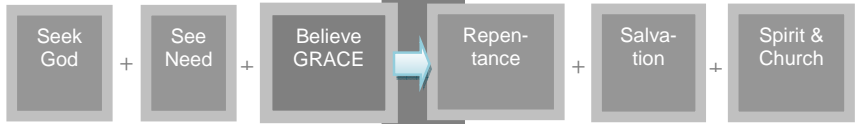


## The Good News About Jesus Christ



A study of the Scriptures aimed to help a seeker find saving faith in Jesus Christ.

**International Churches of Christ, Bangladesh.**

Year 2010

## Introduction:

God wants all to be saved and, thus, calls us through His Gospel. The 3,000 converts at Pentecost, the Ethiopian eunuch, the Philippian Jailer, Cornelius the Centurion, Lydia, even Paul provide us paradigms for the journey from darkness to light. As we observe their journeys we often find a **SEEKER** realizing his **NEED** for God's intervention in his life. As soon as he comes to trust in Jesus' **GRACE**, he is moved to **REPENTANCE** which leads to **SALVATION**. The promise of salvation also includes both the indwelling of the **HOLY SPIRIT** and the fellowship of the **CHURCH**.

For example in Acts 2, Peter and the other brothers encounter a large gathering of Jews...

- **Seeking God** through the festival of Pentecost.
- Upon hearing the gospel, many were cut to heart with **their need** for reconciliation to God. Peter offers them a solution for their sins and their resultant separation from God.
- Those that **believed the message of grace** were compelled by the cross...
- to **repent** ...
- and be baptized for the **forgiveness of their sins (salvation)**.
- They also realized Peter's promise that they would receive the gift of the **Holy Spirit**.
- These early converts joined together in fellowship daily as the first **Church** in the New Testament.

The following bible studies are designed to be a flexible tool to aid the seeker along this journey. While every true seeker arrives at the same destination, all begin from unique starting points. Along the way, different Scriptures may prove more applicable and effective.

*Of course, God always has the final Word: "All Scripture is God breathed and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."*

Focus	SN	Study Name	Purpose
Seek GOD	01	Seeking God	Help the Seeker to be serious to seek God.
	02	God	Introduce the God of the Scriptures to the seeker.
	03	Jesus is God	Teach about the deity of Christ.
	04	Jesus Teachings	Introduce some of the teachings and claims of Christ.
	05	The Word	Emphasize the importance of hearing and studying the Bible to build our faith in Christ.
See Need	06	Tradition	See what are the things, we are practicing against scripture.
	07	Jesus is Lord	Who have put their faith in Jesus, what is the call to follow Him.

	08	Sin (Part 1,2)  Light & Darkness (Part 1&2)	See the need for God and his forgiveness in the Seeker's life.
Need Exposed	09	Humility & Pride	See our need for Humility.
Believe Grace	10	The Cross	God's plan of Grace through the cross for our salvation.
Repentance	11	Repentance (Part 1,2)  Jesus - A Man of Conviction	The need for a Biblical repentance as we understand grace.
Salvation	12	Baptism	How to receive forgiveness and become a Christian.
Spirit & Church	13	The Holy Spirit	The role and work of Holy Spirit in our lives as a new disciple.
	14	The Church  The Coming of the Kingdom	God's plan of church for the new believer to sustain and practice his faith.
	15	The Great Commission	Teaches the mission of a Christian.
	16	Counting the Cost	Teaches the cost we need to pay to be in the kingdom.

**Major Scriptures at a Glance:**

SN	Study Name	Scriptures	SN	Study Name	Scriptures
01	Seeking God	1. Matthew 7:7, 13-14 2. Luke 13:22-30 3. Matthew 6:25-33 4. Hebrews 11:6 5. Matthew 13:44-46 6. Acts 8:26-40	02	God	1. Acts 17:24-30 2. Psalms 135:15-17 3. Jeremiah 10:5 4. Deuteronomy 5:8-9 5. 1 Corinthians 10:14 6. Revelation 21:8 7. John 4:24
03	Jesus is God	1. Colossians 2:9 2. Mark 4:35-41 3. Mark 1:40-42 4. Luke 7:36-39,48-50 5. 1 John 3:5 6. Deuteronomy 5:7 7. Acts 4:12 8. John 14:6	04	Jesus Teachings	1. John 3:1-5 2. John 3:16-18 3. John 5:5-6 4. John 6:35 5. John 8:12 6. John 8:46 7. John 11:25 8. John 12:48 9. John 20:29 10. John 14:6
05	The Word	1. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 2. Hebrews 4:12-13 3. John 8:31-32 4. Matthew 15:1-9 5. 1 Timothy 4:16 6. Acts 17:10-12 7. Matthew 4:4	06	Tradition	See Traditions and False Doctrine Books
07	Jesus is Lord	1. Acts 11:25-26 2. Mark 12:28-31 3. Luke 9:23-26 4. Luke 11:1-5 5. Luke 14:25-33 6. 1 John 2:3-6 7. John 8:31-32 8. John 13:34-35 9. Matthew 7:21-23 10. Mark 1:16-20 11. Romans 10:9-13	08	Sin (Part 1,2)  Light & Darkness (Part 1&2) - See inside	Part-1 1. Romans 3:23 2. Isaiah 59:1-2 3. James 4:17 4. Galatians 5:19-21 5. Mark 7:21-23 6. Romans 6:23 7. James 5:16 Part-2 1. Psalms 32:1-5 2. Proverbs 28:13 3. John 3:19-21 4. Acts 3:19
09	Humility & Pride	1. Philippians 2:5-8 2. 2 Chronicles 34:19-28 3. Deut 8:11-14 4. Psalm 36:1-4 5. Revelations 3:14-20 6. Proverbs 11:2; 13:10; 16:5, 8-9; 21:4, 24; 27:2; 30:12-13	10	The Cross	1. Mark 14:32-65 2. Mark 15:1-20 3. Luke 23:32-34 4. Mark 15:37-57 5. 1 Peter 2:21-25 6. 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

SN	Study Name	Scriptures	SN	Study Name	Scriptures
11	Repentance (Part 1)  (Part 2, See inside)  Jesus - A Man of Conviction (See inside)	Part-1 1. Luke 13:5 2. Acts 26:20 3. Matthew 5:28-30 4. 2 Corinthians 7:10 5. Ephesians 4:22-32 6. Acts 2:38 8 7. Psalms 51:1-17	12	Baptism	1. Acts 2:36-41 2. John 3:3-5 3. Matthew 28:18-20 4. Romans 6:3-7 5. 1 Peter 3:20-21 6. Acts 8:26-39 7. Acts 16:13-15 8. Acts 22:1-16
13	The Holy Spirit	1. Acts 2:36-38. 2. John 16:7-8 3. Ephesians 1:13-14. 4. Ephesians 3:16 5. Romans 8:9, 15-16 6. Romans 8:26-27 7. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 A 8. 2 Corinthians 3: 17-18 9. 9. Galatians 5:16-18, 22-23.	14	The Church  The Coming of the Kingdom (See inside)	1. Colossians 1:18 2. 1 Corinthians 12:12-26 3. 1 Timothy 3:15 4. Ephesians 2:19-22* 5. Ephesians 4:11-16* 6. Hebrews 13:17* 7. Hebrews 3:12-13 8. Hebrews 10:24-25 9. Acts 2:42 10. Colossians 3:12-17* 11. Matthew 18:15-17* * Optional Scriptures
15	The Great Commission	1. Matthew 5:14-16 2. Luke 19:10 3. 1 Timothy 1:15-16 4. 1 Tim 2:3-4 5. 2 Peter 3:8-9 6. Mark 1:14-18 7. Matthew 28:18-20 8. Romans 10:12-15 9. Acts 8:4 10. Acts 11:19-21	16	Count the Cost	See inside

## Setting up the Study

### Approach to setup study:

- A. Setup a time to talk.
- B. Share about yourself. Your conversion and your past.
- C. Ask them where they are spiritually. About Bible, God, Jesus, Christianity, Heaven and Hell.
- D. Encourage them to seek. (Matthew 7:7-8)
- E. Invite them to study Bible and set time for first study.

### Helpful notes about studying the Bible:

- A. Buy a Bible as a gift for the friend with whom you are studying.
- B. Build a good friendship and help the person with whom you are studying to have other friends in the church. Have one or two friend join in on the studies.
- C. Take short notes for your study, so they can go back and review what they have learned. Or come prepared with notes for the study that you can give to them afterwards.
- D. Be sure that you move their heart and not just transfer information with each study. The individual must make his or her own decisions about what was studied; you must specifically call for these. Before moving to the next study, a heart-to-heart talk may be necessary.
- E. Start and Close out the studies with a short prayer. When the person studying feels comfortable with it, have them say a short prayer also.
- F. For those who do not believe in Jesus, study through the gospel of John or study through the Jesus studies.
- G. Use the follow-up studies (at least one per week) with new Christians.

## 1. Seeking GOD

### Scriptures Used

1. Matthew 7:7, 13-14
2. Luke 13:22-30
3. Matthew 6:25-33
4. Hebrews 11:6
5. Matthew 13:44-46
6. Acts 8:26-40

**Purpose:** Seeking God is a study to clarify what it takes to pursue a relationship with God.

#### 1) Matthew 7:7, 13-14

One of the great promises of the Bible, everyone who seeks finds! Plus, one of the great warnings in the bible, only a few will find.

Q. If only a few finds God, then how many actually seek Him?

#### 2) Luke 13:22-30

Yes, only a few will be saved; therefore, make every effort to seek. Those who simply 'try' will be caught off guard by their rejection from the kingdom of God.

Q. How can you make every effort to seek Him?

#### 3) Matthew 6:25-33

Q. What are some worries or needs of life that can distract you from seeking God as your first priority?

Q. What changes must you make in order to make God's kingdom and righteousness your top priority?

#### 4) Hebrews 11:6

God rewards those who earnestly seek him.

#### 5) Matthew 13:44-46

Here is an example of someone who was willing to sacrifice everything he had to lay hold of the treasure of great value he found.

#### 6) Acts 8:26-40

Here's an example of a seeker who humbly puts God first, thus finding Him and finding great joy. Take note that the Ethiopian Eunuch was a busy man. A man who needed another man's help to seek God. A man, who use the Bible to guide him to find God.

### Additional Helpful Scriptures:

- Acts 17:10-11
- Jeremiah 29:10-13
- Deuteronomy 4:28-31
- Daniel 9:3
- 1 Timothy 4:7b-8
- Acts 17:22-27
- 2 Chronicles 15:1-4
- Ecclesiastes 12:1,13-14
- Isaiah 55:6
- 2 Chronicles 7:14
- Luke 19:1-10

## 2. GOD

### Scriptures Used

1. Acts 17:24-30
2. Psalms 135:15-17
3. Jeremiah 10:5
4. Deuteronomy 5:8-9
5. 1 Corinthians 10:14
6. Revelation 21:8
7. John 4:24

**Purpose:** The main aim of this study is to give people an idea of God in the Bible - He is a living God and not an Idol.

Q. What is your image of God? Which God do you worship? These questions are just for you to know the Seekers background and beliefs. Let us see from the Bible who is God. Let us turn to Acts 17:24 and read.

#### 1) Acts 17:24-30

v.24 - Q. Who is God according to this scripture? God is the Creator. **(WATCH ILLUSTRATION)**

Q. Where does God not live according to the Bible? God does not live in buildings, built by men. But men think God lives in a building – our worship places. So we tend to think God is watching us only when we are in this building. So inside the building we act spiritual outside the building we are sinful. But God is everywhere! So we got to be holy wherever we are.

v.25- Q. Does God need anything from us? No.

Q. Why? Because he himself gives us everything.

Q. Does God need from us any material offerings - Laddoos, bananas, coconuts, food, agar bathis, candles etc.?

Q. Is he hungry waiting for us to feed him?

Q. Who eats this anyway – God or the Priest?

Q. Can we bribe God? Many people think that God is like a corrupt Govt. Clerk who will do what you want only when you please him with a bribe. God is not like them. God cannot be pleased with these things.

Q. What is God looking for from us - the above things or our love and obedience? People give their money and offerings but they refuse to obey him! Our God needs our obedience and our love.

v.26- Q. God made us and he set us in our places we live. Why are you here now? It is God's plan!

Q. Why is that? Because God's WANTS for us to seek him, reach out to him and FIND him! God wants to have a Relationship with us.

Q. Is he far from us, as some think he is on a mountaintop or across the ocean or even travel long distance on pilgrimage to find him? No. The Bible says he is near us. If we seek we will find him!

v.28- Q. We are his offspring means what? That we are God's Children.

Q. Do we have life? Yes.

Q. If we have life then what about God, whose children we are – is he living or dead? He is LIVING. Our God is a living God.

v.29- Q. What does this mean? It means God is not a dead idol made by man's design and skill.

Q. Who made us? God.

Q. Can we make God? No. That is what is happening; we can buy God in the market for a price. If the idol is of clay we can buy it for Tk.50, if it is painted Tk.200, if it is of Gold Tk.150,000 and if it has diamonds and jewelry on it, even Cores.

Q. But does the metal or the beauty of the idol make it God? No way. People are worshipping created things, statues, paintings, photos, sun, moon, snakes, etc. rather than the Creator himself!

v.30- Q. What does God expect from us once we know the truth about the Living God? He wants us to repent. To repent means to turn away. It means He wants us to stop worshipping Idols and have nothing to do with it anymore! Q. What do you think about this for yourself?

#### 2) Psalms 135:15-17

This scripture talks about the fact that idols are lifeless.

a) Idols are made by men.

Q. Can men make God? No! People are worshipping created things rather than the Creator himself.

b) Idols have different parts of the body, but cannot use them. They can't respond to people's prayer. We humans are better off than idols, at least we can actually hear, see, understand and feel. But that does not make us God!

c) Idols have no breath (life) in them.

#### 3) Jeremiah 10:5

a) Idols are like scarecrows in the field. The scarecrows can't do anything yet the crows are scared of them. Idols cannot do anything to you, yet people are scared to give it up because of the superstitions and stories associated with them. Idols are powerless! DO NOT FEAR IDOLS.

b) Idols have to be carried, because they cannot walk! If we have to help our God to walk what will happen to us weak humans!

c) Do not fear idols. They cannot harm you! Throw away all superstitious beliefs regarding idols.

Q. What are some superstitious beliefs you have?

**DO you know what one of the Ten Commandments says specifically? Let us see in**

#### 4) Deuteronomy 5:8-9

God commands us not to make an idol in any form. Then very specifically God commands we should not bow down to any idols.

Q. Can we disobey God? No. We must stop worshipping any idols or paintings or person and only worship the Creator.

**Even in the New Testament there are specific scriptures condemning Idolatry or Idol worship.**

#### 5) 1 Corinthians 10:14

Flee (run far away) from idol worship!

Q. Are you ready for that?

Q. What do you do when you see a wild animal? You run, you flee and you never go there again!

#### 6) Revelations 21:8

Here the idolaters are clubbed together with murderers and sexually immoral. Their fate is hell.

#### 7) John 4:24

Here Jesus himself says that God is Spirit. It means God has no form. So we must not worship him in any form, because he has none.

#### CONCLUSION:

- What did you learn today?
- How do you feel about the study?
- Does this study help you to see the truth about God?
- Do you want to learn more?
- To please God you must completely give up idol worship. Are you willing to do that?

### 3. JESUS IS GOD

#### Scriptures Used

1. Colossians 2:9
2. Mark 4:35-41
3. Mark 1:40-42
4. Luke 7:36-39,48-50
5. 1 John 3:5
6. Deuteronomy 5:7
7. Acts 4:12
8. John 14:6

**Purpose:** This is the second study to be done with Non-Christian background people.

Q. Let I ask you some questions. Have you heard of Jesus? What do you know about Jesus? Let me teach you about Jesus. This will help you to know who Jesus is.

#### 1) Colossians 2:9

This scripture says that Jesus is God in the flesh. All that you see in God you see in Jesus. That means Jesus is God. That means Jesus should have all the qualities of God in Heaven. We are going to see that in the following 3 passages.

#### 2) Mark 4:35-41

Jesus has the power to control the wind and the waves.

Q: Who has the power to control natural forces? God, which means Jesus, is God. He is All-powerful.

#### 3) Mark 1:40-42

Jesus can HEAL any disease. He has power to heal any man. Jesus like God is full of compassion. He loved the nobody's. He touched the leper. He has compassion on the poor.

#### 4) Luke 7:36-39, 48-50

This woman was a very sinful woman because the whole town seemed to know about her sin, unlike many of us, where only we know and God knows about how much we have sinned. Yet Jesus showed love and compassion to this woman. Jesus loves sinners!

Q. Who alone can forgive sin? Only God can. Jesus forgave this woman, like God.

Q. Who is Jesus? Jesus is God. He forgave this woman's sins. He can forgive all of your sins.

#### 5) 1 John 3:5

Jesus came to take away our sins! your sins and my sins.

Q. Did Jesus do any sin in his life? No.

Q. In whom do we find no sin? God alone.

Q. Then who is Jesus? I believe he is God.

Only someone who is without sin can save somebody who is in sin. To be God, He must be without any sin. Anyone who has even one sin cannot be God.

Q. What about other Gods? Are they without sin? Are they perfect? If they are not perfect can they be God? Share about other Gods, that even though they may do some good it is not enough to be God. Because they are not perfect they cannot be called God.

#### 6) Deuteronomy 5:7

God commands us not to worship any other Gods but one, because in the Bible there is only ONE God and not many gods!

#### 7) Acts 4:12

Jesus is the only name by which the whole world can be saved. There is no other name! Only through Jesus name you will be saved, you will go to Heaven.

#### 8) John 14:6

Jesus is saying He is the WAY, The ONLY WAY. Means there is no other way to Heaven. You can try but there is no other way.

Jesus is the TRUTH, the complete TRUTH. All religions have some truth, but the complete truth you find in Jesus.

#### (ELEPHANT ILLUSTRATION)

Jesus is the LIFE. Only through Jesus we have eternal life.

#### CONCLUSION:

- Today what did you learn about Jesus?
- Who is Jesus?
- What about other gods?
- Do you want to follow Jesus? If YES, then you have to follow him only. You can't worship him and other gods at the same time.
- What do people call those people who follow Jesus? Christians.
- What will people call you if you follow Jesus? Christian.
- You have to get comfortable with that.

## 4. JESUS TEACHINGS

### Scriptures Used

1. John 3:1-5
2. John 3:16-18
3. John 5:5-6
4. John 6:35
5. John 8:12
6. John 8:46
7. John 11:25
8. John 12:48
9. John 20:29
10. John 14:6

**Purpose:** A must to all people from a non-Christian background. This study is entirely from the book of John. This study will help them to know the teachings and sayings of Jesus and develop a deeper conviction about Jesus.

#### 1) John 3:1-5

Here we see that Jesus even taught the teachers! Jesus said, you have to be born again to enter God's Kingdom. Means you have to start your life all over again.

Q. Do you want to be born again? Well Jesus gives you a chance to start your life all over again!

#### 2) John 3:16-18

God loved the whole world not only Christians! Jesus came for all people! Many people believe Jesus is a Christian God. But the Bible here says Jesus came for everybody in the whole world. God does not want anyone to perish (be destroyed). He wants all men from all backgrounds, caste, and religion to be saved. They can only be saved if they believe in Jesus. (**JUDGE ILLUSTRATION and MINER ILLUSTRATION**)

#### 3) John 5:5-6

This man has been suffering for 38 years. We have been suffering spiritually in sin for so many years.

Q. If Jesus came here and met you he would ask, "Do you want to get well"? Do you want to change? What would you say? This is probably your only chance in life. Don't miss this opportunity!

#### 4) John 6:35

Jesus nourishes those who come to him. Jesus pointed to himself as the source of spiritual nourishment.

#### 5) John 8:12

Jesus is the Light. If you follow Jesus you should come out of darkness completely.

Q. Are you today in darkness or in the light? If you are in the darkness Jesus can bring you into the light.

#### 6) John 8:46

Jesus was without any sin! He openly challenged people to prove him guilty.

#### 7) John 11:25

Jesus is the resurrection. He is promising eternal life. It is not reincarnation that Jesus is promising. After death there is only waiting for Judgment and no rebirth.

#### Heb 9:27.

Jesus gives us the hope of resurrection, because he himself was raised from the dead. Jesus promises eternal life to all his followers.

#### 8) John 12:48

The words Jesus spoke are going to judge us on the last day (the Judgment day). We have to be serious about not only reading and learning his words but also obeying them.

#### 9) John 20:29

None of us have seen Jesus. If we believe in him we will be blessed. So put your trust in Jesus. Put your faith in Him!

#### 10) John 14:6

Jesus is saying He is the WAY, the ONLY WAY. Means there is no other way to Heaven. You can try but there is no other way. Jesus is the TRUTH, the Complete TRUTH. All religions have some truth, but the complete truth you find in Jesus. Jesus is the LIFE; only through Jesus we have eternal life.

#### CONCLUSION:

C: There is no one like Jesus. Jesus is THE ONLY WAY.

Q: Do you believe that Jesus is the only way? Do you want to follow Jesus?

## 5. THE WORD

### Scriptures Used

1. 2 Timothy 3:16-17
2. Hebrews 4:12-13
3. John 8:31-32
4. Matthew 15:1-9
5. 1 Timothy 4:16
6. Acts 17:10-12
7. Matthew 4:4

**Purpose:** Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ (*Romans 10:17*). Thus, the aim of studying the Word of God is to help a seeker build faith in Jesus. One must accept the bible as the one true standard (vs. feelings, experiences, peers opinions or family traditions) by which to live life if one is to know true salvation from Jesus.

#### 1) 2 Timothy 3:16-17

- a) All scripture is inspired by God. (**RESTAURANT ILLUSTRATION and MATHS ILLUSTRATION**)
- b) It is to be applied to our lives.

#### 2) Hebrews 4:12-13

- a) The word is relevant.
- b) The word cuts (hurts) – compare to a scalpel. (**DOCTOR ILLUSTRATION, EXAM ILLUSTRATION and TV ILLUSTRATION**)
- c) It is good to be cut – it cuts the sin out.

#### 3) John 8:31-32

- a) Intellectual belief is not enough – nor can we go by our feelings. (**LAMPPOST ILLUSTRATION**)
- b) Everyone must hold on to and follow the teachings of Jesus to be a Christian (Disciple).
- c) Sincerity does not equal truth.
- d) Being religious does not mean you are a Christian.

#### 4) Matthew 15: 1-9

- a) Worship by any traditions (which supersede the Word of God) is worship in vain.
- b) Jesus warns us not to nullify the word of God for the sake of our tradition.

#### 5) 1 Timothy 4:16

- a) Watch your life and your doctrine closely – they are inseparable.
- Q. Which is more important your life or your doctrine?  
 Q. Like an airplane. Which wing is more important?

#### 6) Acts 17:10-12

- a) Here is an example of the Bereans who not only received the message with great eagerness but also examined the Scriptures everyday to verify whether what they heard was true.
- b) I encourage you to develop a habit to read and meditate on the Word daily.

#### 7) Matthew 4:4

Q. Why we will study the Bible? Jesus said that 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' Just like we need to eat food to sustain us we need to feed on the Word to sustain our faith.

### Conclusion:

- I encourage you to read and study the Bible seriously.

### Additional Helpful Scriptures

James 1:22-25  
 Matthew 7:15-20, 24-27  
 Romans 10:17  
 Psalms 119:11,105

### Scriptures for Further Study

These Bible verses can help you to come to faith in Jesus.

#### *Prophecy about Jesus*

<u>Prophecy</u>	<u>Fulfillment</u>
Genesis 49:10	Matthew 1:1-17
Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:22
Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:5
Hosea 11:1	Matthew 2:15
Jeremiah 31:15	Matthew 2:17-18
Isaiah 40:3	Matthew 3:3
Isaiah 9:1-2	Matthew 4:13-16
Isaiah 53:4	Matthew 8:16-17
Isaiah 42:1-4	Matthew 12:15
Psalms 78:2	Matthew 13:34-35
Micah 7:6	Matthew 10:35-36
Malachi 3:1	Matthew 11:10
Isaiah 6:9-10	Matthew 13:13-15
Psalms 8:2	Matthew 21:16
Zechariah 9:9	Matthew 21:1-5
Zechariah 13:7	Matthew 26:31

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## 6. Tradition

See the “Traditions and False Doctrine” Book.

## 7. JESUS IS LORD

### Scriptures Used

1. Acts 11:25-26
2. Mark 12:28-31
3. Luke 9:23-26
4. Luke 11:1-5
5. Luke 14:25-33
6. 1 John 2:3-6
7. John 8:31-32
8. John 13:34-35
9. Matthew 7:21-23
10. Mark 1:16-20
11. Romans 10:9-13

**Purpose:** What it means to make Jesus as our Lord? We confess at the time of baptism that Jesus is my Lord. What should that confession mean? How would that affect our life and choices we make in life? What the 'call to follow Jesus' really means? What does it mean to say you are a follower? What is the heart of one who follows Him? What kind of commitment is meant to be demonstrated? What is the life of one who had decided to follow Jesus?

**For Christian Background people:** Q. Are you a Christian?

Q. What makes you a Christian? Today, we can learn through the scriptures what makes one a Christian. First of all let us see where the word Christian first appears in the Bible.

#### 1) Acts 11:25-26

- Q. How would you define the word "disciple" in a simple non-religious way?
- Q. According to this scripture is there any difference between the word "Christian" and "disciple"? No. They both mean the same. Disciple = Christian (**NICKNAME ILLUSTRATION**)
- Q. Do you know how many times the word "Christian" is used in the NT? [ 3 times -Acts 11:26,Acts 26:28,1 Peter 4:16]
- Q. How many times is the word "disciple" used? [Over 250 times] Let us look at some scriptures that define following Jesus.

#### 2) Mark 12:28-31

1. Most important two commandments are to Love God and then to Love our neighbor as ourselves.
2. Being a disciple is to have a loving wholehearted relationship with God and loving our neighbors.
3. When we understand these two commandments, then we can understand the expectation Jesus has from us to become his disciple.

#### 3) Luke 9:23-26

Emphasize the heart that Jesus wants. This scripture tells us what Jesus expected of his followers.

#### (KING OF THE WORLD ILLUSTRATION)

- Denying oneself.
  - Take up ones cross daily.
  - Willing to lose ones life for Christ.
  - Not to be ashamed of Jesus or His words.
- Q. How do you feel about these demands of discipleship?
- Q. What does it mean to "deny yourself"?
- Q. What does it mean to "take up your cross daily"?
- Q. What will you find difficult to give up to follow Jesus?
- Q. How can we be "ashamed of Jesus and His words?"

#### 4) Luke 11:1-5

1. Jesus taught his disciples how to pray. He taught to call "God "our Father".

2. Being a disciple is to have a personal relationship with God as our Father. We can build a relationship with God by talking to him by prayer and listening to Him through the Word.

#### 5) Luke 14:25-33

1. Jesus should be loved above family relationships and own life. [Does not mean one must not respect parents or serve them]
2. Be willing to carry ones cross and still follow Jesus.
3. Count the cost before following. Following Jesus should be a serious, lifelong decision and not just an emotional, for the moment decision.
4. Willing to give up everything attitude should be there.

#### 6) 1 John 2:3-6.

1. This scriptures tells us how we can know if someone is a Christian or not.
2. Someone who knows Christ, should obey Christ. Otherwise his claim is false. [Luke 6:46]
3. Sign of someone who is living in Christ is that he must walk as Jesus did.

#### 7) John 8:31-32

1. Belief is not enough to be a disciple [Christian].
2. Obedience [hold to my teaching] is a must to be a disciple.

#### 8) John 13:34-35

1. This is a New Command Jesus gives because he is asking us to follow his example of love.
2. The sign of being a disciple of Jesus is Love. (**WAR BUDDY ILLUSTRATION and DEAD**

#### CHURCH FELLOWSHIP ILLUSTRATION)

- Loving the lost by seeking and saving them, learning to be a fisher of men, obeying the Great Commission. [Matthew 28:18- 20,Luke 19:10, Mark 1:16-20]
- Loving the Poor.[Matthew 25:32-46]
- Loving our family.[1 Timothy 5:8]
- Loving the church.[1 Peter 1:22,Galatians 6:10]
- Even Loving our enemies.[Matthew 5:44]

#### 9) Matthew 7:21-23

1. Making Jesus Lord means much more than saying the words.
2. It is not enough to be religious calling Lord, Lord or even prophesy and perform miracles.
3. We need to do the will of the Father for salvation.
4. Only one who does the will of the Father will enter the kingdom of heaven.

#### 10) Mark 1:16-20

This scripture talks about the way Jesus called his first disciples Simon, Andrew, James and John and how they responded to the call.

#### (NEWS PAPER JOB ADVERTISEMENT and FOOTBALL FAN ILLUSTRATION)

- Q. How did Simon and Andrew respond? How did James and John respond?
- Q. How are you going to respond to the call of Jesus to follow him?
- Q. What does it mean to be 'fishers of men'?

#### 11) Romans 10:9-13

We are going to confess at the time of baptism that 'Jesus is my Lord'.

Q. What does it mean to confess Jesus as Lord?

- This confession is a declaration of our total commitment and devotion to Jesus Christ.
- It means that I have decided to choose his will over my own.
- It means that I have decided to obey him, whatever the cost.
- Confession with our mouth alone is not enough; we have to believe with our heart.
- 2 Tim 2:19-21 - Confessing Jesus as Lord means one must turn away from wickedness and do good work.

#### Conclusion:

Being a disciple of Jesus or making Jesus your Lord is having a loving, obedient and sold out relationship with him. We are willing to put our relationship with Jesus above all else.

## 8A. SIN (PART 1)

### Scriptures Used

1. Romans 3:23
2. Isaiah 59:1-2
3. James 4:17
4. Galatians 5:19-21
5. Mark 7:21-23
6. Romans 6:23
7. James 5:16

**Purpose:** While we want all seekers to be saved by grace, there is no grace if we perceive no sin. Of course, all have sinned (*Romans 3:23*); therefore, we all desperately need the grace of God (*Romans 6:23*). Thus, the aim of this study is to help seekers to see themselves as our Holy God sees them: utterly sinful and separated from our God. This realization brings about a desire for both forgiveness and repentance.

#### 1) Romans 3:23

C: How many people have sinned? Everyone has sinned. **(SWIMMING ILLUSTRATION)**

C: So we all need forgiveness for our sins. One lie you tell you become a liar so one sin you do you are a sinner. You don't have to do many sins to be a sinner. So all of us are sinners. We are no different from others. We all need forgiveness.

C: When we compare ourselves with others how do we feel. We feel we are better than others are but we all fall short when we compare ourselves with God. We can never reach to the glory of God no matter how good you are. We fall short.

#### 2) Isaiah 59:1-2

C: Our sins separate us from God. When we sin we create a wall between God and us. So it is not God's fault. We have to break this wall of sin to get close to God. Draw diagram of the wall of sin and explain.

#### WALL OF SIN



What are the sins that Bible talks about? There are sins of omission and sins of commission.

#### 3) James 4:17

Sins of omission – if you don't do what you know you ought to do then you sin.

#### 4) Galatians 5: 19-21

#### Sins of commission: (COCKROACH IN TEACUP UP ILLUSTRATION)

#### Sexual immorality –Sexual sins

- Lust-
- Teasing Girls – passing rude remarks, standing behind women in the bus, touching them deliberately etc.
- Pornography – bad movies, internet, books, photos etc.
- Masturbation-
- Sex outside of marriage – neighboring person, boy friend/girl friend, going to prostitutes etc.
- Incest- sex with family members, cousins, aunts, uncles, relatives, brother or sister etc.
- Homosexuality – sex with same sex people, touching each others private parts, masturbating one another, oral sex, anal sex etc.

- Child abuse – sex with children, using children for self sex gratification, putting children on the lap, oral sex etc.,
- Impurity – telling lies about yourselves, your family, your background, cheating in exams, making false certificates, using bad language, stealing.
- Debauchery – indulgence, self-gratification, anything too much, sleeping too much, laziness, eating too much anything in excess is debauchery.
- Idolatry – Worshipping idols, photos, paintings, stones or putting anything or anybody above God.
- Witchcraft – black magic, believing in any other power other than God himself. Putting your trust in Palmistry, Astrology, and Horoscopes, Believing that hands and stars control our lives than God is sin.
- Hatred – not forgiving, enmity, property fights, hating any body who hurt you even is wrong.
- Discord – having friction in relationships. Do you have any unresolved conflicts in your life, marriage? Jealousy – being possessive
- Fits or rage – Being so angry you use abusive language, throw things at people, beat up people slam the door etc.,
- Selfish ambition – only concerned about self, not concerned about others, only worried about self career and job and what one can do and get.
- Dissension's – quarrels, disagreement.
- Factions – forming a group of dissident's forming a rival group within a group.
- Envy – covet others possessions or achievements, not happy for others advancements, not being content with what God has given you.
- Drunkenness – over indulgence on alcohol, drugs, tobacco chewing, cigarettes, pan-parag etc.,
- Orgies – wild partying, doing anything evil in a group.

#### 5) Mark 7: 21-23

C: Sin comes from within our hearts. So who is responsible for our sins? Us

Q: Can we blame others, circumstances or environment for our sins? No! We have to take personal responsibility for all our sins. Yes others do influence us to do wrong but to do wrong or right is entirely under our control.

#### 6) Romans 6:23

C: For all our sins we deserve death (Spiritual death not physical death). Means we deserve eternal separation from God and be thrown in to hell.

C: But we can break the wall of sin through Jesus Christ. He can give us eternal life. He can forgive us all our sins. **(TEN CORES TAKA GIFT ILLUSTRATION)**

#### 7) James 5:16

C: It talks about confession of our sins to EACH OTHER and to pray for each other so that we can be healed.

**Suggested Exercise:** If you are willing, you may write down a list of all your sins as much as you remember, so you can get in touch with your sin and confess them. [We can confess our sins]. Bring it for the next study. Remember God can forgive all your sins and provide you repentance. We are tempted not to confess some of our sins because we are very ashamed of them. I would encourage you to come clean; this is for your own good.

#### CONCLUSION:

- How do you feel about confession?
- Have you been open about your life to anyone before?
- I know it is not easy. SHARE your experience and your sins to the study.

#### Other Helpful Scriptures

2 Timothy 3:1-5, Hebrews 4:1, 1 John 1:5-10

## 8B. SIN (PART-2)

### Scriptures Used

1. Psalms 32:1-5
2. Proverbs 28:13
3. John 3:19-21
4. Acts 3:19

**Purpose:** This study is for people who need more time or more conviction to be open. Hopefully this study will help them to be more eager.

#### 1) Psalms 32:1-5

C: When our sins are forgiven we will be truly happy (blessed) [V. 1]

C: Make sure there is no deceit or lies in your spirit. In other words there should no longer be any secret sins hidden in our hearts. [V. 2]

Q: How did David feel when he was not open about his sins? He felt God's hand was against him. [V. 4]

Q: How do you feel when you have sins in your heart that is not confessed? Heavy, burdened, guilty.

Q: What did David decide to do? Acknowledge his sins. He decided not to cover-up any more. He confessed all his sins. [V. 5]

Q: What did God do when he confessed? He forgave! [V. 5]

#### 2) Proverbs 28:13

Q: What happens when we conceal (hide) our sins? We will not prosper or be happy.

Q: What happens when we confess and renounce (give-up) our sin? We are forgiven and we are under his mercy.

Q: Is there any more sins you have not talked about? God can forgive any of your sins.

#### 3) John 3:19-21

C: People who do evil do not want to come in to the light.

C: Also people do not want to come into the light because they do not want to get exposed (be open), because light exposes the evil done in darkness.

Q: If people have not been open about their sins are they in the Light or in darkness? Where are you right now? Are you in the light or in the darkness?

#### 4) Acts 3:19

C: I appreciate you opening up your life. Our next study is to help you to repent of these sins.

C: What does this verse say? When you repent you will feel truly refreshed. Confession is not enough but you need to repent [change] from these sins. Repentance brings times of refreshing.

### CONCLUSION

C: God can forgive all your sins. Our next study is to help you to understand the need for repentance of these sins. Let us pray.

## 8C. Light & Darkness (Part 1 & 2)

**Purpose:** This study is for people who need to understand the salvation how it works and Clarify their confusion about the process of repentance, confession and Baptism. Encourage the study to write a description of their sinful nature to understand the seriousness and amount of their sin.

### 1 Peter 2:9-10

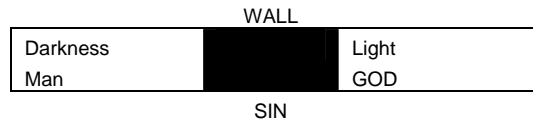
<b>Darkness</b>	<b>Light</b>
Not a people of God	People of God
No Mercy	Mercy
Lost	Saved
Not a Christian	Christian
Not a Disciple	Disciple

- A. Every person is either in the darkness or in the light. There is no twilight zone.
- B. Where are you?

### 1) Darkness

#### A. Isaiah 59:1-2

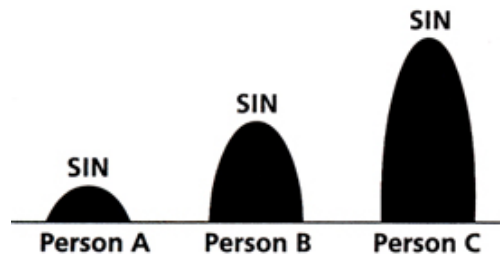
Sin separates us from God



1. In order for a man to have a relationship with God the wall must be broken down - sin must be forgiven.
2. The point in time sin is forgiven is the point in time a person is saved.

#### B. Romans 3:23-25

Who has sinned? Everyone!



1. Who is further away from God? All equal, all lost. Therefore a good moral life does not save you.
2. Faith in the blood of Jesus saves you (verse 25).

### C. What is Sin?

1. Galatians 5:19-21 (sins of commission)
2. James 4:17 (sins of omission)

### D. What is the eternal consequence of sin? Romans 6:23

Wages of Sin	Gift of God
Death	Eternal Life
Hell	Heaven
Darkness	Light

Just two alternatives

### 2) Light

#### A. John 3:1-7

1. verse 3 Born Again, verse 5 Born of water and spirit, verse 7 Born Again
2. Personal decision as an adult.

#### B. What message must one believe to be in the light (to be saved?) Acts 2:22-24

1. verse 22 Jesus is from God - miracles
2. verse 24 Jesus raised physically from the dead
3. verse 23 Everyone is responsible for the crucifixion of Christ

**Romans 3:23** All have sinned.

#### C. Response of people Acts 2:37

1. Cut to the heart
2. What shall we do?

#### D. Once the people believed, what did they do? Acts 2:38-42

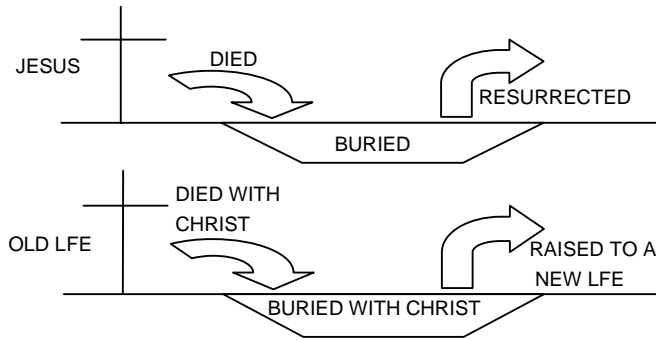
1. Repent (Greek = to turn)
2. Be baptized (Greek = to be immersed)

#### Purpose:

- a. Sin forgiven. Therefore this is the point in time a person is saved.
- b. Holy Spirit given to each who responded - power to live as God commands.

#### E. Baptism Romans 6:1-4

Baptism is the sharing (a participation) in the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. (More than just a symbol)



DARKNESS Sin Separates from God	LIGHT Acts 2:38 Sin is Forgiven
Born Again of Water and Spirit John 3:5	Acts 2:38 Water = Baptism Spirit = Received at Baptism
Romans 3:25 Faith in the Blood of Jesus Saves Us	Jesus shed his blood when he died. In Baptism we share by faith in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. Thus we contact the blood in baptism and are forgiven of our sins and SAVED!

**3) Review of Plan of Salvation**

- A. Hear - Romans 10:17
- B. Believe - Hebrews 11:6
- C. Repent - Luke 13:3
- D. Confess - Roman 10:9, 1 Timothy 6:12
- E. Baptized - Acts 2:38, 1 Peter 3:21

**4) The Major Conversions in Acts.**

- A. Acts 2:36-47 - First Christian in Jerusalem
- B. Acts 8:26-39 - Ethiopian Eunuch
- C. Acts 16:22-34 - Philippian jailer & his family
- D. Acts 18:24-26 - Apollos
- E. Acts 19:1-5 - Ephesians
- F. Acts 9:1-22 - Paul
- G. Acts 22:3-16 - Paul

1. What was preached?
2. What was the person's (people's) response to the message?
3. How long did the person (people) take to make the decision?

4. What was their response after baptism?

**5) Refuting False Doctrines (Salvation and Baptism)**

**A. "Pray Jesus into your heart":**

This phrase is never mentioned in the Bible. They may use Revelation 3:20 about Jesus knocking at the door, however, you must examine scripture in context. This scripture does not teach how to become a Christian and be saved, but how to come back to God after becoming lukewarm. It is addressed to disciples who already responded to Christ in faith, repentance, confession and baptism.

**B. "Accept Jesus into your heart":**

(same teaching as praying Jesus into your heart - just different terminology.) Based on Romans 10:9. You must look at scripture in context. Paul is addressing the problem of the Israelites: unbelief that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God. Read further on to Romans 10:13 - when do you call on the name of the Lord? At baptism (Acts 22:16).

**C. Infant Baptism:**

A baby cannot have faith, and since we are baptized through faith in the power of God (Colossians 2:12), babies cannot be baptized. Original Sin: Ezekiel 18:20 teaches there is no original sin; each person is responsible for his own actions and will be judged accordingly. Therefore babies are born sinless and will be saved if they die.

**D. "Baptism does not save you":**

1 Peter 3:21 says the baptism DOES save you through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Acts 2:38 teaches that sin is forgiven at baptism - one is saved at the point sin is forgiven.

**E. "Baptism is a work - yet we are saved by faith" (Ephesians 2:8):**

Colossians 2:12 teaches we are saved by FAITH - in the working of God at baptism.

**F. "Baptism is an outward sign of an inward grace":**

Romans 6:2-4 states that baptism is an actual participation in the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. It is not merely a sign, seal or symbol.

**G. "Baptism isn't important, after all, look at what Paul said about it in 1 Corinthians 1:17":**

Paul does not diminish the importance of baptism here. (Paul himself was baptized to have his sins forgiven in Acts 22:16. In context (read 1 Corinthians 1:10-17), he makes the point that he does not want people following men (denominationalism). He mentions baptism several times in the passage.

**H. "The thief on the cross was not baptized but Jesus told him that he will be in paradise":**

Jesus had not even died yet, and baptism is participating in his death (Romans 6:2-4); also on earth, he had the power to forgive sins (Matthew 9:2-6).

**I. "Believers baptism":**

This is baptism as an adult, but is not done in conjunction with the understanding that one is being saved at this point in time. (John 3:5, Acts 2:38). "Retroactive understanding" is not sufficient for salvation.

**Conclusion:**

- Suggest to the individual to write a description of their sinful nature and then be specific about various sins they have committed.
- This is so that they might see the seriousness and amount of their sin.
- He or she should keep this for personal use.

## 9. Humility & Pride

### Scriptures Used

1. Philippians 2:5-8
2. 2 Chronicles 34:19-28
3. Deut 8:11-14
4. Psalm 36:1-4
5. Revelations 3:14-20
6. Proverbs 11:2; 13:10; 16:5, 8-9; 21:4, 24; 27:2; 30:12-13.

**Purpose:** It's most difficult to see our need when blinded by pride. It's difficult to receive a scriptural challenge unless we are humble. Proverb 3:11 - My child, do not despise the Lord's discipline or be weary of his reproof. Proverb 9:7 - Whoever corrects a scoffer wins abuse; whoever rebukes the wicked gets hurt. A scoffer who is rebuked will only hate you; the wise, when rebuked, will love you. See also Proverb 10:10, 15:12, 19:25, 28:23. Amos 5:10 - They hate the one who reproves in the gate, and they hate the one who speaks the truth.

### 1) Philippians 2:5-8

The mindset of humility as seen in Jesus... To what degree would you have to humble yourself to approximate Jesus' transition from God to man? He even humbled himself to the point of a shameful death for our sin.

### 2) 2 Chronicles 34:19-28

After reading about Josiah's reforms in vv. 1-7, consider his temptation to be religiously proud. How have you taken pride in your spirituality? How does Josiah compare to the kings that preceded and preceded him? Why is it dangerous to compare oneself to others? Despite his Godly achievements, Josiah tore his clothes in sorrow after hearing the Word of God... why? How would he respond to a reproof? How have you responded?

### 3) Deut 8:11-14

When are we most likely to be immersed in our pride? How do good times promote pride? Whom do you credit for your successes? How does success blind us to our real needs? How can you regain sight of your need? What does God do to help us see our need again?

### 4) Psalm 36:1-4

Conceit and arrogance blind us to our sin and prevents conviction.

### 5) Revelations 3:14-20

Why don't they even realize their pride? How does Jesus make them realize their condition? Why does Jesus do this for them?

### 6) Proverbs on pride

Proverbs 11:2; 13:10; 16:5, 8-9; 21:4, 24; 27:2; 30:12-13.

### Additional Helpful Scriptures:

1. **Elencho:** Matthew 18:15; Luke 3:19-20; John 3:19-20; John 16:8; 1Corinthians 14:24-25; Ephesians 5:11-13; 1Timothy 5:20; 2Timothy 4:2
2. **Humility:** Micah 6:6; Psalms 138:6; Isaiah 66:2; 2 Chronicles 32:24-26, 33:12-14, 34:27, 36:12; Matthew 18:4; Colossians 3:12
3. **Pride:** Daniel 5:18-23; Isaiah 47:10; Esther 6:6; Romans 12:16; 1 Corinthians 5:2; 1Timothy 6:3-4; 2 Timothy 3:2; Hosea 7:10; Psalms 10:4, 73:6, 31:23.

## 10. THE CROSS

### Scriptures Used

1. Mark 14:32-65
2. Mark 15:1-20
3. Luke 23:32-34
4. Mark 15:37-57
5. 1 Peter 2:21-25
6. 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

**Suggestion:** Show the movie "Passion of Christ" first before you teach the lesson.

**Purpose:** "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." (*John 3:16-17*)

Here, the gospel message reaches its peak. We are saved through grace. We are saved through Jesus' loving sacrifice. Be sure that the seeker has seen his/her need for grace, and this study in grace will be powerful. It's also important for the seeker to understand his/her responsibility for Jesus' death. Establishing *personal* responsibility will later reap great gratitude and joy for Jesus' *personal* love and forgiveness.

C: This is a very serious study, where we'll be looking at the physical, emotional and spiritual sufferings of Jesus as he went on the cross. Let's pray.

### 1) Mark 14:32-42

Q: How was Jesus feeling at this time? (Deeply troubled and sorrowful overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death)

Q: Did Jesus want to go to the cross as he started to Pray? (No.)

Q: What was Jesus attitude by the end of his prayer (v.42)? (He was ready to die)

Q: In the same way, you need to be ready to overcome your struggles by praying until your heart changes.

Q: How did Jesus feel when his friends were falling asleep?

Q: Have you ever been letdown by a friend when you really needed him? \*\* SHARE

Q: Do you know why Jesus was doing all this? (Because he loves us. Because of our sins; our lies, our pride, our selfishness.)

### Mark 14:43-50

Q: How would you feel if an angry crowd armed with swords and clubs came outside your house looking for you?

Q: Judas betrayed Jesus. Have you ever been betrayed? \*\*SHARE

Q: If Jesus had wanted to, what could he have done here? (Sent down 12,000 angels to destroy them (Matthew 26:53))

Q: What did all the disciples do when Jesus was arrested (v.50)? (They all deserted him and fled.)

Q: Have you ever felt lonely, like no one in the world cared about you? \*\*SHARE

Q: Do you know why Jesus was doing all this? (Because he loves us. Because of our sins: our lies, our pride, our laziness etc.)

### Mark 14:53-65

Q: Jesus went to trial here. What kind of trial was it? (An unfair trial)

Q: Have you ever been unjustly treated? \*\*SHARE How do we respond?

Q: Out of all the people he had healed in the past three years, did anyone come to Jesus defense at his trial?

Q: Have you ever felt unappreciated, that no one noticed the good things you had done? \*\*SHARE

Q: Imagine the scene: One by one, the judges coldly condemned him to die. How would you feel sitting in a room where everyone condemned you to death?

Q: They blindfolded Jesus mocked him, spat on him and beat him. Have you ever been spat upon? Have you ever been beaten?

Q: Do you know why Jesus was doing all this? (Because he loves us. Because of our sins: our immorality, our pride, our anger etc.)

Q: Next, they asked Peter if he knew Jesus. Three times he denied him. The Bible says in **Luke 22:54-62** that Jesus knew it, and he looked right at Peter. Peter then went out and wept bitterly.

Q: Have you ever overheard someone talking badly about you behind your back? How did you feel? \*\*SHARE

Q: Do you know why Jesus was doing all this? (Because he loves us. Because of our sins: our lies, our drunkenness, our lust etc.)

### 2) Mark 15:1-15

C: Jesus has been up all night, beaten and spit upon. Now he faces yet another trial.

Q: Have you ever been given the run-around by government officials? ("Come tomorrow")? Go to that office". "Wait for 30 min" etc.) \*\* SHARE

Q: Jesus was compared to a murderer (Barabbas). The crowd was asked to choose between them. How do you think he felt?

Q: Have you ever been waiting as teams were being chosen in sports match and you were chosen last? How did you feel?

Q: Pilate was sitting in the judge's seat. He had to make a decision about Jesus. Do you think he liked Jesus?

Q: Pilate tried to reason with the crowd ("what crime has be committed?")

Q: Did they like him? (No, they shouted louder)

Q: How do people respond when they are losing an argument? (Shout)

Q: According to Matthew 27:24, Pilate tried to wash his hands of the matter. Did that make him innocent? (No. Pilate wanted innocence, but he was not willing to pay the price. So his indecision became a NO decision against Jesus)

Q: The Bible says Jesus was flogged. Do you know what flogging is like? (They strip you. They make a leather whip with bones or glass at the end and they whip you again and again. The blood flows. The pain is intense. And they whip you until your back is like minced meat.)

Q: And each time the whip came down, do you know why Jesus was willing to go through all this? (Because he loves you. Because of our sins: our smoking, our selfishness etc.)

### Mark 15:16-20

Q: They took Jesus and all the soldiers mocked him. Have you ever seen a group of people encircling some one and mistreating him?

C: They stripped Jesus and put a robe on him. Then they put a crown of thorns on him on the head with a staff. Then they took off the robe and led him away to be crucified.

Q: What happened to the crown of thorns as they beat him? (It dug deeper and deeper into Jesus scalp causing great pain.)

Q: How did the back of Jesus feel when they ripped the robe off him? (Very painful – like ripping a stuck Band-Aid off a wound).

Q: Do you know why Jesus was doing all this? (Because he loves us. Because of our sins; our immorality, our drunkenness, our anger etc.)

### 3) Luke 23: 32-34

C: They put the cross on Jesus raw back and made him carry it. Then they stripped him and put nails through his wrists and ankles. He was then hoisted up on the cross, naked. And he went up and down all day long. His raw back rubbed against the cross. He was in agony.

Q: Do you know how someone who is crucified dies? (They can't breathe so they pull themselves up using the nails. But then the pain is incredible, so they sag back down. This continues until all their energy is gone and then they painfully suffocate.)

Q: Do you know why Jesus was doing all this? (Because he loves us. Because of our selfishness, our smoking, our anger etc.)

Q: After you've had a terrible day, what are the first words that come out of your mouth? (Angry bad words.)  
 C: Let's look at the first words that Jesus said on the cross:  
 Q: In v.34 what did Jesus say? (Father, forgive them...")  
 Q: Even as he died who was he thinking about? (Us-v.34)  
 Q: Who deserved to die on the cross – Jesus or us?  
 Q: There were two thieves. According to Matthew 27:44, both of them heaped insults on Jesus, Yet here, one thief looked at the other thief and turned to Jesus with a repentant heart. And Jesus forgave him. This really does reveal the heart of God. God loves us. Jesus could have sent him to hell but he didn't. And today, you too can be forgiven. Jesus isn't here in person, but he's given us the Bible to show us the way of salvation.

**4) Mark 15:37-57**

C: Here we see Jesus dying. He cries out in pain, "My God, my God! Why have you forsaken me?"  
 Q: The Bible says God was with Jesus from the beginning. Why did Jesus say here that God had forsaken him? (Because of sin) Let's turn to 1 Peter to explain this further.

**5) 1 Peter 2:24**

Q: When Jesus died on the cross what did he bear? (Our sins)  
 Q: How do you feel when you sin? (Guilty, sad, painful)  
 C: Imagine feeling the guilt of all your sins at one time. Then imagine feeling all the sins of all men. All the rapes; all the lies; all the murders; all the injustice. Jesus felt the guilt, the pain and the anguish of all our sins, for all time. He felt as if he had done them all. And because sin separates us from God (Isaiah 59:1-2, Colossians 1:21), God was not with Jesus as he died on the cross. He died alone. Our sins separated him from God.  
 Q: Do you know why Jesus was doing all this? (Because he loves us. Because of our sins; our evil thoughts, our cheating, our anger etc.)  
 C: There is a story that may help you understand the cross better. **(Father/Son Illustration)**  
 Q: Do you see how much Jesus love us? \*\*\*\*Read the Medical Account\*\*\*\*

**1 Peter 2:21-25**

Q: According to V.2, why did Jesus have to suffer so much? (To set us an example that we should be like him.) He was without sin till the end.  
 Q: Do you realize that Jesus died just for you? Do you understand that even if you were the only one on earth, he still would have died for you?  
 Q: Are you willing to suffer for being a Christian? Are you willing to endure opposition?  
 Q: According to V.24 why did Jesus bear our sins? (So that we might die to sins and live for righteousness)

**6) 2 Corinthians 5:14-15**

Q: What motivated Paul to follow Jesus with all his heart? (Love)  
 Q: Do you know what motivates us to be so committed? \*\* SHARE  
 Q: According to v.15, why did Jesus die? (So that we would no longer live for ourselves but for him)  
 Q: Whom do most people live for? (Themselves)  
 Q: Up to now, who have you been living for? (Myself)  
 Q: Do you see why you need to be serious?  
 Q: Now that you have seen how Jesus suffered, how do you feel?

**CHALLENGE:**

- Be totally serious about changing your life and following Jesus. "...Live a life of love just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us..." [Eph 5:1-2]
- Make no more excuses.

**Other Useful Scriptures**

Ephesians 5:1-2  
 Isaiah 53

**MEDICAL ACCOUNT OF THE CRUCIFIXION**

Hanging, electrocution, knee capping, gas chamber, these punishments are feared. They all happen to day, and we shudder as we think of the horror and pain. But as we shall see, these ordeals pale into insignificance compare with the bitter fate of Jesus Christ: crucifixion.

No one is crucified to day. For us the cross remains confined to ornaments and jewelry, stained-glass windows, romanticized pictures and statues portraying a serene death. Crucifixion was a form of execution refined by the Romans to an exercise art. It was carefully conceived to produce a slow death with maximum pain. It was carefully conceived to produce a slow death with maximum pain. It was a public spectacle intended to deter other would-be criminals. It was a death to be feared.

**Sweat like Blood**

Luke 22:44 says of Jesus, <sup>44</sup> *And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.* His Sweat was unusually intense because his emotional state was unusually intense. Dehydration coupled with exhaustion further weakened him.

**Beating**

It was in this condition that Jesus faced the first physical abuse; punches and slaps to the face and head while blindfolded. Unable to anticipate the blows, Jesus was badly bruised, his mouth and eyes possible injured. The Physiological effects of the false trails should not be underestimated. Consider that Jesus faced them bruised, dehydrated, and exhausted, possibly in shock.

**Flogging**

In the previous 12 hours Jesus had suffered emotional trauma, rejection by his closest friends, a cruel beating, and a sleepless night during which he had to walk miles between unjust hearings. Despite the fitness he must certainly have gained during his travels in Palestine, he was in no way prepared for the punishment of flogging. The effects would be worse as a result.

A man to be flogged was stripped of his clothes and his hands tied to a post above his head. He was then whipped across the shoulders, back, buttocks, thighs and legs, the soldier standing behind and to one side of the victim. The whip used the flagellum – was designed to make this a devastating punishment, bringing the victim close to death; several short heavy leather thongs, with two small balls of lead or iron attached near the end of each. Pieces of sheep's bone were sometimes included.

As the scourging proceeds, the heavy leather thongs produce first superficial cuts, than deeper damage to underlying tissues. Bleeding becomes severe when not only capillaries and veins are cut, but also arteries in the underlying muscles. The small metal balls first produce large, deep bruises, which are broken open by further blows. The fragments of sheep's bone rip the flesh as the whip is drawn back. When the beating is finished, the skin of the back is in ribbons, and the entire area torn and bleeding.

The words chosen by the gospel writers suggest that the scourging of Jesus was particularly severe: he was certainly at the point of collapse when he was cut down from the flogging-post.

**The Mocking**

Jesus was allowed no time to recover before facing his next ordeal. Meddle to stand, he was dressed in a robe by jeering soldiers, crowned with a twisted band of thorny twigs, and to complete the parody, given a wooden staff as a king's scepter. Next, they spat on Jesus and struck him on the head with the wooden staff'. The long thorns were driven into the sensitive scalp tissue producing profuse

bleeding, but even more terrible was the re-opening of the wounds of Jesus' back when the robe was torn off again.

Further weakened physically and emotionally, Jesus was led away to be executed.

#### **The Crucifixion**

The wooden cross-used by the Romans was too heavy to be carried by one man. Instead the victim to be crucified was made to bear the detached cross bar across his shoulders, carrying it outside the city walls to the place of execution. (The heavy upright portion of the cross was permanently in position here). Jesus was unable to carry his load – a beam weighing 75 to 125 lbs. He collapsed under the burden, and an onlooker was ordered to take it for him.

Jesus refused to drink the wine and myrrh offered him before the nails were driven in. (It would have dulled the pain) Thrown down on this back with arms outstretched along the cross bar, nails were driven throughout Jesus' wrists into the wood.

These Iron spikes, about 6 inches long and 3-8 inches thick, severed the large sensorimotor median nerve, causing excruciating pain in both arms. Carefully placed between bones and ligaments, they were able to bear the weight of the crucified man.

In preparation for the nailing of the feet, Jesus was lifted up and the cross bar fixed to the upright post. Then with legs sent at the knee, a single nail was used to pierce both feet, one foot being placed over the other. Again there was severe nerve damage and the pain caused was intense. It is important to note, however, that neither the wounds to the wrists or feet caused substantial bleeding, since no major arteries were ruptured. The executioner took care to ensure this, so that death would be slower and the suffering longer.

Now nailed to his cross, the real horror of crucifixion began. When the wrists were nailed to the crossbar, the elbows were intentionally left in a bent position so that the crucified man would hang with his arms above his head. The weight being taken on the nails in the wrists. Obviously this was unbearably painful, but it had another effect; it is very difficult to exhale in this position. In order to breathe out, and then take in fresh air, it was necessary to push the body up on the nailed feet. When the pain from the feet became unbearable, the victim would again slump down to hang by the arms. A terrible cycle of pain began; hanging by the arms, unable to breathe, pushing up on the feet to inhale quickly before again slumping down, and on and on.

This tortured activity became more and more difficult as Jesus back was scraped against the upright post, as muscle cramps set in because of the inadequate respiration, and as exhaustion grew more severe.

Jesus suffered in this manner for several hours before, with a final cry, he died.

#### **Cause of Death**

Many factors contributed to Jesus' death. A combination of shock and suffocation killed most victims of crucifixion, but in Jesus' case acute heart failure may have been the final trauma. This is suggested by this sudden death following a loud cry, after only a few hours, a quick death, it seems (Pilate was surprised to find Jesus already dead). A fatal cardiac arrhythmia, or perhaps cardiac rupture, are likely candidates.

#### **The Spear wound**

Jesus was already dead as the executioners broke the legs of the criminals crucified alongside (in order to speed their deaths). Instead, we read that a soldier pierced Jesus' side with a spear. Where on his side? The word chosen by John suggests the ribs, and if the soldier intended to make Jesus' death certain, a wound to the heart was the obvious choice.

From the wound came a flow of 'blood and water' this is consistent with the spear blow to the heart (especially from the right side, the traditional site of the wound). Rupturing the pericardium (the sac surrounding the heart) released a flow of watery serum, followed by blood as the heart was pierced.

#### **Conclusion**

The detailed accounts given in the gospels combined with the historical evidence on crucifixion bring us to a firm conclusion; modern medical knowledge supports the claim of the scriptures that Jesus died on the cross.

# 11A. REPENTANCE (Part 1)

## Scriptures Used

1. Luke 13:5
2. Acts 26:20
3. Matthew 5:28-30
4. 2 Corinthians 7:10
5. Ephesians 4:22-32
8. Acts 2:38
9. Psalms 51:1-17

**Purpose:** After believing grace, the biblical response is to repent and be baptized for forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:36-38). The Greek word for repentance is 'metanoia', means "to change ones mind or purpose".

Q: How are you? How do feel about having confessed your sins? Is there anything more you want to confess?

C: Today we will do the repentance study. Do you know what the meaning of repentance is? It means, "to change ones mind or purpose". That is what you must do. It is not enough just to confess your sins, but it very important you "to change ones mind or purpose" (repent) of your sins. Many feel repentance is a feeling. They say repentance means you just truly feel bad about your sins. But Bible teaches more than just a feeling. That is what we will study out today about true repentance according to the Bible.

### 1) Luke 13:5

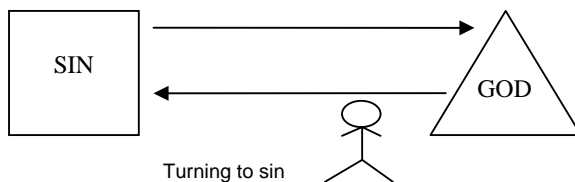
God gives us only 2 options: 1) Repent or 2) Perish

### 2) Acts 26:20

- A) Paul preached repentance wherever he went.
- B) True Repentance is not just to give up sin but one must turn back to GOD
- C) God and others will know one have repented by our deeds.[Change in words, thoughts and actions]

### REPENTANCE DIAGRAM:

Repentance = Turning away from sin & turning to God



### 3) Matthew 5:28-30

- A) We have to look at sin as sin. No small or big sin. Even lust is adultery.
- B) We have to "cut-off" our sins. You have to hate your sin only then you will change. Is there any sin in your life you still don't hate? WARNING: If you have any liking towards any sin still, you may give it up temporarily but will go back to it again!

### 4) 2 Corinthians 7:10

Generally we always feel bad about sins. Bible says we can have 2 different types of sorrow towards sin.

- 1) Godly sorrow is that you really feel bad for your sins and it brings true and lasting changes and

you never do it again. This leads to salvation.

- 2) Worldly sorrow is you feel bad for the sins but you don't change. You do the same sin again. This leads to death (hell)

### (CAUGHT WITHOUT A TICKET ILLUSTRATION or SPEEDING ILLUSTRATION)

### 5) Ephesians 4:22-32

Scripture specifically says we need to "put-off" old self with its desires and practices. It is not enough to put-off or stop our old sinful desires and practices. We need to "put-on" new self. In other words we need to replace our old bad habits with new right habits or attitudes. Replace bad thoughts by righteous thoughts [renewing our mind].

Eg: v.25 Put off falsehood or lies and replace it [by putting-on ] by speaking the truth.

V.28 Put off stealing[old practice] replace it by getting a job and by sharing with those in need.

V 29 Put off unwholesome talk and replace it with talk that will build and benefit others.

V 31 -32 Put off bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, and malice and replace it with [put on] kindness, compassion and forgiveness. This is how we can change.

Now what do I do after repentance?

### 6) Acts 2:38

C: First repent and then get baptized, only then your sins will be forgiven, are you ready for this?

### 7) Psalms 51:1-17

Read this Psalms as a prayer at the end of the study and encourage the seeker to be broken before God about his sins like David was about his sins. Let us pray.

## 11B. REPENTANCE (PART-2)

### Luke 13:5

God gives us only 2 options: 1) Repent or 2) Perish just like Heaven or Hell, you are in light or in the darkness. There is no gray area for God. If you don't repent you will perish! Which option do you like?

### What Repentance is not

1. **Not just feeling guilty** - Acts 24:25
  - Felix felt guilty but did not repent.
  - We feel guilty about our sin. This feeling comes before repentance, but is not repentance itself.
2. **Not just being sorry for your sin** - 2 Corinthians 7:10
  - Some people are sorry because of the consequences of their sin or because they have been caught.
  - Many are sorry not for what they have done wrong, but for the penalty they receive for being caught.
3. **Not just trying to be a good person** - Isaiah 64:6
  - Many people try in their own strength to become a better person and change their way of life.
  - Any self-effort has a root of self-righteousness in it, which does not acknowledge the need for God and of repentance from sin.
4. **Not becoming religious** - Luke 18:9-14
  - The Pharisees were extremely religious in behavior and in practice.
  - They fasted and prayed and attended many religious ceremonies and tithed; yet never repented.
5. **Not just knowing the truth** - James 2:19-20
  - Having intellectual head-knowledge of truth does not necessarily guarantee that truth has become a living reality in one's life.
  - Believing with the head and believing with the heart are different. [Rom 10:9-10]

### What true repentance is

3. Being sorry to God for your sins. True repentance is a sorrow not just toward one's self, or toward another person, but first and foremost it is true sorrow towards God. - Psalms 51:1-4, Psalms 38:8
2. Being truthful about your sins. - Psalms 32:5, 1 John 1:9, James 5:16
3. Renouncing your sin. - Proverbs 28:13
4. Hating sin. - Matthew 5:29-30
5. When possible, paying back to others what you owe. - Luke 19:8

### What Repentance involves

1. Turning from sin. - Galatians 5:19-21, Ephesians 5:5, Zechariah 1:4
2. Turning from the world. - 1 John 2:15, James 4:4
3. Turning from yourself. - 2 Corinthians 5:15, Luke 14:26
4. Turning to God. - Acts 20:21, Acts 26:20, Zechariah 1:3
5. Putting off old-self and putting on new self. - Ephesians 4:22-32, Colossians 3:5-14

### **Conclusion: Acts 2:38**

C: First repent and then get baptized, only then your sins will be forgiven, are you ready for this?

### USEFUL SCRIPTURES TO HELP PEOPLE REPENT SPECIFICALLY

These scriptures are to be used to deal with specific areas of repentance. Our goal is to make them

see how their specific sins have hurt others and hurt God. In this study and help them to see how their sin has affected their character and challenge them to make those character changes.

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. People who refuse to repent                 | - Romans 2:4                         |
| 2. People who love the world                   | - James 4:4.                         |
| 3. People who love money                       | - Luke 16: 13-15, Proverbs 15:27     |
| 4. Difficult to forgive                        | - Matthew 6:14-15.                   |
| 5. Abortion                                    | - Jeremiah 1:5; Psalms 139:13-16     |
| 6. Womanizing / Weak-willed women              | - 2 Timothy 3:6-7, Ephesians 5:15-17 |
| 7. People who are lazy/Who do not want to work | - 2 Thessalonians 3:10               |
| 8. Sexual abuse of children                    | - Mark 9:36, 42; Luke 17:1-2.        |
| 9. Homosexuality                               | - 1 Corinthians 6:9                  |
| 10. Self-righteousness/Looking down on others  | - Luke 18:9-14                       |
| 11. Pride                                      | - Philippians 2:3, Proverbs 13:10    |
| 12. Deep rooted selfishness                    | - 2 Timothy 3:1-5                    |
| 13. Deep rooted bitterness                     | - Hebrews 12:15, Colossians 3:5-8    |
| 14. Marriage Issues                            | - Colossians 3:18, Ephesians 5:22-31 |
| 15. Deceit                                     | - Proverbs 15:4                      |
| 16. Relationship with boy friend / girlfriend  | - Ephesians 5:3.                     |

## 11C. JESUS - A MAN OF CONVICTION

### Scriptures Used

1. Mark 1:35-39
2. Mark 3:20-2, Mark 3:31-35, Matthew 10:34-39
3. Mark 5:21-24.
4. Mark 11: 11, 15-18
5. Luke 18:9-14.

**Purpose:** Who are some of the most powerful, dynamic men who ever lived? Men like Caesar, Hitler, Gandhi, Churchill, and others. Jesus was a man who had many good qualities: compassion, kindness, concern for the poor, vision, purity, prayer, love for God. But perhaps his strongest quality was his conviction. He really believed in his mission and his Father. Jesus was not concerned about what men thought about him, because "he knew what was in a man" (John 2:25). As Paul wrote in Galatians 1:10, "If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ."

#### 1) Conviction about His Mission: Mark 1:35-39.

Very early in the morning Jesus prayed alone (v.35). He did this to get some privacy and pray powerfully. The brothers found him and said, "Everyone is looking for you." (v.37) Jesus response in verse 38 was amazing: "Let us go somewhere else... so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." He wanted the whole world to know God and be saved through his ministry. We are called to follow Jesus in Mark 1:14-20, 1 Peter 2:21—to walk in his steps. Our mission is his mission. Even if everyone wants us to do something else, we should have conviction about our mission.

#### 2) Conviction with Family: Mark 3:20-21.

Jesus' own family thought he was out of his mind. They wanted to take charge of him. Our own families may feel this way when we first follow Jesus. When this happens, we should realize that nothing strange is happening. It is normal for families to be divided by the teaching of Jesus.

**Mark 3:31-35.** They came to take him home. Jesus did not go with them—he had strong conviction that his brothers and sisters were his family. Our family needs to understand that though we love them and respect them, Jesus is first in our life, and that also means that being with his followers (the church) will take priority over family issues sometimes.

**Matthew 10:34-39** Jesus knew that households would be divided because of different opinions about him. In the end true unity is built on love, not on forcing others to accept our beliefs. It may take time for your family to understand your beliefs. Many disciples have had to wait for years before their families really understood the power of their faith. Often you must get married and have children of your own before your parents and extended family will see the huge difference that Jesus makes in our lives.

#### 3) Conviction against Criticism: Mark 5:21-24.

Jesus started to go with Jairus to heal his sick daughter. But then they were interrupted by a bleeding woman who Jesus helped (vv. 25-34).

**Mark 5:34-43.** In v.35 the men said to Jairus, "Give up. Your daughter is dead. Don't bother Jesus anymore." Jesus had an amazing response to this—he ignored them. Though the men laughed at Jesus in v.40, he still healed the girl. It doesn't matter what people say. What matters is what God thinks of us.

#### 4) Conviction about Sin: Mark 11: 11,15-18.

Here Jesus went into the temple (v.11) and looked around. There he saw that the temple had been turned into a marketplace. People were selling doves, cattle, etc. to be sacrificed. Jesus was not

inspired. He made a whip and drove everyone out! Jesus had strong conviction about sins. Mark 7:20-23 talks about how from the heart come many sins. Often we have conviction about the sins of others and are soft on ourselves and our close friends.

#### 5) Conviction about Lostness: Luke 18:9-14.

The Pharisee was religious. He prayed, fasted, gave to God 10% of his income. But he was proud of himself. He did not see his need for God. The tax collector, on the other hand, knew he was lost. He knew he needed help. We must keep our conviction about lostness. This starts with us. We must remember that we were once lost but Jesus found us. We were "dead in our transgressions and sins" (Ephesians 2:1). We were separate from Christ and lost (Ephesians 2:12).

**2 Peter 1: 5-9.** We should be growing in many areas of our lives. If we are not growing, we have lost our gratitude for our salvation (v.9). We must also remember that the world is lost. That is why Jesus came. People need Jesus.

#### Challenge:

Today we have seen how Jesus is truly a man of conviction. To be a Christian is not just to come to meetings or call yourself a Christian. It is to be a person who truly believes in something. It is to be part of God's movement to save people in our generation. Are you a person of conviction? This week, do something that tests your conviction.

- Kindly but firmly stand up to a family member or friend who opposes your faith.
- Invite people you normally are afraid of asking.
- Quit some sin or bad habit forever.
- **DO SOMETHING** purely out of conviction.

## 12. BAPTISM

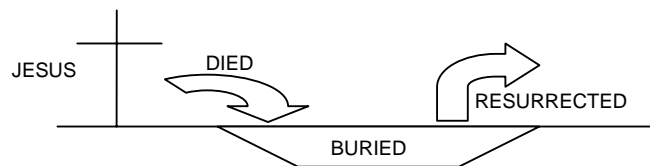
### Scriptures Used

1. Acts 2:36-41
2. John 3:3-5
3. Matthew 28:18-20
4. Romans 6:3-7
5. 1 Peter 3:20-21
6. Acts 8:26-39
7. Acts 16:13-15
8. Acts 22:1-16

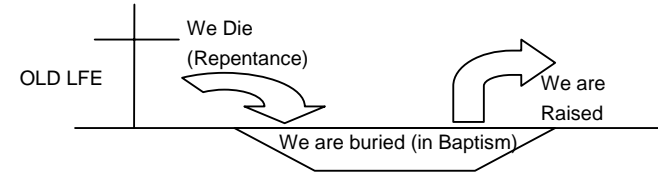
**Purpose:** After preaching about the cross, Peter calls his hearers to repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). This study helps establish the link between Christ's sacrifice and our forgiveness of sins by means of baptism.

- 1) **Acts 2:36-41** Peter preached that One must believe and accept that Jesus is both Lord and Christ. One is personally responsible for the crucifixion of Jesus.  
The message cut to the heart of the hearers and they asked "what shall we do?"  
Peter replied that first of all one must repent of their sins and secondly get baptized for the forgiveness of their sins and to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- 2) **John 3:3-5**  
Q: If we want to go to heaven, what must happen, according to Jesus? (We must be born again. We must be born of water and spirit)  
Q: When are we born of water and spirit? (At the time of baptism)
- 3) **Matthew 28: 18-20**  
Q: What kind of people should be baptized? (People who are old enough to be taught, understand and obey everything Jesus commanded (v.20) Implies not infants and small children!)  
C: Also we see baptism is a command of Jesus. We must obey His command.
- 4) **Romans 6:3-7**  
V.3, when we are baptized we are baptized into Jesus death.  
V.4 when we are baptized, we are buried with Christ.  
We are baptized (v.4) so that we may live a new life.  
When we are baptized our old self is crucified with Christ (v6)  
When our old self dies, what are we set free from? (v.7) Sin

### BAPTISM DIAGRAM



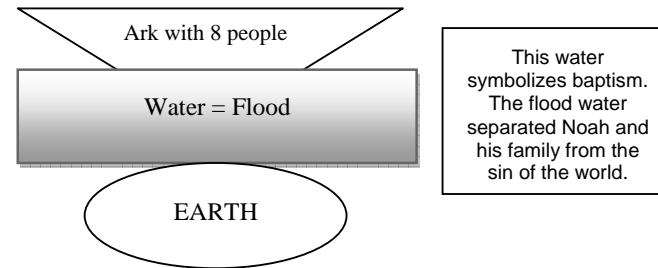
### In baptism, we share in his death, burial, and resurrection



- C: So we see that baptism is participation, by faith, in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. To become part of Christ we must get baptized.  
C: As we see in Eph 1:7, the blood of Jesus saves us. And Romans 6:3-4 show that in baptism, we come into contact with the blood by faith by being buried with Jesus.

### 5) 1 Peter 3:20-21

- Q: In the days of Noah, how many people were saved? (8)  
Eight people were saved through water — what does this mean?



### Gen 6:5 – The earth was full of sin

Just as the water made a separation between the sin on the earth and the eight in the ark, so baptism makes a separation between our sin and us. That is the reason that Peter says, "this water symbolizes baptism that saves us also." Floodwater symbolizes baptism [not vice versa]. The Bible never calls baptism symbolic.

- Q: According to V.21, what does baptism do? (It saves us)  
Now let us look as some examples of people who got baptized in the Bible.

### 6) Acts 8:26-35

- Q: What was the eunuch doing on the way home? (Reading the Bible)  
Q: Was he humble or a proud man? (Humble – he asked for help (V.30-31) Q: The eunuch was a good religious man. But he was not saved nor a true Christian. So they studied the Bible together in the chariot, just like we have been doing. Philip told him the good news about Jesus.  
Q: What is the good news about Jesus? (He came, helped the people, died for our sins, was raised again and so we too can be saved)

### Acts 8:36-39

- When they saw water, they both went down "into the water" and Philip baptized the eunuch (v.38). Baptism was by full immersion- that is what "baptize" means in the Greek.  
Q: Why did not the eunuch wait until they got back to Ethiopia? (He wanted to be forgiven)

immediately)

C: So again, as in Acts 2, we see urgency before baptism and joy afterwards.

**7) Acts 16: 13-15 (For Women)**

God opened her heart to respond to Paul's message.

Q: How did she respond to the message? (Immediate baptism) Q: Why do you think she did not wait? (She wanted salvation)

**8) Acts 22:1-16 (For Everyone)**

Q: What was Paul like, before he was a Christian? (A violent persecutor of the Church)

Q: What happened to him? (Jesus appeared to him)

Q: Did he believe in Jesus, once he spoke to him? (Yes)

Q: But was he saved yet? (No)

Q: Did he obey Jesus? (Yes in V.10-11 Paul went to Damascus)

Q: But was he saved yet? (No)

C: According to Acts 9:9-12, for three days Paul did not eat or drink anything, and he was praying.

Q: But was he saved yet"? (No. His sins had not been washed away)

Q: When did Paul get saved? (v.16) (When he was baptized)

Q: What is the purpose of baptism according to v.16? (To wash sins away)

Q: What is the purpose of baptism according to v.16? (To wash sins away)

Q: Did Ananias want Paul to wait? (No, v.16 says, "What are you waiting for?")

C: Once again we see urgency and joy as Paul was immediately baptized. (Acts 9:18)

Q: What are you waiting for? When will you be baptized?

**CONCLUSION:**

Q: What do you think you need to do?

Q: When do you want to get baptized?

Q: Why do you want to get baptized? (To be saved, to be forgiven and to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit)

**Additional Helpful Scriptures:**

**Harmony of the Scriptures on Salvation**

Scripture	God's Grace Salvation	Man's Works	Faith	Mode
Ephesians 2:8-9	For by grace you have been saved... it is the gift of God	And this is not your own doing... not a result of works, so that no one may boast	through faith	
Colossians 2:11-12	In him also you were circumcised ...by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ... in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.	with a circumcision made without hands,	in which you were also raised with him through faith	having been buried with him in baptism,
Titus 3:4-5	But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us ...but according to his own mercy	not because of works done by us in righteousness		by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit

Acts 2:38	in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit			Repent and be baptized every one of you
John 3:3 John 3:5	He cannot see the kingdom of God He cannot enter the kingdom of God			unless one is born from above unless one is born of water and Spirit

## 13. THE HOLY SPIRIT

### Scriptures Used

1. Acts 2:36-38.
2. John 16:7-8
3. Ephesians 1:13-14.
4. Ephesians 3:16
5. Romans 8:9, 15-16
6. Romans 8:26-27
7. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 A
8. 2 Corinthians 3: 17-18 9.
9. Galatians 5:16-18, 22-23.

**Purpose:** Encourage the seeker that he/she will indeed receive the gift of God's Holy Spirit at baptism. After baptism, we are sustained by the help of the Spirit. He works powerfully in the life of every baptized disciple of Christ. You may want to combine this study with a study of the Church, as both help us hold fast to our confession to the end.

#### 1) Acts 2:36-38.

We receive the Holy Spirit at the time of baptism. The Holy Spirit is a gift.

#### 2) John 16:7-8

Jesus promised to send the Counselor [the Holy Spirit - John 14:26]. [Greek `Paracletos' translated as — Counselor, Helper, Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor or Encourager]

The Spirit is sent to convict or convince the world [includes us] with regard to sin, righteousness, and judgment.

#### 3) Ephesians 1:13-14.

When we become a Christian we are marked with a seal of Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit is a deposit guaranteeing our salvation.

#### 4) Ephesians 3:16

We are strengthened with power through the Holy Spirit.

#### 5) Romans 8:9, 15-16

If you do not have the Holy Spirit you do not belong to Christ. [v 9]

We have received a Spirit of sonship.[v 15-16] The Spirit testifies that we are God's children.

#### 6) Romans 8:26-27

The Spirit helps us in our weakness. [Helper] The Spirit himself intercedes for us. [Intercessor]

#### 7) 1 Corinthians 6:19-20.

Your body is a temple [sanctuary] of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is in you. So we are to honor God with our body.

#### 8) 2 Corinthians 3:17-18

The Spirit helps us to be transformed into the likeness of Jesus. [an ongoing "life-long "process]. In other words, as the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him and reflect his glory even more.

#### 9) Galatians 5:16-18,22-23

We are to live [walk] by the Spirit [v 16]

We are to be led [guided, directed] by the Spirit [v 18]

If we are led by the Spirit and not by our sinful nature then we can bear the fruit of the Spirit which is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.[v 22-23]

Your new life in the Spirit should bear it.

#### Conclusion:

We need to rely on the Holy Spirit that is deposited in us by God at baptism and seek his fruit.

#### Other Useful Scriptures

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Matthew 12:31        | - Blasphemy [speaking evil] against Spirit is an unforgivable sin.  |
| Acts 1:8             | - Apostles received power from Holy Spirit to be witnesses to the ends of the earth.                              |
| Acts 5:3             | - Holy Spirit can be lied to as done by Ananias.  |
| Acts 7:51            | - We can resist the Holy Spirit.  |
| 1 Corinthians 12:13  | - All are baptized by one Spirit  |
| Ephesians 4:30       | - Do not grieve the Holy Spirit   |
| Ephesians 5:18       | - Be filled with the Spirit   |
| Ephesians 6:17-18    | - Word is the sword of the Spirit   |
| 1 Thessalonians 5:19 | - Do not put out the Spirit's fire  |
| 2 Thessalonians 2:13 | - God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit                                       |
| Hebrews 10:29        | - We can insult the Spirit.   |
| 2 Peter 1:20-21      | - Prophecy of Scripture came about when men spoke from God as they were carried along [moved] by the Holy Spirit. |

## 14A. THE CHURCH

### Scriptures Used

1. Colossians 1:18
2. 1 Corinthians 12:12-26
3. 1 Timothy 3:15
4. Ephesians 2:19-22\*
5. Ephesians 4:11-16\*
6. Hebrews 13:17\*
7. Hebrews 3:12-13
8. Hebrews 10:24-25
9. Acts 2:42
10. Colossians 3:12-17\*
11. Matthew 18:15-17\*

\* Optional Scriptures

**Purpose:** Encourage the seeker that he/she will not be left to fend for one's self after baptism. Instead, Jesus baptizes us into the body, the church (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12:12-13) to be joined by a team of like-minded disciples in our devotion to Him. These brothers and sisters are meant to be a continual source of encouragement in our walk with Christ. The Greek word for church is "ekklesia" which is a compound word meaning a calling out, an assembly.

- 1) **Colossians 1:18**
  - a) The church is the body of Christ.
  - b) The body needs the head. Christ is the head of the church. (**MULTI-BODIED MAN ILLUSTRATION**)
  - c) The church is essential. One cannot say "yes" to Jesus and then say "no" to his church.
- 2) **1 Corinthians 12:12-26**
  - a) All who have been saved are members of Christ's body
  - b) We are baptized by one Spirit into his body.
  - c) Every member of the body is important and needed. (**FOOT ILLUSTRATION**)
  - d) There should be no division in the body of Christ.
  - e) We should have mutual concern for one another.
- 3) **1 Timothy 3:15**
  - a) The church is God's household [family].
  - b) Church is to be the pillar and foundation [base] of truth.
- 4) **Ephesians 2:19-22**
  - a) God's church is built on Christ as the cornerstone. (**FAMILY DINNER ILLUSTRATION**)
  - b) Apostles and Prophets are the foundation.
  - c) The Bible is the church's authority on matters of doctrine.
- 5) **Ephesians 4:11-16**
  - a) God provides his church with various ministers to prepare his people for works of service.
  - b) God's desire is for his church to become mature and unified in the faith.
  - c) His church grows when "each part does its work."
  - d) How can God use you to build up his church?
- 6) **Hebrews 13:17**
  - a) Church has appointed Leaders and one must submit to their authority.

- 7) **Hebrews 3:12-13**
  - a) We are to see to it that our brothers are helped to stay spiritual. (**COAL ILLUSTRATION**)
  - b) For that we are to encourage one another Daily.
- 8) **Hebrews 10:24-25**
  - a) We are to think about how to "spur" one another on in Christ. [Spur is also translated stimulate, provoke, stir up]
  - b) We are to be devoted to the habit of meeting together (Acts 2:42).
  - c) We are to encourage one another.
- 9) **Acts 2:42**
  - a) The early church devoted [continued steadfastly] to the apostles teachings, fellowship, breaking of bread and to prayer. We need to imitate their devotion.
- 10) **Colossians 3:12-17**
  - a) These qualities should characterize our relationships in God's church: Compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.
  - b) Bear with each other and forgive any grievances.
  - c) Be thankful.
  - d) Admonish and teach one another.
- 11) **Matthew 18:15-17**
  - a) Jesus teaches how Christians are to resolve conflicts in the church.

### Conclusion:

- Do you understand the plan of God for you to be part of His church?
- Do you understand what it means for you to be part of this church?
- In which way can you fulfill your responsibility as a member of God's church?
- How important do you see it is to attend church meetings?

## 14B. THE COMING OF THE KINGDOM

**Purpose:** Produce faith in the continuity of the Word. Kingdom is the church. Importance of the church in the eternal plan of God

### 1) OLD TESTAMENT PREDICTIONS OF THE KINGDOM

(The height of Israel's glory was under the kingship of David approx. 1000 B. C)

#### A. Isaiah 2:1-4 (750 B.C.)

1. Last days, 2. All nations, 3. Jerusalem

#### B. Daniel 2:44, 7:18 (550 B.C.)

1. Endure forever, 2. Possess forever

### 2) NEW TESTAMENT PREDICTIONS OF THE KINGDOM

#### A. John the Baptist (25 A. D.)

Kingdom is near (Matthew 3:1-6)

#### B. Jesus (30 A.D.)

1. Kingdom is near (Matthew 4:17)
2. Kingdom will come in the lifetime of some of the disciples (Mark 9: 1)
3. Kingdom will come with power (Mark 9: 1)
4. Kingdom entered by new birth (John 3:1-7)
5. Kingdom is within you (Luke 17:20-21)
6. Peter has the keys (Matthew 16:13-19). Church and the Kingdom are the same and will be built on the truth that Jesus is the Christ (1 Corinthians 3:11)
7. Joseph of Arimathea was still waiting for the Kingdom when Jesus died (Luke 23:50-51)
8. Repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached first in Jerusalem to all nations (Luke 24:44-49)

### 3) FULFILLMENT OF THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT PREDICTIONS (Acts 1-2)

Issue	Predictions	Fulfillment Of the Predictions
A. Last days	Isaiah 2:2	Acts 2:17
B. All nations	Isaiah 2:2, Luke 24:47	Acts 2:5
C. Jerusalem	Isaiah 2:3, Luke 24:44-49	Acts 2:5
D. Eternal Kingdom	Daniel 2:44, 7:18	Acts 2:37-42
E. Date of coming approximately 33 A.D.	1. Old Testament Prophecy 2. John the Baptist -'Is near' (Matthew 3:1-2) 3. Jesus -"Is near"(Matthew 4:17)	Acts 1-2

F. Lifetime	Mark 9:1, 'Some'- Judas died (Acts 1: 18-19)	Acts 2:14
G. Power	Mark 9:1	Acts 1:8, Acts 2:1-4
H. New Birth	Water and Spirit (John 3:1-7)	Acts 2:38
I. Kingdom within	Luke 17:20-21	Acts 2:37
J. Peter with the Keys	Matthew 16:19	Acts 2:14, 38
K. Repentance and Forgiveness of sin	Luke 24:44-49	Acts 2:38

#### Conclusion:

- The Church is the Kingdom of God on earth established in approx.33A.D.
- Acts 2:42 as citizens of the Kingdom and members of the Body (The Church), we must be devoted to: 1. Doctrine, 2. Fellowship, 3. Breaking of Bread, 4. Prayers
- Matthew 6:33 we must seek His Kingdom first. Ask them to commit themselves to the Services and Bible Talks.

## 15. THE GREAT COMMISSION

### Scriptures Used

1. Matthew 5:14-16
2. Luke 19:10
3. 1 Timothy 1:15-16
4. 1 Tim 2:3-4
5. 2 Peter 3:8-9
6. Mark 1:14-18
7. Matthew 28:18-20
8. Romans 10:12-15
9. Acts 8:4
10. Acts 11:19-21

**Purpose:** To teach Christians the importance of making Jesus' mission to seek and save the lost as their mission. To heed to the call to go and make disciples of all nations.

#### 1) Matthew 5:14-16

Jesus taught his disciples that they are to be the light of the world. He challenged them to never extinguish or hide that light, but rather reveal that light to all men. Bringing Christ to the world by your changed life will bring praise to God.

**Purpose: Why is it important for you to share Christ?**

#### 2) Luke 19:10

Jesus came to seek and save the lost. Jesus' purpose was to bring salvation to the lost (world)

#### 3) 1 Timothy 1:15-16

Jesus came to this world to save sinners.. Remember; you are the example to the world that God can save anyone. If God can save you, he can save anyone!

#### 4) 1 Timothy 2:3-4

God wants all men to be saved and come to knowledge of the truth.

#### 5) 2 Peter 3:8-9

God wants all men to come to repentance. God's patience gives men the opportunity to repent. God delays judgment so men can repent

**Plan: How do we fit into God's plan?**

#### 6) Mark 1:14-18

From the start of Jesus ministry he calls his followers to fish for men. "Come follow me ... I will make you fishers of men". Jesus took his purpose and gave it to them. Q. Their response? Immediately.

#### 7) Matthew 28:18-20

Jesus commanded his followers to be active by making disciples of all nations. "Obey everything" implies teaching followers to even obey this Great commission. Jesus had a plan to multiply. It starts with you! Act: Are we ready to go?

#### 8) Romans 10:12-15

It says that all who calls on the name of Jesus will be saved. But how can people be saved without believing? How can they believe without hearing? How can people hear without someone preaching? How can someone preach without being sent to preach? Are you willing to be sent to preach? Are you willing to be the one having the beautiful feet who takes the goods news to people?

#### 9) Acts 8:4

Persecuted Christians preached the word wherever they went, voluntarily. They were probably ordinary Christians and not prominent leaders of the church. What would you want to do? (**CANCER CURE ILLUSTRATION**)

#### 10) Acts 11:19-21

Men who were scattered through persecution traveled very far to other cities to tell people the good news about Jesus. The Lord's hand was with them and many people believed. What would you do? Have a plan to tell people the Good News of Jesus.

#### Conclusion:

- As a Christian we need to have Jesus' Great commission on our heart.
- You were reached out to by someone and now you need to do likewise out of gratitude.
- We need to share our faith with as many people as possible - with our friends, our relatives, with our colleagues at work and school, with anyone we can find.
- Evangelism is the fruit of your salvation. When you are saved you want everyone else to be saved like you.
- Help and train the seeker how to share his faith with his family, friends or even strangers. Go out with him and help him to be a fisher of men.

## 16. COUNTING THE COST

### Scriptures Used

1. 2 Timothy 3:12, Mark 10:29-31
2. 1 John 1:8-10.
3. Hebrew 13:7, 17, 1 Corinthians 12:18
4. 2 Corinthians 6:14-18, 1 Corinthians 7:39, Malachi 2:10-11, Ezra 10:2, 10-11.
5. John 13:34-35, James 4:4
6. Psalms 5:1-3
7. Hebrew 10:24-25
8. Mark 1:19, Matthew 28:18-20, Luke 19:10
9. Malachi 3:8- 10

**Purpose:** To prevent Christians from failing away. So we need some areas to focus on.

Q: Why do you want to become a Christian? When do you want to become a Christian?

Q: How does someone become a Christian? What does repentance mean? Have you repented? When?

Q: Why do we need to be baptized? What is the meaning of baptism? What if someone is baptized without repentance, are they a Christian?

Why not? What if someone repents, but is not baptized, are they a Christian? Why not? Are there any other ways to become a Christian (like infant baptism, confirmation, laying on hands, pray Jesus into your heart)? Who do you know who is a Christian outside of our church? Your Family, friends, religious people or old church?

Change! Sincere people are not Christians just because they sort of love God they have to obey.

**Luke 14: 28-30.** Jesus encourages us to think/plan before we start Christian life.

**Hebrew 2:1.** It is possible to fall-away. This decision is for all your life. Church is the body of Jesus. If you leave church, you leave God.

Q: What will you do if others fail away?

Q: What will you do to prevent yourself from failing away? Here are some areas to focus on:

**1) Do Not Fear Persecution:** 2 Timothy 3:12, Mark 10:29-31

Q: What will you do when you are persecuted? (Give them examples of others who have been persecuted.)

Q: Have you given up all your old idols, bad hobbies etc.? Why are they wrong to do? How is your family reacting to your conversion? What if they become more negative in the future? What if they beat you, lock you in, or have a big family meeting?

Q: How is your home life going? Have you been helping your family around the house?

**2) Openness & Confession:** 1 John 1:8-10.

Being open and confessing sin is so important. None of us is perfect. As we follow Jesus faithfully, he continually forgives our sins. But we must be open and confess.

Q: What are the main sins you have struggled with?

Q: What will you do to avoid them in the future? (Always remember Jesus sacrifice for us on the cross...)

**3) Never Be Proud (Humility):** Hebrew 13:7, 17, 1 Corinthians 12:18

It is so important to be humble and take advice. To be humble when corrected, even on personal issues.

**4) Only Marry a Christian:** 2 Corinthians 6:14-18, 1 Corinthians 7:39, Malachi 2:10-11, Ezra10:2, 10-11.

Q: As Christians, we must only marry Christians. Why is this? What will you do if your family puts pressure on you to marry someone outside the church? Have you fully broken up with your boyfriend/girlfriend? What if he/she comes back? How do you feel towards him/her?

Q: How is your husband/wife feeling towards you? Are you willing to be counseled in your relationship?

As Christians, we get to know each other through dating. This will help you to find a brother/sister to marry someday. We do not date alone. We always take advice.

**5) Take Relationship Seriously (Friendship):** John 13:34-35, James 4:4

Relationships with brothers/sisters need to be excellent; Initiate with them! (For brothers, don't go chasing after the sisters!)

**6) Quiet Times:** Psalms 5:1-3.

Q: How have you been doing in your Bible study/prayer? (Get a specific answer.)

**7) Understanding the Commitment (Meetings/Take Advice):** Hebrew 10:24-25

Q: Are you ready to come to EVERY meeting of the church? Should we attend other churches? Why not? Can we move to a city where there is no church? Are you planning to go out of town? How long?

As Christians, we should not go out of town for very long, because we can grow weak and fall away. Many in fact have fallen away for this reason.

**8) Inviting others is Our Purpose (Evangelism):** Mark 1:19, Matthew 28:18-20, Luke 19:10

Q: What is our purpose as Christians? Make disciples. How does this keep us strong?

**9) Ten Percent Giving (Contribution):** Malachi 3:8- 10

C: As a Christian we must do well at work. We must show up every day, work hard, not be late and cooperate with others. If we have exams coming up, we must study. We must help at home.

Q: How are you doing at work? Do they make you lie? How are your studies going? Are you working hard? Are you ready to give to the church? We give 10% of our take-home pay, because that's the example in the Bible.

**Conclusion:**

- I want to challenge you to be the best Christian you can possibly be. These 9 points spell "DO NOT QUIT".
- This is a decision for life.
- I don't want you in two months or one year to be missing meetings, back involved in sin.
- If you have any doubt or hesitation about your decision, we can wait until you are ready.

## Illustrations

### GOD

Acts 17:24-30

#### WATCH ILLUSTRATION:

Suppose you were walking in a forest, and you found a watch. What would you assume about that watch? (Someone must have lost it.) Exactly. That watch was made by someone, and it belonged to someone. It didn't simply materialize out of the dirt! Nor did we. We are complicated, amazing beings made by a higher Intelligence - God.

### Jesus is God

John 14:6

#### ELEPHANT ILLUSTRATION:

Four men are in a forest, three are blind. They are asked to describe an elephant. The first blind man grabs the elephant's ear. "An elephant is like a leaf" he says. The next grabs his tail. "No, no. An elephant is like a vine," he insists. Finally another comes and grabs his leg. "I know an elephant is like a tree trunk," he says. But only the man who sees really knows what the elephant is like. In the same way, other religions do have some truth, but only in Christianity do we get the complete truth.

### Jesus Teachings

John 3:16-18

#### JUDGE ILLUSTRATION:

There was a judge who had a son named Jesse. They lived happily together. One day the judge tried an orphan named Thomas. He was guilty of many crimes, but the judge agreed to adopt Thomas instead of sending him to prison. The years passed, and Jesse and his dad loved Thomas like their own family. One day the Judge went out of town. Thomas borrowed Jesse's car and cricket bat and said, "I'm going out." But he met his friends and they committed a burglary. There they smashed an elderly woman on the head and killed her. Thomas returned. Soon the police come to the house. They asked Jesse: "Is this your car? Is this your cricket bat?" He said, "YES." And they arrested him for murder. Thomas said nothing. Jesse said nothing. The judge returned to try the case, but Jesse said nothing. The judge knew Jesse was innocent, but Jesse kept silent. He was convicted, and sentenced to die. They brought him to the firing squad. Thomas and his father came. As they were about to shoot, Jesse said, "I forgive you, love you. Goodbye." Then he was shot dead. That is what Jesus did for you and me, when he died on the cross.

#### MINER ILLUSTRATION:

One day a bus driver was taking a group of workers from his home town to work. He was having some problems with the bus's brakes, so he asked one of the workers to take the bus in to be repaired that day. That night he was driving the workers home as usual, through the mountain roads. There was a lot of ice on the roads, and suddenly the driver saw a little boy playing in the middle of the road. He tried to stop the bus, but he couldn't. He shouted to the men "Did you fix the brakes?" One man answered, "I forgot!" The driver had to make a decision. He couldn't stop. If he tried to avoid the boy, he'd go off the road and the miners would surely die. Everyone was wondering what he would do. Finally, at the last minute he looked at the boy, and he ran him over. Only later did the miners discover that the boy was his own son, whom he sacrificed for them. That is what God did for us through Jesus. It is our fault that we've got into sin and trouble, but God was willing to allow his own son to die to save us.

### The Word

2 Timothy 3:16-17

#### RESTAURANT ILLUSTRATION:

Q: What is your favorite restaurant? When you go there, you can decide what to get. "Oh, yes, a hamburger. But no french fries. Lots of ketchup." Some people try to do that with the Bible. "Oh, yes, love I'll have some of that. But evangelism no thank you. Joy YES! Prayer just a little for me." But we CANNOT

do that! We can't pick and choose what to follow In the Bible. It is all or nothing.

V17

#### MATHS ILLUSTRATION:

Suppose there was a maths class, and the teacher said, "what is 2+2? One child raised his hand and said. "6. I read It In a magazine." Another said, "No it is 5. My mother told me." Then another said, "it is 3!". And all his friends joined in and they kept shouting, "3! 3!! 3!!! ". Finally one child raised her hand and said, "4. I looked in the maths book." How many of them were right? In the same way, there is only one truth. People may follow what they read, what their families say, or what their friends say, but that doesn't make them right. There is only one truth, and it is our duty to seek and find it.

Hebrew 4:12-13

#### DOCTOR ILLUSTRATION:

Suppose a man came to you with a sword what would you do? (Either run or defend yourself.) That is exactly how some people react when confronted with the Bible. Yet what if you went to a doctor, and he told you that you had a tumor in your leg, and the only way to deal with it was to be cut open with a scalpel and be operated on? Would you undergo the operation? (Of course.) In the same way, don't be afraid of the Bible.

#### EXAM ILLUSTRATION:

Suppose you were taking a course and at the beginning of the class the Professor told you that you had to learn the material in a small book by the end or the term. Then suppose it was time for the exam and you raised your hand and told the Professor that you hadn't read the book. Would he pass you? (Of course not.) In the same way, judgment day God will not save you if you've never read and obeyed the Bible.

V13

#### TV ILLUSTRATION:

Suppose there was a TV screen on your shoulder that showed your every thought to everyone who walked by. Would that change the way you think?

John 8:31-32

#### LAMPPOST ILLUSTRATION:

A drunk man walks out drunk after a wedding. He sees a lamppost. Instead of using it for light, he leans against it to support himself. That is what some people do with the Bible instead of following it; they try to use it to support their own lifestyle.

### Jesus is LORD

Acts 11:25-26

#### NICKNAME ILLUSTRATION:

What did your parents call you when you were very young? What do people call you now? Do you have any other names? Though you've had several names, you are still I person. We see that the word "Christian" is simply another name for a disciple. To be saved and go to heaven, we must be disciples.

Luke 9:23-26

#### KING OF THE WORLD ILLUSTRATION:

Suppose you continued working, and you were asked to be head of your company. You start making a lot of money. You get a great house and car. Then you get married to a great woman. You have children. You rise to the top of your profession. Magazines and television interview you frequently. You have it all. Soon, you have gained all you ever wanted; you are on top of the world. Only one problem at the end of your life you will go to hell. Would all the success be worth it?

John 13:34-35

#### WAR BUDDY ILLUSTRATION:

People who fought in a war will be friends years later because they risked their lives for each other. Also if you are in the trenches together, you won't fight over petty things while the bullets fly overhead.

**DEAD CHURCH FELLOWSHIP ILLUSTRATION:**

In most churches, the pastor gives the message, then afterwards each person says to the person next to him, "My name is .... Peace be with you". And then quickly leaves. No one talks to each other. Q: Is your church like that? Q: Is there a difference between your church and our church? Q: How many really close friends do you have? Who are they? How many of them are in your old church?

Mark 1:16-20

**NEWS PAPER JOB ADVERTISEMENT:**

If you are looking at the ads in the paper for jobs, are they very long? (No just a few lines). In the same way, Jesus gave his disciples the essence of what it means to follow him.

**FOOTBALL FAN ILLUSTRATION:**

What does a football fan talk about? How does he spend his time? What does he think about? Does he know the top players? (YES!) So in the same way, if someone is a disciple of Jesus, he should spend his time and energy and talk on making disciples.

**Sin**

Romans 3:23

**SWIMMING ILLUSTRATION:**

Suppose you, me and brother John here were going to swim from Dover to the USA. John goes first. He swims 1 kilometer, and then he gets tired and drowns. Next you go and you go 5 kilometers and a shark eats you. Then I go and trip in the sand and bump my head and drown after 10 meters. Which of us made it to the USA? (None.) Did any of us get close? (Not really even though you went 5 km that is still 10,000 km short.) In the same way, all of us have sinned and fallen for short of God's expectations. We can't compare ourselves to others and say, 'I'm pretty good at least I don't murder people or commit adultery.' None of us is good in God's sight.

Romans 6:23

**TEN CORES TAKA GIFT ILLUSTRATION:**

Suppose I told you I'd give you a gift of 10 Cores Taka. If you come to my house, stood on your head and knocked on the door. After you followed my instructions, could you say you had "earned" the money? (No. it is still a gift) In the same way, God expects us to obey to get eternal life but it is a gift. You cannot earn it.

Galatians 5:19-21

**COCKROACH IN TEACUP UP ILLUSTRATION:**

Where is your favorite place to have a cup of tea or coffee? What if you were there and there was a cockroach floating in your tea? Would you drink it? What if the waiter took the cockroach out would you drink it? (NO.) In the same way, sin makes us impure and dirty to God.

**The Cross**

1 Peter 2:24

**FATHER/SON ILLUSTRATION:**

God the Father and his son Jesus were looking down at the world. They saw all the suffering, loneliness and pain. They saw all the people. They saw you and me. And Jesus said, "Father, how can we help them? I love them. What can I do?" God said, "Son, you don't understand they are not like us." But Jesus said, "Father, I'll do anything for them as long as you are with me." God said, "Son you don't understand. The only way to help them is if you go down to the earth yourself. You'll have to live like a man, eat like a man and get dirty and tired and sick like a man." Jesus said, "Father, I love them. I'll do anything, as long as you are with me." God said, "Son, you don't understand. The people will laugh at you and reject you. Your own family will think you are crazy. Your followers will desert you in the end, and you'll be all alone." But Jesus said, "Father, I'll do it, as long as you are with me." God said, "Son, you don't understand. The people will falsely accuse you. They'll beat you and spit on you and flog you. They will nail your bleeding, naked body to a cross, and you will die painfully, like a criminal." Jesus said, "Father, I love them. I'll do anything, as long as you are with me." But God said, "Son, you don't understand. As you hang on the

cross in agony, you will bear the sins of the world. You will feel their guilt, their shame, their pain. And their sins will separate you from me. In your greatest hour of need, I will NOT be with you." And Jesus said, "Father, now I understand and I'll go."

**Repentance**

2 Corinthians 7:10

**SPEEDING ILLUSTRATION:**

One day a man was driving his car down the road, going 70 miles per hour. A policeman stopped him and said, "You are speeding you are going 30 miles over the limit." He brought him to the police station and fined him. The man said, "I am very sorry. I won't do it again." As the man continued, do you think he would speed for the next hour? (Probably not.) But after some time, he started speeding again. What kind of sorrow was that? (WORLDLY SORROW)

**The Church**

Colossians 1:18

**MULTI-BODIED MAN ILLUSTRATION:**

Suppose suddenly a man walked into this room, and he had five heads. Would that be normal? What if another man came in, and he had one head but ten bodies? Could he survive? In the same way there is only 1 true church. All the denominations can't be right.

1 Corinthians 12:12-26

**FOOT ILLUSTRATION:**

Where do you work/study? How do you get there? Suppose one day it was time for work, and you went out the door. As you were walking along, you suddenly noticed your left foot was missing. You quickly limp back home, and ask, "where is my foot?" You go into your bedroom, and you see a lump under your bed covers. You lift up the covers, and there is your foot reading a magazine and smoking a cigarette. You look at your foot and say, "What are you doing there in bed? We have work to do? I need you! Come on, let's go." But your foot says, "No, I have more important things to do." How long would your foot survive there in bed? (Not long.) How would you do without a foot? (Survive, but it would be painful.) In the same way we need the church to survive spiritually. We need to come to all the meetings. We can't be like the foot; laying in bed thinking we are OK. The church can survive without us, but we can't survive spiritually without the church.

Ephesians 2:19-22

**FAMILY DINNER ILLUSTRATION:**

Suppose one day several years ago, when your younger brother was ten, that he did not come home for dinner at the usual time of 9 PM. How would your family feel? (Very concerned.) Would they say, "OK most of us are here, let's eat and be happy!"? (Of course not, they would search for him.)

Hebrew 3:12-13

**COAL ILLUSTRATION:**

Imagine if there was a fire full of red-hot coals. Then one coal falls out of the fire. Q: What will happen to that coal? (It will die.) But what if we put it back into the fire? (It will burn again.) In the same way, when we miss church meetings we grow cold spiritually. We need other true Christians to keep us hot for God.

**The Great Commission**

Acts 8:4

**CANCER CURE ILLUSTRATION:**

Suppose someone told you about a place that gives away medicine that cures cancer. Would you tell others about this place? Which is worth more, a cure for cancer, or eternal life & a relationship with God?

**Other (Before it was used in the study)**

John 14:9

**ANT ILLUSTRATION: (Jesus is God)**

Suppose you had a colony of ants, and you wanted to keep them from fighting each other. If you yelled at them, "stop fighting!", would they understand? What if you typed them a letter? What if you grabbed one, squeezed him, and said, "stop it!?" But what if you could send in an ant who could communicate with them and convince them to stop fighting? Then they would change. That is what God did with Jesus he sent a man who could communicate with us to show us what God is like and what God wants from us. Jesus shows us exactly what God is like.

Ephesians 5:3-8

**CAT/DOG ILLUSTRATION: (Sin)**

Do you have any pets? What kind? Suppose there was a dog tied to a tree, and every day a cat come to bother the dog. The cat would at him, and scratch his face. The cat would draw a line in the dirt to remind himself if each day how close he could get to the dog without getting hurt. One day the cat left the dog, and the dog erased the line with his paw, took two steps back and redrew the line. The next day the cat came back and come right up the line laughing at the dog. The dog jumped up and ate the cat! In the same way, if we play with sin, Satan will redraw the line, capture and destroys us.

2 Corinthians 7:11

**ALARM CLOCK ILLUSTRATION: (Repentance)**

Do you have an alarm clock? In the morning, when your alarm clock rings, do you get up, wash, get dressed, and then shut off the alarm? (No. You shut it off first.) If you are in a building and the fire alarm rings, do you sit around drinking tea?

Mark 9:42-43

**SAUDI ARABIA ILLUSTRATION: (Repentance-2, See- Sexual abuse of children part)**

In Saudi Arabia, they cut off your hand if you steal. They stone you to death you rape someone. Q: How much crime do you think there is in Saudi Arabia? (Very little.) How much sin would there be in your life you had this radical attitude towards sin, that you would rather lose a hand than sin? Suppose I told you the next time you lie, a big guy will come and rip your tongue out. Would you lie? Or suppose the next time you lusted someone came and ripped out your eyes. Would you lust? (No way!)

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## Diagrams and Pictures