

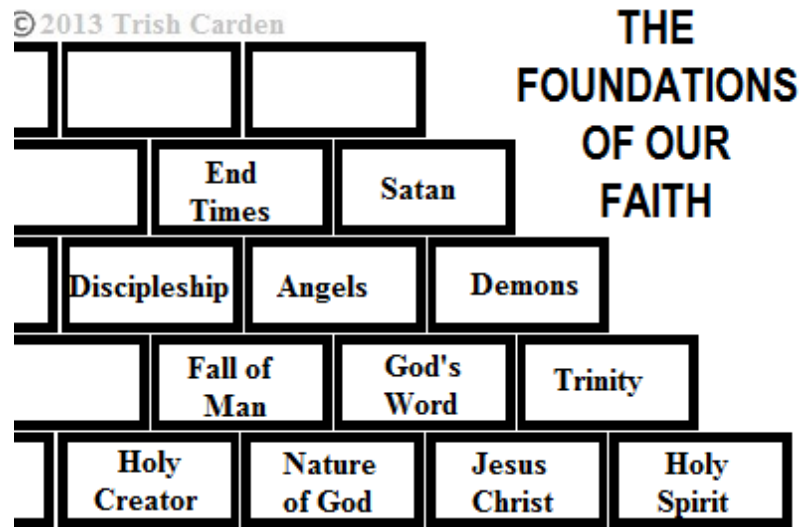


THE FOUNDATIONS OF OUR FAITH

2 Timothy 2:15 "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth."

This course is about the foundational doctrines of the faith about which most Christian denominations agree for the most part. Certainly there is more to know than this but I believe this covers the basics pretty well.

- Lesson 1 – Holy Creator*
- Lesson 2 – The Nature of God*
- Lesson 3 – Jesus Christ*
- Lesson 4 – The Holy Spirit*
- Lesson 5 – The Trinity*
- Lesson 6 – The Bible is God's Word*
- Lesson 7 – The Fall of Man*
- Lesson 8 – Discipleship*
- Lesson 9 – Angels, Demons & Satan*
- Lesson 10 – End Times*



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"

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Lesson 1 – Holy Creator

I believe God created the heavens and the earth. God is completely Holy, without defect of any kind. Here is why I believe this:

Please read these scriptures and fill in the blanks:

[1A] Genesis 1:1 _____ created the heaven and the earth.

[1B] Isaiah 45:11-12 _____ made the earth, and created man upon it.

[1C] John 1:3 All things were made by _____

[1D] Psalms 19:1-6 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth _____

[1E] Exodus 15:11 What is glorious about the Lord. _____

[1F] 1st Peter 1:16 Does God claim to be Holy? _____

[1G] Job 34:10 What does God not do? _____

[1H] Psalms 92:15 What is not in God? _____

[1I] Revelation 15:3-4 Who is holy? _____

[1J] Psalm 37:28 What does God love? _____ (also see Romans 3:25-27)

[1K] Read Psalm 37:28. What difference does it make if God is just or not?

Think & Pray _____



For further thought:

(1L) Read Romans 1:19-23. The existence of God is intuitively obvious to the most casual observer.

How can anyone be an atheist?

(1m) How do you feel about things that you make? So what?

(1n) Since God created us, what rights does that give Him over us?

(1o) Genesis chapters 1 and 2 describe the creation of everything in six days. God rested on the seventh day. Why? Was He tired?

(1p) God is taking us through a process of sanctification to purify us and make us holy. How long do you think it will be before we become as holy as God?

(1q) Does God get angry at those who mistreat us? How do you know?

(1r) Look up the "see also" scriptures with the answers on the next page, and discuss them.

----- ANSWERS -----

Lesson 1 – Holy Creator

[1A] Genesis 1:1 God created the heaven and the earth. (See also Ps 90:2)

[1B] Isaiah 45:11-12 The LORD made the earth, and created man upon it.

[1C] John 1:3 All things were made by him (See also Gen 1:31)

[1D] Psalms 19:1-6 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

[1E] Exodus 15:11 What is glorious about the Lord. His holiness. (See also Rev 4:8)

[1F] 1st Peter 1:16 Does God claim to be Holy? Yes.

[1G] Job 34:10 What does God not do? Wickedness (See also Deut 32:4)

[1H] Psalms 92:15 What is not in God? unrighteousness

[1I] Revelation 15:3-4 Who is holy? the Lord God Almighty

[1J] Psalm 37:28 What does God love? justice or judgment (also see Romans 3:25-27)

[1K] Psalm 37:28 can be tricky for us sinners. The key to understanding it is that through the blood of Jesus Christ we are one of "His godly ones." That means although we deserve complete destruction according to His justice, we are given instead, eternal life, because of the completed work of Jesus Christ on the cross, because of His love and grace.

My further thoughts:

(1L) My parents claimed to be atheists and raised me to be one. I used to argue with Christians and try to convince them God did not exist, but I really knew better. I was just trying to convince myself. I hoped He did not exist, so that I could get away with doing as I pleased. Thank God, He rescued me from all that stupidity.

(1m) Depends on what it is. I want the things I make to be admirable and useful. I'm disappointed when they are not. If I apply that to God, I can see that He wants me to be admirable and useful. I'm disappointed when I am not.

(1n) He owns us and can do what He pleases with us. Thank God, He loves us. He owns me three times over. He made me, He redeemed me and I gave myself to Him. How about you?

(1o) The Bible does not explain why God rested on the seventh day. The Hebrew word translated "rest" is more about ceasing and desisting than about relaxing and recuperating, so it tells us nothing about whether God was weary or tired.

(1p) It will never happen. See 1st Samuel 2:2. Nobody is as holy as God.

(1q) Mistreating other people is a very bad idea, especially God's children. See Psalm 7:6, 2 Thess 1:6 and Luke 18:7.

Lesson 2– The Nature of God

I believe is still active in maintaining the universe. He is all knowing, everywhere, and has power without limit. God is light. God is love. God is Spirit. Here is why:

Please read these scriptures and fill in the blanks:

[2A] 1st John 3:20 Who knows all things? _____

[2B] Psalm 147:4-5 What is the limit of God's understanding? _____

[2C] Jeremiah 23:24 What does the Lord fill? _____

[2D] Matthew 18:20 Where _____ are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

[2E] Matthew 19:26 What is possible with God? _____

[2F] 1st John 1:5 God is _____. How much darkness is in God? _____

[2G] John 4:24 God is _____

Please read 1 John 4:7-21 and answer the following five questions:

[2H] Where does love come from? _____

[2I] What is God? _____

[2J] How can we see that God loves us? _____

[2K] What motivated God to send His Son? _____

[2L] What should we do because God loved us? _____

[2M] In 1st Timothy 1:17, how long will God exist? _____

[2N] In Malachi 3:6, what does the Lord *not* do? _____

[2O] Even though God is all powerful there may be some things He cannot do. For example?

Think & Pray _____



Lesson 2 – The Nature of God

- [2A] 1st John 3:20 Who knows all things? God
- [2B] Psalm 147:4-5 What is the limit of God's understanding? It is infinite, without limit.
- [2C] Jeremiah 23:24 What does the Lord fill? Heaven and earth.
- [2D] Matthew 18:20 Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them.
- [2E] Matthew 19:26 What is possible with God. All things.
- [2F] 1st John 1:5 God is Light. How much darkness is in God? None at all. (See also Ps 27:1)
- [2G] John 4:24 God is Spirit:
- [2H] Where does love come from? God 1Jn 4:7
- [2I] What is God? Love 1Jn 4:8 and 1Jn 4:16
- [2J] How can we see that God loves us? He sent His only begotten Son to give us life 1Jn 4:9
- [2K] What motivated God to send His Son? Because He loved us 1Jn 4:10
- [2L] What should we do because God loved us? Love each other 1Jn 4:11
- [2M] In 1st Timothy 1:17, how long will God exist? forever (He is eternal and immortal see Ps 33)
- [2N] In Malachi 3:6, what does the Lord not do? Change
- [2O] God is omnipotent, which means he has power without limit. (See 2E above and Jer 32:27)
However, God can not lie. How could He lie? If He says something it becomes true, even if it wasn't before. God cannot sin. How could He sin? Going against His will is the definition of sin.

For further thought:

- (2p) How could you go about keeping a secret from God?
- (2q) If you were tired of God being around, where could you go to avoid Him?
- (2r) Is God really the light we see by or is it a figure of speech for something? So what?
- (2s) What is the difference between your common, every day ghost, and the Holy Spirit?
- (2t) What does the phrase "God is love" in 1 John 4:16 mean?
- (2u) Sometimes we compliment someone by saying, "He has a lot of potential" or "She really learns quickly." Should we compliment God in the same way?
- (2v) What is God's relationship to time? Consider Psalm 90:4 and 2 Peter 3:8.

My further thoughts:

- (2p) God is omniscient, which means he knows everything. (See 2A-2B above) The Bible says that God knows everything. There is no way to keep a secret from Him, even about our thoughts. That is why it is important to try to keep our minds clean for Him.
- (2q) God is omnipresent, which means he is everywhere. The Bible says He is everywhere at the same time, so I will not ever be able to avoid Him. (See 2C-2D above) A student once answered this question by saying you could go to Hell if you wanted to avoid Him. I believe He is in Hell, (Revelation 14:10) but no one there is allowed to see Him or have contact with Him. (Matthew 25:41) But why would we want to avoid Him? He knows we are sinners, and yet still loves us.
- (2r) It might mean that He is actual light depending on how you understand Genesis 1:3. If you understand the verse to mean that God was creating light, than He can not be literal light, because He already existed. If you understand the verse to mean God was allowing His light to flood over into His creation, then it could mean that he is literally light. I think "God is light" in the Bible means that not only can God see everything, but the closer we get to Him the more we can see about reality and truth. The better we understand Him, the more we understand our own sin.
- (2s) The Holy Ghost is real, while ghosts are either a delusion, psychosis or a demonic apparition.
- (2t) I think 1st John 4:16 is talking about how the love of God so influences those close to Him. If you really know who God is, you can not help but love others. (See also 2nd Corinthians 13:11)
- (2u) Not in my opinion. God is complete and perfect; He does not change or improve.
- (2v) Time is God's creature, not His master. He transcends it.

Lesson 3– Jesus Christ

I believe our Lord Jesus Christ is divine, was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, did many notable miracles, died on the cross to atone for my sins, was physically resurrected, and ascended to be on the right hand of the Father, fulfilling many divine prophecies.

Please read these scriptures and fill in the blanks:

[3A] John 5:18 ... making himself equal with ? _____

[3B] According to 2 Corinthians 5:21 did Jesus commit sins? _____

[3C] Compare Isaiah 53:9 and 1 Peter 2:21-24. What do they say about Jesus? _____

[3D] Read Romans 5:6-10 Who did Christ die for? _____

[3E] How are we reconciled to God? _____

[3F] Who is being talked about in Isaiah 53:5-6? _____

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



*GOLGOTHA - The hill of redemption where Christ shed his blood for our sins. **Mt 27:33***

[3G] According to Acts 4:10 who raised Jesus from the dead? _____

[3H] Read Romans 6:9. Why is it impossible for Jesus to die again? _____

[3I] In Luke 24:36-40, what evidence did Jesus give that he was not a ghost? _____

[3J] Read Acts 2:32-36. Where is Jesus now? _____

[3K] Why did Jesus die on the cross?

Think & Pray _____

----- ANSWERS -----

Lesson 3 – Jesus Christ

- [3A] John 5:18 ... making himself equal with God. (See also John 10:30 & John 14:9)
- [3B] According to 2 Corinthians 5:21 did Jesus commit sins? No (See also Hebrews 4:14-16)
- [3C] Compare Isaiah 53:9 and 1 Peter 2:21-24. What do they say about Jesus? He does not lie
- [3D] Read Romans 5:6-10 Who did Christ die for? the ungodly Rm 5:6
- [3E] How are we reconciled to God? by the death of Jesus Rm 5:10
- [3F] Who is being talked about in Isaiah 53:5-6? Christ on the cross
- [3G] According to Acts 4:10 who raised Jesus from the dead? God
- [3H] Read Romans 6:9. Why is it impossible for Jesus to die again?
death has no dominion or mastery over Him
- [3I] In Luke 24:36-40, what evidence did Jesus give that he was not a ghost? His wounds.
- [3J] Read Acts 2:32-36. Where is Jesus now? The right hand of the Father. (See also Mark 16:19)
- [3K] Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sins. (See also Gal 6:14 1 Cor 15:3 & 2 Cor 5:21)

For further thought:

- (3L) Read Matthew 1:18-25 and Luke 1:26-38. Both of these scriptures make it clear that Jesus was born of a virgin. Why is this important? (Hints: Genesis 3:15 & Isaiah 7:14)
- (3m) Describe two or three of the sins committed by Jesus. How do you know your answer is correct?
- (3n) What is your "favorite" miracle of Jesus? Why?
- (3o) When we say, "Our blessed hope is that Jesus will return," based on Titus 2:13, what does "blessed hope" mean to you. (Hints: Titus 2:11-14, Rev 1:7, Matthew 24:30-31)
- (3p) Do you really believe a dead guy just got up out of the grave and walked around? Why?
- (3q) Look up the "see also" scriptures with the answers above, and discuss them.

My further thoughts:

- (3L) Besides being miraculous this is important because it is the fulfillment of prophecy.
Read Genesis 3:15 and Isaiah 7:14.
- (3m) There can be no such list. Jesus lived a sinless life. (See also First John 3:5)
- (3n) They are all good, aren't they? My favorite is the calming of the storm in Mark 4:35-41. Jesus wakes up, tells the storm to be quiet, and it is. It is an incredible miracle and yet the disciples still do not get it. The last verse says, "They became very much afraid and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?'" Perhaps I would not have done any better than they did, but shouldn't it have started to occur to them that they were dealing with God? I think about it almost every time I am in a thunderstorm or hear about a tornado or hurricane.
- (3o) Jesus ascended to be on the right hand of the Father. Our blessed hope is that Jesus will return soon and suddenly in power and glory. I am hoping for His return. I am weary of this wicked world and am ready for Him to set things right. (Titus 2:11-14, Rev 1:7, Matt 24:30-31)
- (3p) Yes, I do believe in the Resurrected Jesus Christ. Because I have a personal relationship with Him, and because of all the Biblical, historical, and logical evidence.

Lesson 4– The Holy Spirit

I believe the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to convict men, indwell, guide, instruct, and empower the believer for Godly living and service. The Holy Spirit chooses to use His position to exalt and glorify Jesus Christ even though the Spirit is equal to the Son and would have every right to exalt Himself. This is why I believe this:

Please read these scriptures and fill in the blanks:

[4A] Read John 16:7-15. Who or what does Jesus say He is going to send? _____

[4B] Read Ephesians 5:18. Instead of filling ourselves with things that make us drunk like alcohol and drugs, we are to be filled with what? _____

[4C] Read 2 Peter 1:20-21. Prophecy came from these men because they were _____
the Holy Spirit (or Holy Ghost) 2 Pt 1:21

[4D] Read 1 Corinthians 2:10-13. The writer of Corinthians, Paul, is stating that the words he is using were taught to him by who or what? _____

[4E] Read 1 Corinthians 12:7-11. In this passage various gifts or abilities are given to believers so that they might use them to help other believers in some way. Who or what gives these gifts? _____

[4F] Read John 14:23-26. Who is speaking? _____

[4G] Whose words are to be brought to the disciples' remembrance? _____

[4H] Read Genesis 1:2. Who does it say was present at the creation? _____

[4I] Please read Romans 8:26 & 27. What does this passage mean?

Think & Pray _____

For further thought:

- (4j) Which of the fruits listed in Galatians 5:22-23 do you have?
- (4k) What does 2 Corinthians 3:17 mean?
- (4l) What does Ephesians 2:21-22 mean?
- (4m) What does 1 Corinthians 6:19 mean?
- (4n) Look up the "see also" scriptures with the answers on the next page, and discuss them.



Lesson 4– The Holy Spirit

[4A] Read John 16:7-15. Who or what does Jesus say He is going to send? Helper, Comforter, Counselor, etc. - Jn 16:7 The word is different in various versions. (The original Greek means all these and more.) John 14:26 tells us this word is the same as the Holy Ghost. A ministry of the Holy Spirit is to convict, that is, to convince people of their sinfulness (In verse Jn 16:8 some versions instead of saying "convict men of sin" say "reprove men of sin." Same idea.) Without the Holy Spirit our nature is to make excuses for ourselves until we are convinced we have not done anything all that bad.

[4B] Read Ephesians 5:18. Instead of filling ourselves with things that make us drunk like alcohol and drugs, we are to be filled with what? the Spirit or Holy Ghost – Eph 5:18 A ministry of the Holy Spirit is to indwell, that is, to fill Christians and abide with them.

(Also see also Romans 8:2, 9-11; Ephesians 2:21-22; 1 Corinthians 6:19)

[4C] Read 2 Peter 1:20-21. Prophecy came from these men because they were moved or carried along by the Holy Spirit (or Holy Ghost) 2 Pt 1:21 A ministry of the Holy Spirit is to guide, that is, to show Christians what to do and what to say. Just as the Spirit guided the writers of Scripture to record truth, so does He promise to guide believers to know and understand that truth. (See also 2 Tim 3:16)

[4D] Read 1 Corinthians 2:10-13. The writer of Corinthians, Paul, is stating that the words he is using were taught to him by who or what? Spirit, Holy Ghost or Holy Spirit 1 Cor 2:10-13 A ministry of the Holy Spirit is to instruct, that is, to teach Christians how to understand the Bible. The Bible is inspired, literally “God-breathed,” by the Holy Spirit.

[4E] Read 1 Corinthians 12:7-11. In this passage various gifts or abilities are given to believers so that they might use them to help other believers in some way. Who or what gives these gifts? The Holy Spirit 1 Cor 12:7-11 A ministry of the Holy Spirit is to empower, that is, give believers the strength for Godly living and service in His kingdom. (See 1st John 2:27)

[4F] Read John 14:23-26. Who is speaking? Jesus John 14:23-26

[4G] Whose words are to be brought to the disciples' remembrance? Jesus Christ John 14:23-26 A ministry of the Holy Spirit is to exalt and glorify Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit is God's seal on His people, His claim on us as His very own. The gift of the Spirit to believers is a down payment on our heavenly inheritance, which Christ has promised us and secured for us at the cross. It is because the Spirit has sealed us that we are assured of our salvation. No one can break the seal of God.

(See 2 Cor 1:22; 2 Cor 5:5; Ephesians 1:13-14)

[4H] Read Genesis 1:2. Who does it say was present at the creation? Spirit of God – Genesis 1:2

[4I] God is not Santa Claus. Prayer is not about making a list of things we want, and getting God to approve and provide it. Prayer is about a loving relationship, where we can show him our deepest longings, even the ones we do not truly understand ourselves. It is about trusting Him to do what is best for us, even if we do not like it. We cannot see around the curves in the road, or over the hills; and although we may realize the general destination, we cannot visualize the details of the road. But The Holy Spirit does know and therefore He makes intercession for us.

One of the most encouraging and comforting aspects of the Holy Spirit is His ministry of intercession on behalf of those He inhabits. Because we often don't know what or how to pray when we approach God, the Spirit intercedes and prays for us. He interprets our “groanings,” so that when we are oppressed and overwhelmed by trials and the cares of life, He comes alongside to lend assistance as He sustains us before the throne of grace. (See Romans 8:26)

Lesson 5– The Trinity

I believe there is one God, eternally existent in three: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Please read these scriptures and fill in the blanks:

[5A] According to Deuteronomy 6:4 how many Gods are there? _____

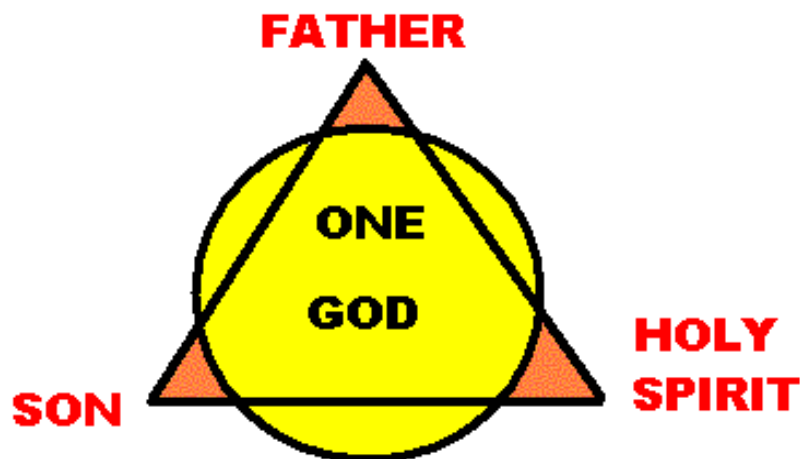
[5B] According to Mark 12:29 how many Gods are there? _____

If God is one, where does the doctrine of the Trinity come from? The difficulty with the doctrine of the Trinity is that the word "trinity" does not appear in the Bible. I believe the doctrine is taught even if the word is not used. We are going to study this in some detail by showing that each of the persons of the Godhead have the attributes of God that we studied in lessons one and two. For each question below write "Father," "Son," or "Spirit" in the blank depending on which one has the attribute mentioned. The first line is done for you.

[5C] God is Creator:	Eph 3:9-11	<u>Son</u>	Gen 1:1	<u>Father</u>	Gen 1:2	<u>Spirit</u>
[5D] God is Holy	Lev 19:2	_____	Heb 4:15	_____	Matt 3:11	_____
[5E] God knows everything:	John 21:17	_____	Rom 11:33	_____	2 Pet 1:20-21	_____
[5F] God is everywhere:	Psalm 139:7-12	_____	Matt 28:20	_____	1 Kgs 8:27	_____
[5G] God has limitless power:	Rom 1:16	_____	Acts 2:4	_____	Isaiah 9:6	_____
[5H] God is Light:	1 John 1:5	_____	John 1:4	_____	Deut 4:12	_____
[5I] God is Love:	1 John 3:1	_____	Col 1:8	_____	Mark 10:21	_____
[5J] God is eternal:	Psalm 9:2	_____	John 1:1	_____	Heb 9:14	_____
[5K] God does not change:	Heb 13:8	_____	Haggai 2:5	_____	Malachi 3:6	_____

[5L] Read Ephesians 4:30-32. How does it make the Holy Spirit feel when we sin? So what?

Think & Pray _____



----- ANSWERS -----

Lesson 5– The Trinity

[5A] According to Deuteronomy 6:4 how many Gods are there? One

[5B] According to Mark 12:29 how many Gods are there? One

[5C] God is Creator:	Eph 3:9-11	<u>Son</u>	Gen 1:1	<u>Father</u>	Gen 1:2	<u>Spirit</u>
[5D] God is Holy	Lev 19:2	<u>Father</u>	Heb 4:15	<u>Son</u>	Matt 3:11	<u>Spirit</u>
(The phrase "Holy Spirit" appears 93 times in the Bible)						
[5E] God knows everything:	John 21:17	<u>Son</u>	Rom 11:33	<u>Father</u>	2 Pet 1:20-21	<u>Spirit</u>
[5F] God is everywhere:	Psalm 139:7-12	<u>Spirit</u>	Matt 28:20	<u>Son</u>	1 Kgs 8:27	<u>Father</u>
[5G] God has limitless power:	Rom 1:16	<u>Father</u>	Acts 2:4	<u>Spirit</u>	Isaiah 9:6	<u>Son</u>
[5H] God is Light:	1 John 1:5	<u>Father</u>	John 1:4	<u>Son</u>	Deut 4:12	<u>Spirit</u>
[5I] God is Love:	1 John 3:1	<u>Father</u>	Col 1:8	<u>Spirit</u>	Mark 10:21	<u>Son</u>
[5J] God is eternal:	Psalm 9:2	<u>Father</u>	John 1:1	<u>Son</u>	Heb 9:14	<u>Spirit</u>
[5K] God does not change:	Heb 13:8	<u>Son</u>	Haggai 2:5	<u>Spirit</u>	Malachi 3:6	<u>Father</u>

[5L] Our sin gives the Holy Spirit sorrow or grief. We are talking about a Spirit that is more tender, kind hearted, and loving than even our mothers ever could be. Look at the kind of things that grieve Him in verse 31 and 32. These are not the stuff of the Ten Commandments. We do not have to go to the local brothel or bar to do these things. These are all things we could do sitting in church or in the hall between Sunday School and Worship service. Most of them could be done in your mind, anytime, anywhere. God the Father does not see our sins, because He has chosen to hide them under the blood of Jesus Christ, but The Holy Spirit sees them from within us. We take Him to every filthy place our minds and mouths go and it grieves His tender heart. Would you do that to your mother or daughter?

For further thought:

- (5m) Read Mark 13:31-33. Which person of the Trinity knows when the end will come? So what?
- (5n) In Isaiah 6:3 and Revelation 4:8 are each of the persons of the Trinity being spoken to?
- (5o) In Matthew 28:19-20 in Whose name are we to Baptize new disciples? So what?
- (5p) Read 1 John 5:7-8 in several different versions including the King James and some modern versions. What did you discover and why does it matter?
- (5q) What do 1st Corinthians chapters 12, 13 & 14 tell us that we should remember?

My further thoughts:

- (5m) This does not mean that other persons of the Trinity can not know. They are omniscient. They could know. It means that they have chosen not to know. It is one of the differences in the way the attributes are applied that distinguishes the persons from one another
- (5n) It says Holy three times, so maybe yes. The Bible does not say for sure, but it is an interesting idea.
- (5o) All three persons are mentioned which makes it clear they these three names are not just three different names for the same God. They are distinct from each other in some way.
- (5p) This little difference (and other ones like it) is one of the main things that motivated me to study Greek. My conclusion is that the King James has it right, and that even if this little phrase was missing from the original, the doctrine of the Trinity and the doctrine of the infallibility of the Bible would both still be true. You can either take my word for it, study it in depth for yourself, or decide it doesn't matter.
- (5q) There are many things in those chapters we should remember, but my top three picks are (12) We all have an important part to play in God's church. (13) The most desirable and the greatest of all our activities is loving one another. (14) It is important that worship be carried out in good order.

Lesson 6– The Bible is God's Word

I believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God, infallible, and the supreme and final authority for all faith and life. Why do I believe this?

In the other lessons of this course I use the Bible to support what I believe. But how do I know the Bible is reliable? We are just going to look at the highlights for now. I'm not going to be able to fit everything I have learned about Bible reliability in the last forty years on one page, so if you have some doubts remaining, you will have to take responsibility for doing some research to see for yourself.

***** Almost everyone who believes in one God believes at least some part of the Bible.**

[6A] Do you think this is good evidence? _____

***** The Bible claims to be the word of God.**

[6B] Read Leviticus 1:1-2. Who told Moses what to say? _____

[6C] Read Luke 1:1-4. Is Luke claiming to have written the truth? _____

***** The Bible promotes the highest standards of morality.**

[6D] Read Exodus Chapter 20:1-17. What is this passage called? _____

[6E] Read Mark 12:28-31. Who are the two we are supposed to love? _____

[6F] Read Matthew 7:12. This quote, often called the Golden Rule is called what two things in this Scripture passage? _____

***** The Bible has many things very important to say to us.**

[6G] Read John 10:10 Why did HE come? _____

[6H] Read Romans 15:4 Why was it written? _____

***** There are dozens and dozens of fulfilled prophecies in the Bible.**

[6I] Read Deuteronomy 18:18-22. How are we supposed to be able to tell that a prophet is really God's prophet? _____

[6J] Read Deuteronomy 13:1-4 Is fulfilled prophecy enough to establish a prophet as God's prophet? _____

[6K] Read Amos 9:14-15 Is Israel in Jewish or Arab hands? _____

***** The Bible is consistent, within itself and with other known truth like science, history and geography.**

[6L] Do you think this is good evidence? _____

***** The Holy Spirit within me leaps with joy in recognition of the Word of God in the Bible.**

[6H] Do you believe the Bible is God's word? Why or why not?

Think & Pray _____



Lesson 6– The Bible is God's Word

***** Almost everyone who believes in one God believes at least some part of the Bible.**

[6A] Billions of people have believed it now and in the past. That proves nothing, but that does mean it can not be rejected without being considered. Over a lifetime of use, over the lifetimes of my ancestors, over the lifetimes of my brothers and sisters in Christ, over the lifetimes of billions of Christians the Bible has proved itself to be a reliable guide to all necessary spiritual truth. Almost every person on the face of the planet who believes there is just one God believes He speaks at least in some part of the Bible - Christians, Jews (Old Testament), and Moslems. (Moslems acknowledge some portions of the books of Moses as truly from Allah, although they are wrong. Allah is a moon god, an idol, and can not speak. The point is they do acknowledge part of the Bible.) That is about 3 billion people or so, or around half the world. The Bible is the most widely available book there is.

***** The Bible dclaims to be the word of God.**

[6B] Read Leviticus 1:1-2. Who told Moses what to say? The LORD (See also Isaiah 1:1-2)

[6C] Read Luke 1:1-4. Is Luke claiming to have written the truth? Yes (See also Rev 1:1-3)

***** The Bible promotes the highest standards of morality.**

[6D] Read Exodus Chapter 20:1-17. What is this passage called? The Ten Commandments

[6E] Read Mark 12:28-31. Who are the two we are supposed to love? God and our Neighbors

[6F] Read Matthew 7:12. This quote, often called the Golden Rule is called what two things in this Scripture passage? The Law & The Prophets

Are there any higher standards or righteousness than these?

***** The Bible has many things very important to say to us.**

[6G] Read John 10:10 Why did HE come? That we may have life

[6H] Read Romans 15:4 Why was it written? For our learning and that we may have hope

What is more important than morality, life and hope?

***** There are dozens and dozens of fulfilled prophecies in the Bible.**

[6I] Read Deuteronomy 18:18-22. How are we supposed to be able to tell that a prophet is really God's prophet? If what he predicts comes true

[6J] Read Deuteronomy 13:1-4 Is fulfilled prophecy enough to establish a prophet as God's prophet? No, he must also not encourage us to rebel against God.

[6K] Read Amos 9:14-15 Is Israel in Jewish or Arab hands? Jewish There are hundreds of websites and books with lists of fulfilled prophesies.

***** The Bible is consistent, within itself and with other known truth like science, history and geography.**

[6L] We often receive questions along like “Explain how these verses do not contradict!” or “Look, here is an error in the Bible!” Admittedly, some of these questions are difficult to answer. However, I believe that there are viable and intellectually plausible answers to every supposed Bible contradiction and error. There are books and websites available that list “all the errors in the Bible.” Most people simply get their ammunition from these places; they do not find supposed errors on their own. There are also books and websites available that refute every one of these supposed errors. The saddest thing is that many people who attack the Bible are not truly interested in an answer. Many “Bible attackers” are even aware of these answers, but they continue to use the same old shallow attacks again and again, like a predator trying to attack the weakest sheep in the flock. Don't be that weakest sheep. 2 Timothy 2:15 "Be diligent ... accurately handling the word of truth."

***** The Holy Spirit within me leaps with joy in recognition of the Word of God in the Bible.**

[6H] To a believer it is the Word of God, but to an unbeliever it is not. However, even if you do not believe it is God's Word, the Bible is a reliable history book, so the unbeliever is faced with a logical problem. It tells the truth about everything verifiable. Why not believe the rest?

Lesson 7 – The Fall and Redemption of Man

I believe man was created in the image of God but fell into sin and is therefore lost, and can only be cleansed from his sins through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. I believe in the sovereignty of God in all things, so when a man is saved, he is totally without credit. I believe that each man is completely responsible for, and accountable for, his own sin.

Please read these scriptures and fill in the blanks:

[7A] Read Genesis 1:26-27 In whose image or likeness are we made? _____

[7B] Read James 3:9 In whose image or likeness are we made? _____

[7C] Read Romans 3:9-23 How many are righteous? _____

[7D] Read 1 Peter 1:18-19 What are we redeemed with? _____

[7E] Read 1 Chronicles 29:11 Who owns everything? _____

[7F] Read Daniel 4:35 Who can stop God from doing something? _____

[7G] 2 Timothy 1:7-9 According to whose purpose are we granted our salvation? _____

[7H] Read Romans 5:6 How strong were we when Christ died for us? _____

[7I] Read Romans 14:12 Who will have to give an account of themselves to God? _____



Read Genesis 3:1-19

[7J] Who did Adam say was to blame for the fall? _____

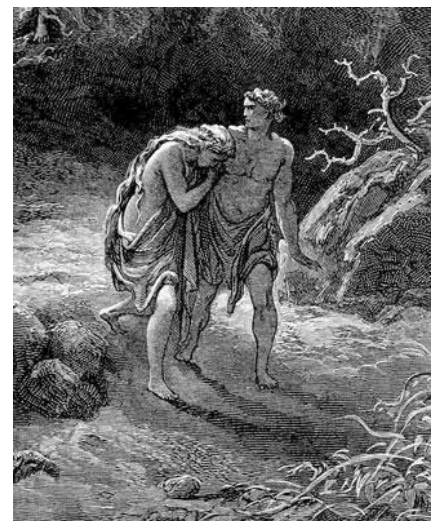
[7K] Who did Eve say was to blame for the fall? _____

[7L] Whose fault was the fall of mankind into sinfulness? Why? (Hint: Rom 5:12-18)

Think & Pray _____

For further thought:

- (7m) What does it mean that man is made in the image of God?
- (7n) Some theologians say that when the bible talks about "the blood of Jesus Christ" it does not mean the actual red fluid that came from His veins but is a figure of speech meaning "the death of Christ." What is your opinion and why? (Hint: Hebrews 9:11-14)
- (7o) How does God's sovereignty work together with our free will?
- (7p) Read Luke 19:10. Have you ever heard anyone claim to be searching for God, a seeker after the truth, or something like that? In light of this scripture passage what do you think of such claims?
- (7q) At what age do children become responsible and accountable before God for their sin?
- (7r) Look up the "see also" scriptures with the answers on the next page, and discuss them.



----- ANSWERS -----

Lesson 7 – The Fall and Redemption of Man

[7A] Read Genesis 1:26-27 In whose image or likeness are we made? God's image

(Notice that the pronouns are plural indicating the Trinity.)

[7B] Read James 3:9 In whose image or likeness are we made? God's image

(See also Gen 9:6, Rom 8:29, Col 1:12-15 & 2 Cor 4:4)

[7C] Read Romans 3:9-23 How many are righteous? None

(See also Eph 2:1-3, Rom 5:12, Ps 14:3)

[7D] Read 1 Peter 1:18-19 What are we redeemed with? the precious blood of Christ

(See also Ex 12:12-13, Eph 1:7, Rom 5:9, Rev 1:5, Eph 2:13, Heb 13:12, Col 1:20)

[7E] Read 1 Chronicles 29:11 Who owns everything? the LORD

(See also Ps 115:3, Ps 22:38, & Rev 4:11)

[7F] Read Daniel 4:35 Who can stop God from doing something? None

[7G] 2 Timothy 1:7-9 According to whose purpose are we granted our salvation? His own purpose

[7H] Read Romans 5:6 How strong were we when Christ died for us? We were helpless or powerless

(See also Rom 3:28, 1Cor 1:29-31, 1Cor 15:10, Eph 2:1-10, Col 2:13, Ezk 11:19, Lk 19:10, Jer 13:23)

[7I] Read Romans 14:12 Who will have to give an account of themselves to God? Everyone

(See also Ezk 18:25, Ps 53:3, Rom 1:28-30, Jer 17:9, Job 15:16, 1Jn 3:8, Rom 3:19, Ps 14:1-3)

Read Genesis 3:1-19

[7J] Who did Adam say was to blame for the fall? Eve

[7K] Who did Eve say was to blame for the fall? Satan

[7L] I believe it was Adam's fault, but I cheated by looking at the answer in the back of the Book.

Romans 5:12-18 tells us that sin came into the world because of Adam. I sometimes wonder how things might be different if Adam had just said, "It is my fault," instead of shuffling it off on Eve.

My further thoughts:

(7m) It means we are like Him, but we are not Him, in much the same way your children are like you and you are like your parents. This is significant in many ways. We are to worship Him and not his image, that is, other people. (Ex 20:1-4) It means that we are more important than anything else in creation. (Gen 1:28, Matthew 6:26) It means we have the hope of becoming like Jesus Christ. (2 Corinthians 3:18, Romans 8:29, 1 Corinthians 15:49, Colossians 1:15, Colossians 3:10) There are probably other reasons that being in God's image is significant.

(7n) I think it is talking about literal blood. Hebrews 9:11-14 tells us that Jesus performs the high priestly functions for us by His own blood. The Hebrew priests which He replaced sprinkled the blood of animals in their purification rituals. Simply killing the animal was not enough. (See also Hebrews 9:14-22, 1st John 1:5-10, 1st Corinthians 6:19-20)

(7o) The bible does not answer this question. My speculation is that God does not reveal the answer to this question to help us escape two pitfalls. If we think God is so sovereign we have no choice we will fail to take responsibility for the consequences of our decisions. If we think we are too responsible we might despair. Ultimately this is a philosophy question, not a Bible question. Two things are certainly true. God is in control of everything, and you are responsible for what you do, say and think.

(7p) Luke 19:10: It appears to me that according to this verse it is Jesus that does the seeking and finding. The rest of us wander around lost until He does. I do not think that people who are "seeking God" find Him any better. But I don't say anything to them about it. I just smile and tell them about Jesus. John 6:45 (Jesus talking) "It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught of God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to Me."

(7q) The Bible is not explicit. It is clear that babies are not responsible. (See 2 Samuel 12:21-23) It is also clear that at some point we become responsible. We must trust God to make this distinction.

Lesson 8 – Discipleship

I believe the best and most proper way for us to express our gratitude for God's salvation is to worship Him and obey His command to love one another.

Please read these scriptures and fill in the blanks:

Read John 14:15-23 and answer the next three questions:

[8A] What will we do if we love him? _____

[8B] Those who love the Lord do what? _____

[8C] Read John 14:23 What happens to those who obey the Lord? _____

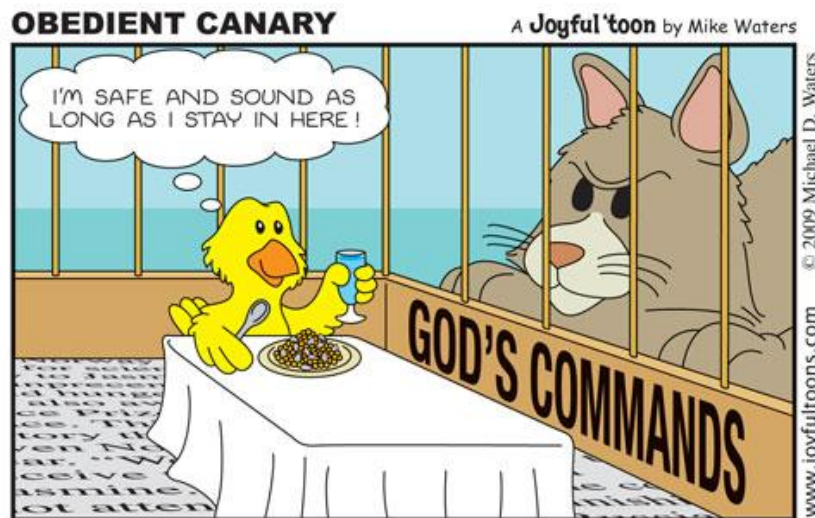
[8D] Read Matthew 5:19 What happens to those who practice and teach what the Lord said?

[8E] Read Hebrews 5:12-14 God expects us to train ourselves by practice to tell the difference between

[8F] Read Matthew 22:36-40. What are the two greatest commandments?

[8G] OK we are supposed to obey God's commands. Which ones? Animal sacrifice?

Think & Pray _____



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

For further thought:

(8h) Read Hebrews 5:8-11 What does this passage tell us about Jesus?

(8i) Read 1st Corinthians 3:10-15. What do you think this passage is talking about?

(8j) Read John 6:26-29 What do you think this passage means and why?

(8k) Read 1st John 3:21-24 Does the answer to our prayers have anything to do with obeying God?

(8l) Look up the "see also" scriptures with the answers on the next page, and discuss them.

----- ANSWERS -----

Lesson 8 – Discipleship

Read John 14:15-23 and answer the next three questions:

[8A] What will we do if we love him? Keep or obey His commandments. John 14:15

[8B] Those who love the Lord do what? They keep or obey his commandments. John 14:21

[8C] Read John 14:23 What happens to those who obey the Lord?

God will love them and Jesus and God will live or abide with them. John 14:23

(See also Hebrews 11:1-40, 1st John 5:2-3, 2nd John 1:6)

[8D] Read Matthew 5:19 What happens to those who practice and teach what the Lord said?

They will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

(See also Leviticus 25:18-19, Matthew 7:24-27, Hebrews 6:10-12)

[8E] Read Hebrews 5:12-14 God expects us to train ourselves by practice to tell the difference between good and evil. (See also 1 Corinthians 3:1-3, Ephesians 4:11-16, Romans 12:1-2, 2 Tim 2:15)

[8F] Read Matthew 22:36-40. What are the two greatest commandments?

Love the Lord your God with everything within you.

Love your neighbor as yourself.



You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

— 2 CORINTHIANS 3:3 NIV

[8G] I believe the reason we no longer obey the Old Testament laws is not because there is anything wrong with them. We no longer obey them because we have something better, a New Covenant in Jesus Christ. He fulfilled the old law. We are adopted into the family of God and seek to do His will because we love Him in response to His gracious forgiveness and love for us.

My further thoughts:

(8h) Jesus asked God to not have to suffer on the cross, but He submitted Himself to the Father's will.

Because He did, we have salvation. If Christ's obedience gave us salvation, what will our own obedience give us?

(8i) Jesus is the foundation of our eternal life. With Him it is assured and it has nothing to do with our works. However, there also seems to be something about the quality of our future in heaven that depends on what we do here. I do not think that means anyone will be unhappy or envious there, but it does appear we will not all be in exactly the same circumstances.

(8j) Do we seek Jesus as those did just so our needs will be met? As Christians and children of the King, I think better is expected of us.

(8k) Yes. Well isn't that legalism and work righteousness, you ask? Salvation is by grace. Many other of God's promises have conditions attached, usually having something to do with our attitude or behavior. (We have a course on the Prayers and Promises of the Bible)

Lesson 9 – Angels, Demons & Satan

I believe there are literal spiritual beings called angels who God uses to carry out His will. I believe there is an angel named Satan who, although doomed to destruction, is active in trying to deceive believers. . Although he is very powerful he is not all knowing, not everywhere at the same time, nor all powerful regardless of how much he would have us to believe otherwise. I believe they are the angels that joined Satan in his rebellion against God which are usually called demons.

[9A] Read Revelation 18:1. It says the angel had great what? _____

[9B] Read Matthew 26:53. How many angels did Jesus have available to Him? _____

[9C] Read Daniel 10:11-20. The angel needed help with his fight with the principality of Persia. Whose help did he get? _____

[9D] Read Revelation 7:11-12. What did the angels do? _____

[9E] Read Hebrews 1:7-14. What kind of spirits are angels? _____

[9F] Read Luke 1:11-17. Who told Zacharias that John the Baptist would be born? _____

[9G] John 8:44. Jesus says Satan is three things. What are they? _____

[9H] In John 10:10 where Satan is called a thief. What are his three goals? _____

[9I] Hebrews 2:14. Whose power has Jesus taken? _____

[9J] James 1:14-15. Is Satan and his demons the only source of temptation? _____

[9K] Luke 22:31-32. What did Satan do before he tempted Peter? _____

[9L] Job 4:17-18. Do angels sin? _____

Read Mark 9:17-22 and answer these two questions:

[9M] How long can a demon attack someone? _____

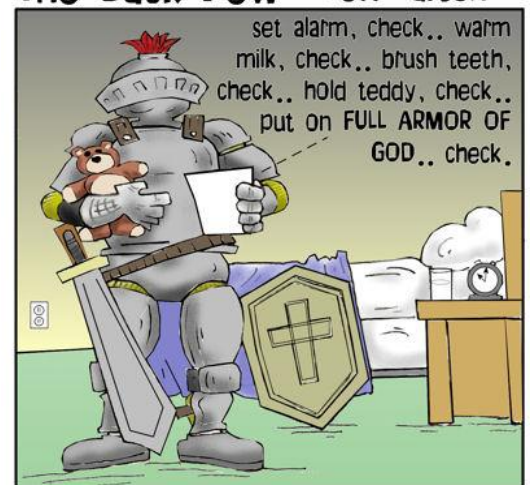
[9N] What is their purpose in attacking someone? _____

[9O] Revelation 12:7-9. Who is going to win the war between angels and demons? _____

[9P] How do we stand against the devil? Isn't he too powerful for us? (Hint: Ephesians 6:10-20)

Think & Pray _____

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



Real men wear... FULL METAL PJS
Ephesians 6:11 – Nighttime when alone with our thoughts and worries is the perfect time to wear the FULL ARMOR OF GOD!

Lesson 9 – Angels, Demons & Satan

- [9A] Read Revelation 18:1. It says the angel had great what? Power or authority
 (See also 1 Chron 21:15-27, 2 Kgs 19:35, Num 22:1-33, 2 Kgs 6:14-17)
- [9B] Read Matthew 26:53. How many angels did Jesus have available to Him? more than 12 Legions
- [9C] Read Daniel 10:11-20. The angel needed help with his fight with the principality of Persia. Whose help did he get? Michael, chief prince or archangel (See also Revelations 12:7-9)
- [9D] Read Revelation 7:11-12. What did the angels do? Fell on their face and worshipped God.
 (see also Is 6:1-3, Psalm 148.2,)
- [9E] Read Hebrews 1:7-14. What kind of spirits are angels? Ministering, serving or helping spirits
 (See also Dan 10:18-19, Acts 12:5-11, Luke 22:43, Acts 10:22, Dan 18:15-27, Ats 1:10-11, Ps 91:10-12)
- [9F] Read Luke 1:11-17. Who told Zacharias that John the Baptist would be born. The angel Gabriel
- [9G] John 8:44. Jesus says Satan is three things. What are they? Murderer, liar, and father of lies
- [9H] In John 10:10 where Satan is called a thief. What are his three goals? Steal, kill, and destroy.
- [9I] Hebrews 2:14. Whose power has Jesus taken? The devil
- [9J] James 1:14-15. Is Satan and his demons the only source of temptation? No
- [9K] Luke 22:31-32. What did Satan do before he tempted Peter? He asked permission (That is comforting!)
- [9L] Job 4:17-18. Do angels sin? Yes. Those that do we call demons.
- [9M] How long can a demon attack someone? His whole life. Mark 9:21
- [9N] What is their purpose in attacking someone? To destroy him. Mark 9:22
- [9O] Revelation 12:7-9. Who is going to win the war between angels and demons? Angels
- [9P] How do we stand against the devil? See Ephesians 6:10-20. With truth, righteousness, proclaiming the gospel, faith, remembering our salvation, reading and speaking His word, and praying at all times in the Spirit. I know that whatever Satan is, he is smarter, stronger and swifter than me. I can not stand against him on my own. I am protected by the blood of Jesus Christ and safe in the hands of God Almighty who is always near.

For further thought:

- (9q) Read and discuss the "see also" scriptures above, particularly with 9A and 9E.
- (9r) I once met a man in the lock up ward of a behavioral health hospital who thought he was Jesus Christ. His fellow patients laughed when he said this, but he just maintained his dignity and insisted that he knew he was Jesus because an angel of light had told him so. The others laughed again. The man said he knew I would not believe him, but insisted he was telling the truth. The others looked at me smiling, waiting to see what I would say. How would you respond to this? (Hint: 2 Corinthians 11:14)
- (9s) Read Isaiah 14:3-21. What does this teach us about Lucifer (another name for Satan)
- (9t) What does Matthe 4:1-11 teach us about Satan?
- (9u) What does Ezekiel 28:12-16 teach us about Satan?

My further thoughts:

- (9q) There are twice as many angels as demons, they are amazingly powerful, they do only what God directs and they are tasked with helping us. (Among other things.)
- (9r) I told him that I believed every word he was saying about his angelic visitation. The smiles disappeared from the faces of the other patients and the man looked puzzled. I went on to explain I believed it was the angel who was the liar. No one had any more to say, and the man just sat there looking introspective. (See 2 Cor 11:14) Satan sometimes appears as an angel of light. I believe that is exactly what happened to Ellen G. White, Joseph Smith and Mohammed.
- (9s) Among other things we learn that Satan's power will be broken, everyone will be glad when he is gone, he has musical abilities, his prideful rebellion failed, we won't believe how he really looks.
- (9t) Satan is not everywhere at the same time.. (See Luke 4:13) He can quote scripture. Among other things.
- (9u) Satan is beautiful, dresses well, is wise, and became filled with violence among other things.

More Facts about Angels

Angels do not get married. (See Matthew 22:30)

Two angels are called by name in the Bible, Gabriel & Michael (Unless you count Lucifer, the fallen angel.)

(See Daniel 8:16, 9:20-21, 10:13, 10:21, 12:1, Luke 1:19-26, Jude 1:9, & Revelations 12:7)

Angels will shout when Jesus returns. (See 1 Thessalonians 4:16)

Lesson 10 – The Return, The Rapture & The Judgment

I believe both the saved and the lost will someday be resurrected; the saved to literal everlasting blessedness and joy with the Lord, and the lost to judgment and literal everlasting punishment. My blessed hope is that Jesus will return soon and suddenly in power and glory.

Please read these scriptures and fill in the blanks:

[10A] Acts 17:30-31 God has fixed, planned or appointed a day for what? _____

[10B] Matthew 24:1-8. What did Jesus call wars, famines, and earthquakes? _____

[10C] Where will the gospel be preached or proclaimed right before the end? _____

[10D] 1st Cor 15:52 How much time will the resurrection take? _____

[10E] Dan 12:1 When things become worse than they have ever been who will be rescued?

[10F] Acts 1:6-11 What did the two men in white promise? _____

[10G] In Titus 2:11-14 the Grace of God instructs us to be looking for what? _____

[10H] Rev 19:11-21 What will Jesus' name tag say? _____

[10I] Revelations 20:1-10 How long will Christ rule on earth? _____

[10J] Revelations 20:7-9 What happens to the enemies of God? _____

[10K] 1st Cor 15:42-55 What is swallowed up in victory? _____

[10L] Matt 25:32-41 How will the Lord be like a shepherd when He renders judgment.

[10M] John 14:1-6 How much space is there for us in heaven? _____

[10N] John 17:1-5 What is the same thing as eternal life? _____

[10O] Matt 24:42 Why should we be always ready? _____

[10P] What do you believe about the end times?
Think & Pray



----- ANSWERS -----

Lesson 10 – The Return, The Rapture & The Judgment

[10A] Acts 17:30-31 God has fixed, planned or appointed a day for what? Judgment

[10B] Matthew 24:1-8. What did Jesus call wars, famines, and earthquakes?

Beginning of birth pains or sorrows. Mt 24:8

[10C] Where will the gospel be preached or proclaimed right before the end? Everywhere. Matt 24:14.

[10D] 1st Cor 15:52 How much time will the resurrection take? a moment, a twinkling of the eye

[10E] Dan 12:1 When things become worse than they have ever been who will be rescued?

Everyone whose name is in the book

[10F] Acts 1:6-11 What did the two men in white promise?

Jesus would return in the same way he went. Acts 1:11

[10G] In Titus 2:11-14 the Grace of God instructs us to be looking for what? that blessed hope

[10H] Rev 19:11-21 What will Jesus' name tag say? King of Kings and Lord of Lords Rev 19:16

[10I] Revelations 20:1-10 How long will Christ rule on earth? 1,000 Years Rev 20:6

[10J] Revelations 20:7-9 What happens to the enemies of God?

Fire falls from heaven and destroys them. Rev 20:9

[10K] 1st Cor 15:42-55 What is swallowed up in victory? Death 1st Cor 15:54

[10L] Matt 25:32-41 How will the Lord be like a shepherd when He renders judgment.

He will be like a shepherd who separates the sheep from the goats. Matt 25:32-33

[10M] John 14:1-6 How much space is there for us in heaven? many rooms or mansions John 14:2

[10N] John 17:1-5 What is the same thing as eternal life? knowing God John 17:3

[10O] Matt 24:42 Why should we be always ready? Because we do not know when the end will come.

[10P] I believe, God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end.

According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord.

For further thought:

(10q) In Revelation 5:10 it says we are being made into priests in order to help the Lord rule the earth.

How is God preparing you for your duties? How do you know ?

(10r) How could God's coming vengeance be comforting as Isaiah says in 61:2?

(10s) If Jesus were to come now, are you ready? How do you know?

(10t) Read and discuss Matthew 23:37 to 25:46 (Follow the cross references for more discussion .)

My further thoughts:

(10q) God prepared me for my ministry in a number of ways. One of them was to have me be a professional trainer for seven years in a major corporation, so that I could learn to write lessons like these. That is one of the things that confirms for me that God is preparing us for our future. If He is preparing me for my current life, doesn't it make sense He is preparing me for my next one as well?

(10r) God's justice is comforting to the saved, because it means that Satan will be dealt with, and we will be gathered to God. For the unsaved, God's justice means a destiny in hell, so for them it is not comforting at all.

(10s) I am saved and ready. I am more than ready. I am hoping for it to come soon.

(10t) My favorite is Hebrews 10:23-25 "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as You see the day drawing near."