he has broken all the Law. We can think about this in another way. A bad dog has a chain on him. But even if only one part of the chain breaks, the dog can get loose. Read: James 2:10-11. God's laws tell us how to live as God intended us to live. [Luke 10:30-37]

6. Jesus said: "I have come to fulfill the Law." – He met the righteous requirements.

Matthew 5:17-20; John 8:46-47.

The Law is there to guide us and to show us the holiness of God. We do not receive salvation by keeping the Law.

Salvation is:

- a. By faith we are saved. Ephesians 2:8-9
- b. Salvation is a gift. Titus 3:5-6
- c. Are we free to sin? Romans 6:15-18 [Romans 5:1-6]
- d. What should we obey? John 15:12,17
- e. Once we are believers, how do we walk the path of God? Galatians 3:2-14
- f. And again we are told: "The righteous will live by faith." Galatians 3:11 is saying believers (the righteous) will walk (will live) by faith!
- g. We are set free to walk in freedom. Galatians 5:1
- h. Is the battle over? No. Galatians 5:16-18 [Romans 7:15-19; Philippians 3:12-14]
- i. How do we win this battle? Lesson 14 and 16 will discuss this.

7. One word sums up the whole Law: LOVE. Romans 13:8-10 [1 Corinthians 13]

7.1. Love is choosing the best for another person. It is a decision. Matthew 22:37-40

7.2. Love can cause hurt, not harm. Example: a doctor gives you a shot when you are sick. It hurts but he is helping you not harming you. Hebrews 12:5-6,11

7.3. Jesus told us we must even love and pray for our enemies. Matthew 5:44,45

8. We can only do this with God's help. John 15:4

9. Jesus tells us that if we are His friend, we do what He commands. Read John 15:10-14

9.1. Holiness is a way of being; a way of being with God in covenant relationship, a way of being like God in clean and wholesome living, a way of being God's people in the midst of an unholy and unclean world.

9.2. Read the following Scriptures and discuss:

Leviticus 11:45;

Leviticus 19:2;

Leviticus 20:7-8;

1 Peter 1:14-16;

Hebrews 12:14;

Matthew 5:48

***OUR SINFUL
NATURE & SATAN***

Lesson 8: WHY DO WE *SIN?

Most important thought: This lesson is about why people do wrong things. The most important point is that people are selfish and proud. God created people to live in a certain way. That is God's design. But many times people do not live by God's design. They live out of their desires, their 'old self'. So they destroy themselves and other people.

1. How sin started.

1.1. This is how *sin started in the world of the *spirits:

“O shining star, how you have fallen from heaven! You once brought nations down. But now you are thrown down to the earth! You said, ‘I will go up to heaven. I'll raise my throne above the stars of God. I will sit as king on the mountain. I will set up my throne on the highest place of the sacred mountain. I will rise above the clouds. I will make myself like God.’ ” (Isaiah 14:12-14)

God created *angels. They were all good *spirits. *Satan was good, but then *Satan *sinned. *Satan wanted to try and become equal with God. Some other *angels followed *Satan. *Satan and his followers are evil *spirits.

1.2. This is how *sin started in people:

“God made many animals. But the snake was the most cunning (clever and evil). One day the snake asked the woman a question. The snake asked, ‘Did God really say, “You must not eat from any tree in the garden”?’

“The woman replied, ‘We can eat fruit from the trees in the garden. But God said, “You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden. If you eat or touch that fruit you will die.”’

“The snake said ‘No! You will not die. God knows that when you eat it your eyes will be opened. You will be like God, knowing good and evil.’

“The woman looked at the fruit. She saw that it was good to eat. And she thought that it would be good to know about good and evil. So, she took some fruit and ate it. She gave some to her husband who was with her. And he ate it.” (Genesis 3:1-6)

God said to Adam and Eve, do not eat the fruit from one tree. Do not eat the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Adam and Eve did not follow God. They did what they wanted, not what God said was good for them. Adam and Eve were the father and mother of all people. As their children we received their sinful nature. Rom 5:19a. All people sin, whether intentionally or unintentionally. Christians, too, don't always obey all of God's commands for them. All people have a *sinful nature. Rom. 5:12. Because of their sinful nature and hearts people sin.

2. The heart is where all actions start. (Poster 8a)

(People from some cultures say 'stomach' or other body parts rather than 'heart'.)

2.1. That which comes out of a man's heart makes him morally *unclean.

What goes into a man's mouth does not make him morally *unclean: Read: Mark 7:14-23.

2.2. **God considers what a person is like in their heart.** Read: Luke 16:14-15

2.3. **The story of the good and bad tree:** Luke 6:43-45

- If God rules our lives → Good results (good fruit)
- If we rule our own lives → Bad results (bad fruit)

3. **Christ spoke against the *Pharisees.** The *Pharisees were *Jewish religious leaders. They studied the *Old Testament. They thought that they kept all God's commands. The *Pharisees said one thing and they did another thing. Jesus said this was wrong. In what ways did the *Pharisees say one thing and do another thing in these passages of the Bible? (You may do this in small groups.)

3.1. **Matthew 23:23-24**

3.2. **Matthew 23:25-26**

3.3. **Matthew 23:27-28**

3.4. **[Matthew 6:1-4]**

4. **The story of the *Pharisee and the *tax collector: Luke 18:9-14**

(You may have a group act out this story.)

4.1. Why did Jesus tell this story? Who was He talking to? (*verse 9)

4.2. For what did the *Pharisee thank God? (*verses 11-12)

4.3. What did the *tax collector say to God? (*verse 13)

4.4. What meaning did Jesus give to this story? (*verse 14)

5. **Some things that we can see in someone who does not follow God: (Poster 8b)**

5.1. **The heart is where wrong actions begin:** Galatians 5:19-21; [Romans 1:28-32].

- Wrong sexual relations (dog)
- Slander and laziness (frog)
- Deceit, evil thoughts, ask bad *spirits to help them (snake)
- Bad anger, *murder (Cassowary)
- Being jealous, being greedy (pig)
- Want to be more important than other people (number 1)
- Stealing (rat)
- Being proud, being foolish (bird of paradise)

5.2. **“All these evil things come from inside a person.** They make a person morally *unclean.”
(Mark 7:23)

5.3. **People choose the wrong road. Then they become blind to how bad these things really are.** Read: 2 Corinthians 4:4

Because of our sinful nature and hearts we sin. It's not Satan who causes us to sin. He can only try to tempt our sinful nature and heart. It's up to us if we choose to listen to his lies or not.

All sin starts in our heart.

- Therefore God needs to give us a new heart. Eze. 36: 25-27
- We also have to choose to give up our old way of living, to start to live according to God's Word, according to His design and purpose for our lives (Lesson 6), and according to His laws. (Lesson 7). Read Eph. 4:22-32, Col 3:9,10

God has a better purpose for our life. Here are the results of the *Holy Spirit in our life:

Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Galatians 5:22-26

6. Take time to think and pray. Pray about these things:

6.1. **Example 1:** This is an example of how you can pray. You can use the words in the Bible to pray.

Psalm 23:

“The *Lord is my *Shepherd. He gives me everything I need.
He gives me rest in a good place, where the gardens can grow.
He makes me strong. He shows me the right road.
God does this because He is good.
Even when the road is dark, I will not be afraid.
Because you (*Lord) are with me. Your rod and staff make me feel brave.
You make a feast for me, in front of my enemies.
You put oil on my head. My cup is so full that it overflows.
I am sure that good and loving and kind things will follow me.
They will follow me all the days of my life.
I will live in the house of the *Lord forever.”

This is one way to pray using Psalm 23: “Lord, I know that you are my *Shepherd. Help me believe you give me what I need. You give me rest and peace. You give me strength. You show me the good road. When the road is dark I can *trust you. Even when death is close I can *trust you. I am not afraid because you are with me. I can eat a feast with my enemies all around. You are good and loving and kind. I will *trust you all my life.”

6.2. **Example 2:** Read: Ephesians 3:16-18. This is one way to pray using Ephesians 3:16-18:

“Lord, I ask that You would make me strong with power from the riches of Your *glory. I pray that your *Holy Spirit would do this in me. I want Jesus to live in my heart and life. I pray that my life would be like a plant with roots in the ground of God's love. In this way, I can do everything with Your love. I pray that I will know more of Christ's love. I want to understand that His love is big, so very wide and long and high and deep.”

6.3. You can also use these passages from the Bible. (Or choose another passage you like.):

1. Romans 8:28-29
2. Romans 8:35-39

3. John 6:37-40
4. Philippians 2:5-11
5. Philippians 4:4-7
6. Psalm 139:23-24
7. Psalm 51

Lesson 9: THE RESULT OF OUR *SIN

Most important thought: When people choose the wrong road they spoil God's design. Then they suffer the results. The lives of people on the wrong road get worse and worse. God has a better way for us.

1. There are two roads in life. One road is wide. One road is narrow. (Poster 9a)

Read: Matthew 7:13-14

1.1. One road leads us to God.

- a) God made us with a design and a purpose. This was talked about in Lesson 6. If we follow the narrow road, we will come to God and live according to our design and purpose, to give God the glory with our lives.
- b) God gave laws to us because He loves us. This was talked about in Lesson 7. These laws are good for us. They tell us how we should live and how to follow the narrow road.

1.2. To follow the other road will destroy us:

- a) **The people who do not recognize God's authority:** Romans 1:20-22
When we follow this road our lives get worse and worse.
- b) **Hearts that become dark follow evil ways:**
Read: Romans 1:28-29
- c) **Love of evil and darkness.** John 3:19
- d) **If we follow wrong desires, they will destroy us:**
Read: Philippians 3:18-19; [John 3:19-20; James 1:13-15]

2. The bad results of *sin: (Poster 9b)

In lesson 8 we learned that *sin comes from our heart (inside of us).

2.1. These are some bad things that people can do by following their own sinful desires:

- to have wrong sexual relations,
- to think and do dirty things,
- to *worship false gods,
- to ask bad *spirits to help them,
- to feel hate for others and fight them,
- to have bad anger,
- to want to be more important than other people,
- to want things that others have,
- to go to parties where they do all kinds of bad things.

Read: Galatians 5:19-21.

2.2. In this passage we see that God is sad. He is sad when people follow the wrong road.

I will sing a song for the *Lord. He is the one I love.

It's a song about His *vineyard Israel.

The one I love had a *vineyard. It was on a mountain that had good soil.

He dug up the soil and removed its stones. He planted the very best *vines.

He built a lookout tower there. He also cut out a winepress for it.

Then He kept looking for a crop of good grapes.

But the *vineyard produced only bad fruit.

So the *Lord said, "People of Jerusalem and Judah, you be the judge between me and my *vineyard. What more could I have done for my *vineyard? I did everything I could. I kept looking for a crop of good grapes. So why did it produce only bad ones? (Isaiah 5:1-4)

The *vineyard of the *Lord who rules over everything is the nation of Israel. The people of Judah are the garden He takes delight in. He kept looking for them to do what was good. But all He saw was blood being spilled. He kept looking for them to do what was right. But all He heard were cries of suffering. (Isaiah 5:7)

The nation of Israel did not follow God. Now the *church is to tell people about God and our salvation from our sins and our darkened hearts:

3. We are offered a righteousness which is not ours.

3.1. **We all deserve punishment for *sin.** God will judge all *sin. There are two ways to pay (compensation) for *sin. There is our way and there is God's way. Our own way will lead to *spiritual death: Read: Romans 3:9-11;

3.2. **Here is the way God made:** God wants to give His righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. Read: Romans 3:21-26;

3.3. **We have a choice.** Christians, too, can live their lives doing what is wrong.
Read: John 3:16-18;

3.4. **God punished Jesus, who had no sin, for our sin, that we might be given Jesus' righteousness.** Read: 2 Corinthians 5:21

3.5. **Jesus took the punishment we deserved for our sin.** Read: 1 Peter 2:24

3.6. **Jesus Christ was cursed, that we might live.** Read: Galatians 3:13

3.7. **Consider the kindness and severity of the Lord.** Read: Romans 11:12

3.8. **Allow the *Holy Spirit to change you.**

Read: Galatians 6:8; Ephesians 4:21-24; Ephesians 5:15-17; [1 Peter 2:15-16]

3.9. **We have been given all we need in Christ:**

Read: Colossians 2:10-15; Romans 6:19-23; [2 Peter 1:3-8]

Lesson 10: WHO *SATAN IS AND HOW HE WORKS

Most important thought: This lesson describes how *Satan works. It discusses: Who is *Satan? Where did he come from? What evil plan does he have for our lives? What are his methods to achieve his plan? Satan uses our own sinful desires to *tempt us. If we choose to listen to him, he will come into our lives and destroy us.

1. Who *Satan is and where he came from: (Poster 10a)

1.1. God created *Satan. But *Satan fell from his high position because of *sin.

“I made you a leader *angel. I gave you that purpose. You were on My holy mountain. You saw My *glory. You were perfect the day you were created. But soon you began to *sin. You harmed people everywhere. And you *sinned. So I sent you away from My mountain in shame. Leader *angel, I drove you out of heaven.” (Ezekiel 28:14-16)

Read: Revelation 12:7-9

God created *Satan to have a high position and freedom, but *Satan used the freedom for evil things. *Satan chose to work against his Maker. When God created Adam and Eve, they had no *sin. But *Satan twisted God’s words. Adam and Eve believed *Satan’s lie, then disobeyed God. This gave *Satan power on earth.

1.2. *Satan is the god of ‘this age’. ‘This age’ means the world. This means *Satan is behind the things that work against God.

Read: 2 Corinthians 4:4

[*Satan is also called the ruler of this world: John 12:31; John 16:7-11.]

1.3. *Satan aims to destroy and ruin:

- Be careful: read 1 Peter 5:8.
- One of *Satan’s tools is fear: 2 Timothy 1:7; [Romans 8:14-15]

2. *Satan pretends to do good things to catch us and hurt us: (Poster 10b)

2.1. *Satan is the father of lies:

Read: John 8:44

- Some people catch fish by putting a small bait on a hook. A hook is a sharp, curved piece of metal. If the fish is hungry it will eat the bait. The bait attracts the fish and the fish tries to eat it. Then the fish gets caught on the hook.
- In a country called India people catch monkeys. They use a coconut. The people cut a small hole in the coconut. They also attach a rope or a chain to it. Then they put a few small stones inside the shell. When the monkey comes to the shell, the monkey becomes very curious. Therefore, it reaches into the shell to get the stones. When the monkey closes its hand, it cannot remove its hand from the small hole. Now the people have caught the monkey. It cannot get away because the people have tied the shell to a tree. The monkey will not let go of the stones. This will lead to the monkey’s death.
- Wolves are big, wild dogs that live in very cold places. Some people hunt wolves by

burying a knife in the ice with the sharp edge up. Then the people coat the sharp edge of the knife with some blood. The wolf comes along and licks the blood on the knife by using its tongue. As the wolf licks the blood, the wolf cuts its own tongue. Now the wolf is drinking his own blood. It dies from bleeding to death.

2.2. *Satan pretends to be an *angel of light. Read: 2 Corinthians 11:14

- *Sin is like a hook that catches a fish. It is like a chain that holds a monkey. And it is like a sharp knife that kills a wolf. These are pictures of how *sin traps us.
Read: Galatians 5:19-21; [Romans 6:23]
- ***Satan makes bad copies of the good things that God has made.** He also changes them slightly. The result is that we use the good things in a bad way. Then they cause damage. They damage us and others:

<i>Example</i>	<i>The Proper Use</i>	<i>The bad use that happens because of *sin.</i>
Fruit in the Garden of Eden	Food: God told Adam and Eve to eat any fruit except from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.	*Satan told Adam and Eve the tree would make them wise. Adam and Eve believed *Satan's lie. They ate the fruit and by doing so brought death and separation from God to all mankind.
Sex	People only have sex with their own spouse.	People have sex before they marry. People have sex that does not obey God's law. Married people have sex with someone who is not their husband or wife.
Money	Money provides for people's needs.	People love money. People want other people's things. People pay other people to do evil things.
Mobile	To communicate with family and friends who are living a long way from us.	Pornography. Developing phone friends which can lead to broken marriages. Communication between raskols as well as sorcerers. Used for sexual pleasures. Bad music that can lead to sinful thoughts and desires.

3. ***Sin hurts us. *Satan uses our own needs and desires in order to trap us.**

Here are some examples: (Poster 10c)

3.1 The ‘hungers’ of man: when we use sex, alcohol, and food in a wrong way. People need food. Sex is a good thing when it is within marriage as God intended. But these ‘hungers’ can hurt us and others. They hurt us when we use them in the wrong way. Read: 1 Peter 2:11 [1 John 2:16]

3.2 The wrong desire for things that we see: money, material things. Read: 1 Timothy 6:9-10.

3.3 Pride about what we have and do. Pride about power and high position:

“When pride comes, shame will follow. But the person who is humble will find wisdom.” (Proverbs 11:2) Read: 1 John 2:15-16. [see also James 4:6]

Definition: *Pride (proud) is to see myself as more important than I am.*

Definition: *Humility (humble) is to have a true understanding of myself and my character.*

3.4 Fear - One of *Satan’s tools is fear. *Satan uses fear to keep us from doing the things we should do. Read: Matthew 10:28, Luke 12:4-5;

3.5 Division among *family and friends. **Satan wants to ruin relationships:*

Read: James 3:7-10.

3.6 Division among Christians - **Satan wants to ruin relationships:*

- Division between members inside one *church. Read: James 3:14-18
- Quarrels and division between members of different *churches.
Read: James 4:1-3; 1 Corinthians 3:4-5,16-17; [Colossians 3:12-15; Romans 14:3-4,10-13; Galatians 1:6-9]
- **Satan hates forgiveness, *reconciliation, and unity.*

Question: Is temptation sin or not? No! We have the strength of the Holy Spirit to choose to follow God and say no to Satan’s temptations.

Does Satan have the power to kill us? Not when we abide in Christ. Our lives are hidden in Christ. God alone has the control over our lives. John 10:28-29; Psalm 16:5; Psalm 31:15-16; Isa. 41:10; 1 John 3:8; Psalm 139:16; Heb.13:6.

4. **God has a better plan for us.**

4.1. The only one to fear is God: Luke 12:4-7; 2 Timothy 2:25-26

4.2. “‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ says the *Lord. ‘*They are plans for good and not for disaster. Plans to give you a future and a hope.*’ ” (Jeremiah 29:11)

4.3. Who is going to win the war? God will win the war. His followers will share in that victory because of Jesus.

Read: Romans 8:35-39.

SALVATION

Lesson 11: WE SEE GOD'S *GRACE IN *SALVATION

Most important thought: God wants us to be near Him. But our *sin makes us God's enemy. But to end that, God wants to show His *mercy to us. He wants to forgive our *sin. This is God's *grace in *salvation. God's *grace is the offer to forgive our *sin. He offers forgiveness though we do not deserve it.

1. The state of our heart before we receive God's *grace. (Poster 11a)

We must understand the state of our heart before we receive the gift of God (His *grace).

1.1. We think that there is not much *sin in our heart. This is definitely not true.

1.2. We ourselves cannot remove the *sin of our heart. We cannot cure our heart.

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and beyond cure. Who can understand it?”
(Jeremiah 17:9)

1.3. But God can cure it. God can give us a new heart and a new *spirit:

“I will give you a new heart and I will put a new *spirit in you. I will remove your heart that seems as hard as stone. I will give to you a new heart that will obey me.” (Ezekiel 36:26)

2. God loves us greatly. He wants us to be His close friends. Matthew 27:26-30, 35-44; John 10:17-18; [Romans 5:6-8] (Poster 11b)

2.1. But also, because God is holy, *sin must be punished. Hebrew 9:22; Isa. 53:4-5;
2 Cor. 5:21; Galatians 3:13;

2.2. Our *sin stops us from having a good relationship with God.

To become true friends of God, our hearts must be *clean. Only God can make our hearts *clean. God removes our *sin when we believe. We must believe that Jesus paid the debt for our *sin. Read: John 4:39-42; John 6:35-40; John 10:14-18.

2.3. To repeat, God loves us very much. This is how He shows that He loves us:

Read: John 19:1-12, 16-20; Luke 23:39-46, 53-54; Luke 24:1-7.

2.4. Because God loves us greatly, we can know we have life that never ends.

Read: John 20:29-31.

3. God is ready and willing to forgive us. (Poster 11c)

Jesus changed places with us! This shows how much He wants to forgive us.

3.1. We were going to a place that would destroy us. Jesus took our punishment.

Read: 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 3:13

3.2. “Jesus Christ loves us. He has set us free from our *sins by His blood...” (Revelation 1:5-6)

3.3. What forgiveness is:

- to free us from all *guilt at no cost to ourselves
- to remove a punishment, debt, or duty
- to give up all right to compensation

3.4. When God forgives us, He does not remember our *sin any longer.

Read: Hebrews 8:12; Micah 7:18-19

3.5. God is willing to forgive us. He does not want anyone to go to hell.

Read: 2 Peter 3:9; [1 Timothy 2:3-6; John 3:16-18]

4. The *grace of God causes us to think about ourselves in a humble way.

It makes us turn away from *sin. It makes us turn to God.

4.1. God did not have to forgive us. He did not have to *save us. But His love and kindness are so great that He offered forgiveness to us.

- **Grace is God's love to us that we do not deserve.*
- **God *saves us by *grace when we *trust in Him.** *Grace is a gift of God. Read: Ephesians 2:8-9

4.2. The kindness of God causes us to turn away from *sin. It makes us turn to Him.

Read: Romans 2:4; Ephesians 3:16-19.

4.3. God does not give up on His children.

Even if we have made some bad decisions, He still does not give up on us. He does not let us fail at the end if we do not leave Him. Read: Philippians 1:6

5. Read and discuss in groups:

The story of Hosea and Gomer, a story of grace. Read Hosea 1:1-10, Hosea 11:1-12. God cries for us. “How can I give you up...?”

5.1. This is not what God wants for us. Read: Romans 1:29 to 2:4

5.2. Jesus was willing to die on the cross. That is how much He loves us!

Read: John 10:17-18

5.3. Jesus' death on the cross. This is the punishment we deserve.

Read: Matthew 27:26-30, 35-44.

5.4. God bought us back. He paid the cost for our *sin with the blood of Jesus.

Read: Hebrews 13:12-15. God delivers us from the pit. Psalm 103:1-5

5.5. This is what God is like. Read: Luke 15:1-7

6. What you can do now:

Spend time with God. Think about what God has done. Decide what you should do now.

Lesson 12: WHAT *SALVATION IS

Most important thought: This lesson discusses how we receive God's gift of *salvation. We receive it through *trusting in what God promised. We will look at the words: *repentance, *faith and *salvation from *sin.

***Salvation includes these two things: *repentance and *faith.** (Poster 12)

Read: Mark 1:14-15; Acts 20:20-21

1. *Repentance: to change one's mind or purpose. It is to turn from our own road to God's road.

Read: 2 Corinthians 7:10

- Some people think obeying the Law will *save them. But that is not possible.
Read: Romans 10:1-4; Galatians 3:10-11.
- Some *Jews thought they were *saved because they were *Jews. But that is not true.
Read: Romans 9:6-8
- These two and others are wrong roads that people think will *save them. *Repentance is turning from the wrong road to God. It is taking the road God gave us.
- We die to our old self. 2 Corinthians. 5:17
- God will make a new person of you. Ephesians 4:20-24
- John the Baptist taught there will be evidence of true repentance. Matthew 3:1-2,7-8

Read: Matthew 7:13-14; John 14:6

2. *Faith (belief): to *trust what Christ did. It is to believe Christ's death paid for my *sin.

- We are not saved by our own actions, but by relying on what Christ has done for us. Read: Ephesians 2:8-9; 2 Corinthians 5:15; Romans 6:22-23.
- Make Jesus King of your life and commit to obey Him.
- We are not saved by good works, but we are saved to do good works:
 1. God has prepared work for us. Ephesians 2:8-10
 2. He has predestined us to be like His Son: Romans 8:28-29

3. At the time we believe what Jesus did for us, God forgives all our *sin and gives us a new heart.

- Our sins are washed away by the blood of Christ Jesus. Revelation 1:5 [Hebrews 1: 3]
- At salvation, there is no longer any condemnation! Romans 8:1
- God gives us a new life. Ephesians 4:22-24 [Titus 3:5; John 3:3]

4. At the time we believe what Jesus did for us, God adopts us into His *family.

- Now we belong to God's family. Galatians 4:4-6 [Ephesians 1: 5]
- We are made co-heirs with Christ. Galatians 4:7; Romans 8:17
- We are crucified with Christ so that we can live new lives. Galatians 2:20

5. At the time we believe what Jesus did for us, the *Holy Spirit comes to live in us.

Read: Ephesians 1:13-14; John 14:16-18,23; [Galatians 3:14]

- We continue to live in obedience to Jesus through the Holy Spirit's power. Galatians 5:16

6. *Salvation is not because of good things we do.

6.1. Our *spirit was dead because of our *sin. Read: Romans 3:10-12; Romans 5:6-8; John 3:3-8

6.2. The good that we do will not *save us. Read: Titus 3:3-7; [Ephesians 2:8-9]

7. If doing good things or obeying the Law does not *save us, how are we *saved?

We can never be holy enough to keep the Law by our own strength. The Law is there to show us how holy God is. The Law is a guide to show us how we should live. But we cannot adequately keep the Law. Here is an explanation of *salvation:

7.1. We are slaves to *sin, because of our *sinful nature. Our *sin makes us enemies of God.
Read: Galatians 3:22; Colossians 1:21.

7.2. The good things we do cannot help us. No one does what is right.
Read: Romans 3:10-12

7.3. Without Christ we have no hope. Read Ephesians 2:11-12

7.4. But God loves us. He wants to forgive our *sins. Jesus Christ died because of our *sins.
Read: Romans 5:6-8

7.5. *Salvation is a gift from God: Read: Romans 5:16-17; Romans 6:23; Titus 3:4-7

7.6. A gift requires no payment. Read: Romans 4:4-8

7.7. Jesus Christ paid for our *sins. He took our place of punishment. Christ did this to make us right with God. Read: 2 Corinthians 5:21

7.8. We are *saved by *faith in what Christ did for us. Read: John 20:31; Ephesians 2:8-9

8. We are *saved by *faith in Jesus Christ. What exactly must we believe? Paul explains the Good News to the Corinthian *church. Paul did this because of many problems in the Corinthian *church. He wanted them to clearly understand the Good News. This is the Good News of *salvation: Read: 1 Corinthians 15:1-5

In this passage Paul says:

8.1. Remember the Good News that I taught you and that can save you (*verse 1,2):

8.2. Christ died for our sins (*verse 3).

8.3. He was buried and He was raised from the dead (*verse 4).

9. What does this Good News tell us?

9.1. Christ died for our *sins because God loves us. John 3:16 Believe this in your heart.

9.2. We could not *save ourselves so Christ died for our *sins. This shows God's justice in punishing *sin. But it also shows God's *mercy and *grace. We could not pay the debt for our *sin. Jesus Christ paid that debt! Romans 10:9-10

9.3. Christ rose from the dead. This shows God accepted Christ's death as payment for our

*sins. This also shows that those who believe in Him will also rise from the dead.

Read: Titus 3:3-5; Romans 5:6-11

10. We have seen and discussed the following things in the Bible:

- God's character.
- God's design and purpose for people.
- *Sin makes us God's enemies. *Sin keeps us from following God's design and purpose.
- The result of our *sin is our lives become bad.
- God wants us to live good lives. To have good lives we must become God's children.
- We have a new Master. 2 Corinthians 5:15
- Saving faith will produce works of faith (a godly lifestyle). James 2:14-17

10.1. But we must start at the beginning. We cannot live like God's children until we are God's children. We make a commitment to obey our new Master. Romans 6:16-19

- We must enter God's way: Read: John 10:7-9; [John 10:27-30; Matthew 7:13]
- There is no other way: Read: John 14:6.
- We are *saved by believing in Jesus as God has shown us. This is how we become God's children: Read: Ephesians 2:8-9; [Romans 5:1-2]

10.2. Have you been adopted by God? Do you belong to God's *family?

- Do you know you have broken God's Laws?
- Do you know this separates you from God?
- Have you *trusted that Jesus Christ died to pay for your *sin?
- Knowing that, have you clearly confessed your sins to God and repented?
- Do you believe the Bible that Christ rose from the dead and was seen by many witnesses? If you believe these things, you are a child of God. John 12:36.

CHRISTIAN LIFE
&
LEADERSHIP

Lesson 13: THE MARKS OF A CHRISTIAN

Most important thought: This lesson is about the character that a Christian should have. The study comes largely from 1 John. This book says that love is the character of a Christian. People can see it. God produces this love in us as we follow Him.

1. Walk in the light.

(Note: the apostle John was one of the twelve men that Jesus chose (Matthew 4:21-22). John wrote the Gospel of John and he wrote three letters. The three letters are called 1 John, 2 John, and 3 John.)

In 1 John 1:1-5 the apostle John is giving an important message. The message is about Jesus Christ. John states he saw Jesus with his eyes. He touched Jesus with his hands. John said: “We tell you what we have seen and heard. We do this so that you may be good friends with God like we are. This friendship is with God the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. We write this so you may share our joy.” (1 John 1:3-4)

John wrote this letter because of false teaching. This false teaching said that everything you see and touch is evil. This false teaching was causing some Christians to *sin. The false teaching said it does not matter what you do in this life, because everything in the physical world is evil. John wrote this letter to correct that wrong teaching. Christ was seen and touched by John. Jesus Christ was not evil, He was God’s perfect Son. John’s statement in this passage is encouraging to us, because John himself saw and heard Christ. The man who saw and heard Christ is the one who wrote this letter.

Read: 1 John 1:1-5

1.1. What a mark is: It is something that shows someone is different. It shows that they belong to a group. This lesson is about the marks of a Christian.

1.2. Story: There was a young boy in South America whose mother died. His father drank a lot of alcohol. The father did not look after his son well. As a result, the boy would search through rubbish and steal food. He did this in order to have enough to eat. He would steal food from a Christian woman. This woman prayed for the boy. Then she decided to adopt the boy. After she had adopted him, she looked after him very well. She fed him and gave him clothes. She loved him. However, the boy continued to steal food. He kept on searching through rubbish. The woman looked after him well, but he still continued. He did not yet *trust his new *family. He needed to learn this. He did not know how to behave in his new *family. He did not know how to live like them. He needed to learn. He did not learn immediately. It took time.

1.3. Christians are like this boy. We need to learn to live like God’s children. God has adopted us. We need to learn how He cares for us. And we need to learn to *trust God.

- 1.4. Children of God walk in the light.** Read: 1 John 1:5-7.
 - **That light is Jesus.** Read: John (Gospel) 8:12; John 3:20-21.
 - **Children of God are to love each other.** Read: Romans 12:9-10; Ephesians 4:2-6
 - **This type of life brings what is good, right, and true.** Read: Ephesians 5:8-12; John 12:46.
 - **When we walk in the light we learn how to live as God’s children.** This is how God cleans us from our past. It does not happen at once. It is a process. This process is *spiritual maturity. Read: John 13:10-15, 34-35; [Matthew 5:23-24; Matthew 7:3-5]
 - **This does not mean we never *sin.** Read: 1 John 1:8.
 - **When we *sin we must admit it.** Read: 1 John 1:9; James 5:16.

- 2. Do what God commands.** When we live in the light we do what God says. Read: 1 John 2:3-6.
 - 2.1. Our love for God makes us want to walk in the light.** Read: John 14:23
 - 2.2. When we walk in the light our *faith will grow.** Read: Colossians 2:6-7

- 3. Love everyone who is near you.** Read: 1 John 2:9-11;
 - 3.1. In the following passage Jesus told us the two most important commandments:**
Read: Matthew 22:36-40.
 - 3.2. Jesus said “love your neighbour.”** Who is my neighbour?
Read: Luke 10:25-37. (This is a good story to have a group act out.)

- 4. Do not love the world.** Read: 1 John 2:15-17.
 - 4.1. ‘The world’ here means:** material things, the desires of our senses and pride.
Read: Matthew 13:22 (also see Lessons 8 and 9).
 - 4.2. The world will end someday.** But Christians will live forever and ever with God. They will have life that never ends. Read: 2 Corinthians 4:18

- 5. Abide in Jesus.** Read: 1 John 2:24.
 - 5.1. Abide means:** ‘remain’, ‘rest in’, or ‘stay close to’.
 - 5.2. If we abide in Jesus, then our life becomes different. We ‘bear much fruit’.**
Read: John 15:4-5; John 8:31-32.

- 6. The witness of the *Holy Spirit.** Read: 1 John 4:13, 16-19.
 - 6.1.** A witness is somebody who tells somebody else about an event. A witness describes that which happened.
 - 6.2. The *Holy Spirit tells our *spirits that we are God’s children.** Read: Romans 8:14-16.

- 7. Do what is right.** The false teachers said you can do what you want; it does not matter. John said that was wrong. Read: 1 John 3:10.
 - 7.1. A Christian does what is right even when it is difficult.** They do good even during small tasks. They still do this when nobody is watching them. Read: Luke 16:10-11; Titus 2:7-8.

7.2. A Christian is honest. They do not tell just part of the truth. They tell the whole truth.

Read: Ephesians 4:25.

8. The Christian overcomes the world. We win over evil in the world because of our *faith.

Read: 1 John 5:4-5.

8.1. Your mind can be calm and at rest. This can be true even in trouble and suffering.

Read: John 16:33.

8.2. Christians will overcome the world because of the blood of Jesus (the Lamb).

Read: Revelation 12:7-11.

9. Walk in the light!

9.1. It is possible to know that you have an endless life. John wanted us to be sure of that.

This is the reason why John wrote this letter. Read: 1 John 5:13; 1 John 1:4.

9.2. Peter said these things will ensure your spiritual life will be fruitful: Read: 2 Peter 1:5-9

9.3. God hears our prayers. Read: 1 John 5:14-15.

- Can we ask for anything in prayer?
- Will God give it to us?
- Can we expect this?

10. What are the marks of a Christian?

Jesus said it this way: John 13:34-35; [Matthew 22:36-40]

Lesson 14: THIS IS HOW TO OVERCOME THE ENEMY

Most important thought: We need to know the *spiritual tools that Christians have. It is also necessary for us to know about the authority that Jesus gives to us. With these tools we can defeat *Satan's attacks. This lesson looks at Ephesians 6 and its practical ways to fight the enemy.

1. Our world is both physical and *spiritual. (Poster 14a)

1.1. The *spiritual world around us is as real as the physical world.

1.2. What kind of enemy do we have? Read: Ephesians 6:12.

1.3. *Satan's number one weapon is to bend and twist the truth.

- *Satan is the father of lies: Read: John 8:44
- *Satan confuses the truth: Read: Matthew 4:5-7
- *Satan can make himself seem to be an *angel of light:
Read: 2 Corinthians 11:14; Matthew 24:24

1.4. Jesus came to defeat the work of *Satan: Read: 1 John 3:8

2. We need to understand how our enemy works. Read: 1 Peter 5:8-9

2.1. It is important that we know *Satan's intentions. Also, we need to know how he will achieve them.

- When your ancestors had wars, did they want to know how the enemy would attack?
- When they went to war did they take their weapons?
- Did the men fight together or alone?

2.2. *Satan knows our weaknesses and uses them when he attacks us.

3. We also need to understand who is on our side.

Read: 1 John 4:4; 1 John 5:19; 2 Thessalonians 3:3

3.1. A person's life who follows Christ is like this: Read: Luke 6:47-48

3.2. Living in light:

- Ruler: God
- Foundation: truth
- Behaviour: we love God and we love other people
- Result: God gives joy and peace

3.3. A person's life who does not follow Christ is like this: Read: Luke 6:49

3.4. Living in darkness:

- Ruler: *Satan
- Foundation: false beliefs
- Behaviour: selfish desires
- Result: *Satan destroys people's lives

3.5. As Christians we can live in the truth or we can turn and live like a non-Christian. (But we are instructed not to do that). Read: Ephesians 5:8-11, 15-17.

4. God's power can help you. God wants you to win in your *spiritual battles.

Read: Colossians 1:11-14; 1 John 4:4; [1 Corinthians 10:13; Luke 1:37; Ephesians 5: 8-10]

4.1. God created both *Satan and people. *Satan does not compare with God or His power in any way.

4.2. We can *trust in God's power, which God gives to us. Our power comes from knowing and *trusting God's truth.

5. This is how we fight our *spiritual enemy (Poster 14b)

5.1. We need to know that our enemy *tempts us.

- Be self-controlled. Be aware of your weaknesses and weak moments.
- Be alert. Our own desires also *tempt us.
- Resist the enemy.
- You are not alone in the battle. Read: James 1:13-15

5.2. Put on all God's armour (armour is body protection). This is how we prepare for this war: Read: Ephesians 6:10-13; [James 4:7]

- Put on all the armour. (Ephesians 6:11)
- Our struggle is *spiritual. (Ephesians 6:12)
- Be ready for the battle. Be ready before it comes. Put on all the armour. In this way you will still be standing after the battle. (Ephesians 6:13)
- Once you have prepared, stand your ground. (Ephesians 6:13)
- What is the "day of evil"? (see Ephesians 6:13) It is the storm talked about in Luke 6:47-48.

5.3. This is the armour we need to put on:

- Belt: truth – Our primary armour is truth. The truth of God's word. Read: Ephesians 6:14a
- Upper body protection: *righteousness – *Satan tells us we *sin. That is true. But Christ paid the debt for our *sin. Our safety is in Christ's *righteousness. Read: Ephesians 6:14b
- Feet: God's peace – Be prepared for battle with peace. Peace with God and people. "The *Lord gives perfect peace to those whose *faith is firm." (Isa. 26:3)
Read: Ephesians 6:15; Romans 12:18-21; [Colossians 3:15; Romans 15:13]
- Shield: *faith – Protect ourselves against *Satan's flaming arrows. We do this by standing firm in the truth of God's word. *Trust in what God has said.
Read: Ephesians 6:16; [Matthew 4:8-10]
- Helmet: *salvation – Wear *salvation like a helmet. God loves us and died for us. That shows us how much God loves us. But we can never truly understand the full sacrifice of God's Son dying for us. Read: Ephesians 6:17a
- Sword: Word of God – We also have a weapon. Our weapon to fight against *Satan is the sword of the *Holy Spirit: the Bible. Read: Ephesians 6:17b
- Pray in the *Holy Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers. Ask for whatever we need. Pray for others. Read: Ephesians 6:18

- Put on all God's armour so that we can stand against the devil's attacks. Read: Ephesians 6:11
- Stand firm. "After you have done everything to stand: stand firm." Read: Ephesians 6:13

5.4. We need to fight together. We need to help each other in the battle.

Read: Romans 12:4-5; Hebrews 10:23-25; Galatians 6:1-2.

5.5. Do not allow lies to make us blind. This is another way we can help each other.

Read: Hebrews 3:12-14; [James 1:23-25]

6. Ways to use our authority from God. Our authority comes from Christ:

Read: Matthew 28:18-20

6.1. We use Jesus' name. Our authority comes from God. When we ask in Jesus' name we ask for what agrees with His character.

Read: Luke 10:17-20; [Acts 3:6-7]

6.2. The Bible. In the following example Jesus used God's word to answer *Satan's attack. We need to know God's word to speak with God's authority.

Read: Matthew 4:8-11; [Ephesians 6:17]

6.3. Pray and fast (when we fast we do not eat). This is a special way to pray. We use prayer to make requests for ourselves and others.

Read: Acts 14:23; [Mark 9:17-18, 25-29; James 5:16]

6.4. Christ's blood. His blood has the power to *save.

Read: Revelation 12:11

6.5. Our own statement of what God has done in our life. This is also a powerful weapon.

Read: Revelation 12:11; [2 Corinthians 3:3]

6.6. Praise and *worship. This reminds us of who God is and what He has done in our lives.

Read: Colossians 3:16; [Ephesians 5:17-20]

Lesson 15: WHY WE SHOULD LIVE IN A HOLY WAY

Most important thought: Our *salvation is a gift from God. God forgives us when we *trust in what Jesus Christ did for us. He forgives all our *sin. God no longer remembers our *sin. We are holy in His sight. But we are not without *sin. God wants His adopted children to live good lives. God changes His children by changing their heart. As God's children learn more and more about what God is like, their heart changes. When their heart changes: their life changes.

1. God is holy:

1.1. God is holy and He deserves honour and *worship:

Read: Isaiah 6:3, Exodus 33:18-23

1.2. The word “holy” is part of *Holy Spirit’s name. (Luke 1:35)

1.3. 1 John 1:5 says, “God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all.”

Read: Revelation 4:8-11

God in His trinity is called “ holy”:

Holy Father: John 17:11

Holy One, the Son of God, Jesus: Luke 1:35

Holy Spirit: Luke 1:35

2. What does holy mean?

Separation or set apart 1. to God 2. from sin.

2.1. *Holy (and holiness): to be pure or morally *clean.

2.2. **In 1 John 1:5** the word ‘light’ is a picture of God’s moral character. ‘Darkness’ is a picture of what is not morally pure. This *verse tells us God’s moral character is perfect.

3. God wants us to be holy:

3.1. But we can say like Paul: **“I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature.”** Romans 7:18-19, 24-25

3.2. David asks who can stand in the God’s presence: **“Who may ascend the hill of the Lord? Who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart...”** Psalm 24:3-4

3.3. Peter tells us: **“But just as He who calls you is holy, so be holy in all you do. For it is written; ‘Be holy, because I am holy.’”** Read: 1 Peter 1:14-16.

3.4. God wants to display His power in us: He made His light, His holiness shine into our hearts. We have this treasure in cracked pots, earthenware jars so that God’s glory can be seen through even these imperfect vessels. 2 Corinthians 4:6-7

3.5. **There is a battle inside us.** Read: Galatians 5:17

4. There are two parts to our holiness. First: He has made us perfect forever. And second: He is making us like Him. Read: Hebrews 10:14

- God has made us perfect. This is how God sees us when we become a Christian. This is our **position** because we are forgiven all our *sin. We are adopted into God's *family. And the *Holy Spirit lives in us.
- God is making us more like Him. As we grow in our Christian lives God changes us. He wants our character to become like His. This is the **process** of becoming a mature Christian. This is the process of growing up and learning what God's *family is like. It is learning what it means to be God's child.

4.1. **This is our position:**

- At that moment we become Christians several things happen to us. (This was explained in Lesson 12). When we believe in Jesus, we become God's child.
Read: Galatians 3:26.
- When we believe: God gives us Christ's holiness. When God looks at us He sees the holiness of Jesus Christ. The Bible calls this being "in Christ."
Read: Philippians 3:9; Galatians 3:26-28; Romans 3:22-24; Romans 5:16-17.
- When we become Christians, God marks us as His child by giving us His *Holy Spirit. The *Holy Spirit lives in us.
Read: Ephesians 1:13-14; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22
 - We did not earn this **position**. God bought us with Christ's blood.
Read: 1 Corinthians 6:20; Titus 3:3-7; 1 Peter 1:18-19; 1 Peter 3:18
 - We did not deserve this **position**. Romans 5:8 [Colossians 2:13-14]

4.2. **The process of becoming mature:**

- However, the Bible also tells us to become like Christ. This process is called *sanctification. It is how we become mature Christians. This is a process. We learn how God designed us to live. Read: 1 Peter 1:15
- During this process we become more holy. Our character is to grow more like Christ's character. The Bible tells us to leave the wrong things from our former way of life. We become like Christ as we mature.
Read: Ephesians 4:22-24; Romans 12:2; 2 Peter 1:3-8

4.3. **The two parts of holiness are like this story:**

Story: When a *chief's first son is born, is that son a future *chief? Yes. Can that son become a leader as a baby? No. He must grow into his role as a *chief. His **position** is that he is the future *chief. That is his proper rank. However, he is not yet ready to reach that position. First, he must become mature. He must grow into his position. That is a **process**. So in a sense we are considered righteous and holy (position) when the Holy Spirit comes to live in us, but we are to mature and grow up (process) to become like our Saviour as we get to know Him.

A correction of two ideas that could come up that are not according to God's word:

- Our position of being made perfectly holy doesn't give us the licence to sin. Rom. 6
- Our process of becoming more and more holy, does not mean that we are responsible for our salvation. We can not work on our salvation through good works. (Ephesians 2:8-10) It's the gift of God. But we have to work out our salvation by choosing to follow His desires and purposes for our lives. Only He can give us the strength to do this. Phil. 2:12, 13

5. If God sees His children as holy, should we continue to do wrong things? No. This is like the story of the *chief's son. The child must learn how to be the son of a *chief. God shows love and kindness to us by adopting us as His children. He wants us to learn what it means to be a member of His *family. God's instructions tell us what is good for us.

5.1. God forgives all our *sin when we believe that Jesus died for us. Our *spirit is made alive. **Our *spirit is born from above.**

Read: John 3:3-7; 2 Corinthians 5:17.

5.2. Does this mean we will no longer *sin? No. The Apostle Paul said he was still maturing. He was not yet perfect.

Read: Philippians 3:8-14.

5.3. As we mature in our *spiritual lives, we will sometimes have trouble or problems. God allows these so we can learn to *trust Him.

Read: Romans 5:1-4; 1 Peter 1:3-9.

5.4. God wants to display His power in us. He filled our hearts with His 'light' and His holiness. We have this treasure in cracked pots, pots made from earth (soil). This means we are weak and we are not perfect. In this way, people can see God's *glory even through these cracked pots.

Read: 2 Corinthians 4:6-7.

5.5. How does God display His power in us? He does this when we have problems or trouble and overcome them with His power. Read: 2 Corinthians 12:8-10

5.6. Problems and trouble are part of maturing. This process of maturing is part of God's plan for us. He wants to change our character to His character. Paul had to tell the Christians in Colossae the following: Read: Colossians 3:8-13

6. If we don't live holy lives, we hurt our Lord, and possibly indicate we don't really know Him. Hebrews 10:17-29

- Paul was misunderstood on this very issue: Romans 3:8; Romans 6:1-4
- Why live holy lives? "Draw near to Him, and He will draw near to you." James 4:8

7. Becoming like Jesus: Sanctification.

- Becoming more and more like Jesus is a process; He desires to make our lives full: "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." John 10:10
- "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty. Since

we have the promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.” 2 Corinthians 6:18 – 7:1.

- Philippians 1:6 God is continuing to work in us to make us more like Christ.

8. God is holy and He deserves honour and *worship.

8.1. **We *worship God with our mouth:** Read: Colossians 3:16

8.2. **We also *worship God with our lives.** Loving others brings praise to God.

Read: Philippians 1:9-11; Romans 15:3-7

9. Why should we live holy lives? Read: Ephesians 1:3-11

Lesson 16: HOW WE CAN STOP *SINFUL HABITS

Most important thought: It is possible for us to break sinful habits and be set free from them. Three things are needed:

- The power of the *Holy Spirit
- Prayer
- The knowledge of God

This lesson talks about practical actions we can make to break sinful habits. These actions will help us to know God better and thus we will desire that our character should be more like God's character.

1. Habit

1.1. What is a habit?

It is something that you keep doing without thinking about it anymore or without realising you are doing it.

1.2. Where does a habit begin?

THOUGHT → ACTION → HABIT → WAY OF LIFE → RESULT

A habit is like a path in the bush. As you walk along, you come to a fork and must choose which path to take. A habit is when you choose one path over and over so you do it without thinking. This can be repeated so many times that you may no longer be aware you are making a choice. It's like a river that branches. If most of the water goes down one branch, the other branch can almost disappear.

1.3. Habits can be good or bad.

- Shaking hands when you meet someone
- Saying Amen or Hallelujah a lot
- Lying
- Smoking and chewing betelnut

2. *Temptation

2.1. *Temptation is a bad suggestion directed towards the mind from Satan, our old self or the world.

- It can be a suggestion to do an evil thing.
- It can also be a suggestion to do a good thing, but in a wrong way.

2.2. *Temptation is not *sin.

But choosing to go down the road of the temptation is sin. Read: Hebrews 4:14-15; James 1:15

2.3. It is possible to succeed against *temptation. Read: Hebrews 4:16; 1 Corinthians 10:13.

2.4. There are three places from which *temptation may come:

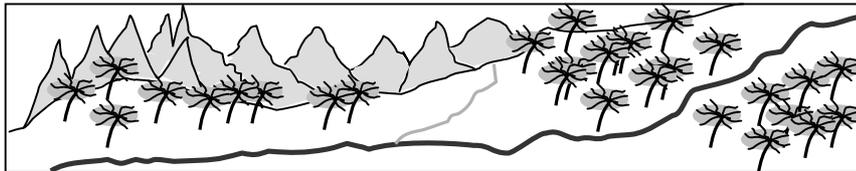
- *Satan: Read: Mark 1:9-13.
- The world: Read: Galatians 1:3-4.
- Our own wrong desires: Read: James 1:13-14.

Is victory possible? Hebrews 4:16; 1 Corinthians 10:13

3. Ways of escape

3.1. Look at your place of decision

Habits are like a road in the bush. A road that goes to two different places. Suppose one of the two roads is used all the time, but the second road is not used much, the road not used will become hard to see. After a while it will seem like the second road was never there.



Now think about habits again. If you want to change a habit you may need to think about where to take a different road in your life. You must go to the place of decision if you want to stop a habit. That is where you must stop the bad habit. You could try to stop a habit after you have made the wrong choice, but that would be too late.

Suppose I have a habit of drinking too much alcohol. If I go to places where people drink alcohol I may not be able to say no to that *temptation. I need to keep away from those places. My place of decision is to decide not to go where they drink alcohol.

3.2. Pray

We must pray to God. We must ask God to show us where we are making the wrong choice. At first, we may see that wrong choice only after we have made it. We may think that we do not have any choice. Even then, we must continue to pray that God will help us to stop the habits. We also must go to the people whom our habits hurt and ask them to forgive us. [Luke 22:40,46]

3.3. Search for God's answers

We must continue to search for God's answers. If we do so, He will show us a way out. (1 Corinthians 10:13) God will help us to see the *temptations. These *temptations lead us into the dangerous places where we make wrong choices. Ask God to show you where you need to change direction to avoid the places of danger. Ask Him to help you keep away from the places where you choose the wrong paths. Ask friends to help you and to pray with you. Also, ask your friends to ask you about your success in stopping the habits. They can encourage you and help you.

3.4. Replace bad habits with good habits:

- When *Satan *tempts us:
Read: Ephesians 6:10-17 (Lesson 15); James 4:7; Matthew 4:1-11.
- When the world *tempts us:
Read: 2 Timothy 2:22; [Genesis 39:6-12 (Joseph ran away from Potiphar's wife)]

- When our own desires *tempt us: (Poster 16a)
 - 1 Cor. 9:24-27 Train yourself to do those things that will help you follow Christ. These are things like Bible study, prayer, and being with other Christians.
 - Galatians 5:16-18 – Let the *Holy Spirit guide your life. The *Holy Spirit changes us on the inside. The Commandments try to change us from the outside; they only work for a short time. Ask God to change your heart.
 - “God has been so very good and kind to us. That is the reason why I am asking you to offer your bodies to Him. Bring your bodies to Him as a *sacrifice that is still alive... Let God change how you think. Then you will become new people. You will be able to understand what God wants you to do... You will understand that which makes God happy.” (Romans 12:1-2)
 - Philippians 4:8-9 – Think about the things that are true and honest. Think about the things that are right, good, and lovely. This is one of the ways God changes how we think. [Colossians 3:1-3]
 - 2 Timothy 2:22 – Young people can have strong desires to do bad things. Have nothing to do with wrong desires. Instead, seek to do what is pure and right.

(Poster 16b)

- Psalm 119:11 – “I have hidden Your sayings in my heart so that I will not *sin against you.” Put God’s word into your mind and heart. You do this when you study, memorize (put to memory), and *meditate on (think about, reflect on) God’s word. [2 Timothy 3:16-17]
- Proverbs 4:14-15 – “Do not do what wicked people do! Do not walk down that road. Keep off evil roads! Do not travel on them! Turn away!”
- [Luke 22:40,46] Pray that you will not fall into temptation.
- [Romans 12:1-2] Because of God’s mercy, offer yourself as a living sacrifice, be transformed by the renewing of your mind so you can test and approve what is pleasing to God.
- [Colossians 3: 2] Set your mind on things above.
- [James 5:16] Confess your sins to each other.
- [Proverbs 24:16] A righteous man falls seven times...

4. As we walk with God, the things of the world will become less attractive.

4.1. Jesus used a word picture to describe our walk with God. Jesus is the *vine, and we are the branches. We can do nothing without Christ. In Jesus’ word picture fruit is what happens when we walk close to God. That fruit is the change in our character. For example, loving others and following God’s instructions. Read: John 15:5,8.

4.2. God says: I will be a Father to you. You will be my sons and my daughters. He calls us His friends. God has promised these things to us and so we must keep away from those things that make our body or our *spirit dirty. And, as a result, we should daily become more and more like what God wants His children to be. Read: 2 Corinthians 6:18-7:1

4.3. God promises a way to escape *temptation. God does not say how or when that escape will come. He just says He will provide it as we follow Him.

Read: 1 Corinthians 10:13.

4.4. As we discover God, He draws us closer to Himself. Therefore, we become more like Him. God changes us. He changes us from the inside, then our lives change. God changes our attitudes and desires. He will not stop helping us.

Read: Philippians 2:12-13; Philippians 1:6.

4.5. When bad things happen to us, we will win in Christ. God uses everything that happens to us. He brings good results on our behalf. He does this even through our problems and trouble. God does this if we continue to turn to Him. Even death cannot separate us from God's love.

Read: Romans 8:28-39

Lesson 17: THE REASONS WHY WE SHOULD FORGIVE

Most important thought: This lesson explains what forgiveness is. It looks at what Jesus taught about forgiveness. This lesson explains how we can ask for forgiveness. And it shows how we can forgive others.

1. *Bitterness (Poster 17a)

- 1.1. *Bitterness comes when we do nothing to stop our anger.** *Bitterness grows where anger is allowed to stay. It can grow quietly, until one day it explodes. It is like a *vine that grows up a tree. At first it does not seem to harm the tree. But later it kills the tree.
- 1.2. Example:** Imagine that you hurt your toe on a rock. But you do not clean your toe. And you do not look after it. Therefore, the toe cannot heal. As a result, it can become very bad. If your toe is really bad, a doctor might have to cut it off. If your toe is very bad, you could die. Anger is like that, too. If you do nothing to resolve the anger in your heart, *bitterness will grow. *Bitterness, like the bad toe, gets worse. It will cause problems in relating with other people. *Bitterness can even lead to death. We have seen this happen in the history of our *families. People died because they chose *revenge.
- 1.3. It is possible for Christians to be *bitter.** Ephesians 4 is talking to Christians. It says our lives should be different than the lives of unbelievers. Read: Ephesians 4:17
- 1.4. *Bitterness causes trouble in all our relationships. It changes our heart. It steals our joy.** It can destroy all our relationships. Read: Ephesians 4:26-27
- 1.5. God says that we must not hold on to anger and *bitterness.** He says to replace them with good things. Read: Ephesians 4:31-32

2. These things tell us we are *bitter. These are signs of *bitterness:

- We are not happy and we do not have much joy.
- We complain often and without reason.
- We want to do things in our own way.
- We think that we are always right.
- We refuse to listen to advice.
- We often get angry.
- We do not follow God with all our heart.

3. How does anger and *bitterness begin? (Poster 17b)

3.1. Everyone has problems in relationships. Several things can cause damage:

- We say careless words.
- A person does something wrong to us.
- We may not do something we promised. Or another person does not do what they promised.
- *Sin - our sin or another person's *sin.
- Someone lied or was careless of our feelings. Now we do not *trust each other.
- Someone may have hurt a friend or someone in our *family. Read: Matthew 18:21

3.2. When a person hurts us, we have a choice. There are two roads. The choice starts with our attitudes:

Road 1: Choose to be *bitter.

- Anger will turn to *bitterness
- *Bitterness can cause us to want payback or *revenge.
- *Bitterness will damage our relationships with other people.

Road 2: Choose to forgive.

- Forgiveness seeks *reconciliation. It is a choice. We must choose to forgive.
- Forgive the person who hurt you. Sometimes we need to tell them what hurt us.
- After we have done what we can, do not remember it anymore.
- We will be free!

3.3. Anger itself is not *sin. But we need to do something about it quickly.

Read: Ephesians 4:26-27.

3.4. Maybe we have a problem with anger. Maybe it has become a habit. We become angry quickly. Therefore, God needs to change us. Bad anger is *sin. And God needs to change that habit (see Lesson 16).

4. What we should do when we are *bitter:

4.1. Ask God to help you. In the following passage what is the fruit? Who causes the fruit to grow? Read: Galatians 5:22-25

4.2. With God's help, you can forgive and let go of *bitterness.

Read: John 15:5; [1 John 3:12-16; Matthew 5:43-45]

4.3. Look at your own actions. Did you do something wrong to this person? We are responsible for our own wrongs, even if the other person has wronged us.

Read: Romans 12:16-21; Matthew 5:21-24

5. Why we should forgive: (Poster 17c)

5.1. Read the story about the servant who would not forgive: Matthew 18:21-35

- Peter asked how many times he should forgive someone. Jesus used this story to explain His answer to Peter.
- The king forgave the servant his debt of millions of silver coins.
- But the servant would not forgive a debt of a few silver coins.
- Jesus compared our debt to God with someone's debt to us.

5.2. God *forgave us. Read: Colossians 3:12-17

5.3. God wants His children to have His character. Our lives are to show people what God's character is like. Read: 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12.

5.4. We have a job and a message: 2 Corinthians 5:15-20

- God's message is this: People can be *reconciled to God. This also means people can be *reconciled to people. (*verses 15-18)
- God sends us to tell people His message. (*verses 18-20)

5.5. Do what you can to live in peace. Be blameless and pure.

Read: Romans 12:17-18; Philippians 2:14-16a.

6. What we should do when we hurt someone:

6.1. Pray first.

6.2. Tell God what we have done. Tell Him what exactly we have done. (He already knows, but His Word tells us to do this.)

6.3. Go and speak to the person that we have hurt. **Do not make excuses because of what we did. Do not tell them what they have done wrong. Ask them to forgive us.**

Read: Matthew 5:23-24; Matthew 7:3-5.

6.4. Make things right with the person that we hurt. We might have to pay back for some loss. If we have stolen something, give it back.

Read: Luke 19:8-9

6.5. We need to forgive if the person hurt us, too. We are not responsible for the other person's decision. They decide if they forgive or not. We are only responsible for what we do. We should try to make peace with the person. And we need to forgive ourselves for what we did.

Read: Romans 12:18; Romans 8:35-39.

7. What we should do if there are problems in the *church:

7.1. Ask God to show us if there is *sin in our own hearts. Often, we do not see *sin in ourselves. Instead, we can easily see the *sin of someone else. But we are not without *sin. We must do something about your own *sin first. Read: Matthew 7:3-5

7.2. Suppose a Christian man or woman in the *church has a *sin. And it is necessary to do something about it:

(1) Go to him/her and talk to him/her about the *sin. Read: Matthew 18:15.

(2) If he/she does not listen, speak to one or two other people. Then take them and go talk to him/her again. Read: Matthew 18:16.

(3) If he/she still does not listen, speak to the people of the *church. Then they will talk to him/her about his/her *sin. Read: Matthew 18:17.

(4) If he/she does not listen to people of the *church, see him/her as a non-Christian. Love him/her. Jesus Christ said that we have to pray even for our enemies.

Read: Matthew 5:44-46.

8. What we should do when there are problems between *churches:

Read: 1 Corinthians 1:12-13; 1 Corinthians 3:9-11; Ephesians 4:11-16

8.1. Christ has one body, which includes all believers. There will be one *family in heaven. All who are in God's *family are *wantoks.

Read: Ephesians 4:4-6; [Romans 12:4-5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13]

8.2. Imagine that you hurt your foot. And it is painful. You do not say, "You are a stupid foot." That does not make your foot better. Instead, you look after it. Therefore, it will get better.

If we disagree with another Christian, we find instruction in the Bible. If the problem is something the Bible teaches about, then follow Matthew 18:15-17. When the Bible does not give clear instruction, follow **Romans 14**.

Read: Romans 14:1-19; Romans 15:7; [Romans 14:20 – 15:7; Colossians 2:16-23; Colossians 3:12-15]

- 8.3.** In the *church, we sometimes say unkind things about other *churches because they are different. And we do this to other *church members, too. We might say, “You are wrong.”, or “The people in your *church are bad.” Instead we should work with them and help each other. It is like caring for your hurting foot. All of God’s children belong to God’s *family.
- 8.4.** God feels a lot of pain when we do not love Christ’s *family. When we are unkind to other *churches or *church members it makes God sad. We see that *churches argue. As a result, people leave their *church. This is wrong. But we do it at times because we are proud in our hearts. (*Satan had to leave heaven because he was proud in his heart.) It is not right when people in God’s *family hurt each other. It is not right that the relationships between the different *churches are not good. When this happens they are not choosing forgiveness and *reconciliation. Read: John 17:20-23.

Discuss in groups:

What do you intend to do? How can we help with *reconciliation and forgiveness? How can we help members of different *churches love each other?

Personal questions:

Is there *bitterness in my heart? Am I angry with someone? Do I need to forgive someone? Do I need to make things right with someone? How can I do this? Make a plan for how you will forgive them.

Lesson 18: HOW WE LIVE AS A CHRISTIAN *FAMILY

Most important thought: This lesson discusses the importance of Christian homes in our villages and cities. We will study the responsibilities the Bible gives for husbands and wives. The home should be a place where members look after the other members. They do this by helping each other mature in their *spiritual lives.

1. What is a Christian *family?

- 1.1. It is a *family whose members follow Jesus Christ and make Him the centre of the home.
- 1.2. It is a place where members trust one another and are trustworthy and faithful. Proverbs 3:3
- 1.3. It is a *family that works at keeping good relationships with each other.
- 1.4. It is a home where the father and mother are good examples. They show their children what they believe by their actions.
- 1.5. *Family relationships should show what God is like.

2. God gave these responsibilities to the members of a *family: (Poster 18a)

- 2.1. Husbands, love your wife as Christ loved the *church. Read: Ephesians 5:25; Colossians 3:19.
- 2.2. Fathers, do not cause your children to become *bitter. If you do they will become less eager to do what is right. Read: Colossians 3:21
- 2.3. Wives, respect and submit to your husband. Read: Ephesians 5:22; [Colossians 3:18]
- 2.4. Children, obey your parents because this is right. This is because the *Lord has given your parents the authority to look after you. Read: Ephesians 6:1-2; Colossians 3:20.

3. The reward of a Christian home:

- 3.1. Human parents learn about God through being a parent. They learn how God loves them and how patient God is with His children, because they feel that way towards their own children.
- 3.2. The *family members in a home learn what God wants His children to be like when they live as God intended. Children need to see sincere love in their *family. In this way, they learn about the love of God. [2 Timothy 1:5]

4. The 6 jobs of a parent: (Poster 18b)

- 1)** The love between a father and a mother will show children how much God loves them. The *family is to model Christ and the *church. Read: Ephesians 5:22-33
- 2)** Be a good example in all that you do. Children learn from what they see. Read: John 13:15
- 3)** The way that you act towards your *family should give honour to God. If we do the wrong thing, we ask those we hurt for forgiveness. Read: Matthew 5:23-24; Matthew 22:36-40;
- 4)** Love your children. The care and discipline you give your children are part of how you love them. Read: Hebrews 12:6-10; Hebrews 6:2-11.
- 5)** Be careful of the things you say. Your words should encourage other people.
Read: Ephesians 4:29-32

6) Develop your children's *trust in God and in what God says in the Bible:

- Let your children see you pray to God at home. Then they can imitate that.
- Maybe everyone can take turns when you pray before you eat together.
- Read and tell Bible stories to your children.
- Pray on behalf of each other regularly.
- Put most of your effort into training your child's heart and character.

5. The purpose of the Christian home:

- 5.1. It is the place where children learn about God's character.
- 5.2. There the children first learn how to control their actions. They learn to practice this at home.
- 5.3. The *family represents the relation between Christ and the *church.
- 5.4. Strong Christian *families make the *church strong.
- 5.5. A good Christian *family helps the people in the community.

6. Responsibilities of husbands and wives:

6.1. The responsibility of the husband:

- to be the head of the *family as Christ is head of the *church. Read: Ephesians 5:23
- to love and serve his wife. Read: Ephesians 5:25, 28-29, 31; Colossians 3:19.
- to respect his wife. Read: 1 Peter 3:7

6.2. The responsibility of the wife:

- to respect her husband.
- to honour her husband's leadership. Read: Ephesians 5:22; Colossians 3:18.

6.3. As Christians we are to respect each other: Read: Ephesians 5:21; Colossians 3:12-17.

7. Responsibility of parents:

- 7.1. We are to model sincere *trust and belief in God. (2 Timothy 1:5)
- 7.2. Parents are the leaders of their *families.
- 7.3. We should look after our children's:
 - body
 - mind
 - *spirit
- 7.4. We are to teach responsibility to the children.
 - Teach them when they obey there will be good results and more freedom.
 - Teach them when they do not obey there will be bad results and less freedom.
- 7.5. We should teach and correct our children. We should do this to imitate God. God teaches and corrects His people. This is because He loves them. Read: Hebrews 12:5-11.

8. Responsibilities of Singles. 1 John 2:14b

1. How can a young man keep his way holy? By living according to your word. Psalm 119:9
2. Set an example in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. 1 Tim 4:12
3. Be submissive and clothe yourself with humility. 1 Pet 5:5
4. Remember your Creator. Ecclesiastes 12:1
5. Flee the evil desires. 2 Timothy 2:22
6. Be disciplined. Hebrews 12: 8-11
7. Be happy in everything, but know that God will judge all you do. Ecclesiastes 11: 9,10

Lesson 19: OUR FUTURE

Key thought: Revelation 7:9,10

After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice:

“Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne and to the Lamb.....”

This lesson will talk about our future destination, for Christians and non-Christians.

It focuses on what happens when we die and the final judgment and final events.

This will help us to be certain of our hope in Christ and to overcome the fear of death, while it will also show us the urgency of communicating the truth to one another “while there’s still time.”

A. Where are we going when we die?

God’s Word mentions two places that can be our final destination: Heaven or Hell. Your destination depends on whether you believe in Christ as your Saviour or you do not believe in Him.

1. What is heaven?

- God’s throne. **Revelation 4.** Isaiah 66:1, Acts 7:49
- God’s holy dwelling place. Deuteronomy 26:15
- God’s temple. Revelation 11:19
- Where Christ ascended. Luke 24:51, Hebrews 9:24.

Jesus will bring His children to live in heaven right after they die.

Luke 12:32-34	Ecclesiastes 12:5c and 7
John 14:1-3	Psalms 31:5
2 Corinthians 5:1-8	Luke 23:46
Philippians 3:20, 21	Revelation 6:9,10
1 Peter 1:4-5	

2. What is hell?

- Eternal fire, a place of punishment for the devil and his fallen angels. Matthew 25:41
- A lake of fire, where the wicked humans and those who reject the gospel will go. Revelation 21:8
- A fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Matthew 13:41,42,47-50
- A place where the body and soul is destroyed. Matthew 10:28
- In hell you will be punished with everlasting destruction, and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power. 2 Thessalonians 1: 9
- A place of torment. Luke 16:23
- The blackest darkness. Jude 13

People who don't believe in Jesus will go to hell.

Luke 16: 23-26, Philippians 3:18-20, Revelation 21: 8

(Back note for the teachers: The Bible isn't clear about when this will happen. May be right after they die or otherwise after the Day of Judgment. Not everything is made clear to us; we need to leave this knowledge to God)

B. What is the last day?

1. Jesus will come back to earth.

Matthew 24:23-44	1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11	Revelation 16:15
Colossians 3:4	Hebrews 9:28	Revelation 22:12
1 Thessalonians 1:9-10	2 Peter 3:1-18	[2 Thessalonians 2:1-4]
1 Thessalonians 3:13	Revelation 1:7	[1 John 3:1-3]

(Back note for the teachers: In these last days different things will come up. People have different thoughts about the sequence of events in these last days. We are not given a full clear time line. We have to leave this to God. We have to focus on the fact that we have to be ready to meet our Lord and Saviour at that time.)

2. There will be a final judgment. Everyone will stand before God. The unbelievers will be judged, the believers will be saved by Jesus Christ their Saviour.

Matthew 7:21-23	John 5: 18-21	1 Peter 4:3-6
Matthew 12:36	Acts 17:30-31	2 Peter 2:1-10
Matthew 25:31-46	Romans 2:1-11	Revelation 20:11-15
John 3:18-21	2 Thessalonians 1:5-10	[2 Corinthians 5:9-10]

3. There will be a new heaven and a new earth where God's children will live eternally in God's presence. Revelation 21:2,3

Hell will be the place where those who do not love God and accept His Son Jesus Christ as their Saviour will live eternally. Revelation 21:8

Application:

How do I know I will go to heaven?

We must believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. 1 John 5:11-13

We must be chosen and called. 2 Peter 1:10,11

We must be born again. John 3:5

We must trust in God and Jesus. John 14:1,2

We must be righteous. 1 John 2:28,29

What should our attitude be towards heaven?

We should lay up treasures there. Matthew 6:20

We should sacrifice everything for it. Matthew 13:44-46

We must train ourselves to get the prize, our crown that last forever. 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 and 2 Timothy 4: 7-8

We must endure hardship for it. 2 Timothy 2:3-7

We should long for it. 2 Corinthians 5:2

We should have our focus on the prize, which is being with God in heaven. Philippians 3:13,14

Questions for personal quiet time:

- What is my attitude toward heaven? Colossians 3: 2

There is still time to tell others about the future that is sure to come.

- What am I doing about it? How do I tell others about our eternal home?
- If I died today, am I prepared to go home? 1 Corinthians 3:10-15, Acts 3:19-21
- If Jesus came back today, am I ready to meet Him? Matthew 25:1-13

Lesson 20: HOW TO PREPARE AND GIVE MESSAGES

Most important thought: This lesson is about how to prepare and give messages from the Bible. In this way, messages will be more interesting. They will help people to understand. And the message will be more useful in their lives.

1. How to prepare messages:

1.1. Pray for God to guide you. Ask God to show to you how to do this work. And pray for God to give you wisdom.

Read: 2 Timothy 3:16-17; [Psalm 127:1-2]

1.2. Pray for those who will hear the message. Pray that they will understand the message.

Read: 2 Timothy 2:2

1.3. These are things that help you prepare. If possible find out:

- Who will attend the course?
- What do they need to hear?
- What you want to happen because of the message?
- Keep in mind, it is the *Holy Spirit that changes lives.

1.4. Choose a Bible passage. Study the *verses. Four questions:

- 1)** Main idea – what are the main ideas in the *verses? Do your main ideas agree with what comes before this passage?
- 2)** God – what do the *verses tell us about God (Father, Son, and *Holy Spirit)? Does this agree with the character of Christ? We see God’s character most clearly in Christ’s death on the cross (also see Lessons 2 and 4).
- 3)** Lesson – what do the *verses teach us? What do they warn us about? What do they promise?
- 4)** You and me – what do these *verses tell us to do?

1.5. Collect teaching tools and examples:

- Make it interesting. Find things that help to understand the passage. In this way, you can better explain what you teach.
Examples: stories, act out the passage, posters, and other things.
- Collect materials that you need to teach.
Examples: posters, things that show what is in the passage

2. Build your message like this:

2.1. Build the parts of your message like this:

- 1)** First thoughts. This helps the people know what will be in the message. It gets them thinking about what you will teach.
- 2)** Organize the most important ideas (2 to 5 ideas).
- 3)** Explain each main idea well. Use the examples you have prepared. For example: stories, posters or other interesting things.
- 4)** Give the most important idea of the passage. And explain how you can use it in your life.

2.2. Your message will look like this:

- First thoughts
- Important point 1
- Explain Important point 1 (example, story, poster)
- Important point 2
- Explain Important point 2 (example, story, poster)
- Important point 3
- Explain Important point 3 (example, story, poster)
- Important point 4
- Explain Important point 4 (example, story, poster)
- Most important idea. And how to use it in your life.

3. How to present messages:

- 3.1.** Give the first thoughts. Tell people what you intend to tell them.
- 3.2.** Read the *verses, or have someone read them for you.
- 3.3.** Give each point and the example.
- 3.4.** Watch the people. Do they understand?
- 3.5.** Use discussion if possible. Then tell people what they can do with what they have learned.
- 3.6.** Say what the most important idea of the message is. Answer questions.

WORD LIST

angel [5, 7, 10]

A servant from God to bring His messages; a very good person from heaven, better than men or women; an angel says and sings good things about God; an angel does what God wants; an angel does good for people that are in God's *family. Most of the time angels cannot be seen.

to baptize [3, 13]

When they put a person under water or put water on a person. It represents the death of their old life. And it represents new life in Jesus Christ.

baptism [3, 13]

A ceremony where someone goes underwater for a moment. This shows other people that now they want to obey God. They are sorry because of all the wrong things that they have done.

bitter [17, 18]

A bitter person is unhappy and angry. They have no joy. They cannot forgive. As a result, they often complain. And they say and think unkind things.

bitterness [17]

Bitterness means feeling angry and unhappy (someone who is bitter). You feel that somebody has done something wrong to you. And you cannot forgive or forget what has happened.

chief [13]

A chief is a leader and a very important person. A chief has power and authority.

church [10, 18]

All Christians, in all places and in all times.

church [5, 7, 12, 17]

In these lessons church means a group of believers at one place. They *worship, pray and read the Bible together.

clean [4, 11, 13]

Here the word means to be without *sin

10 Commandments [8]

Commandments are the rules that God gave to us. God gave us the Commandments to show us how He wants us to live.

compassion [2]

To understand when another person suffers. To love this person and to look after them.

disciple [1, 3]

Someone who accepts that which Jesus taught and who follows Jesus.

eternal [3]

God is eternal: He has no beginning or end. Eternal life is a life that will never end.

faith [7, 12]

to *trust someone or something; belief and trust in God and in Jesus, His Son

family [5, 7, 14, 17, 18]

In these lessons family means father, mother and their children

family [12, 13, 17]

In these lessons everyone who believes in Jesus. (In lesson 17 when family means people who believe in Jesus it says God's family)

glory [7, 9, 13,]

Great honour and beauty - the power and great importance/greatness of God.

grace [11, 12]

A gift of God that we do not deserve and cannot earn; what God gives because He is generous; the help and protection that come from God.

guilt [11]

To feel bad about something that you have done; to know the wrong things that we have done.

guilty [8]

To be responsible for doing something wrong.

Holy Spirit [1, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19]

This is God the Holy Spirit that Jesus sent to help people. It is another name for God. The Holy Spirit is a person but not human as we are. He is God, and He does the work of God among the people in the world. He is one person of the *Trinity.

Jew (Jewish) [8, 9, 12]

A person who is from the *family of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The people of Israel were called *Jews (God changed Jacob's name to Israel). Jesus was a *Jew.

liver [2]

The liver is an important part in the body. Some people use it as a word picture. Then, it represents the inner person.

Lord [3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 15, 18]

Someone who has authority over people. It is a name for God to show that He is king over all. Christians accept Jesus as their Lord.

meditate [5, 16]

To meditate is to think deeply about something. When you do this, you sit in a quiet place and think about God's word.

meditation [5]

Quiet time during which you think deeply about something. You do not speak during this time.

mercy [2, 4, 11, 12]

God's love and goodness; the love that God shows when He forgives us.

murder [8, 9]

To take a person's life. To kill someone in disobedience to moral law.

New Testament [3, 4]

The second part of the Bible. It tells about the life of Jesus. It is about the things that Jesus did and taught. And it tells about what Christians believe and do.

Old Testament [3, 5, 8, 9]

The first 39 books of the Bible, which the writers wrote before the life of Jesus.

Pentecost

The time when God first gave the *Holy Spirit in power to the group of Christians after Jesus had returned to His Father in heaven.

Pharisees [8, 9]

A group of *Jews who studied the *Old Testament. They thought that they kept all of God's commands. They thought that they obeyed all of God's Law. So they became very proud. They did not like the things that Jesus taught.

reconciliation (reconciled) [7, 17]

Reconciliation is the end to a disagreement and the start of a good relationship again. Reconciled is the past tense of reconcile (to end a disagreement). Reconciliation is the process (verb) of being reconciled.

repentance [12]

A change of mind and heart; to be sorry for our *sin and turn to God.

revenge [5, 17]

To hurt somebody because they have also hurt you. Revenge is the opposite of forgiveness.

righteous [4]

Those who do what is right and good; very good; only God is really righteous.

righteousness [15]

Being right with God; people whom God sees as clean and not as His enemies.

sacrifice [16]

A gift to God to ask Him to forgive sins; to thank Him for something. A gift to God: often an animal or bird. This was a way to worship God in the Old Testament. Jesus gave Himself to die as a sacrifice for our *sins. Jesus' death ended the sacrifice of animals.

salvation [11, 12, 13, 15]

When God *saves a person from the punishment for *sin; when God forgives us and gives us new life in Christ

sanctification [13]

Sanctification means to become more like Jesus. Our character becomes more like Jesus' character. This is a process. During this process, we become more holy. This is another word for the process of becoming *spiritually mature.

Satan [7, 10, 15, 16, 17]

Satan means 'the enemy'. He is sometimes called 'the devil'. He tries to destroy people.

save (saves, saved) [6, 8, 11, 12, 15]

To be saved is to be forgiven for the wrong we have done. We are saved when we trust Jesus Christ. When we trust Jesus Christ we are saved from the punishment for our sin.

shepherd [9]

Someone who looks after sheep.

sin (sinned) [2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17]

Sin is an action or desire that does not obey God's law. Sins are the wrong things that we want or do.

sinful [4, 8, 10, 12, 16]

An action or desire can be sinful. They do not obey God's law. They are wrong.

spirit [7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 18]

The part of a person that is alive, but we cannot see it. It decides what to do – good or bad things. Our spirit can speak to God and God can speak to our spirit.

Spirit [3]

Here Spirit means God. It means He is alive but nobody can see Him. He does not have a physical body like we do. Jesus Christ has a body, but He is now in heaven with God the Father. (See also *Trinity.)

spirits [9, 10]

Spirits are alive, but we cannot see them. There are good spirits and bad spirits. *Satan is the leader of the bad spirits. When God created Satan, Satan was a good *angel. But Satan *sinned and became a bad (evil) spirit.

spiritual [5, 10, 13, 14, 15, 18]

Things that are not physical. It is about the soul and spirit of a person.

spiritual gifts [6]

Special gifts that the *Holy Spirit gives to people when they become a Christian. Spiritual gifts are for the good of other people. (Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-11.)

tax collector [9]

People had to give money to the tax collectors. Then the tax collectors had to give the money to the king or the master. Sometimes the tax collectors were not honest. They asked for more money. Tax collectors were hated by the *Jews because they worked for the Roman government. The Roman government did many evil things to the *Jews. Roman people were from a different country (Rome).

temptation (tempt) [10, 15, 16]

Something that attracts us to do something wrong. It can be the desire for something good but in a wrong way. For example: sex within marriage is good. But the desire to have sex with someone who is not your wife or husband is temptation.

Trinity [3, 4]

God is one God in three persons. He is Father, Son and *Holy Spirit. In English, we call this the *Trinity. (See lesson 3)

trust (trusting, trusted) [5, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18]

If you trust someone, you believe they will do what they say. We have trust in God when we believe and do what the Bible says.

unclean [9]

Here the word means to be *sinful, to be morally dirty.

verse [1, 2, 5, 9, 12, 13, 17, 19]

One of the divisions of a chapter in the Bible

vine [10, 16, 17]

A plant that grows up the side of a tree or on a fence. One kind of vine is a grape vine. This vine has many small, sweet fruits called grapes. People make wine from grapes.

vineyard [10]

A field where people grow vines. Grapes grow on vines. People make wine from grapes. In Isaiah's book, the vineyard often means Judah and Israel.

wantok [17]

In the South Pacific this term means those who belong to the same language group and culture. They belong to one tribe and help each other. (wantok = one talk)

will [6]

The power a person has to choose what to do; power of the mind; the power to make moral choices

womb [2]

The place in a woman's body where a baby grows.

worship [1, 5, 10, 13, 15]

1) To do things that please God; when we obey God and follow Him.
2) To worship is to thank God and Jesus. We also worship when we pray and sing songs that honour Him. When we worship, we show God that He is great. We tell Him that He has done great things. We show God that we love and admire Him very much.

yoke [4]

A yoke is a special piece of wood. The farmer puts it on the neck of his oxen (big cows) when they work for him. The *Jews used the word 'yoke' as a word picture. They were talking about how they must obey the law. But Jesus offers an easy yoke. It is easy because Jesus looks after His *disciples.

Poster guide, explanation of the posters

Lesson 1: How Do We Pursue Truth?

Key thought:

Everyone builds their life on their beliefs, knowingly or unknowingly. We must test what we believe against the absolute truth of God's word. The only person to be without error was Jesus!

Poster 1

The 3 trees represent people:

- One is an unbeliever: no fruit, almost no leaves
- One is a believer at salvation: no fruit
- One is a mature believer: healthy tree with lots of fruit

The boxes under the trees represent their roots, the foundations of their lives

Inside these boxes are symbols:

- One symbol represents lies or deception
- The other symbol represents truth

Lesson 2: God Loves Us Like a Good Father

Key thought:

This session emphasizes God's fatherly care and His desire for intimacy with His creatures. Also, God designed the role of an earthly father to be an example to his children of who the Heavenly Father is. Earthly fathers can distort our view of God.

Poster 2a

- The left figure represents God in love reaching down to us (the triangle represents the Trinity).
- The right figure represents earthly fathers' loving care of their children.

Poster 2b

- Background figure represents God and His love for us.
- The three small pictures represent the Prodigal Son story in Luke 15: 11-32. This poster answers the question: How do we correct our wrong ideas of what God is like?

Lesson 3: What God is Like

Key thought:

This topic looks at how God has described His nature: everlasting, creator, all-powerful, all-knowing, all-present, invisible, and personal. God is one God, in three persons. In English this is given the name Trinity. This session investigates what Scripture says of the triune nature of God. This is a critical concept because many groups who become apostate have twisted this concept of God.

Poster 3a

- 1a) God is everlasting: the arrow and circle are showing God had no beginning and no end.
(It's a western symbol).
- 1b) God is Creator (He spoke and the world was created)
- 2a) God is infinite in power
- 2b) God is infinite in knowing
- 2c) God is infinite in a presence: He is present everywhere, all time (He is outside of time)
- 3) God is invisible (Jesus was visible while on earth, but until He returns He, like the Father and the Holy Spirit, is also invisible).
- 4) God is personal and relates with humans.

Poster 3b

- The shadow type figure represents God. The triangle represents the three persons of the Trinity.
- The three soccer players symbolize the three persons of the Trinity having the same ability, purpose, and love.

Lesson 4: What God's Actions Are Like

Key thought:

The attributes of God's nature are things we cannot attain. (We already are personal as He is). God's main character attribute is love and all that He does is motivated by love. We are told to grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18). We do this by becoming more like God's character, which is love (1 Corinthians 13:13; James 2:8; John 15:12). Our understanding of God is crucial to our walk of faith.

Poster 4

The flower represents God's beauty. If one petal were missing it would not appear complete. The stem represents God's love which feeds all the character traits. There would be no flower without the stem feeding it. God's faithfulness is represented by the arrow, which symbolizes the sun faithfully rising every day.

Lesson 5: How Do We Develop Friendship with God?

Key thought:

Developing a close friendship with God includes spending time with Him in prayer and Bible meditation. Practical suggestions on our daily devotional life, in a way that develops personal friendship with God, are emphasized.

Poster 5a

The round object is supposed to be a clock. The intent is that these are things we should do every day. In fact we are told to pray continually (1 Thessalonians 5:17) and we should always be ready to listen to the Lord and check/compare what we think we hear with the Word of God, since God will never contradict Himself. We should also always be in a spirit of worship.

Poster 5b

I believe the poster explains the pictures.

Poster 5c

The pictures are labelled with a description. Number 4, an open door, symbolizes God showing us a new possibility or action. Number 5 is showing someone dreaming while asleep.

Lesson 6: God Made Us With a Design and Purpose

Key thought:

We were created in God's image in order to have a love relationship with Him and other people. This session discusses the purpose of people, their great value and how we are specifically made like God – with a mind, will, and emotions.

Poster 6

- Top left picture – God is a personal being wanting a relationship with us. We were created in God's image with: mind (our thinking), will (our choices), and emotions (our feelings).
- Top right picture – mind, will, and emotions can be symbolized by a truck. The engine is what provides the power (symbolizing the mind). The choices we make (our will) are symbolized by the steering wheel that turns the truck, and the emotions, like the trailer, follow behind. If the truck trailer leads the truck will likely meet with disaster. Likewise if we follow only our emotions we will probably have problems.
- Bottom picture – illustrates that God wants believers to live together in close relationship with Him.

Lesson 7: God's Laws of Love

Key thought:

God desires people to live according to the way He designed them. Living this way will not only please God, but benefit people as well.

Poster 7

The fence around the outside of the picture represents the boundaries set by the law. We will be happiest if we live within this fence/boundary. But we cannot. The only One who did was Jesus. The pictures numbered one to ten represent the Ten Commandments.

Lesson 8: Why Do We Sin?

Key thought:

This session focuses on the sinful condition of the heart, with an emphasis on people's selfish disobedience of God's laws. Because of this violation of their design, people are reaping destructive consequences.

Poster 8a

The tree represents the man's life. One man has God at the centre of his life, the other man has himself at the centre of his life. The man with God at the centre of his life will have fruit just like this

tree. A man with himself as the centre of his life will be like this other tree with fruit that is no good. The tree may look healthy but it cannot bear healthy fruit because it is rotten inside.

Poster 8b

This poster is detailing the heart of the man on the right side of Poster 8a. The different animals represent the following sins; which are also the bad fruits on the tree.

- Rat – thief, greed, envy, dirty actions
- Snake – deceit, evil thoughts, worship other gods
- Cassowary (Muruk)– murder (this bird can easily kill with its feet), fight, anger
- Frog – laziness, slander
- Pig – greed, envy
- Dog – lewdness, adultery, sexual immorality
- Bird of Paradise – arrogance, foolishness

The blindfold is the blindness of unbelievers (2 Corinthians 4:4; Matthew 23:23-26)

Lesson 9: The Result Of Our Sin?

Key thought:

Because of this violation of their design, people are reaping destructive consequences. This lesson discusses the importance of right motives, not just good external actions.

Poster 9a

This poster represents the narrow and the wide roads (Matthew 7:13). The pictures along the wide road are according to Romans 1. When we reject the truth we go deeper and deeper into darkness until finally we reach destruction.

Poster 9b

- The picture at the top is of a toilet, with a man sitting in the bottom of the toilet. We, like this man, often choose to remain in our filth and sin until God convicts us of sin. The spear in God's heart and the tears represent God's pain when our lives are like this, but He will not force us to come out. It must be our choice.
- At the bottom, the fenced area as in Posters 6 and 7 represents life within God's law – the laws that tell us how we can best enjoy life. The fence is broken, which represents our breaking God's laws.

Lesson 10: Who Satan Is And How He Works?

Key thought:

This teaching describes the purpose and strategies of Satan. It discusses who Satan is, where he came from, his ultimate evil plan for our lives, and his methods to reach that goal.

Poster 10a

The lion (right) represents Satan (1 Peter 5:8). The dog represents us. If we belong to Christ, we know He is stronger than Satan. The picture of Satan is not a true picture. It is an old Western idea. In reality Satan often appears beautiful: see 2 Corinthians 11:14.

Poster 10b

This poster has three pictures of how Satan can trap us with good things.

- The fish needs to eat. The worm on the hook entices him to eat. But when he eats he is caught on the hook.
- The monkey reaches into the bowl (which is tied to the tree). He grabs the nut in the bowl and closes his hand. When his hand is closed he cannot remove his hand from the bowl, so he is caught because he will not let go of the nut.
- The wolf lives in a very cold place. Someone hunting the wolf can simply bury a knife in the ice. Then the blade of the knife is coated with blood. The wolf comes and licks the blood on the knife. As he licks the blood, he cuts his own tongue. Now he is drinking his own blood, and dies from bleeding to death.

Poster 10c

- #1 is illustrating a man with a bottle of alcohol, a man who is a glutton, and a couple trapped in sexual sin.
- #2 is a man who lusts after money, possessions, and property.
- #3 is a man who thinks of only himself.
- #4 is a man trapped by fear.
- #5 is people gossiping and slandering others.
- #6 is possibly the one Satan loves most – dividing believer against believer within the church, and one church or denomination against another. Outsiders see this and think there cannot be any truth to the Bible: look how they treat each other! Jesus said the world will recognize us as Christians by how we love one another.

Lesson 11: We See God's Grace in Salvation

Key thought:

This session discusses how God, in His incredible mercy, longs to forgive our sinfulness and bring us into relationship with Him. Understanding and experiencing God's heart towards us is the greatest motivating force in our spiritual lives.

Poster 11a

- Top – the heart has a thin layer of black, as though just the outer layer is bad.
- Middle picture and Jeremiah 17:9 tell us our hearts are full of deceit and beyond cure.
- Bottom – shows a “heart of flesh”, soft and responsive, which God promises to give us. (Ezekiel 36:26)

Poster 11b

- Top – shows the stages of Christ’s death: from His prayer in Gethsemane to His crucifixion.
- Bottom – shows the toilet (as in Poster 9b) but here God is reaching into the toilet with the symbol of Christ’s shed blood: man’s only way out. The fact that God is reaching into the toilet symbolizes that Christ came to us and offers salvation while we are yet sinners (Romans 5:8). This Romans verse also shows we come as we are to Christ; the only thing we bring to the cross is our sin!

Poster 11c

This is Poster 9a showing Jesus took the punishment for our rebellion.

Lesson 12: What is Salvation?

Key thought:

This session discusses what happens when we trust Christ as Saviour. Defined in this lesson is: repentance, faith, salvation from sin, and adoption into God’s family.

Poster 12

- #1 We see 3 men in this section all depicting the same thing. The man in front is in chains, representing our sins. The man with the large rock represents us carrying around our sin. The third man represents us dead in our sin. #1 is repentance, which simply means to ‘re-think and turn from’.
- #2 Faith is pictured by the man who trusts in what Christ did on the cross. He is freed from sin; the chains are broken.
- #3 God takes the basin of Christ’s blood and applies the blood to our heart and makes us clean.
- #4 We’ve been adopted into God’s family, placed inside the fence.

Lesson 13: What are the Marks of a Christian?

Key thought:

This teaching covers what a Christian should ‘look like.’ The study comes primarily from 1 John. We know a Christian’s life has been changed on the inside when we see love.

Poster 13

This pictures 8 different marks or characteristics of a Christian. These marks do not always appear immediately in us – they are things we see growing as we look over the last 6 to 12 months. As we look back we should see evidence of these marks growing in our life.

- #1 – the sun represents light
- #2 – do what God commands in His Word – the Bible pictured
- #3 – the two figures represent loving your brother
- #4 – this man is lusting after the things of this world
- The remainder are either self-explanatory or, like 7 and 8, hard to illustrate

Lesson 14: This is How to Overcome the Enemy

Key thought:

Knowing the truth about our authority in Jesus and the spiritual weapons available to us is critical to knowing how to defeat Satan. This session focuses on Ephesians 6 and its practical application to our battle with the enemy.

Poster 14

- Left – life in darkness is hard. The blindfold represents the spiritual blindness of unbelievers. The cover over the roof of the house represents how the unbeliever does not experience all of God's blessings. (He does experience some).
- Right – living in the light, believers *can* experience abundant life. This life does not exclude pain. In fact, we are promised hardship will be a part of our new life.

Mark 10:29-30 GNB: "Yes," Jesus said to them, "and I tell you that those who leave home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and for the gospel, will receive much more in this present age. They will receive a hundred times more houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and fields---and persecutions as well; and in the age to come they will receive eternal life."

This is a great poster to explain why we don't stay on the right all the time. Romans 7 tells us there is a battle. When we find we have sinned (moved back to the left in our living) we do not lose our salvation, but we need to confess our sin and move back to the right. (1 John 1:9)

Poster 14b

This is a Roman soldier and is self-explanatory.

Lesson 15: Why Do We Need to be Holy?

Key thought:

Our fellowship with God depends on our walk with Him. This session stresses the importance of walking in holiness, to "be holy because I am holy" 1 Peter 1:16. This lesson also teaches on our position in Christ versus our growth in holiness.

Poster 15

This poster is a representation of the 2 aspects of our spiritual life. The pictures were explained in the descriptions of Posters 12 and 14a. The graph is probably best explained as 2 glasses. The glass on the left is full. That represents our position in Christ at salvation – sin forgiven. The glass on the right represents us as we mature and become more like Christ. This is also pictured in Poster 1 where the new believer still has many lies that need to be replaced with God's truth, and the mature tree has fruit, but still has lies that need to be replaced through our growing in spiritual maturity. So the glass on the right is filling up as we become more like Christ – but we never fully fill that glass because we never reach perfection in this life. If we stop growing like Christ, if we stop maturing, we actually can lose some of our gains when we backslide: Matthew 7:24-27.

Lesson 16: How Do We Break Sinful Habits?

Key thought:

Victory over sinful habits is possible through the power of the Holy Spirit and knowing God. Practical steps to knowing and desiring to be more like Him are also discussed.

Poster 16a

- Top picture represents discipline – like someone who competes in a race.
- 2nd picture: the rock represents sin's burden, which can be left behind at the cross.
- 3rd picture represents the things of this world. Philippians 4:8-9 says instead of thinking about these things, think about true, noble, and pure things.
- Bottom picture represents youthful desires: flee them.

Poster 16b

- Top picture represents someone studying the Bible.
- Middle picture represents fleeing from the path of the wicked (like the story of Joseph and Potiphar's wife (Genesis 39)).
- Bottom picture shows God desiring to be our spiritual Father.

Lesson 17: Why Should We Forgive?

Key thought:

This session defines forgiveness, examines Jesus' life and example, and gives practical steps in both asking for forgiveness and extending forgiveness.

Poster 17a

The picture at the top depicts a conflict. (It could be any kind of conflict). We have a choice of 2 paths – one is revenge which brings bitterness and destruction; the other brings forgiveness and freedom.

Poster 17b

Like a vine entangling us, bitterness affects our whole life and all our relationships. Your desire to injure the one who wronged you also pierces God's heart – it is sin like this that brought Jesus to the cross, to pay the penalty for sin.

Poster 17c

This poster is illustrating Matthew 18:21-35. The servant on his knees at the top is the same man who is strangling the other man at the bottom.

Lesson 18: How Do We Live As a Christian Family?

Key thought:

This session discusses the importance and value of Christian homes in our communities. The Scriptural roles and responsibilities of husbands and wives are studied: God's design for the family to be a place where all members are nurtured and strengthened in their life in Him.

Poster 18a

- Top left is illustrating Jesus' life of love.
- Top right – Jesus' life should be reflected in the relationship between husband and wife.
- Bottom – the relationship between earthly fathers and their children should be like the Father heart of God (see poster 2a).

Poster 18b

Most of these illustrations are self-explanatory (I think).

#2 is showing a man (right) seeking forgiveness or trying to help the other man (left). This sets an example to the children who watch.

#3 The family (centre) who live according to Christ's example are an example to others.

Lesson 19:

This lesson is optional because many mainline churches hold different views on the end times. SALT seeks to serve all mainline churches and so therefore it must remain neutral on certain end times theology. If your church doesn't agree with the material presented in this lesson, it is acceptable for you to leave lesson 19 out of your language's SALT course book.

Key thought:

This lesson talks about our future destination for Christians and non-Christians. It focuses on what happens when we die, the final judgment and final events. This will help us to be certain of our hope in Christ and to overcome the fear of death, while it will also show us the urgency of communicating the truth to one another "while there's still time."

Poster 19

The poster illustrates the moment that all the people from every nation, tribe, people and language are standing before God's throne and in front of the Lamb.

Lesson 20 Preparing and Presenting Messages

Key thought:

Learning how to prepare and present Biblical messages will help sermons to be more interesting, understandable, and effective. Simple exegesis of a passage of Scripture is taught and demonstrated throughout the course.

Poster 20 The man is preparing a message.