

Jesus Christ: A Bible Study in Simple English

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Explanations

A Short Explanation about the Bible

The **Bible** is the written Word of God. It has two main parts. The first part is the **Old Testament**. It has 39 **books**, or smaller parts. These books were written between 450 and 1,500 years before Jesus. Jesus lived about 2,000 years ago. The second main part is the **New Testament**. It has 27 books. These books were written between 20 and 60 years after Jesus died. About 40 different people wrote these 66 books of the Bible. The Bible says that God “inspired” these people (directed their thoughts and ideas) about what to write.

Later teachers of the Bible **divided** the books of the Bible into **chapters**. They also divided the chapters into **verses**. This makes it easy to tell where a group of words, a sentence, or several sentences are found in the Bible. For example, the first story in this bible study is found in Matthew 1:18-25. This means that this story can be found in the book of Matthew, chapter 1, verses 18 to 25. You can find the book of Matthew by looking in a list of the books of the Bible found at the beginning of the Bible. It is the first book of the New Testament.

The stories and other parts of the Bible written in this bible study are taken from the New Life Version. This is a **translation** in simple English. It puts the words of the Bible’s original languages (Hebrew and Greek) into English that is easy to read. This is helpful for students of English as a Second Language (ESL). You can buy a copy of this New Life Version of the Bible by going to www.newlifebible.org or by calling 1-800-324-9734. You can also write Christian Literature International, P.O. Box 777, Canby, Oregon 97013. A copy will not cost very much.

Other Explanations

New or special words are printed in **bold print** like this: **God**. Some words are in vocabulary lists with an explanation next to each word or phrase. You can understand the other boldly printed words by reading the words and sentences around them. An **asterisk** looks like this: *. In the vocabulary lists, asterisks are printed next to the boldly printed words or phrases if they are not usually used in English. **Titles** (the names at the beginning) of the different chapters and parts of this bible study are also printed in bold. For example, the title of this part is **Other Explanations**.

Answers to the questions are printed at the end of each lesson. You will learn more if you write your own answers for the whole lesson first. Then read the printed answers.



Map 1

MAP 2

Judea, Galilee, Samaria and Gaza were parts of David's Kingdom of Israel a thousand years before Jesus.



Lesson One: The Birth of Jesus

Lesson 1, Section 1: Read this story from the book of Matthew in the Bible. Look at the vocabulary list for help with new or special words and phrases. Then write answers to the questions.

The birth of **Jesus Christ** was like this: Mary His mother had been promised in marriage to **Joseph**. Before they were married, it was learned that she was to have a baby by the **Holy Spirit**. Joseph was her **promised husband**. He was a good man and did not want to make it hard for Mary in front of people. He thought it would be good to break the **promised marriage** without people knowing it. While he was thinking about this, an **angel of the Lord** came to him in a dream. The angel said, “Joseph, **son of David**, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. She is to become a mother by the Holy Spirit. A Son will be born to her. You will give Him the name Jesus because He will save His people from the **punishment** of their **sins**.”

This happened as the Lord said it would happen through the **early preacher**. He said, “The young woman, who has never had a man, will give birth to a Son. They will give Him the name **Immanuel**. This means God with us.”

Joseph awoke from his sleep. He did what the angel of the Lord told him to do. He took Mary as his wife. But he did not have her, as a husband has a wife, until she gave birth to a Son. Joseph gave Him the name Jesus (Matthew 1:18-25).

angel	A being from heaven with a message from God
Christ or Jesus Christ	This is one of the names of Jesus. It means that He was chosen for a special job. (See also Chosen One in Section 4.)
early preacher*	A prophet , a man who was given special messages by God for the people. This prophet was Isaiah who lived about 700 years before Jesus. The Bible has a book written by Isaiah in the Old Testament.
Holy Spirit	God Himself
Immanuel	See question 4
Jesus or Jesus Christ	This name means “God saves”
Joseph	A Jewish carpenter who lived about 2,000 years ago near the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea . This sea is between Europe and Asia , and Africa . (See Map 1.) He was the human father of Jesus. He taught Jesus to be a carpenter also. A carpenter

is someone who makes things with wood, including roofs, doors, and farm tools.

promised husband* **Fiancée** (See “promised marriage.”)

promised marriage* An **engagement**. This is when a man and a woman promise to marry each other and tell others about this promise. (See also **marriage** in Lesson 2, Section 1.)

punishment The bad result that comes to a person when he or she breaks a law or rule

sins Evil acts and evil thoughts. This word will be explained more in Lesson 2.

son of David A man from the family of David, the old Jewish nation’s greatest king. David lived about 1,000 years before Jesus. The old Jewish nation was called **Israel**. (See Map 2. See also the answer to question 18.)

the Lord Another name for God

1. Who was the true father of Jesus? _____
2. Joseph learned that Mary was going to be a mother. After Joseph learned this, what did Joseph plan to do? _____

3. Why did the angel tell Joseph to give Mary’s son the name Jesus?

4. What name did the prophet Isaiah give to Mary’s son? What did this name mean?

Note: The Bible teaches that there is only one God. The Bible also teaches that God is three Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. This is hard to understand. The Bible also teaches that God made the earth and everything on the earth. He also made the sun, the moon, the stars, and everything else. So we should not be surprised that it is difficult to understand God. (More bible verses about this: Isaiah 45:21; Mark 12:28-31; Matthew 16:13-17; John 1:1-2, 14-18; John 10:25-30; John 14:26; John 15:26; 2 Corinthians 3:3, 17-18.)

5. What did Joseph do after the angel spoke to him?

Lesson 1, Section 2: This story is from the book of Luke in the Bible. Read the story below, then write answers to the questions.

In those days **Caesar Augustus** sent out word that the name of every person in the Roman nation must be written in the books of the nation. This first writing took place while **Quirinius** was **ruler** of **Syria**.

So all the people went to their own cities to have their names written in the books of the nation. Joseph went up from the town of **Nazareth** in the country of **Galilee** to the town of **Bethlehem**. It was known as the city of David. He went there because he was from the family of David. Joseph went to have his and Mary's names written in the books of the nation. Mary was his **promised wife** and soon to become a mother.

While they were there in Bethlehem, the time came for Mary to give birth to her baby. Her first son was born. She put cloth around Him and laid Him in a place where **cattle** are fed. There was no room for them in the place where people stay for the night. (Luke 2:1-7)

Caesar Augustus This was the **ruler** of the **Roman** nation. A ruler tells people what to do and what not to do. He ruled many different people who spoke many different languages. So his nation was called an **empire**. He ruled the lands or countries around the Mediterranean Sea. (See Map 1.) Jesus was born in **Bethlehem**. This was a small town in **Judea**, a country at the east end of this sea. Jesus grew up in the town of **Nazareth**. This was in another country, **Galilee**, which is north of Judea. (See Map 2.) Galilee is where Joseph and Mary lived before Jesus was born. Most people who lived in Judea and Galilee were **Jews**. Jews are the main people of the Old Testament part of the Bible.

cattle Another name for cows

promised wife* **Fiancée** (See "promised marriage" in Section 1.)

Quirinius This was a Roman leader or ruler. He ruled **Syria**, a country north of Galilee, when Caesar Augustus was ruler of the Roman Empire. Augustus told Quirinius to count the people in Syria and in Judea.

ruler A ruler tells people what to do and what not to do. Often he or she is ruler because his or her father and mother were rulers.

6. Why did Joseph and Mary travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem?

7. When they arrived in Bethlehem, did they stay at a house or hotel? Explain your answer. _____

Lesson 1, Section 3: Continue to read the story of the birth of Jesus from the book of Luke. Then write answers to the questions.

In the same country there were **shepherds** in the **fields**. They were watching their **flocks** of **sheep** at night. The angel of the Lord came to them. The **shining-greatness** of the Lord shone around them. They were very much afraid. The angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. See! I bring you good news of great joy which is for all people. Today, One Who saves from the punishment of sin has been born in the city of David. He is Christ the Lord. There will be something special for you to see. This is the way you will know Him. You will find the Baby with cloth around Him, lying in a place where cattle are fed.”

At once many angels from **heaven** were seen, along with the angel, giving thanks to God. They were saying, “Greatness and honor to our God in the highest heaven and peace on earth among men who please Him.”

The angels went from the shepherds back to heaven. The shepherds said to each other, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see what has happened. The Lord has told us about this.” They went fast and found Mary and Joseph. They found the Baby lying in a place where cattle are fed. When they saw the Child, they told what the angel said about Him....The shepherds went back full of joy. They thanked God for all they had heard and seen. It happened as the angel had told them. (Luke 2:8-17, 20)

fields	Places away from towns where grass and farm plants grow
flock	A group of many sheep
heaven	The place where people live with God. Many angels are there, too (See more in Lesson 2, Section 3.)
sheep	This is an animal that eats grass and has a thick coat of hair called wool . People make cloth from the wool. Many people also eat sheep. This food from sheep is called lamb or mutton . Sheep are smaller than cattle. The word “sheep” can mean one animal or more than one.
shepherds	People who take care of sheep
shining-greatness*	This a special light that shines from God. It is also called glory . It shows His greatness, goodness, and power.

8. Why did the shepherds become afraid? _____

9. Why were the words of the angel “good news of great joy”?

10. Were these words only for the shepherds? Explain what you think.

11. What many things did the shepherds do after they heard the angel’s words?

12. How did the shepherds know where to find Jesus?

13. When Jesus lived, most people in Judea and Galilee did not think shepherds were important people. Do most people in your country today think shepherds are important? Explain your answer.

14. God sent His angel to tell the shepherds about Jesus. These were people not thought to be important. Why do you think God decided to tell the shepherds first?

Lesson 1, Section 4: Read about Jesus when He was eight days old. This is also from the book of Luke. Then write answers to the questions.

...they [Joseph and Mary] took Jesus to Jerusalem to give Him to the Lord. It is written in the **Law of the Lord**, “The first-born male born of a woman will be called **holy** to the Lord.” They were to give a gift of two **turtle-doves** or two young birds on the **altar** in **worship** to the Lord. This was written in the Law of the Lord.

There was a man in Jerusalem by the name of **Simeon**. He was a good man and very **religious**. He was looking for the time when the Jewish nation would be saved. The Holy Spirit was on him. The Holy Spirit made it known to Simeon that he would not die before he had seen God’s **Chosen One**. He came to the **house of God** being led by the Holy Spirit. The parents took Jesus to the house of God. They came to do what the Law said must be done. Then Simeon took Jesus in his arms. He gave honor to Him and thanked God, saying,

“Lord, now let me die in peace, as You have said. My eyes have seen the One Who will save men from the punishment of their sins. You have made Him ready in the sight of all nations. He will be a light to shine on the people who are not Jews. He will be the shining-greatness of Your people the Jews” (Luke 2:22-32).

- altar** A table or place where people can put gifts for God or do other acts of **worship**. To worship God is to **honor** Him and **pray** to Him. To honor someone is to see him or her as higher and more important than yourself. To pray is to talk to God and listen to Him, giving honor to Him at the same time.
- Chosen One*** This is the meaning of Christ, the other name of Jesus
- holy** Given a special job or use by God. It can also mean without sin.
- house of God** This is a building where God is worshipped. It is called a **temple**.
- Law of the Lord** Often this means the Old Testament. Here it means the first five books of the Old Testament. It is also simply called the Law.
- religious** Wanting to do what God wants (See also Lesson 3, Section 1.)
- turtle-dove** A kind of bird (See also **dove** in Lesson 2, Section 4.)

15. Two turtledoves or young birds were the smallest gift to give thanks to God for a new baby boy. What does this tell us about how much money Joseph and Mary had?

16. Why was Simeon waiting at the house of God?

17. What did Simeon tell Joseph and Mary about Jesus? What was the special job that Jesus was born to do? _____

18. Simeon said that Jesus will give light to certain people. Do you think you are a part of these people? Explain your answer.

Lesson One Answers

1. God was the true father of Jesus. More information: God made a baby start to grow inside Mary. This baby was God the Son and was named Jesus. This is true but hard for the human mind to understand. But it is what the Bible says. (See also the note after question 4.)
2. Joseph planned to end his engagement with Mary. He planned to do this without people knowing it.
3. The angel told Joseph to give Mary's son the name Jesus because He will save His people from punishment for their sins. The name "Jesus" means "God saves."
4. The prophet Isaiah gave Jesus the name "Immanuel." This name means "God with us." More information: This means that Jesus was both man and God. Isaiah also wrote this about Jesus: "For to us a Child will be born. To us a Son will be given....His name will be called Wonderful, Teacher, Powerful God, Father Who Lives Forever, Prince of Peace"(Isaiah 9:6). Isaiah wrote this 700 years before Jesus was born.
5. Joseph did what the angel told him to do. Joseph married Mary but did not take her home to be his wife until after Jesus was born. Joseph named the baby Jesus.
6. They traveled to Bethlehem because Caesar Augustus told his people that they must have their names written in the books of the Roman nation. To do this, people had to go to the towns where they were born. Joseph was born in Bethlehem, the city of David. Joseph took Mary, his new wife, with him.
7. They did not stay at a house or hotel because there was no room for them. Bethlehem was full of people because of the word from Caesar Augustus. So Joseph and Mary stayed in a place where cattle were kept.
8. The shepherds became afraid because an angel appeared and a special light from God shone around them.
9. The words of the angel were "good news of great joy" because a baby boy called Christ the Lord was born nearby in Bethlehem. This baby boy would grow up and become the One who saves people, including the shepherds, from punishment for their sins.

10. No, the angel's words were not only for the shepherds. The angel said his words were for all people.
11. After the shepherds heard the angel's words, they decided to go to Bethlehem. They went there quickly, found Jesus, and told Mary and Joseph what the angel had said. Then the shepherds were full of joy and went back to the fields and their sheep. The shepherds thanked God for what they had heard and seen.
12. The shepherds knew where to find Jesus because the angel had told them He was born in Bethlehem. The angel also said that the baby was lying in a place where cattle are fed.
13. The answer comes from the reader's thoughts.
14. The answer comes from the reader's thoughts.
15. Joseph and Mary were not rich. They were poor.
16. Simeon was waiting at the house of God because God told him that he would not die before he saw God's Chosen One, or the Christ. Good Jewish parents brought their new babies to the house of God to give thanks to Him. So the house of God was a good place for Simeon to wait.
17. Simeon told Joseph and Mary that Jesus was God's Chosen One. Simeon said that Jesus will save people from the punishment for their sins. This was the special job that Jesus was born to do. Simeon also said that Jesus will be a light to shine on the people who are not Jews and will be the shining-greatness of the Jews. He will give light to all nations. (This will be explained in later lessons.)
18. Yes, you are a member of the people to whom Jesus gives light. This is true because either you are a Jew or you are not a Jew. Simeon said that Jesus gives light to both kinds of people. So Jesus gives light to all people. He gives light to everybody. More information: The prophet Isaiah also wrote these words from God about His Chosen One: "It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant to raise up the **family groups of Jacob**, and to bring back those of **Israel** I have kept safe. I will also make You a light to the nations, so that men over all the earth can be saved from the punishment of their sins" (Isaiah 49:6). ("Family groups of Jacob" were people from the twelve sons of Jacob, the father of the Jews. Israel is another name for Jacob.)

Lesson Two: The Most Important Teaching of Jesus

Lesson 2, Section 1: Read this teaching by Jesus and write your answers to the questions.

Jesus called the people to Him and said to them, “Listen and understand this! It is not what goes into a man’s mouth that makes his mind and heart **sinful**. It is what comes out of a man’s mouth that makes him sinful...

“...Whatever comes from the mouth has come out of the **heart**. These things make the man [and woman] unclean inside. For out of the heart come bad thoughts, killing other people, **sex sins** of a married person, sex sins of a person not married, stealing, lying, speaking against God. These are the things that make the man unclean inside....” (Matthew 15:10-11, 18-20).

heart Here Jesus does not mean the part of the body that moves **blood** inside the body. He means the part of us that cannot be seen. This is where our thoughts and feelings are. (See Section 4 for more on **blood**.)

sex sins* Sins that use sex in a bad way, in a way that is not part of God’s plan for **marriage**. The phrase in common English is “**sexual sins**.”
Note: The Bible teaches that God gave the gift of sex as part of His **plan** for **faithful, loyal** marriage between a husband and a wife. A faithful, loyal husband loves only his wife and no other woman. A faithful, loyal wife loves only her husband and no other man. (Jesus teaches about this plan in Matthew 19:4-6. In the plan, Jesus also teaches that a man should not marry another man and that a woman should not marry another woman.) A **plan** is an idea that you first think about and then want to do.

sinful A sinful heart is filled with evil thoughts and desires. God is true and right and good. He made everything and knows everything. So He can help us know what is evil and what is good. What is evil is called sin. The main way that God tells us about what is evil and what is good is through the Bible.

1. Jesus says that some things are sins. What are they?

2. What makes people do these bad things? Write your answer using the teaching of Jesus.

Lesson 2, Section 2: Read this teaching by Jesus and write your answers to the questions.

Jesus saw many people. He went up on the mountain and sat down. His followers came to Him. He began to teach them, saying,...

“You have heard that men were told long ago, ‘You must not kill another person. If someone does kill, he will be **guilty** and will be **punished** for his **wrong-doing**.’ But I tell you that whoever is angry with his brother will be guilty and have to **suffer** for his wrong-doing. Whoever says to his brother, ‘You have no **brains**,’ will have to stand in front of the **court**. Whoever says, ‘You fool,’ will be sent to the fire of **hell**.

“You have heard that it was said long ago, ‘You must not do sex sins.’ But I tell you, anyone who even looks at a woman [or a man] with a sinful desire of wanting her [or him] has already sinned in his heart” (Matthew 5:1-2, 21-22, 27-28).

brain	The part inside our head that helps us to think and to have ideas
court	A place where a judge or a group of judges decides if someone is guilty and should be punished. In the United States, a group of common people is often given this job of deciding. This group is called a jury .
guilty	Having broken a law or rule (In the Bible, most laws and rules are from God.)
hell	A place where people who do not know God will go after they die. They will live forever far from God. Fire burns forever there. (For more on hell, read Matthew 18:8; Matthew 25:46; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9; Revelation 21:8.)
punished	To be punished is to have something painful done to you because you broke a law or rule
suffer	To feel pain or unhappiness
wrong-doing	Another word for sin

3. In the Old Testament, God tells us that we must not kill another person. Does Jesus teach that the only meaning of this law is that we must not make another person to die? Or does Jesus teach more than this. If so, give an example from his teaching.

4. In the Old Testament, God tells us not to do sexual sins. Does Jesus teach that this law is only about what we do using our bodies? Or does he teach that there is another way that a person can sin sexually? If so, what is this way?

5. Jesus teaches that you must not sin in your heart and in your thoughts. Do you think that you can always **obey**, or do, what he says to do? Explain your answer.

6. What does Jesus say is the punishment for a person who breaks God's law?

Lesson 2, Section 3: Read more of Jesus's teaching and write answers to the questions.

“You have heard that it has been said, ‘You must love your neighbor and **hate** those who hate you.’ But I tell you, love those who hate you.... Pray for those who do bad things to you and who make it hard for you. Then you may be the sons [and daughters] of your Father Who is in heaven. His sun shines on bad people and on good people. He sends rain on those who are right with God and on those who are not right with God. If you love those who love you, what **reward** can you expect from that?... If you greet only the people you like, are you doing any more than others? The people who do not know God do that much. You must be **perfect** as your Father in heaven is perfect” (Matthew 5:43-48).

hate To **dislike** (not like) someone very much, to want bad things to happen to someone

reward This is what you should receive for doing something good or hard

greet To say **hello**

perfect Right and good always, without even a single sinful thought or act

7. Jesus teaches about people who hate you. These are people who dislike you very much and make life difficult for you. What does He say is the way that you must feel and act toward these people?

8. Do you believe that you always feel and act toward all these people in the way that Jesus teaches? Explain your answer.

9. Jesus says that you must be perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect. What does Jesus mean? Does He mean that you will be punished if you break God's laws even one time? Explain your answer.

Note: **Heaven** is the place where people live with God forever in happiness and joy after death. (For more on heaven, which the Bible sometimes calls the New Jerusalem, read Matthew 5:12; Philippians 3:20-21; Hebrews 12:22-24; Revelation 21:1-4, 22-27; 22:1-5. See also Lesson 1, Section 3.)

Lesson 2, Section 4: Read this teaching from the prophet Isaiah. It will help you understand more about the teaching of Jesus. Write answers to the questions.

[Isaiah speaks to people who are not following God's laws:] "But your wrong-doings have kept you away from your God. Your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He does not hear...."

[Using words that are like pictures for the reader, Isaiah then speaks for these people:] "What is right and good does not come to us. We hope for light, but see darkness. We hope for bright light, but we walk in the dark. We feel for the wall like blind men. We feel our way like those who have no eyes....All of us make noise like **bears**, and cry inside ourselves like **doves**. We hope for what is right and fair, but it is not there. We hope to be saved, but it is far from us....Our wrong-doing is with us, and we know our sins. We have gone against the Lord and have acted as if we do not know Him. We have turned away from our God. We have made it hard for others. We have thought and spoken lying words from the heart. What is right and fair is turned back. What is right and good stands far away. Truth has fallen in the street, and what is right cannot come in....And he who turns away from sin comes under the anger of sinners" (Isaiah 59:2, 9-15).

bear A big and very strong animal that usually has long brown or black hair. It has sharp **claws** on its feet. It looks slow but can run fast. It makes a low sound of **danger** called a **growl**. It usually turns away from people but it can hurt or kill them.

dove A kind of bird that is very afraid. It flies away rather than fight.

10. What sins does Isaiah talk about in the last part of his words?

11. Isaiah talks about bad things that come to people who sin. Write a list of these bad things.

Lesson 2, Section 5: Read more of Jesus’s teaching and write answers to the questions.

“When the **Son of Man** comes in His shining-greatness, He will sit down on His **throne** of greatness. All the angels will be with Him. All the nations of the earth will be gathered before Him. He will divide them from each other as a shepherd divides the sheep from the **goats**. He will put the sheep on His right side, but the goats He will put on His left side....”

“Then the King will say to those on His left side, ‘Go away from Me! You are guilty! Go into the fire that lasts forever....’” (Matthew 25:31-33, 41).

goat An animal like a sheep but with a thinner body and longer neck and legs. Humans get milk, meat, and skins from goats but not wool. A male goat has a beard under its chin. Here Jesus uses goats as a picture of people who have sinned.

Son of Man Jesus often used this name for Himself. (For example, see Luke 5:24 and John 5:26-27.) It is from the Old Testament book written by the prophet **Daniel** (7:13-14).

throne The chair of a king when he rules. He sits in it when he tells people what to do and what not to do.

12. Jesus uses a word picture to tell what He will do with all people one day in the future. Use his word picture and write what He says that He will do.

13. Read again all the teachings of Jesus and Isaiah in Lesson Two. Now write what these teachings say will make Jesus send people away from Himself when He rules the world.

14. Using the teachings of Lesson 2, do you think that it is possible for a person to live a perfect life? Explain your answer. _____

Note: Jesus taught many other things. You can read about them and the rest of His life in the first four books of the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Lesson Two Answers

1. Jesus says that bad thoughts, killing other people, sex sins of a married person or of a person not married (that is, using sex in a bad way—in a way that is not a part of God’s plan for marriage), lying, and speaking against God are all sins.
2. Jesus says that bad and sinful hearts make people do these bad things.
3. Jesus teaches that we can break the law about killing just by our words or thoughts. For example, He says that we break this law if we say or think that someone is a **fool** (has no understanding of right and wrong).
4. Jesus teaches that someone breaks this law if he or she looks with sexual desire at another person and he or she is not married to this person.
5. The answer comes from the reader’s thoughts.
6. Jesus says that a person who breaks God’s law must stand in front of a court. If the person is said to be guilty, he or she will be sent to live forever far from God in the fire of hell.
7. Jesus says that you must love and pray for these people who hate you.
8. The answer comes from the reader’s thoughts.
9. Yes, Jesus means that you are guilty and deserve punishment if you break God’s laws even one time. Jesus says that God is perfect and so you must be perfect. To be perfect means to be always right and good, without even a single wrong thought or act.
10. Isaiah talks about these sins: To go against God, to turn away from Him, and to act as if we do not know Him; to hurt or make life difficult for other people; to think lies, speak lies, and not follow the truth; to do what is not right, fair, and good; and to be angry with people who decide not to sin.
11. Sins keep people away from God. Sins get between people and God so that it seems that He does not see or hear. What is right, good, and fair does not come to people

who have sinned. Instead of walking in God's light they walk in darkness. Not able to see, they have to feel their way. They sound **brave** (without fear), but they are afraid inside. They cannot save themselves.

12. Jesus says that He will come back as a great king and sit on His throne to judge all people. He will divide them into two groups just as a shepherd divides sheep from goats. He says that the people who are like goats are guilty, and He will send them away to a fiery hell far from Himself forever.
13. People who have sins now or in their past are guilty. Their sins have kept them away from God. Now Jesus must send these people away from Himself.
14. The answer comes from the reader's thoughts.

Lesson Three: The Death of Jesus

Lesson 3, Section 1: Read this report by **Matthew**. He was one of the first twelve followers of Jesus. He wrote what he saw Jesus do and what he heard Jesus say. Write answers to the questions.

From that time on Jesus began to tell His followers that He had to go to **Jerusalem** and suffer many things. These hard things would come from the leaders and from the **head religious leaders** of the Jews and from the teachers of the Law. He told them He would be killed and three days later He would be raised from the dead. **Peter** took Jesus away from the others and spoke **sharp words** to Him. He said, “Never, Lord! This must not happen to You!” Then Jesus turned to Peter and said, “...You are standing in My way. You are not thinking how God thinks. You are thinking how man thinks” (Matthew 16:21-23).

head	Here this word does not mean a part of the body. Here it means the main or most important.
Jerusalem	The main city of the Jews at the time of Jesus
Peter	A leader of Jesus’s first followers
religious leaders	Leaders who told people what to think and do about God. Religion is what people think and do about God or gods.
sharp words	Words that can hurt

1. What did Jesus say was going to happen to Him when He went to Jerusalem?

2. Did Peter want these things to happen to Jesus? Explain your answer.

Lesson 3, Section 2: Read the report below, and then write answers to the questions.

Judas, one of the twelve followers, came while Jesus was talking. He came with many others who had **swords** and **sticks**. They came from the religious leaders of the Jews and the leaders of the people. The man who handed Jesus over gave the men something to look for. He said, “The One I kiss is the One you want. Take Him!” At once Judas went up to Jesus and said, “Hello, Teacher,”

and kissed Him. Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you came to do." Then they came and put their hands on Jesus and took Him (Matthew 26:47-50).

- Judas** A follower of Jesus
- sticks** Long pieces of wood used to hit and hurt people. This kind of stick is called a **club**.
- sword** A long piece of **metal**, made hard and sharp to cut people

3. How did the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem find Jesus? _____

4. Did Jesus try to stop them? _____

Lesson 3, Section 3: Read these reports of Mark and John, and answer the questions. **John** was one of Jesus's first twelve followers. **Mark** was a follower of Peter, an early leader of the first twelve followers of Jesus.

Early in the morning the head religious leaders of the Jews and other leaders and the teachers of the Law and all the court gathered together to talk about Jesus. Then they tied up Jesus and led Him away. They handed Him over to **Pilate**. Pilate asked Jesus, "Are You the King of the Jews?" He said to Pilate, "What you say is true" (Mark 15:1-2).

Jesus said, "My **holy nation** does not belong to this world. If my holy nation were of this world, My helpers would fight so I would not be handed over to the Jews.... You are right when you say that I am a King.... I came into the world for this reason" (John 18:36-37).

Then Pilate took Jesus and had Him beaten. The soldiers put a **crown of thorns** on His head. They put a purple coat on Him. Then they said, "Hello, King of the Jews!" and hit Him with their hands....

The religious leaders and the **soldiers** saw Him. They spoke with loud voices, "**Nail Him to a cross! Nail Him to a cross!**" Pilate said, "Take Him yourselves and nail Him to a cross. As for me, I do not find Him guilty." The Jews said to Pilate, "We have a Law that says He should die because He has said He is the Son of God."

When Pilate heard them say this, he was more afraid. He went into the court room again. He said to Jesus, "Where do you come from?" Jesus did not say a word. Pilate said, "Will You not speak to me? Do You not know that I have the right and the power to nail You to a cross? I have the right and the power to let You go free also." Jesus said, "You would not have any right or power over Me if it were not given you from above...." (John 19:1-3, 6-11).

cross	Two long pieces of wood put together to make a “T.” This was used by Roman leaders to kill people. First a Roman leader had to say that a man was guilty of breaking the law. Then Roman soldiers put the man on a cross. To do this they put nails through his hands and feet. Then the soldiers lifted up the cross and put its lower part in the ground. This left the man hanging on the cross with great pain until he died.
crown	A hat or circle of something that is usually valuable and beautiful. A king wears it on his head to show that he is a king.
holy nation*	God’s kingdom . This is not a place that can be seen. It is the hearts of people and angels ruled by God.
nail	To put together with a nail. A nail is a small piece of metal that is sharp at one end and flat on the other. A carpenter uses nails to put together pieces of wood.
Pilate	The Roman governor or ruler of Jerusalem and the area around it. The Jewish leaders ruled under him.
soldiers	Men who get paid to fight for kings and other leaders

5. What did the Jewish leaders do with Jesus? What reason did the Jewish leaders give for wanting Pilate to kill Jesus? _____

6. When Pilate asked Jesus if He was King of the Jews, what did Jesus answer?

7. What did Pilate have his soldiers do to Jesus? Then what did Pilate say to the Jewish leaders about Jesus? Why did he change his mind after that?

8. Pilate told Jesus that he had the right and power to kill Jesus or to free him. What did Jesus answer? Now think about Jesus’s answer. What do you think that Jesus meant?

Lesson 3, Section 4: Read the reports below by Mark, Luke, and John, and write answers to the questions. **Luke** was a close friend of **Paul** who was another leader of Jesus's followers. (See Lesson Four for more about Luke and Paul.)

They led Jesus to a place called **Golgotha**. This name means the place of the **skull**. They gave Him wine with something in it to take away the pain, but He would not drink it. When they had nailed Jesus to the cross, they divided His clothes [among themselves].... Over Jesus' head they put in writing what they had against Him, **THE KING OF THE JEWS**.

They nailed two **robbers** on crosses beside Jesus. One was on His right side and the other was on His left side....

Those who walked by shook their heads and laughed at Jesus. They said, "...Save yourself and come down from the cross."

The head religious leaders and the teachers of the Law made fun of Him also. They said to each other, "He saved others but He cannot save Himself. Let Christ, the King of the Jews, come down from the cross. We want to see it and then we will believe..." (Mark 15:22-24, 26-27, 29-32).

It was dark over all the earth from noon until three o'clock. The sun did not shine.... Then Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Father, into Your hands I give my spirit." When He said this, He died (Luke 23:44-46).

...The Jews went to Pilate and asked to have the legs of the men broken. They wanted their bodies taken away so they would not be hanging on the crosses on the **Day of Rest**. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man and of the other one who had been nailed to crosses beside Jesus. They came to Jesus. They saw He was already dead so they did not break His legs. But one of the soldiers pushed a **spear** into His side. **Blood** and water ran out.

The one who saw it is writing this and what he says is true (John 19:31-35).

blood	The red liquid that comes out of your body when it is cut. See the answer to question 10 for information about the "water."
Day of Rest*	The special worship day of the week for Jews. It started at sundown on Friday and ended at sundown on the next day. The Jewish leaders wanted to make death come faster. Jews who touched dead bodies on the Day of Rest could not worship on that same day. So the dead bodies had to be put away before the start of the Day of Rest.
Golgotha	A small hill outside Jerusalem where the Roman leaders killed people
robbers	Men who hurt people to take away their money and other good things

skull The set of bones inside a person's head

spear A very long piece of strong metal with a sharp point. It was a weapon made for a soldier to kill people.

9. Putting Jesus on a cross made Jesus suffer very much. What else happened to him that made Him suffer? _____

10. How did the soldiers make sure that Jesus was dead?

Lesson 3, Section 5: Read these reports by Matthew and Luke, then write an answer to the question.

When it was evening, a rich man came from the city of **Arimathea**. His name was **Joseph**. He was a follower of Jesus also. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate said that the body should be given to him. Joseph took the body and put clean **linen** cloth around it. He laid it in his own new **grave**. This grave had been cut out in the side of a rock. He pushed a big stone over the door of the grave and went away (Matthew 27:57-60).

The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed behind. They saw the grave and how His body was laid. They went back and got some **spices and perfumes** ready. But they rested on the Day of Rest as the Law said to do (Luke 23:55-56).

grave A hole cut into the side of a hill for putting a dead body

Joseph of Arimathea This rich man was not Joseph the carpenter, the human father of Jesus

linen A kind of cloth that is strong and beautiful. It is made from the **flax** plant. This plant is taller than the better known **cotton** plant and grows in cooler areas.

spices and perfumes Things to help a dead body smell better and get dry. Because they cost much money, they also showed honor to the dead person.

11. What happened to the body of Jesus? _____

Lesson Three Answers

1. Jesus said that three things would happen to him in Jerusalem: The leaders in Jerusalem would make him suffer many things. He would be killed. Three days later he would be raised from the dead.
2. No, Peter did not want these things to happen to Jesus in Jerusalem. Peter was not thinking how God thinks. More information: Peter and the other followers wanted Jesus to make the Romans leave Jerusalem and the rest of the Jewish country. But Jesus had a better plan.
3. Judas, a follower of Jesus, led men with swords and sticks to Jesus. These men, who were from the Jewish leaders of Jerusalem, took Jesus. More information: Judas turned against Jesus for money. (See Matthew 26:14-16.)
4. No, Jesus did not try to stop Judas and the men with him.
5. They talked about Jesus and then tied Him up and took Him to Pilate, the Roman governor. They wanted Pilate to kill Jesus because Jesus said He was the Son of God. It was against Jewish law for a man to say this.
6. Jesus said that He was King of the Jews but that His holy nation or kingdom was not of this world.
7. Pilate had his soldiers beat Jesus, call him “King of the Jews,” and hit him with their hands. Then Pilate told the Jewish leaders that Jesus was not guilty. Pilate changed his mind because he was afraid of the Jewish leaders. They said that Jesus had broken their law. More information: Pilate was afraid because the Jewish leaders could give him trouble. Pilate first had his soldiers hurt Jesus because he hoped that this would make the Jewish leaders happy. Then he would not have to kill Jesus. Roman leaders often beat people who were not Romans to make them tell the truth.
8. Jesus said that Pilate had been given right and power over him “from above.” By this phrase, Jesus meant that it was not the Roman king but God who had given Pilate this right and power.
9. Roman soldiers took away Jesus’s clothes. He was put between two robbers, men who had done bad things. The leaders and other people laughed at Him. He had called himself King of the Jews. But there He was, looking helpless to them.

10. When a soldier put the sharp point of a spear into the side of Jesus, “blood and water” came out. Then the soldier knew that Jesus was dead. John, a follower of Jesus, also saw it happen. He knew what it meant. He wrote the report about it. More information: Breaking a person’s legs makes him die on a cross very fast. He cannot push up to breathe. But Jesus had died already. Both a red liquid and a clear liquid (“water”) came out of a deep cut in his side. Doctors and other people who understand dead bodies know that this is a true sign of death.

11. Pilate said that Joseph of Arimathea could take the body of Jesus. Joseph, a rich follower of Jesus, took the body, put a linen cloth around it, and put it in Joseph’s own grave. This was a new grave cut out of the side of a rock. Some women had come with Jesus from His home in Galilee. They followed Joseph and saw where he laid the body. The women planned to take some spices and perfumes for the body after the Day of Rest.

Lesson Four: Jesus Alive Again

Lesson 4, Section 1: Read these reports from Jesus's followers and write answers to the questions.

The Day of Rest was over. **Mary Magdalene** and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices. They wanted to put the spices on Jesus' body (Mark 16:1).

...The sun was coming up on the first day of the week. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the grave. At once the earth shook and an angel of the Lord came down from heaven. He came and pushed back the stone from the door and sat on it....The soldiers were shaking with fear and became as dead men.

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus Who was nailed to the cross. He is not here! He has risen from the dead as He said He would. Come and see the place where the Lord lay. Run fast and tell His followers that He is risen from the dead...."

As they went to tell the followers, Jesus met them and said hello to them. They came and held His feet and worshipped Him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell My followers...."

While [the women] were on their way, some of the soldiers who were to watch the grave came into the city. They told the head religious leaders everything that had happened. The soldiers gathered together with the other leaders and talked about what to do. The leaders gave much money to the soldiers. They said, "Tell the people, 'His followers came at night and took His body while we were sleeping.' We will see that you do not get into trouble over this if Pilate hears about it." They took the money and did as they were told (Matthew 28:1-2, 4-7, 9-15).

Mary Magdalene Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome were among some women healed by Jesus in the Galilee area. They helped pay for the needs of Jesus and His first twelve followers. These three women, and others not known, came with Him when He went to Jerusalem. (See Luke 8:1-3 and Mark 15:40-41.)

1. Why did the women go to the grave of Jesus? _____

2. What happened when the women got to the grave? _____

3. What happened to the soldiers who were there to watch the grave?

4. What did the angel tell the women? _____

5. What happened to the women on the way to tell the other followers?

6. What did the soldiers do when they could move again? What did their leaders do?

Lesson 4, Section 2: Read John’s report below, and then write answers to the questions.

[Mary Magdalene] ran to **Simon Peter** and the other **follower whom Jesus loved**. She said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the grave. We do not know where they have put Him.”

Then Peter and the other follower went to the grave. They ran but the other follower ran faster than Peter and came to the grave first. He got down and looked in and saw the linen cloths but did not go in. Then Simon Peter came and went into the grave. He saw the linen cloths lying there. The white cloth that had been around the head of Jesus was not lying with the other linen cloths. It was rolled up and lying apart by itself. Then the other follower, who had come first, went in also. He saw and believed....Then the followers went back again to their homes (John 20:2-8, 10).

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Simon Peter | This is Peter, the leader of Jesus’s first twelve followers |
| follower whom Jesus loved* | This is John , one of the first twelve followers of Jesus. John was the writer of this report. He wrote what he saw and heard. |

7. After Mary Magdalene told Peter and John the good **news** (new information) about Jesus, what did Peter and John do?

8. What did Peter and John see in the grave?

9. What they saw helped them believe that Jesus rose from the dead. Why do you think what they saw helped them? _____

Lesson 4, Section 3: Read more of John’s report and write answers to the questions.

It was evening of the first day of the week. The followers had gathered together with the doors locked because they were afraid of the Jews [Jewish leaders and their followers]. Jesus came and stood among them. He said, “May you have **peace**.” When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. When the followers saw the Lord, they were filled with joy...

Thomas was not with them when Jesus came. He was one of the twelve followers and was called the Twin. The other followers told him, “We have seen the Lord!” He said to them, “I will not believe until I put my finger into the marks of the nails. I will not believe until I put my hand into His side.”

Eight days later the followers were again inside a house. Thomas was with them. The doors were locked. Jesus came and stood among them. He said, “May you have peace!” He said to Thomas, “Put your finger into My hands. Put your hand into My side. Do not doubt, believe!” Thomas said to Him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you believe. Those are happy who have never seen Me and yet believe!” (John 20:19-20, 24-29).

peace You have peace if you are safe and happy. There is no danger and no fighting. All is good for you.

Thomas One of the first twelve followers of Jesus

10. Why did the followers have the doors locked the first evening after Jesus rose from the dead? _____

11. What happened to the followers after they locked the doors? Why did Jesus show the followers his hands and his side? _____

12. Thomas was not there when Jesus was seen by the other followers. In your mind, put yourself in the place of Thomas. You return and hear their reports. Would you have believed them? Explain your answer. _____

13. What happened to make Thomas change his mind? _____

14. What did Jesus say about people who have never seen Him? _____

Lesson 4, Section 4: Read Paul’s words below and write answers to the questions. Paul became a follower of Jesus a few years after Jesus rose again from the dead. Paul became a leader of Jesus’s followers several years after he became a follower of Jesus.

...Christ died for our sins as the **Holy Writings** said He would.... Christ was buried. He was raised from the dead three days later as the Holy Writings said He would.... Christ was seen by Peter. After that, the twelve followers saw Him. After that, more than 500 of His followers saw Him at one time. Most of them are still here...after that, **James** saw Christ. Then all the **missionaries** saw Him. Last of all, Christ showed Himself to me... (1 Corinthians 15:3-8).

Holy Writings* The Old Testament part of the Bible

James This is the half-brother of Jesus. He was born to Joseph and Mary after Jesus was born. (See Matthew 13:55.) He did not follow Jesus before Jesus died. He became a leader of Jesus’s followers several years after Jesus died and rose from the dead. Earlier you read about a different James. His mother Mary took spices with Mary Magdalene to the grave of Jesus. (See Section 1 in this lesson.)

missionaries Followers of Jesus who are sent by God to tell other people the good news about Jesus

15. Paul said that two things happened that the Old Testament said would happen. What were they? _____

16. Paul said many people saw Jesus after He rose from the dead. Write a list of these people. _____

17. When Paul said that most of the 500 followers were “still here,” he meant that most of them were still alive. Why was this important?

Lesson 4, Section 5: Read the report below by Luke and write answers to the questions. This report is found in the book of Acts. Luke, the follower of Paul, wrote it to continue the report of events started in the book of Luke.

After He [Jesus] had suffered much and then died, He showed Himself alive in many sure ways for forty days. He told them [his followers] many things about the **holy nation of God**...

Those who were with Him asked, “Lord, is this the time for You to give the nation back to the Jews?” He said, “It is not for you to know the special days or the special times which the Father has put in His own power. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes into your life. You will tell about Me in the city of Jerusalem and over all the countries of Judea and **Samaria** and to the ends of the earth.”

When Jesus had said this and while they were still looking at Him, He was taken up. A cloud carried Him away so they could not see Him (Acts 1:3, 6-9).

holy nation of God* Here Jesus talks about part of the kingdom of God. (See Lesson 3, Section 3.) This is the part here on earth. This is the **Christian church**. The true followers of Jesus Christ belong to it. This is not the nation Israel that the followers talked about in their question to Him. They wanted to know if Jesus was going to make the Romans leave the Jewish countries of Judea and Galilee. They wanted the Jews to be **free** again. Note: Jesus said that not every person who says he or she belongs to the church is a true follower. To say and to think the right things is not enough. A person must also do what God tells him or her to do. (See Matthew 7:21, 24; John 13:12-17.)

Samaria An area to the north of Judea. It is between Judea and Galilee. (See Map 2 before Lesson 1.)

18. What did Jesus talk about with His followers after He rose from the dead?

19. What did His followers want to talk about? What was His answer?

20. What happened to Jesus after that? _____

Lesson Four Answers

1. The women wanted to put spices (and perfumes) on the body of Jesus.
2. The earth shook, an angel came down, rolled away the stone from the door, and sat on the stone.
3. The soldiers shook with fear and **fainted** (“became as dead men,” not seeing, hearing, or feeling).
4. The angel told the women not to be afraid. He said that Jesus was not there. Jesus had risen from the dead as He said He would. The angel told them to see where the body had been and then to run and tell the other followers.
5. Jesus met the women and said hello. They held His feet and worshipped Him. He told them not to be afraid and to go tell the other followers.
6. When the soldiers could move again, they went into the city and told the religious leaders what had happened. The leaders told the soldiers to tell a false story and gave them much money not to tell the truth. This was the false story : The soldiers were asleep. Then the followers of Jesus came and took away the body of Jesus. More information: Like today, soldiers were taught to obey their leaders. If they did not obey their leaders about something important, the soldiers were punished or even killed. These soldiers said they had fallen asleep instead of watching. Yet they were not punished or killed. Instead they were given much money. This showed that they lied and their leaders lied.
7. They ran to the grave of Jesus. John ran faster and got there first but waited for Peter before going in.
8. They saw linen cloths lying there. They also saw a white cloth rolled up and lying by itself. It was the cloth that had been around the head of Jesus.
9. The answer comes from the reader’s thoughts. But here is more information: If someone had taken the body, the cloths would not be there. The cloth from around Jesus’s head was rolled up carefully and put away from the other cloths. This showed that there was no hurry in the tomb when it became empty. What Peter and John saw helped them know that Jesus rose from the dead.
10. They locked the doors because they were afraid of the religious leaders in Jerusalem. The followers of Jesus were afraid because they did not believe the words of Jesus. They did not believe him when He said that He would rise from the dead. They did not believe the women who said they had seen Jesus alive again. They did not believe

Peter and John when they told what they saw in the empty grave.

11. The doors were locked. But Jesus appeared inside the room where the followers were. He spoke to them. He also showed them His hands and side so they could see the marks of the nails and the spear. He wanted His followers to know for sure that He was Jesus. He wanted them to know that He had died and risen again as He had said He would.
12. The answer comes from the reader's thoughts.
13. A week later Jesus came again when the doors were locked. This time Thomas was there, too. Jesus spoke and showed him His hands and side. So Thomas believed. He said to Jesus, "My Lord and my God."
14. Jesus told Thomas that people who have never seen Him but still believe in Him are happy. (This will be explained more in Lesson 5.)
15. Paul said that Jesus died for our sins and that He rose again as the Old Testament said He would. More information: At another time, Paul said that King David wrote about Jesus rising from the dead. David did this in Psalm 16 (verse 10) about 1,000 years before Jesus. (See also Acts 13:35-37.) The Old Testament also tells about Jesus dying for our sins. (See Lesson 5.)
16. Jesus was seen by Peter, Jesus's first twelve followers, 500 other followers gathered together at one place, James the half-brother of Jesus, all the missionaries (that is, all the followers who were sent to tell others about Jesus), and Paul last of all.
17. The answer comes from the reader's thoughts. But here is more information: If most of the 500 followers were still alive, a person could ask them questions about what they saw and heard. Then the person could hear each person's report and know that they were telling the truth.
18. Jesus told His followers many things about the Christian church.
19. His followers wanted to know when Jesus would help them become free from the Romans. Jesus told His followers that they could not know about this. But they would receive power when the Holy Spirit came into their lives. They already knew about Jesus. They were to tell the good news about Him in Jerusalem, in Samaria, and all around the world. And the Holy Spirit would give them the power to do this.
20. While Jesus and the followers were talking, He was taken up into the sky (and beyond into God's heaven). A cloud covered Him so that they could not see Him.

Lesson Five: Help from Jesus Today

Review of Lessons 1-4

In Lesson 1, we learned that Jesus was a man but also God. He had a special birth. He was named Jesus which means “God saves.” An angel told His human father Joseph to name Him this because He would save His people from the punishment of their sins. Simeon also saw that Jesus was the Chosen One sent to do this. Simeon saw that Jesus was sent to save not only Jews but everybody.

Lesson 2 helped us understand why people need to be saved from punishment for their sins. We learned that Jesus taught some very difficult things. He said that sometimes what we do is bad. But just our thoughts can be bad, too. He said that we should love those who hate us. He also said that we must be perfect if we want to be with God. But our sins keep us away from Him. Jesus said that at the end of time He will judge everybody. Those who have sinned will be sent away from God forever.

In Lesson 3, we learned how much God did to save people. We learned that Jesus went to Jerusalem knowing that He would be killed, but that He would rise from the dead. The Jewish leaders wanted Him killed because He said that He was the Son of God. He did not try to stop the religious leaders and Pilate from killing Him on a cross. He told Pilate that God let this happen. He also told Pilate that He (Jesus) was a king but that His kingdom did not belong to this world. His death was very painful. The Roman soldiers and others saw that He was dead. His body was put in a grave with a large stone over the door.

Lesson 4 helped us understand the power of God. We learned that the followers of Jesus did not expect Him to rise from the dead. He had said that He would rise again, but they did not believe Him. There was no body in His grave. The religious leaders paid the soldiers to lie. The lie was that the followers took the body. The risen Jesus came first to some women followers, then to the first twelve followers, and then to many other followers. He even came to 500 people at one time. At the end, He told His followers to tell everyone the good news about Him. Then He went up to heaven.

Now we are ready to learn more about Jesus and God’s plan to help people today.

Lesson 5, Section 1: Read Luke’s report, and then write answers to the questions.

An angel of the Lord spoke to **Philip** saying, “Get up and go south. Take the road that goes down from Jerusalem to the country of **Gaza**. It goes through the **desert**.” Philip got up and went. A **man from** the country of **Ethiopia** had come to Jerusalem to worship....He cared for all the riches that belonged to Candace who was Queen of Ethiopia. As he was going back home, he was sitting in his **wagon** reading about the early preacher Isaiah. The Holy Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to that wagon and get on it.” Philip ran up to him. He saw that the man

from Ethiopia was reading from the writings of the early preacher Isaiah and said, “Do you understand what you are reading?” The man from Ethiopia said, “How can I, unless someone teaches me?” Then he asked Philip to come up and sit beside him.

He was reading the part in the Holy Writings which says He was taken like a lamb to be put to death....

The man from Ethiopia said to Philip, “Who is the early preacher talking about, himself, or someone else?” So Philip started with this part of the Holy Writings and preached the **Good News** of Jesus to him (Acts 8:26-32, 34-35).

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|--------------------------|--|
| desert | An area that is hot and very dry |
| Gaza | An area next to the Mediterranean Sea and to the southwest of Judea (See Map 2 before Lesson 1) |
| Good News* | This is the Gospel , the good news or information about Jesus Christ |
| man from Ethiopia | A government leader in Ethiopia. This is a country in northeast Africa. Part of the big Nile River starts here and runs north to the country of Egypt and into the Mediterranean Sea (See Map 1 before Lesson 1). His job was treasurer , to take care of the riches of Candace, queen of Ethiopia. |
| Philip | A follower of Jesus |
| wagon | A wooden box on wheels pulled by one or more horses or other big animals |

1. How did Philip meet the man from Ethiopia?

2. Why did the man ask Philip to come up and sit beside him on his wagon?

3. What happened after Philip got on the wagon with the man?

Lesson 5, Section 2: Read Isaiah’s words about Jesus. They are what the man from Ethiopia read and asked about. They were written 700 years before Jesus was born. In a

museum (a building where old writings and art are kept) in Jerusalem, you can see a **copy** of these words. That copy was written 200 years before Jesus was born. Write answers to the questions.

For sure He took on Himself our troubles and carried our **sorrows**. Yet we thought of Him as being punished and hurt by God, and made to suffer. But He was hurt for our wrongdoing. He was **crushed** for our sins. He was punished so we would have peace. He was beaten so we would be healed. All of us like sheep have gone the wrong way. Each of us has turned to his own way. And the Lord has put on Him the sin of us all.

Men made it very hard for Him and caused Him to suffer, yet He did not open His mouth. He was taken like a lamb to be put to death...He was taken away as a prisoner and then judged. Who among the people of that day cared that His life was taken away from the earth? He was hurt because of the sin of the people who should have been punished...He had done no wrong, and there was nothing false in His mouth.

But it was the will of the Lord to crush Him, causing Him to suffer. Because He gives His life as a gift on the altar for sin, He will see His children...He will see what the suffering of His **soul** brings, and will be pleased... (Isaiah 53:4-8, 10-11).

crushed	Made flat or dead
sorrows	Very sad feelings
soul	The real, but unseen, person you are inside your body

4. Does Isaiah say that every person needs help from God? Explain your answer.

5. Isaiah writes: "He took on Himself our troubles and carried our sorrows." What does Isaiah mean? Use the other words of Isaiah to help you. _____

6. What does Isaiah say will happen because Jesus gave His life as a gift for our sin? What else does Isaiah say will happen to us because Jesus suffered and died for our sins? _____

Lesson 5, Section 3: Read John's report of a meeting between Jesus and a religious leader named Nicodemus. Write answers to the questions.

There was a man named **Nicodemus**. He was a proud **religious law-keeper** and a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus at night and said, “Teacher, we know You have come from God to teach us. No one can do these powerful works You do unless God is with Him.”

Jesus said to him, “...Unless a man is born again, he cannot see the holy nation of God.” Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? How can he get into his mother’s body and be born a second time?” Jesus answered, “...Unless a man is born of water and of the Spirit of God, he cannot get into the holy nation of God. Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh. Whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit.”

“Do not be surprised that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows where it wants to and you hear its sound. You do not know where it comes from or where it goes. It is the same with everyone who is born of the Spirit of God.”

Nicodemus said to Him, “How can this be?”

[Jesus continued to explain:] “...The Son of Man must be **lifted up**. Then whoever puts his trust in Him will have life that lasts forever. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son. Whoever puts his **trust** in God’s Son will not be lost but will have life that lasts forever. For God did not send His Son into the world to say it is guilty. He sent His Son so the world might be saved from the punishment of sin by Him. Whoever puts his trust in His Son is not guilty. Whoever does not put his trust in Him is guilty already. It is because he does not put his trust in the name of the only Son of God.

The Light has come into the world. And the light is the test by which men [and women] are guilty or not....” (John 3:1-9, 14-19).

lifted up* Put on a cross and raised above the earth

trust To put your trust in someone is to be sure that a person will be good, honest or helpful to you; to have faith in someone

**religious
law-keeper***

A **Pharisee**. This group of Jewish leaders had a long list of rules. Some of these rules were from God but many more were not. They followed all these rules. This was not easy. They said that people needed to follow all these rules. The Pharisees thought that the outside of a person was more important than the inside. But Jesus taught that the bad things that we do start from inside us. Review his teaching in Lesson 2, Section 1.

7. What did Nicodemus think about Jesus’s teaching, “you must be born again”?

8. What did Jesus say to help Nicodemus understand His teaching, “you must be born again”?

9. Using Jesus’s words, explain how a person can be born again.

10. What happens if a person is born again? _____

Lesson 5, Section 4: Jesus talked to Nicodemus about the need to be born of the Spirit of God. To be born again in this way saves us from punishment for our sins. But it also gives us a new life now. Read what Jesus said to His followers about this new life that He gives. The gift of the Holy Spirit is very important in this new life. Read also what Paul said to other followers of Christ. Then write answers to the questions.

[Jesus said about people who put their trust in him:] “I came so they might have life, a great full life” (John 10:10).

[Jesus said to his followers:] “If you love Me, you will do what I say. Then I will ask My Father and He will give you another Helper. He will be with you forever. He is the Spirit of Truth....The Helper is the Holy Spirit. The Father will send Him in My place. He will teach you everything and help you remember everything I have told you” (John 14:15-17, 26).

I thank God I can be free through Jesus Christ our Lord!...those who belong to Christ will not suffer the punishment of sin. The power of the Holy Spirit has made me free from the power of sin and death. This power is mine because I belong to Christ Jesus....He took away the power sin had over us....We do not do what our sinful old selves tell us to do anymore. Now we do what the Holy Spirit wants us to do. Those who let their sinful old selves tell them what to do live under that power of their sinful old selves. But those who let the Holy Spirit tell them what to do are under His power. If your sinful old self is the boss over your mind, it leads to death. But if the Holy Spirit is the boss over your mind, it leads to life and peace. (Romans 7:25, Romans 8:1-6).

11. What kind of a new life does Jesus say that He gives to people who put their trust in Him?

12. What does Jesus say that people who love Him must do?

13. What does Jesus say that the Holy Spirit will do for them?

14. What does Paul say that those who belong to Jesus must not do?

15. What does Paul say will happen to people who let their old selves be boss over their minds?

16. What does Paul say those who belong to Jesus must do with the Holy Spirit? How will the Holy Spirit help them have a good, full, new life and peace with God?

Lesson 5, Section 5: Read this teaching by Jesus found in Matthew and a teaching about Jesus found in John. These teachings will help you to know more about how to be born again, about how to have this new life that Jesus gives. Write answers to the questions.

At that time the followers came to Jesus. They said, “Who is the greatest in the **holy nation of heaven**?” Jesus took a little child and put him among them. He said, “For sure, I tell you, unless you have a change of heart and become like a little child, you will not get into the holy nation of heaven. Whoever is without pride as this little child is the greatest in the holy nation of heaven” (Matthew 18:1-4).

This true Light, coming into the world, gives light to every man [and woman]...He gave the right and the power to become children of God to those who received Him. He gave this to those who put their trust in His name. These children of God were not born of blood and of flesh and of man’s desires, but they were born of God. Christ became human flesh and lived among us. We saw His shining-greatness. This greatness is given only to a much-loved Son from His Father. He was full of loving-favor and truth (John 1:9, 12-14).

**holy nation
of heaven**

Kingdom of God (See Lesson 3, Section 3 and Lesson 4, Section 5). The people who put their trust in Jesus are in this kingdom. It is the family of God.

17. What does Jesus say that you must do to get into the kingdom of God, to get into God's family? _____

18. John says that Jesus Christ gives the right and the power to become children of God. What must you do to get this right and power from Jesus?

19. Do you want to receive what Jesus has done to save you and to give you new life?

If your answer is "yes," then you can tell Him so right now if you want. (You do not have to write this. But lines are given below if you want to write what you say to Jesus.) He is right here to listen to you and help you. You can just tell Him quietly with your voice right now. He understands your own words in your own language. You can say something like this: "Dear Jesus. I know that I have gone my own way. I have sinned. I am sorry for this. But I want to put my trust in you. You died on the cross for me. I want to receive you as the One who saves me. You rose again from the dead to give me new life. I receive you and the new life that you give. I will follow you the rest of my life. Thank you for giving me your Holy Spirit to help me do this. I say this from my heart."

Lesson 5, Section 6: If you said "yes" to the last question, then this last section will help you know that what you did is the right thing to do. Read these wonderful words and write answers to the questions.

[Jesus says:] "See! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him [or her] and we will eat together" (Revelation 3:20).

[John writes:] God gave us life that lasts forever, and this life is in His Son. He that has the Son has life. He that does not have the Son of God does not have life. I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God. Now you can know you have life that lasts forever (1 John 5:11-13).

[Jesus says about the future:] "Then the King will say to those on His right side, 'Come, you who have been called by My Father. Come into the holy nation that has been made ready for you before the world was made'" (Matthew 25:34).

20. Does Jesus say that He will come into the hearts and lives of only some people who open the door? Explain your answer. _____

21. John says that he has written his words for a reason. The reason is this: He wants people who believe in the name of the Son of God (who have put their trust in Jesus) to know that they have life that lasts forever. What is John's answer to this question: How can they know this for sure? _____

22. What does Jesus say He (the King) will do for those people who have been called by His Father (have put their trust in Jesus)? _____

Final Words: If you received Jesus during this bible study, you should do several things.

- **Tell someone you trust about what you have done.** Try to choose someone who has followed Jesus for many years and who knows the Bible well. This person can help you grow in your new life with Jesus.
- **Get a bible in your own language if possible. Also get a bible written in a level of English that you can understand.** The *New Life Version* was used for this bible study. You can find information about where to get a copy at the beginning of this bible study.
- **Read the Bible and pray to Jesus every day.** Ask Him to help you learn and do what the Bible teaches. Start with the first five books of the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Acts. They will tell you more about Jesus and His first followers.
- **Find other followers of Jesus so that you can worship Jesus with them.** Be sure that they believe Jesus is God and that the Bible is true.
- **Tell others about your new life with Jesus. But you may need to be careful!** Perhaps you come from a country that does not want people to believe and follow Jesus. It may not be safe for you to write or tell people in your home country about your new life with Jesus. This may include your parents and other family members. You may need to be careful with some people from your country who live here, too. Get information about this from someone you can trust. After several months you will have more understanding about what Jesus wants you to do. Perhaps it is only your members of your family who do not follow Jesus. Again you should pray and talk with someone you trust about when is the right time for you to tell your

family about your new life. After some time, Jesus will show you which people to tell, when to tell them, and how to tell them.

Lesson Five Answers

1. An angel told Philip to leave Jerusalem and travel on the road that goes through the desert to Gaza. On the road, he met a man from Ethiopia. This man had worshipped God in Jerusalem. Now he was sitting on a wagon and reading a part of the book of Isaiah from the Old Testament. The Holy Spirit told Philip what to do. He went and saw what the man was reading.
2. Philip asked the man if he understood what he was reading. The man said that he needed help and asked Philip to sit next to him on the wagon.
3. The man from Ethiopia was reading about a person “who was taken like a lamb to be put to death.” The man asked if Isaiah was writing about himself or someone else. So Philip told the man that Isaiah was writing about Jesus. Philip told the man the good news about Jesus. More information: Philip told the man much of what is also in this bible study. And the man decided to put his trust in Jesus. (See Acts 8:36-38.)
4. Yes, Isaiah says that every person needs help from God because of sin. Isaiah says, “All of us like sheep have gone the wrong way. Each of us has turned to his own way.” More information: The Bible teaches that we were made to enjoy the love of God. We can choose to love Him. We can also choose not to love Him and to go our own way. But our own way is the wrong way. This is sin.
5. Isaiah says that Jesus was taken away as a prisoner. He was beaten, punished, hurt, made to suffer in body and soul, crushed, and killed. This did not happen because of his wrongdoing. He had done no wrong and had not lied. This happened because of our wrongdoing. We should be punished. But God put on Jesus the sin of us all. It was the will of God to crush him, causing him to suffer for our sin.
6. Isaiah says that Jesus gave His life as a gift for our sin. Because of this He will see His children and be pleased. This means that Jesus must rise again from the dead. He must be alive again to see His children and be pleased. Because Jesus suffered and died for our sins, we can have peace and be healed of our sin. (All of this will be explained more in the next sections.)
7. Nicodemus could only think about what he could see. He asked how someone who was old could enter his or her mother’s body and be born a second time. Jesus tried to help Nicodemus. But Nicodemus asked, “How can this be?”
8. Jesus said that the first birth was “of water” or “of the flesh.” But the second birth was “of the Spirit of God.” This cannot be seen with our eyes. Jesus talked about the wind. We can hear it and feel it. But we cannot see it. Yet it is there.

9. A person puts his or her trust in Jesus (“the Son of Man”), the one who died on a cross for his or her sins.
10. When a person puts his or her trust in Jesus for his or her sins, then the person is not lost or guilty anymore. He or she will not be punished by being separated from God in hell. The person will have life with God in heaven forever.
11. Jesus gives people who put their trust in Him a great, full life.
12. Jesus tells them to do what He says.
13. Jesus says that the Holy Spirit will be their helper forever. The Holy Spirit will teach them the truth. He will teach them everything they need to know and help them remember all that Jesus taught.
14. Paul says that they must no longer do what their sinful old selves tell them to do. They must not live under the power of their sinful old selves. They must not let their bad old ways of thinking and doing be the bosses over their minds.
15. Paul says that they will die. More information: They will die because they do not truly trust in Jesus. They are trusting in their old sinful selves.
16. They must let the Holy Spirit tell them what to do. They must let the Holy Spirit be the boss over their minds. If they do, the Holy Spirit makes them free from the power of sin and death. He teaches them what to do and gives them power to do it.
17. Jesus says that you must have a change of heart and become like a little child. You must put away your pride. More information: Jesus means that children know that they need someone to lead them. You must see that you are helpless because of your sins. You must accept God’s gift to you. This gift is Jesus’s death for you. You must not want to go your own way any more but want to go God’s way.
18. You must receive Jesus. You must trust in His name. More information: This means that you must receive Him as the One who saves you from the punishment for your sins. You must receive Him as the One who gives you a new, full, good life. With this new life the Spirit of God (the Holy Spirit) comes into your life to lead you and to give you His power.
19. This very important answer comes from the reader’s heart and thoughts.
20. No, Jesus says “anyone.” This means that He will come into the hearts and lives of all people who open the door.
21. John says that if they have Jesus, that is if they have received Him, and put their trust or faith in Him, then they will know for sure that they have life that will last forever.

22. Jesus says that in the future He will welcome into heaven those who have put their faith in Him. He will keep them close to Himself forever. More information: This is what makes God happy. He is sad about what happens to those who do not put their trust in Him. Read again Lesson 2, Section 5. Then read these words from the Old Testament book of Ezekiel. “‘Am I pleased with the death of a sinful man?’ says the Lord God. ‘No, instead I would like him to turn away from his sinful ways and live’” (Ezekiel 18:23).

Names and Vocabulary Words and Phrases Index

This index is an alphabetical list of the names, words, and phrases in bold print used in this study. It tells where to find their explanations.

This is an asterisk: *. In this index, it means that the word or phrase is not used in common English.

“L” means Lesson; “S” means Section; “M” means Map. [For example: L2 S2 means Lesson 2 Section 2.] “L2 Answers” means Lesson 2 Answers. The “Answers” section is located at the end of each lesson.

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