



BASIC CHRISTIANITY

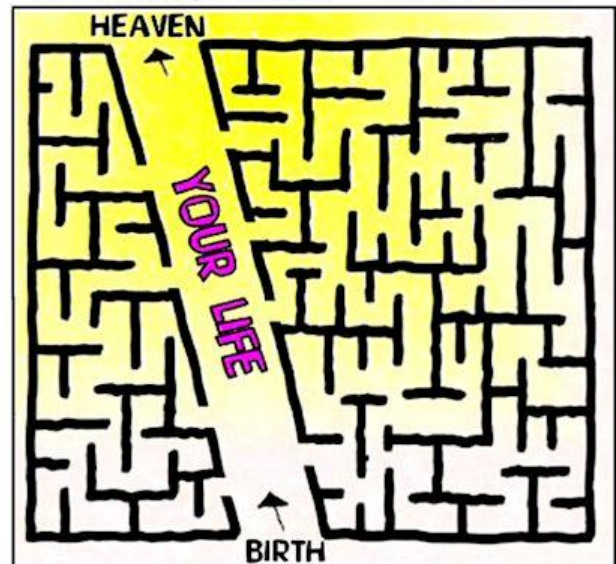
John 3:16 "For God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life."

Introduction:

This course is designed for people who have just become Christians as adults. It has a few basic ideas to start building a new life on the only foundation we can count on, Jesus Christ.

<u>Lesson</u>	<u>Topic</u>
1	Salvation - The Romans Road
2	Savior - Jesus Christ
3	Speaking with God - Prayer
4	Spiritual Society - Christian Fellowship
5	Service - Discipleship
6	Scriptures - Read Forever
7	Sin - Something to Avoid
8	Skepticism - Not Knowing Everything
9	Sharing Your Faith - Witnessing

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



THE ROAD TO HEAVEN is more obvious than we make it. Only our choices along the way complicate this journey.

Suggested methodology for each lesson:

1. Fellowship (Save most of this for the end of class.)
2. Take prayer requests (Try to keep it from becoming a competition to see who has the most or the worst.)
3. Pray (The idea here is to leave our troubles with God so we can give His word our attention with a clear mind.)
4. Read the lesson's text aloud from the Bible. (... or a few verses at a time as you answer the questions.)
5. Answer and *briefly* discuss the "fill in the blank" questions. (Let those who prefer to listen, listen. My answers on the next page are just one opinion; you may have a better answer if it is based on Scripture.)
6. On the final "Think & Pray" question everyone should take a few minutes to pray over it and jot down their own thoughts before the discussion. **This will give the Holy Spirit a time to speak.**
7. Discuss your "Think & Pray" answers. (Never force anyone to share theirs. As with the other questions, my answer is just one more opinion; you may have a better answer.)
8. Close in prayer (It is best to call on others to pray, but try to get their permission ahead of time.)
9. Fellowship (Leave this as open ended as possible for the time and place you meet.)

Depending on the number of people, each lesson is expected to take about one hour. Steps 4 thru 7 are about half of that. If you take longer, let each lesson take more than one meeting, or consider breaking into two groups. The final "Think & Pray" question should always be covered, because that is when everyone takes a quiet moment to listen to the Teacher, the Holy Spirit. If you take less time, extra questions are provided for discussion called "For Further Thought" The first lesson is a little shorter to allow time for talking over course logistics, introductions, and setting expectations.

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----- 9 Week Schedule -----

Each week there will be a pre-reading assignment. The lesson worksheet will be handed out at the beginning of class and the lesson discussed.

Pre-read for Week 1 – Romans chapters 1-16

(2 chapters a day for 2 days and 3 chapters for 4 days)

Pre-read for Week 2 – Matthew 1, 2, 4, 14 & 28, Luke 2, 4 & 23, Mark 1, John 6, 8, 11 & 14, Acts 1

(2 chapters a day for 6 days)

Pre-read for Week 3 – Matthew 6 & 26, Luke 18, John 15 & 17, Romans 8, 1st Thess 5, Daniel 6

(2 chapters a day for 2 days, 1 chapter a day for 4 days)

Pre-read for Week 4 – Matthew 18, 1st Cor 12-14, Hebrews 10, 12 & 13

(2 chapters a day for 1 day, 1 chapter a day for 5 days)

Pre-read for Week 5 – Matt 7 & 22, John 14, Rom 12, 1st Cor 3, Phil 4, 2 Tim 2, Heb 5, 6, 11 & 13,

1st John 5 (2 chapters a day for 6 days)

Pre-read for Week 6 – Deut 6, Ps 1, Is 55, Matt 4, John 5, Acts 10 & 17, Rom 15, 2nd Tim 3, Jam 1

(2 chapters a day for 5 days and then Ps 119 on the last day)

Pre-read for Week 7 – 2nd Samuel 11, Acts 13, Romans 6 & 7, 1st John 1 & 2

(1 chapter a day for 6 days)

Pre-read for Week 8 – Matthew 14, John 9, 1st Cor 2, 1st Tim 6, 2nd Tim 2, Titus 3

(1 chapter a day for 6 days)

Pre-read for Week 9 – Ps 2, Prov 29, Mat 28, Luk 5, John 1, 4 & 12, Act 1 & 26, 1st Cor 2, 2nd Cor 4 &

5 (2 chapters a day for 6 days)

Lesson 1 – Salvation - The Romans Road

(Not an actual road, but an imaginary map to salvation, taken from the book of Romans in the Bible.)

Look up the scripture passages below in your Bible, and fill in the blanks with the correct answers.

[1A] Read Romans 3:23 How many have sinned and fallen short? _____

Read Romans 6:23

[1B] What is the wages or "pay off" of sin? _____

[1C] What is the free gift of God? _____

[1D] Read Romans 5:8 When did Jesus Christ die for us? _____

[1E] Read Romans 10:9-13 If we say Jesus is Lord and believe God raised him from the dead what happens to us? _____

[1F] What does it mean to be a Christian?

Think & Pray _____

For further thought: (These are the questions we will be finding scripture answers for in the rest of this course, but as a preview you can think about them and discuss them now.)

(1g) Who is Jesus Christ?

(1h) How do I talk with God?
How do I pray?

(1i) How do I relate to other Christians?

(1j) What does God want me to do?

(1k) How do I read the Bible?

(1l) Why do I still do things wrong?

(1m) Why do I still have doubts?

(1n) How can I talk to others about Jesus Christ?

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



ZOMBELIEVERS

For lesson 2 read – Matthew 1, 2, 4, 14 & 28, Luke 2, 4 & 23, Mark 1, John 6, 8, 11 & 14, Acts 1
(2 chapters a day for 6 days)

Lesson 1 – Salvation - The Romans Road

[1A] How many have sinned and fallen short? All We have all done things that we know God does not like. There is no one who is innocent. Romans 3:10-18 gives a detailed picture of what sin looks like in our lives. It only takes one little white lie to be a liar, or one little "borrowing without asking" to be a thief. We must all realize that we are sinners and that we need forgiveness. We are not worthy of God's grace. We were born under the power of sin's control.

[1B] What is the wages or "pay off" of sin? Death The punishment that we have earned for our sins is death. Not just physical death, but eternal spiritual death! Sin has an ending. It results in death. We all face physical death, which is a result of sin. But a worse death is spiritual death that makes us an enemy of God, and will last for all eternity.

[1C] What is the free gift of God? Eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. If we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, and repent of our sins, we will have eternal life.

[1D] When did Jesus Christ die for us? While we were sinners. Jesus Christ died for us! Jesus' death 2,000 years ago paid for the price of our sins. When Jesus rose from the dead alive again, it proved that God accepted Jesus' death as the payment for our sins. His love bought you out of being a slave to sin. His love is what saves you -- not religion, or church membership.

[1E] If we say Jesus is Lord and believe God raised him from the dead what happens to us? We are saved. Call out to God in the name of Jesus! There are no religious formulas or rituals -- just call upon the name of the Lord and you will be saved! Because of Jesus' death on our behalf, all we have to do is believe in Him, trusting His death as the payment for our sins - and we will be saved!

[1F] What does it mean to be a Christian?

Unlike other religions Christianity is not about obeying a lot of rules and laws. Christianity is about putting your trust in Jesus Christ. Why do we need to do that? We know the difference between right and wrong, and yet we often choose wrong. Why? A long time ago our great-great-great etc. grand father, Adam, decided that he would rather do things his own way, rather than listen to his Creator, God. That led to the ruin of everything. Now we live in a world under the control of evil. Unless we decide not to follow Adam, but rather follow God, we are doomed to stay under the control of evil forever. Our lives will become more and more like death until there is only death.

However, there is a problem with deciding to follow God. God can not accept evil followers. His followers must be good. We are not good, so we can not be His followers. That would be the end of the story, and the end of us, but God has a plan for saving us from this problem. He came into the world as a human being, Jesus Christ, and died that death for us. Since he died the death, we no longer have to become dead. The blood Jesus Christ shed for us when He died cleanses us from our wrongness and death, and we can become His followers. When we put our trust in Him, He puts His Holy Spirit within us. At that moment we are born again. Even as our physical body sickens and dies over time, this new spiritual life within us becomes more and more like Him, until finally we will escape this place of evil, and join Him in the heavenly places, forever.

There is a great deal more to learn about Christianity, but that is all you really have to know. It is about Him, not us. It is about what He has done, is doing, and will do. It is not about what we have done, are doing, or will do. If you trust Jesus Christ, your final destiny in the universe changes from death to life.

Lesson 2 - Savior - Jesus Christ

Christians are followers of Jesus Christ. They admire Him and want to be like Him as much as possible. The entire Bible, Old and New Testament, has much to say about Jesus Christ. His true followers will continue to learn more and more about Him their entire life. This lesson will give you a basic outline of His life, and a few of the things He said about Himself.

[2A] Read Matthew 1:18-25. What was the name of the mother of Jesus? _____

[2B] The stories you hear around Christmas time about the birth of Jesus are found in Matthew 2:1-15 and Luke 2:1-20. Read one or both of these passages. Where was Jesus born? _____

[2C] Read Mark 1:9-13 Where did the voice that called Jesus "Son" come from? _____

[2D] Read Matthew 14:14-21. How many loaves and fish did Jesus use to feed more than 5,000 people?

_____ loaves _____ fish

Jesus had many disciples or followers, but there were twelve that spent most of his ministry with Him, and became the leaders of the new Church after Jesus went up into heaven. Crowds followed him everywhere, and many times He would slip away to be alone and pray. Most of them probably followed Him because of His miracles but many followed Him to listen to his teachings. (See Matthew chapters 5, 6 and 7 for a sample.)

[2E] Read Luke 23:33-35. What did Jesus ask God to do for those who crucified Him. _____

[2F] Read Matthew 28:5-8 Who told them that Jesus was risen from the dead? _____

[2G] Read Acts 1:9-11. Is Jesus coming back here? _____

[2H] In John 6:35 what did Jesus say he was? _____

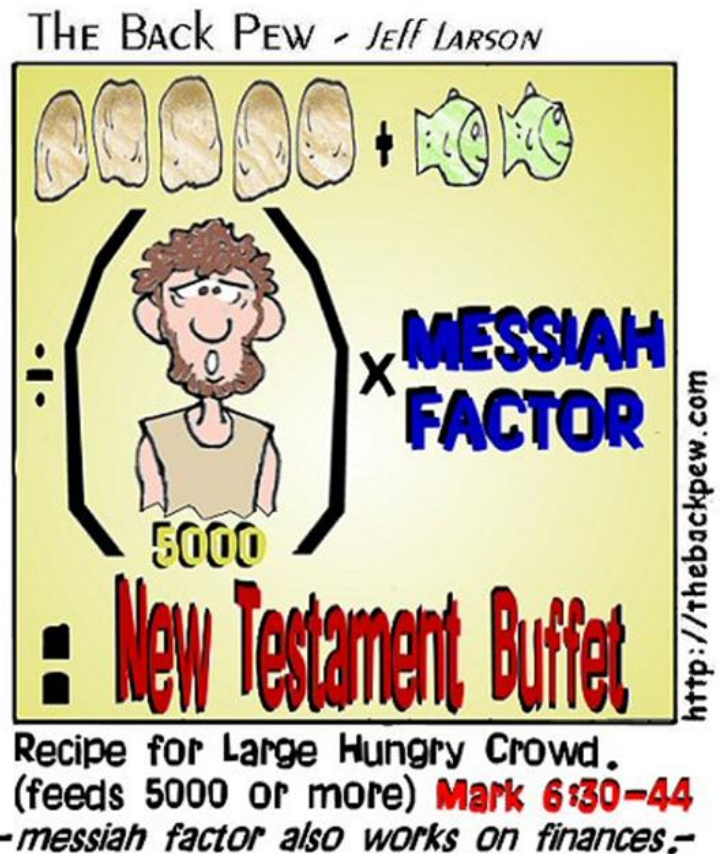
[2I] In John 8:12 what did Jesus say he was? _____

[2J] In John 11:25 what did Jesus say he was? _____

[2K] In John 14:6 what did Jesus say he was? _____

[2L] Who is Jesus Christ? _____

Think & Pray _____



----- ANSWERS -----

Lesson 2 - Savior - Jesus Christ

[2A] Mary was the mother of Jesus. The main point here is that Jesus was born of a virgin. (Also see Luke 1:26-38.) Besides being miraculous, His birth of a virgin is important because it is the fulfillment of prophecy. (See Genesis 3:15 and Isaiah 7:14.) Not much is known about Jesus' youth. (See Luke 2:41-52)

[2B] Jesus was born in Bethlehem (Matt 2:1) This is important because it is the fulfillment of prophecy. (See Matt 2:5-6 and Micah 5:2)

[2C]The voice came from Heaven (Mark 1:11) The public ministry of Jesus Christ began when he was approximately 30 years old, and lasted about three years. It began after John the Baptist baptized Jesus, and He spent forty days alone in the wilderness fasting and praying. At the end of the forty days Satan tried to make Jesus sin, but He stood the test, and then began His public ministry.

[2D] He used 5 loaves and 2 fish (Matthew 14:17) Jesus performed many other miracles, mostly healing people; but others as well, like walking on water, stopping a storm, and raising people from the dead.

[2E] Jesus asked God to forgive the ones who crucified Him. (Luke 23:34) Jesus was crucified. The teachings of Jesus made the leaders of the government and religion feel threatened, and His popularity made them feel jealous. They conspired to kill him. They arrested Him illegally, and after some illegal trials tried to kill Him by hanging Him on a cross. This was one of the methods of execution used in that day. It caused the victim to gradually suffocate to death, as He became too tired to lift Himself up to breathe. Jesus said loudly, He was giving up His Spirit to God, and Jesus' heart stopped. Normally, people who were crucified could not speak at all when they got close to dying, let alone speak loudly. Some soldiers tested to make sure He was really dead, and then His body was turned over to his friends for burial.

[2F] An angel (Matthew 28:5) Jesus rose from the dead. On the third day several people went to the tomb where Jesus had been placed, and found it empty. They found this very puzzling, until angels told them Jesus was alive, and they began to see Jesus for themselves. Jesus stayed among them for about six weeks and then rose up into heaven after promising to return one day.

[2G] Yes (Acts 1:11)

[2H] I AM the bread of life or the bread that gives life (John 6:35)

[2I] I AM the light of the world (John 8:12)

[2J] I AM the resurrection, and the life or the one who raises the dead to life (John 11:25)

[2K] I AM he way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6)

[2L] Who is Jesus Christ? We believe our Lord Jesus Christ is divine, was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, performed many notable miracles, died on the cross to atone for our sins, was physically resurrected, and ascended to be on the right hand of the Father, thus fulfilling many divine prophecies. Our blessed hope is that Jesus will return soon and suddenly in power and glory.

For further thought:

(2m) Read Matthew 4:1-11 and/or Luke 4:1-13. How did Jesus answer Satan's temptations?

What does that teach us about dealing with our temptations?

(2n) Compare these four verses. John 6:35 , John 8:12 , John 11:25 , or John 14:6 What did you learn?

(2o) Compare these three passages. Rom 4:23-25 , Rom 5:6-10 , or 1st Cor 15:1-8 What did you learn?

For lesson 3 read – Matthew 6 & 26, Luke 18, John 15 & 17, Romans 8, 1st Thess 5, Daniel 6
(2 chapters a day for 2 days, 1 chapter a day for 4 days)

Lesson 3 - Speaking with God - Prayer

So, God is now in charge of our lives. If He is the boss we need to learn how to communicate with Him.

Read Matthew 6:5-13 and answer these five questions:

[3A] According to verse 6 where should we pray? _____

[3B] According to verse 11 how often should we pray? _____

[3C] According to verse 11 what should we pray for? _____

[3D] According to verse 12 what should we pray for? _____

[3E] According to verse 13 what should we pray for? _____

Read Daniel 6:10 and answer these three questions.

[3F] What bodily position did Daniel use to pray? _____

[3G] How often did Daniel pray? _____

[3H] What did Daniel pray about? _____

[3I] Read 1st Thessalonians 5:17. How much does it say we should pray? _____

[3J] Read Romans 8:26 . When we do not know how to pray, who prays for us? _____

[3K] Look again at Matthew 6:9. Is prayer a form of worship? _____.

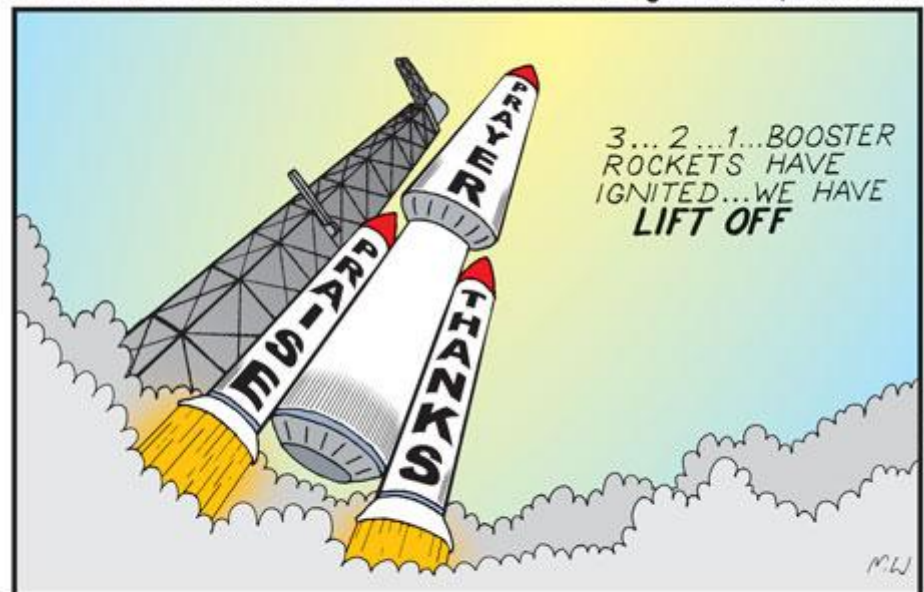
[3L] Read 1st Thessalonians 5:18. What should we thank God for? _____

[3M] Read John 15:7. Is there a limit on what we can ask for? _____

[3N] What do you think is the most important thing to remember about prayer?

Think & Pray _____

PRAYER BOOSTER ROCKETS A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name. - PSALM 100:4 NIV

For lesson 4 read - Matthew 18, 1st Cor 12-14, Hebrews 10, 12 & 13
(2 chapters a day for 1 day, 1 chapter a day for 5 days)

Lesson 3 - Speaking with God - Prayer

- [3A] We should pray in a closet or inner room (i.e. alone)
- [3B] We should pray at least daily. We should pray, until we know God has given us an answer.
- [3C] We should pray for our food or bread. We should pray, until our lack of what we need becomes plenty of everything.
- [3D] We should pray for forgiveness. We should pray, until our sorrow for our sins becomes assurance of God's forgiveness.
- [3E] We should pray for protection from temptation and evil
- [3F] Daniel prayed on his knees. We should pray in whatever position helps us keep our mind focused on Him instead of ourselves.
- [3G] Daniel prayed three times a day.
- [3H] Daniel gave thanks to God. We should pray expecting an answer.
- [3I] We should pray all the time. We can do this only if we trust the Holy Spirit to fill in the gaps where we fail. David prayed for his sick child for seven days and seven nights in a row. See 2nd Sam 12 Apparently Daniel prayed for three weeks solid. See Daniel 10:13 Matthew 6:7 said "use not vain repetitions" not just "repetitions." How much should you pray? As much as you need to - and, no less. We should pray, until our concern for our troubles becomes confidence in God's care for us. We should pray, until our confusion becomes a decision.
- [3J] The Holy Spirit prays for us when we don't know how to pray.
- [3K] Yes, prayer is a form of worship.
- [3L] We should thank God for everything. See Heb 13:15-16. We should start our prayer with gratitude and let it become worship. We should pray, until our fears disappear, and we have faith in God.
- [3M] No limit to what we can ask for. See also Luke 11:9-10. What should we pray for? Can we surprise God? Matthew 6:8 says God already knows what we need. A favorite saying of a minister friend of mine is, "There is no panic in heaven, only plans." As we have seen in Matthew 6:10-13 Jesus said we should ask that God's kingdom come, that God's will be done, for forgiveness, for food, and for protection from temptation and evil. In 1st Timothy 2:1-2 it tells us to pray for our government officials. In John 17 Jesus prays for His disciples.
- [3N] Prayer should be a time of listening as well as talking. As much as possible it is a good idea to pray with your Bible open in front of you. God often uses the Bible to speak to us. Our God is a generous God, but do not get Him mixed up with Santa Claus. There is nothing wrong with asking God for things, but if that is all you do, you are missing the purpose and blessing of prayer. When you are praying you need to listen more than you speak. God will not give us anything that is bad for us, so sometimes the answer to our prayers is, "You can not have that, now." Ask Him to guide you. Ask Him for help. Ask Him for blessings in the lives of the people around you.

For further thought:

- (3o) Do you have an answered prayer story you can share?
- (3p) Matthew 6:5-6 seems to suggest we should not pray in public or in front of other people. But a closer reading shows that it is saying that our motive should not be to be seen by others. Other places in the Bible suggest that public prayer is OK, as long it is not just for showing off. Jesus prayed in front of his disciples in John 17 and other places. He prayed in the garden of Gethsemane in Matthew 26. Where should you pray?
- (3q) The book of Psalms is full of examples of prayers. Many of the Psalms are prayers. Can you find one that reminds you of something you are praying for? Which one?
- (3r) Read Luke 18:1-17. What do you think this passage teaches us about prayer?

Lesson 4 - Spiritual Society - Christian Fellowship

As a Christian you have become a member of a family, the family of God. You now have many brothers and sisters in Christ. More than that, they need you, and you need them.

[4A] Read Hebrews 10:24-25 We are to encourage and stimulate one another to do what? _____

Read 1st Corinthians 12:4-30 and answer the following eight questions:

[4B] In 1 Cor 12:7 it says everyone has a gift of the Spirit for a particular purpose.

What is that purpose? _____

[4C] According to 1st Corinthians 12:4-5 are all Christians the same? _____

[4D] According to 1 Cor 12:6 who is responsible for coordinating all these different things so that they work together? _____

[4E] 1 Cor 12:8-10 lists how many spiritual gifts: _____

[4F] According to 1 Cor 12:11 who is responsible for coordinating all these different gifts so that they work together? _____

[4G] According to 1 Cor 12:14-23 which part is most important? _____

[4H] According to 1 Cor 12:26 what happens if you suffer? _____

[4I] In 1 Cor 12:28-30 the writer again lists how many gifts or functions in the church: _____

Read Matthew 18:1-35 and answer the next three questions.

[4J] In Matt 18:4 who does Jesus say is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? _____

[4K] In Matthew 18:10-14 Jesus uses the analogy of a flock to show how important it is to try to rescue just one member who has gone wrong. How many sheep were left behind when the man went in search of the one lost sheep? _____

[4L] In Matthew 18:21-22 Peter asks Jesus a question about forgiveness. How many times are we to forgive someone who wrongs us? _____

[4M] In Matthew 18:15-20 Jesus describes a way of dealing with someone in the middle of the church who is doing wrong. Please describe this in your own words.

Think & Pray _____

For further thought:

(4n) Most of us have either been part of, or seen, trouble in a church. If you have, compare what you have seen with the way Jesus says it is supposed to be done in Matthew 18:15-20. If you have never seen trouble in a church, just say, "Praise God! Hallelujah!" You are truly blessed.

(4o) In Matthew 18:23-35 Jesus teaches a parable about forgiveness. What do you think it means? Be sure to include what you think about verse 35 in your answer.



For lesson 5 read – Matt 7 & 22, John 14, Rom 12, 1st Cor 3, Phil 4, 2 Tim 2, Heb 5, 6, 11 & 13,
1st John 5 (2 chapters a day for 6 days)

Lesson 4 - Spiritual Society - Christian Fellowship

- [4A] To love and do good deeds. How can we do this if we do not come together on some kind of regular basis? As Christians we need to be a part of a Christian fellowship that meets regularly. How often should we meet? Often enough to get to know one another, encourage one another, and love one another.
- [4B] Common good or the profit of all. (i.e. the entire church) That means that when you became a Christian, God gave you a gift of the Holy Spirit, so you would be useful in the church. A good bit of our Christian walk is discovering what that gift is, and how to use it. At the same time, that means that other Christians have been given gifts for your benefit. You will not be able to use your gift for other Christians, or benefit from the gifts of others, if you do not spend time with other Christians.
- [4C] No. We have different gifts and we have different ministries.
- [4D] God
- [4E] Nine - Word of wisdom, Word of knowledge, Faith, Healing, Miracles, Prophecy, Distinguishing of spirits, Various kinds of tongues, and Interpretation of tongues. I do not think this list is meant to be complete. I think it is just a sample to begin to give us an idea of the rich variety in God's kingdom.
- [4F] the Holy Spirit
- [4G] all the parts are important. So that means you are a necessary and important part of the church.
- [4H] the church as a whole suffers
- [4I] In 1 Cor 12:28-30 the writer again lists how many gifts or functions in the church: Eight - Apostles, Prophets, Teachers, Miracles, Healings, Helps, Administrations, and Various kinds of tongues Notice that this list is a little different than the one in verses 8 to 10. This is what makes me think the writer does not mean for either list to be complete, but just an indication of the rich variety and imagination of God. So, as you pray and begin to try to understand the heart of God about the gift He has given you, do not limit your search to this, or any other list, of gifts and church functions. (See Rom 12:1-13 and notice there is another list of gifts and functions, also slightly different.)
- [4J] someone with the humility of a child. In Matt 18:8-9 Jesus uses a figure of speech called a hyperbole (Pronounced high per bow (like you shoot arrows with) lee). It means He was exaggerating to make a point. He was simply saying that you are to take very strong action to keep from failing in your Christian walk. It is also an analogy like the one in 1st Corinthians 12:12-27, which we read previously in this lesson. The idea is that if a member of the church is causing the whole church to stumble it is better to not have that person as a member, than for the whole church to go wrong. However, the Christian church has been accused of being the only army in the world that buries its own wounded. This is because some congregations are much too quick to put this idea into practice and get rid of certain members. The rest of Matthew 18 makes this very clear.
- [4K] ninety-nine
- [4L] $70 \times 7 = 490$ times. What would you think of someone who kept track of forgiving someone for hundreds of times? Would you believe they were really forgiving the person who did wrong?
- [4M] The first step is go to the sinner privately. Second step take one or two others with you. Third step have a church meeting about it. Notice it does not say gossip with a dozen people first, and then go and talk to the person. I believe we are to keep it private for three reasons. (A) To avoid exposing the person to public shame. (B) To avoid exposing ourselves to public shame in case we are wrong. (C) Once it becomes a public matter our own pride or the other person's pride will make it more difficult to resolve. We are only supposed to involve others when we can not get it resolved privately. When we do involve others we are to keep it a small number, so that it still has a chance not to become generally known. It is only supposed to be brought to the attention of the entire church, when private efforts have failed to bring the matter to a successful conclusion.

Lesson 5 - Service - Discipleship

The Greatest Commandments

Read Matthew 22:36-40. What are the two greatest commandments?

[5A] _____

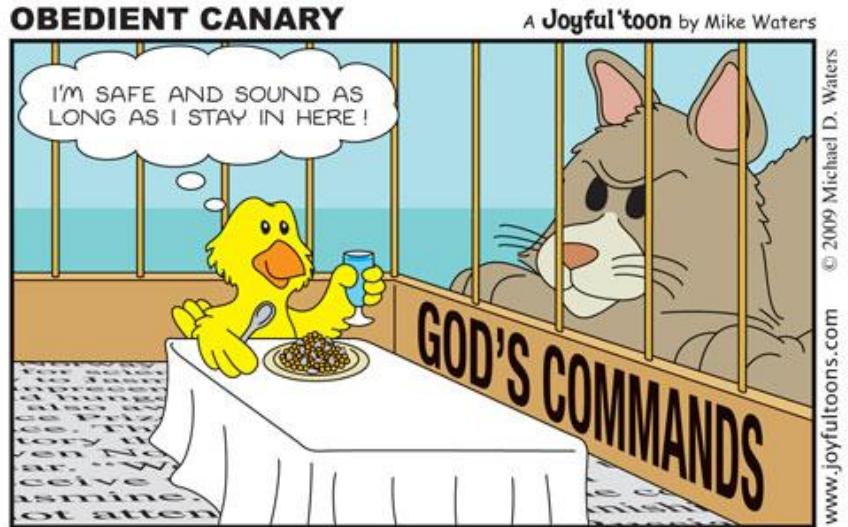
[5B] _____

Those who truly love God obey him

[5C] Read what Jesus says in John 14:15. What will we do if we love him? _____

[5D] Read Hebrews 11:1-40 True or False? Faith is shown in actions that are pleasing to God.

[5E] Read I John 5:2-3 Are God's commandments a great burden or grievous? _____



Follow my decrees and be careful to obey my laws, and you will live safely in the land. Then the land will yield its fruit, and you will eat your fill and live there in safety. — LEVITICUS 25:18-19 NIV

Obeying God's commands leads to blessings

[5F] Read John 14:23 What happens to those who obey the Lord?

[5G] Read Hebrews 6:10-12 Will God forget or overlook the love we have shown Him? _____

What does God expect us to do?

[5H] Read Hebrews 5:12-14 God expects us to train ourselves by practice to tell the difference between _____ and _____.

[5I] Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-3 Does God expect His children to act differently than other people? _____

[5J] Read 2 Tim 2:15 We are to be diligent or study to make sure we accurately understand or "rightly divide" what? _____.

Praise and Worship

[5K] Read Romans 12:1-2 What makes up our spiritual service? _____

[5L] Read Hebrews 13:15 How often are we to praise God? _____

[5M] Read Philippians 4:1-23 How often are we to rejoice in the Lord? _____

[5N] Read Matthew 7:12. Please explain what you think it means.

Think & Pray _____

Lesson 5 - Service - Discipleship

The Greatest Commandments

Read Matthew 22:36-40. What are the two greatest commandments?

[5A] Love the Lord your God with everything within you.

[5B] Love your neighbor as yourself.

Those who truly love God obey him

[5C] Read what Jesus says in John 14:15. What will we do if we love him?

Keep or obey His commandments.

[5D] Read Hebrews 11:1-40 True or False? Faith is shown in actions that are pleasing to God. True

[5E] Read I John 5:2-3 Are God's commandments a great burden or grievous? No.

Obeying God's commands leads to blessings

[5F] Read John 14:23 What happens to those who obey the Lord?

God will love them and will live or abide with them.

[5G] Read Hebrews 6:10-12 Will God forget or overlook the love we have shown Him? No.

What does God expect us to do?

[5H] Read Hebrews 5:12-14

God expects us to train ourselves by practice to tell the difference between good and evil.

[5I] Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-3 Does God expect His children to act differently than other people? Yes.

[5J] Read 2 Tim 2:15 We are to be diligent or study to make sure we accurately understand or "rightly divide" what? God's word of truth.

Praise and Worship

[5K] Read Romans 12:1-2 What makes up our spiritual service? Worship

[5L] Read Hebrews 13:15 How often are we to praise God? Continually or all the time.

[5M] Read Philippians 4:1-23 How often are we to rejoice in the Lord? Always Philippians 4:4

[5N] Matthew 7:12 is sometimes called the "Golden Rule." You probably heard it as, "Do unto others as you would have them to do unto you," or something like that. It is just a simple way to make ethical/moral decisions by asking yourself the question, how would I like it if someone else treated me this way?

For further thought:

(5o) Does 1st John 3:22 say the answer to our prayers has anything to do with obeying God? Explain.

(5p) In 1 Chronicles 23:30 It says that each morning and evening they were to stand give thanks and praises to the Lord. How hard would it be for us to do that? Do you? Why or why not?

(5q) Pick *one* of these five Psalms and explain what you think it means - Psalm 146- 150.

(5r) Read the story of Paul and Silas in Acts 16:22-30. Is this how you would act on your first night in jail? Perhaps you have already had this experience. Millions of people have. If so, how does it compare with your first night in jail?

For lesson 6 read – Deut 6, Ps 1, Is 55, Matt 4, John 5, Acts 10 & 17, Rom 15, 2nd Tim 3, Jam 1
(2 chapters a day for 5 days and then Ps 119 on the last day)

Lesson 6 - Scriptures - Read Forever - How should a believer read the Bible?

[1] **Keep in mind at all times that it is God's Word.** Read 2nd Timothy 3:15-17. What does it say is given by inspiration of God? _____

[2] **Pray for divine help and spiritual illumination.** You will need the Holy Spirit's guidance to learn from the scriptures. Read Psalm 119:18. What does the Psalmist ask God to do so that he might behold wondrous things out of God's law? _____

[3] **Expect God to teach you something.** You prayed, expect God to answer. Read Acts 17:11. How often did they search the scriptures expecting to find in them the truth? _____

[4] **Read with faith and obedience.** Be willing to obey what you find in the Scriptures. Believe what you read. Let all that you read be applied to yourself, in the way of self-examination. Read James 1:22. Besides hearing the word what else are we supposed to do? _____

[5] **Engage your heart as well as your mind.** Seek to have your emotions engaged while you read. These are not a collection of myths. The stories in the Bible really happened to real people. Imagine how they must have felt. Cherish the Scriptures. Read Romans 15:4. What emotion does it say we might experience from the patient acceptance of the comfort of the scriptures? _____

[6] **Read frequently and with a plan.** Set apart a special time for devotional reading. Read with patience and self-denial. Read the Bible more than you read any thing else. Read the Bible daily. Let your daily portion be of proper length; neither too much nor too little. Read Matthew 4:4. Besides food what does it say we need in order to be able to live? _____

[7] **Remember what you read.** Fill your memory with all that you read in the Bible. Commit to memory some portion of Scripture often. Read Deuteronomy 6:6-9. Where is His word to be kept? _____

[8] **Include meditation and prayer.** Think about what you have read even when your Bible is not open in front of you. How do you expect to apply something to your life, if you do not think about it? Read Psalm 1:1-6 How often does the Psalmist meditate on God's word? _____

[9] **Talk about what you read.** Frequently converse with others about what you have been reading. Often Christian friends can help us better understand what we have read. Surely our non-Christian friends need to hear about God's word. Read Deuteronomy 6:6-9 , When are we to talk about God's word? (A) _____
(B) _____ (C) _____ (D) _____ (E) _____

[10] **Keep in mind why God gave us the Bible.** In all your reading, remember that reading the Bible is for your own good. God did not write it as some exercise for an English Literature course. Read John 20:30-31. Why did John write his Gospel account? _____

[11] **Expect to find Jesus everywhere!** Read John 5:39.

[A] Who is testified of in the Scriptures? _____

[B] According to Acts 10:38-43. All the prophets give witness to who? _____

[12] Explain your plan for reading the whole Bible so that you don't miss any and are fed daily.

Think & Pray _____

For lesson 7 read 7 –2nd Samuel 11, Acts 13, Romans 6 & 7, 1st John 1 & 2
(1 chapter a day for 6 days)

----- ANSWERS -----

Lesson 6 - Scriptures - Read Forever

- [1] **Keep in mind at all times that it is God's Word.** All Scripture We need to respect and treasure it. Remember that God is all knowing and all wise. It would be very easy to just ignore hard to understand passages and move to the next passage. It is God's word, however, and therefore deserves our attention. Take the time to apply all these principles and watch God work understanding in your heart.
- [2] **Pray for divine help and spiritual illumination.** He prays for opened eyes. God wrote the Bible. Only He can fully explain it to you.
- [3] **Expect God to teach you something.** Daily Read for yourself; impartially, and without prejudice. In every passage, try to have before your mind the whole scene, and all the circumstances. Compare passage with passage. Examine yourself on what you have read. Make a careful and cautious use of commentaries. Read with unbroken attention.
- [4] **Read with faith and obedience.** Be doers of the word How do you expect the Holy Spirit to talk to you if you do not believe what he says? How long would you bother to pour your heart out to someone who was not listening? If you only obey, when you agree you are not really obeying.
- [5] **Engage your heart as well as your mind.** Hope
- [6] **Read frequently and with a plan.** every word of God How often do you eat? How often do you read God's word? Read with a plan so that you do not read one part of the Bible a lot and another part only a little. Complete one book before you begin another. You can observe better how the Bible is all connected together, everything in its proper place as the writer intended, if you read it a lot. Read the Bible abundantly. A good plan is to read the New Testament twice and the Old Testament once each year.
- [7] **Remember what you read.** In our heart How much scripture do you have memorized? Do not memorize comfort verses only. Also memorize duty verses.
- [8] **Include meditation and prayer.** day and night Much of Scripture is prayer. The Lord's Prayer, (Matt 6:9-13 , Luke 11:2-4) Jesus' prayer for his disciples in John's Gospel, (John 17) etc. Also, many Psalms are really prayers. Use God's own words in your prayers to him.
- [9] **Talk about what you read.** (A) When teaching Children (B) When sitting in your house (C) When you are walking (D) When you go to bed (E) When you get up We talk about movies we see and other books we read. Why not the Bible? Are we ashamed?
- [10] **Keep in mind why God gave us the Bible.** So that we might believe and have life (Also see Luke 1:1-4)
- [11] **Expect to find Jesus everywhere!** [A] Jesus [B] Jesus
- [12] Most of us have our own favorite parts of the Bible, and there is nothing wrong with that. However, if you only read your favorite parts you will miss part of God's message. I keep a bookmark in my Bible and try to read 3 chapters a day. That would make me complete reading the Bible through about every 13 months, but it turns out to be closer to a year and a half because I don't always do my three chapters. There are lots of different reading plans on the internet. You might find they work better for you. My wife really likes them. She reads a different version of the Bible each year.

For further thought:

- (13) Psalm 119 is broken into 22 sections of 8 verses each. Each section is named for a letter in the Hebrew alphabet. Pick just one of these 22 sections and explain what you think those 8 verses mean.
- (14) Read Isaiah 55:9-12. Explain what you think it means.



Lesson 7 - Sin - Something to Avoid

We wonder how we could possibly be saved, and continue to sin. We will look at the problem of our own sin by studying Romans chapter 7. The law it is talking about is the law of God, like the Ten Commandments. While reading Romans 7:1-25 and fill in the blanks below.

Read Romans 7:1-3.

[7A] Is a dead person expected to be able to obey the law? _____

Read Romans 7:4-6.

[7B] After Christ died in our place were we still under the law? _____

Read Romans 7:7-12.

[7C] Is God's law holy, righteous and good? _____

Read Romans 7:13-23.

[7D] If you hate your own sin does that mean you agree or disagree with God? _____

Read Romans 7:24-25.

[7E] What did Paul, the great Apostle, one of the main writers of the Bible, do when he sinned?

[7F] How is that a "good" Christian, such as ourselves, continues to sin?

Think & Pray _____

For further thought:

(7g) Read 1st John 1:5-10. Please explain what you think it means.

(7h) Read Romans 6:1-11. Please explain what you think it means.

(7i) Read 2 Samuel 11:1-27. Notice 2 Sam 11:27 and compare it with Acts 13:22.

WRONG TURN

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

- 1 JOHN 1:9 NIV

For lesson 8 read – Matthew 14, John 9, 1st Cor 2, 1st Tim 6, 2nd Tim 2, Titus 3
(1 chapter a day for 6 days)

----- ANSWERS -----

Lesson 7 - Sin - Something to Avoid

- [7A] No, of course not. No police force in the world goes to the cemetery to arrest dead people.
- [7B] No. The punishment (execution) by which the law is enforced has already been done to Jesus. The law has no power over us any more.
- [7C] Yes. The Bible says exactly that in Romans 7:12.
- [7D] Agree. You and God both agree that sin is bad.
- [7E] He thanked God for his salvation.
- [7F] To be a Christian is to be at war with yourself. It is a life long battle. The proof of your salvation is not that you do not sin, but that you hate sin, and continue to struggle against it, as long as you have breath. That does not mean you can not have peace. If you keep the confidence in His final victory in your life you can have peace, hope and joy while still engaged in the fight against your own sin.

WALK IN THE LIGHT

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.
- 1 JOHN 1:7 NIV

For further thought:

(7g) **1st John 1 - Light or Darkness** These verses (6, 8 and 10) contain a description of our descent into darkness. First we lie to others and then to ourselves until we are so incapable of recognizing the truth that we think God is a liar. Walking in darkness is not confined to reprobate sinners. All of us indulge in it from time to time. The rest of the verses contain the way out of this problem - confession and repentance.

(7h) **Romans 6 - Liberty is not License** Although we are forgiven our sins, the ones we have committed and the ones we will commit, we should not look on that as permission from God to sin as much as we like. The cost paid for our forgiveness was high - the death of Jesus Christ on the cross. We need to appreciate that, and obey God out of love and respect for Him.

(7i) How can both be Samuel & Acts true unless it is possible to be a sinner and also loved by God?

Lesson 8 - Skepticism - Not Knowing Everything

Most Christians experience doubts from time to time. Something happens which causes them to start to wonder, if it is all true. How you deal with these doubts is very important. Some people just try to pretend that they are not really doubtful, and go on as if it did not happen. I believe God brings us into these situations, so that we can learn important spiritual truths, which are new to us. The doubts need to be faced and defeated. There is nothing to worry about. The truth can stand up to testing.

Read John 9:1-41 and fill in the blanks below as you go. Answers can be found on the next page. Here we have the story of a man born blind receiving his sight. This story contains an important truth about our walk with the Lord and how to deal with that vast area of knowledge, we do not have.

In John 9:1-5 the story starts when the disciples ask Jesus a question. They want to know whose sin caused the man to be blind. They had a false belief that whenever anything bad happened to someone, it was because either the person or his ancestors had committed some sin against God for which God curses them and/or their family. Jesus answers in the most remarkable way. He says that the man's blindness is not related to anyone's sin. He says the man is blind so that the disciples and therefore, we, the readers of the gospel account, can learn something about God. This man has been placed on the earth to carry out God's purpose. His condition and circumstances were designed by God to make it possible for him to complete that purpose.

[8A] In John 9:6-7. What did Jesus use to heal the man? _____

[8B] In John 9:8-12 has this formerly blind man ever seen Jesus? _____

[8C] In John 9:13-17. To whom do they take the man? _____

[8D] In John 9:17-23, has this formerly blind man ever seen Jesus? _____

[8E] In John 9:24-34, whose disciple do the Pharisees claim to be? _____

How this once blind man responds is very interesting. Instead of focusing on what is not known and on their doubts and accusations, he looks at what he does know for sure. He knows that once he was blind and that now he sees. You know what you once were and, what you have become in the hands of almighty God. You were lost, and now you are saved. Focus on the evidence you do have, your own salvation. This is your defense against doubts.

[8F] In John 9:35-38. Has this formerly blind man ever seen Jesus? _____

In John 9:39-41 some of the arrogant Pharisees may be beginning to understand. "We are not blind too, are we?" They think they have God all figured out. Instead, they are always learning, but never able to come to a knowledge of the truth. They use what knowledge they have of God as a tool to manipulate and control others instead of using it to more faithfully obey God. As a result they see nothing about God's reality. They know nothing of His love and grace. The lesson for us is simple. Trust what we know to be true. Do not expect that you will ever have all the answers. Be willing to say, "I do not know." Like the once blind man, you and I have never seen Jesus, but we know, by what He has done in our lives, that He is our Savior.

[8G] How can we speak for Jesus Christ when we harbor doubts of our own?

Think & Pray _____

For further thought:

(8h) Read the story of walking on water in Matthew 14:22-31. What does that teach us about our own Christian walk?

(8i) Compare these 4 verses.

2nd Timothy 2:23 , 1st Timothy 6:3-5 , 2nd Timothy 2:14 , or Titus 3:9-11.

What did you learn?

For lesson 9 read – Ps 2, Prov 29, Mat 28, Luk 5, John 1, 4 & 12, Act 1 & 26, 1st Cor 2, 2nd Cor 4 & 5
(2 chapters a day for 6 days)

----- ANSWERS -----

Lesson 8 - Skepticism - Not Knowing Everything

[8A] In John 9:6-7, what did Jesus use to heal the man? spit and dirt mixed into mud Jesus heals the man in such a way, that when his eyes begin to see, Jesus is no longer around. In that way, Jesus makes sure that the man could not, and did not, see Jesus. This becomes important later in the story.

[8B] In John 9:8-12 has this formerly blind man ever seen Jesus? No His friends and neighbors, after some trouble believing it is really him who was once blind, want to know where to find Jesus. The man being blind at his last meeting with Jesus can not know. Jesus has made sure of that.

[8C] In John 9:13-17, to whom do they take the man? Pharisees God has so arranged the blind man's circumstances so that some of his neighbors have some kind of relationship with the Pharisees. The Pharisees are upset because the healing was on the Sabbath day which is against Jewish law, at least, according to their interpretation. On the other hand it is clear, even to them, that a God sized miracle has occurred. Finally they ask the once blind man his opinion.

[8D] In John 9:17-23, has this formerly blind man ever seen Jesus? No Even though he has never seen Jesus, he believes that Jesus is a prophet of God based on what He has done. The Pharisees are unconvinced. They call the man's parents to testify, and everything is confirmed. The parents are afraid of being thrown out of the synagogue and do not offer their opinion.

[8E] In John 9:24-34, whose disciple do the Pharisees claim to be? Moses' Again they question the man. This time they try to change his opinion of Jesus. Because Jesus does not match their ideas of what God should be like, they reject the clear evidence of Who He is. Unbelieving people will try to do the same to you. Every time you do not know the answer to a question they will try to twist that into evidence that you are wrong. They will try to make your lack of an answer into doubts in your mind. They may do it maliciously and intentionally or in a desperate attempt to pretend they do not know they are the ones who are wrong. More likely they are just being human beings. It is a natural, though incorrect, way to think.

[8F] In John 9:35-38, has this formerly blind man ever seen Jesus? No Jesus finds the once blind man and reveals Himself to him. The man, understanding Jesus is Lord, responds with worship. He was obedient in a little and was faithful with what had been revealed to him, so he is rewarded with more revelations. This is the way it really works. Obey what you understand about God, and more understanding will be given to you.

[8G] Do not let a lack of knowledge block you from speaking for Jesus Christ. You had enough knowledge to accept him as your Savior. Just because you do not know everything does not mean you are wrong. The people asking you questions, do not know everything either. You have probably met very educated people in your life who were wrong. One of the leading causes of death is mistakes by very educated people in the medical profession. Every time there is a trial at least one very educated lawyer turns out to be wrong. This does not mean we should be happy with not knowing, or that we should not try to learn more in order to answer questions. It simply means that we should remain confident in what we do know while we gain even more knowledge. You and I are walking proof of the truth of Christianity. You know what you were like before you met Christ, and you know what you are like now. Often this difference is so deep inside of us that it is impossible for others to see it. That does not mean it is not real. Be patient. The truth will become known. There are answers to all the questions people ask.

(8h) **Walking on the Water** Matthew is not explicit, so it is a matter of opinion, but I think it teaches that a successful Christian walk depends on Him, not tus. Keep your eyes on Jesus, not your own fears and doubts.

(8i) **Timothy & Titus - Futility of Debate** I think they all have the same idea: Do not argue. However, notice that all of these passages are talking about arguing about vain or unimportant things/subjects/words. There are some things in life that we do need to discuss; such as allowing God into our lives, following His word, living for Him.

Lesson 9 - Sharing Your Faith - Witnessing

Read what Jesus said right before He ascended into heaven in Matthew 28:18-20.

[9A] Jesus instructed them to go into how many nations making followers or disciples? _____

[9B] Read 2nd Corinthians 5:20 and fill in this blank. "Therefore, we are _____ for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."

[9C] As the final exercise below, we will ask you to write your testimony. Read Acts 26:4-23 for an example of a written testimony. Paul talks about what he was like before he was saved (Verses 4-11), how he was saved (Verses 12-18), and what happened after he was saved (Verses 19-23).

Where was Paul when he met Jesus? _____

[9D] It would be a good idea for you to write down what happened to you. I am not suggesting you carry your testimony around in your pocket, and read it to people, but if you will write it down, it will help you get it straight in your mind, and make it easier to tell others about it.

Think & Pray

If you became a Christian as an adult

- (1) Describe your situation, circumstances, attitudes, relationships, and beliefs before you became a Christian.
- (2) Describe the people, events, conversations, and ideas, that made you decide to be a Christian.
- (3) Describe what the Lord has done with your life, heart, and mind since you became Christian.

If you are not a Christian:

- (1) Describe your current situation, circumstances, attitudes, relationships, and beliefs.
- (2) What keeps you from becoming a Christian?
- (3) Why are you taking this course?

If you became a Christian as a child:

- (1) How have you failed Him in your Christian walk?
- (2) What has Jesus Christ done for you in your life?
- (3) What are your future plans for serving Him with your life?

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

Lesson 9 - Sharing Your Faith - Witnessing

[9A] All Since he told them to teach these new followers to do the same, it means that, we as followers of Jesus, are also expected to tell others about Jesus. However, not all of us are meant to be missionaries or evangelists. Nor are we all to be pastors, preachers, or teachers. These are all special offices of the church. It may be God will raise you up to be one of these. On the other hand, we do all have a responsibility to show Christ to others. This showing others is called witnessing.

[9B] Ambassadors As God's ambassador (or representative) we have been authorized to beg on behalf of Christ for reconciliation between God and the lost. Why would an all powerful God be willing to beg one little person? God is not going to take away their free will. If they do not choose to stop rebelling against God, He will send them to Hell forever. God does not want to do that, so we are authorized to beg. Doesn't it take special training to be a witness for Jesus? Yes and no. There is a lot we can learn about witnessing for Jesus, and as we have a chance, we should learn as much as we can. However, a person who has only known Jesus 5 minutes is fully qualified to begin to witness to others. You were there when you were saved weren't you? You can tell people what happened can't you? What happened before, during, and after your salvation? You can tell anyone about that. No special training is required.

[9C] The Road to Damascus (Acts 26:12) It is possible that people may ask you questions to which you do not know the answer. Just say, "I do not know," and then tell them what you do know, that Jesus Christ saved you and how it happened.

Bringing others to Christ is almost always a team effort. God does not need us any more than we need our children to do chores around the house. Indeed it would often be easier to do those chores ourselves. If it was His will, He could meet everyone as He did Paul, without an ambassador. However, most of the time, God wants us to be involved because He loves us. It is our privilege and duty to give our testimony for Jesus. Most people become Christians only after many different people have witnessed to them. Wrap it all in prayer:

[9D] Your answer to these questions is your testimony. Did you answer all these questions: Before you came to Christ, where were you spiritually? How did that affect you -- your feelings, attitudes, actions, and relationships? Before you became a believer, what were some ways God began drawing you to Christ? What motivated you to invite Christ into your life as Lord and Savior? Exactly, how did you come to Christ, receive His forgiveness, and submit to His Lordship? If a particular church or person played a big part in your salvation, what did they do and say? Who and what do you remember from your first few days of being saved? What changed in your life after you accepted Jesus as your Savior? These are things you know, because they happened to you. You don't have to be a Bible scholar. All you have to do is tell the truth about what happened to you.

For further thought: Read and discuss 1st Corinthians 2:1-5 ; 2nd Corinthians 4:7 ; Acts 1:8 ; John 4:29 ; Psalm 2:8 ; John 1:40-42 ; Proverbs 29:25 ; John 12:32 ; and/or Luke 5:1-11

More tools for your witnessing kit: Some more witnessing ideas are on the following pages. There is a list at the end that you might be able to use to get a conversation started about Spiritual matters. If you lead someone to Christ a prayer is provided that you might want to commit to memory, so that you can help them with the process.

Lesson 9 - Sharing Your Faith - Witnessing (Continued)

Before witnessing to others

We pray for the lost and study God's Word
The Holy Spirit prepares their hearts to listen

During witnessing to others

We pray for the lost and tell what we know
The Holy Spirit convinces them of their need for the Savior

After witnessing to others

We pray for the lost or recently saved.
We plan and pray for our next witnessing opportunity for the lost.
We encourage the recently saved into fellowship and discipleship
The Holy Spirit reaches and teaches them

A couple of important "Do Nots":

Do not judge or condemn them. It is one thing to preach about sin from the pulpit, it is quite another to accuse someone face to face. Yes, they do need to be aware of their rebellious condition, but be careful, that if you make them aware of it, you do so in love. If you are too harsh, they will cut you off, and not listen any more. Most of the time if you talk kindly with them long enough, and the Holy Spirit has already been working on them, they will tell you about their sin. Most of the time people are already painfully aware of their own sins.

Do not argue. If they have to lose an argument to get saved, they will probably just stay lost. It is amazing how many people would rather go to Hell than "lose face."

An important "Do:" Listen to them. Do not cut them off or contradict them. Just listen to them. If you do listen to them, they will probably feel obligated to listen to you in return. You do not have to tell them what is wrong with anything they said. (See "do nots" above.) Just tell them the truth about what Jesus Christ did for you, and let the Holy Spirit do the rest.

If you do not tell your family about the Gospel, how will they hear?

If you do not show your friends Jesus Christ, how will they see Him?

If you do not love the people around you, how will they come to know the love of God?

If not you, who?

If not now, when?

THE SINNERS PRAYER

"Father, I know that I have broken your laws and my sins have separated me from you. I am truly sorry, and now I want to turn away from my past sinful life toward you. Please forgive me, and help me avoid sinning again. I believe that your son, Jesus Christ died for my sins, was resurrected from the dead, is alive, and hears my prayer. I invite Jesus to become the Lord of my life, to rule and reign in my heart from this day forward. Please send your Holy Spirit to help me obey You, and to do Your will for the rest of my life. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen."

SPIRITUAL CONVERSATION STARTERS

This list is not designed to be pulled out of your pocket or purse as you start talking to someone. These are given to demonstrate the variety of ways that a conversation can be steered to a deeper spiritual level.

(This list is on many different websites and is apparently in the public domain)

Are you a member of an accountability or nurturing group in your church?

Are you comfortable with God's guidelines and laws for living?

Are you involved in a church? Are you personally acquainted with the pastor?

Do you attend the worship services of your church?

Do you feel close to God?

Do you feel there are any barriers between you and God?

Do you feel you are growing spiritually?

Do you feel you are living up to what you feel God expects of you?

Do you give much thought to God and spiritual things?

Do you like religious music? Kinds? Favorites?

Do you read the Bible? Do you understand what you read?

Do you think God has a plan for your life?

Do you trust God with your future?

Do you understand the way to forgiveness and what it means?

Does Bible reading help in living? How?

Does God (or a Higher Power) seem personal to you?

Has being ill ever made any difference in your thinking or feeling about God or your religious faith?

Have you ever done anything for which you feel God could not forgive you?

Have you ever felt anything against God?

How do you feel about suffering?

How do you feel about your upbringing and your awareness of spiritual things?

How do you think a person begins a personal relationship with God?

How is God working in your life right now?

How would you describe your life with God now?

Is prayer a meaningful part of your devotional life?

Is religion or God important to you? In what ways? If not, is there any particular reason why not?

Is your church helpful to you?

On a scale of 1 to 10 (10 being closest to God), where do you see yourself in relationship with God? Where do you want to be? How do you see yourself moving closer to God? How can I help you to get to where you would like to be?

Tell me about your church background; did you go to church as a child?

Tell me about your most memorable spiritual experience.

What do you like most about your church's teachings?

What do you think is a person's greatest spiritual need?

What factors or influences bring you nearer to God?

What gives most meaning to your life?

What has God done for you?

What is your picture of God?

What kinds of devotional readings do you like? What are your favorite authors, writings?

What would renew your sense of closeness with God?

What, or who, are your sources of strength in your day-to-day living?

When did you feel closest to God?

When you are ill, do you have feelings that God is punishing you or that it is His will for you to be sick?

When you have problems or crises, how do you manage to get through them?

Wouldn't you like to have faith in something?