THE STORY OF THE BIBLE

BOOK 6 **GROUP 21**

Series 701	*THE STORY OF THE BIBLE*
Group 21	**THE GOSPELS - JESUS**
Subtopic	**The Birth and Early Life of Jesus**
En 701-201	An Angel Tells of the Birth of John the Baptist
En 701-202	The Birth of John – His Work
En 701-203	An Angel Tells of the Birth of Jesus
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AUTHOR: RONALD B. ROARK
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BOOK 6 CONTAINS
48 LESSONS IN 4 GROUPS
GROUPS 21-24

THE WAY OF LIFE
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— An Angel Tells of the Birth of John the Baptist 201

God had promised for a long, long time to send the Messiah. When the time was right, God sent His Son into the world. The New Testament begins in Matthew with the genealogy of Jesus of Nazareth, the Messiah, the Son of God. It is important to understand something of the Man – Jesus. Another important person was John the Baptist (John, the baptizer). Through his preaching, John introduced **JESUS** to the world as **the Son of God**. The people of Judea accepted John as a prophet of God. They listened when John told them that Jesus was the Messiah and the Son of God.

➢ **Announcement of the birth of John** – Lk 1:1-25 The circumstances of this announcement are very remarkable. Zacharias was a priest of God Most High. Elizabeth was his wife. They were both righteous before God and *blameless*. They were elderly and Elizabeth was barren. One day while Zacharias *was serving as priest before God* in the temple, *an angel of the Lord* (Gabriel) *appeared to him* and said,

Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and
***your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son**, and **you shall call his name John**.*

a) *You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth.*
b) *He will be great in the sight of the Lord …*
c) *He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.*
d) *And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God.*
e) *He will also go before Him* (the Lord) *in the spirit and power of Elijah …*
   (1) *… to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children …*
   (2) *… to turn … the disobedient to the wisdom of the just …*
   (3) *… to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.*

Zacharias did not believe the angel and asked for a sign. He was made mute as a sign that what the angel said was true. As he left the temple, the people perceived that Zacharias had seen a vision. Zacharias went to his house. Elizabeth became pregnant.

➢ **Mary visited Elizabeth** – Lk 1:39-45,56 Six months after Elizabeth conceived, Mary was told by an angel (Gabriel) that she would conceive by means of a miracle and that the child she would bear would be the Son of God—He would be called **JESUS** (see Lesson 701-203). Gabriel also said to Mary, *Elizabeth your relative has also conceived* and is in her sixth month of pregnancy.

For with God nothing will be impossible.

When Mary visited with her, Elizabeth's unborn child leaped for joy in her womb. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied about the birth of Jesus.

An Angel Tells of the Birth of John the Baptist

- Memory Verse – Discuss meaning. Be able to repeat from memory.

➢ ***For with God nothing will be impossible.*** Lk 1:37

1. What was the name of the angel who spoke with Zacharias?
2. What was the name of the angel who spoke with Mary?
3. What is significant about the same angel announcing the birth of John and Jesus?
4. John is called "John the Baptist". What does "the Baptist" mean?
5. Lk 1:13 - What was the announcement which the angel stated to Zacharias?
6. It is clear that Elizabeth was barren and that she was past the age for bearing children. How was it possible for Elizabeth to conceive and bear a son?
7. Discuss the things that the angel said would be true of John.
8. What does this statement mean: *he will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.*
9. Why do you think that Zacharias did not believe the angel?
10. How do we know that John was about 6 months older than Jesus?
11. Lk 1:39-45 - Did the Holy Spirit inspire Elizabeth to speak about Mary / Jesus? What did Elizabeth say?
12. Discuss the prophecy which was spoken by Mary.
13. How long did Mary remain with Elizabeth?

Suggestions - This lesson centers around **John the Baptist**. It is important to see that John was a prophet sent by God to prepare the people of God to receive their Messiah and Savior, Jesus Christ, the Son of God. John preached about the coming Messiah. When the time was right, John declared that Jesus was the Son of God. Since the people had repented and turned to God because of John's preaching, they listened when John said that the Holy Spirit told him how to recognize the Messiah. The people believed John and began to listen to Jesus. Many became Jesus' disciples. The teaching of Jesus prepared people to believe in Him and also to believe His apostles. Salvation would be available to obedient believers. This lesson introduces John and tells why he and his work would be so important. The next lesson discusses the work of John, especially in connection with the Eternal Purpose of God and the Work of Jesus to bring Salvation to all Mankind.

- Books of the Bible – Be able to repeat from memory the first 4 books of the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John (4 books gospels)
  [Each book tells about Jesus and His life on earth.]

— The Birth of John the Baptist – His Work 202

John the Baptist (John, the baptizer) was an important person in the story of Jesus. He was a prophet sent by God to go before the Lord and prepare the way for the Lord. He did this by preaching the gospel of the kingdom and exhorting people to repent and turn to the Lord. He also declared that the Holy Spirit sent him to do this work and told him what to look for to be able to identify **the Son of God** (the Messiah or Christ). The people of Judea accepted John as a prophet of God. They listened when he told them that Jesus was the Messiah and the Son of God.

And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God. Jn 1:34

➢ **Announcement of the birth of John** – Lk 1:1-25 The angel Gabriel announced the birth of John to his father Zacharias, a priest of God Most High. He described the person John, and his work. An important part of John's work was to introduce the person **JESUS** to the world.

➢ **The birth of John** – Lk 1:57-66 When the angel told Zacharias that John would be born, he did not believe and asked for a sign: he was unable to speak until these things occurred. John was born. Friends / relatives would have called him Zacharias. Elizabeth said, ***He shall be called John.*** Zacharias asked for a writing tablet and wrote, ***His name is John.*** Zacharias' mouth was opened; he spoke, praising God. He was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied.

➢ **The Prophecy of Zacharias** – Lk 1:67-79 One of the most meaningful prophecies of the Bible was spoken by Zacharias about God, the Son of God, the people of God and John. The reality of God and His greatness is clearly seen.

a) Praise of God for what He has done: ***He has visited and redeemed His people.***
   (1) **Visit** – to go, see, inspect, and provide what is needed.
   (2) **Redeem** – to buy back (it belonged to me, then to another: I bought it back).
   (3) **Raise up** – indicates to elevate to a position of power or authority.
      (a) This has reference to that which Jesus Christ would accomplish for Israel.
      (b) This was spoken in the past tense to indicate the certainty of it occurring.
b) God would do these things *that we should be saved from our enemies.*
c) God would do these things in order to fulfill His promise to Abraham.
d) God would do these things so that we ***might serve Him without fear …***
   (1) ***… in holiness and righteousness.***
   (2) ***… before Him all the days of our life.***
e) God had a purpose for Mankind. Mankind sinned. God had a plan for the salvation of Mankind -- accomplished by Jesus Christ. Gen 3; Eph 3; Gal 3

So the child grew and became strong in spirit, and was in the deserts… Lk 1:80

The Birth of John the Baptist – His Work

- Memory Verse – Discuss meaning. Be able to repeat from memory.

➢ ***For with God nothing will be impossible.*** Lk 1:37

➢ ***He has visited and redeemed His people.*** Lk 1:68

1. John is called "John the Baptist". What does "the Baptist" mean?
2. What was the work of John (one word)?
3. Jn 1:34 - To what fact did John testify?
4. Who told Zacharias that he and Elizabeth would have a son?
5. Who told Zacharias what to name his son?
6. Who told Zacharias what would be the character and work of his son?
7. Why do you think that Zacharias insisted that "His name is John."?
8. The angel said that many would rejoice at the birth of John. Did it happen?
9. Was Elizabeth filled with the Holy Spirit? Did she prophesy?
10. Was Zacharias filled with the Holy Spirit? Did he prophesy?
11. Was John filled with the Holy Spirit? How do you know?

The Prophecy of Zacharias
Lk 1:67-79

12. What does it mean that God has visited/redeemed His people?
13. From what enemies would God want to save us?
14. Through whom did God fulfill His promise to Abraham?
15. Describe the manner and duration of our service to God which is spoken of as why God would do these things. Discuss.

Suggestions - This lesson centers around the birth of John the Baptist and the work that he would do. It is important to see God's mission for John and its importance to the Jews and to all Mankind. The things said by the angel to Zacharias and the things prophesied by Zacharias provide a very concise picture of the purpose and plan of God for the Salvation of Mankind which would be accomplished by the Messiah and Savior, Jesus Christ, the Son of God. John's work was preaching to the people about the coming Messiah and to point to Jesus, the Son of God. The prophecy spoken by Zacharias is both beautiful and meaningful. When a person realizes that he is a sinner before God, and he thinks of the terrible punishment for sin, he begins to urgently seek a means of forgiveness and salvation. God's message of salvation is welcomed by everyone who considers his status before God.

- Books of the Bible – Be able to repeat from memory the first 5 books of the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts (4 books gospels, 1 book history)
  Acts tells the history for about 30 years: from the beginning of the church to its growth throughout the world – and about Christians – the effect of the gospel on people:

God and His relationship with Man and Man and His relationship with God.

God the Father / God the Holy Spirit / God the Son (Jesus) / the apostles / the prophets / and the people mentioned in the gospels and Acts (all of the people in the world) are the focus of The Story of the Bible.

— An Angel Tells of the Birth of Jesus 203

The New Testament begins in Matthew with the genealogy of Jesus of Nazareth, the Messiah, the Son of God. It is important to understand the Man – **JESUS**, and to understand that He is **the Son of God**. The people of Judea listened when John the Baptist told them that Jesus was the Messiah and the Son of God. Then they listened when Jesus preached the gospel of the kingdom of God.

➢ **Announcement of the birth of Jesus –** Lk 1:26-38 The circumstances of this announcement were remarkable. Mary was a virgin, an ordinary woman who was not married. An angel of the Lord (Gabriel) appeared to Mary and said, *Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!* a statement which troubled Mary. He said, *Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.*

He announced the birth of Jesus:

And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.

- Mary was an ordinary woman who was in favor with God.
- Mary was a virgin. She was betrothed to Joseph, a descendant of David (it seems that God chose Joseph as well as Mary). She did not understand how it would be possible for her to conceive, since she was an unmarried virgin. Gabriel answered,

The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.

- **A MIRACLE** – God caused the conception of Mary—not a man. Mt 1:18-25

➢ **Mary visited Elizabeth –** Lk 1:39-45,56 Six months after Elizabeth conceived, Mary was told by an angel (Gabriel) that she would conceive by means of a miracle and that the child she would bear would be **THE SON OF GOD** and that He would be called **JESUS**. The angel said,

For with God nothing will be impossible.

When Mary visited with her, Elizabeth's unborn child leaped for joy in her womb. *Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.* She said, *But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?* And, *Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord.* God inspired Elizabeth to confirm the message of the Angel and the virginity of Mary.

An Angel Tells of The Birth of Jesus

- Memory Verse – Discuss meaning. Be able to repeat from memory.

- ***For with God nothing will be impossible.*** Lk 1:37
- ***He has visited and redeemed His people.*** Lk 1:68
- ***And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus.*** Lk 1:31

1. Mary was a woman who was in favor with God. Name some of her characteristics of which God would approve.
2. When she was told that she would conceive and bear a son, Mary could not understand how this would be possible since she was a virgin and unmarried. How is it possible that this could happen?
3. The angel explained how the miracle of conception would occur. Describe it.
4. Lk 1:31 - What was the announcement which the angel stated to Mary?
5. Lk 1:32-33 - What did the angel say about Jesus?
6. Lk 1:38 - What was Mary's response to what the angel said?
7. Where did Mary go (to whose house)? How long was she there?
8. What did the Holy Spirit guide Elizabeth to say about Mary and Jesus?
9. Discuss the faith of Mary and her attitude of being willing to do whatever the Lord said. Should every person have this faith and this attitude of obedience?
10. Discuss the faith of Joseph and his attitude of being willing to do whatever the Lord said. Should every person have this faith and this attitude of obedience?
11. If I refuse to do what God says, will God's will be served? Will God be pleased?

Suggestions - This lesson focuses on Jesus, the Messiah and the Son of God. God had a purpose for Mankind. God had a plan for the Salvation of Mankind. All that God intended to accomplish for Mankind would be accomplished through Jesus, His Son. The birth of Jesus was important to begin the work which Jesus would do in order to accomplish God's purpose. But the purpose of God was not accomplished in the birth of Jesus–it was accomplished in His life, death, burial and resurrection [He was the atoning sacrifice for sin]. We are commanded to remember His death on the first day of every week. We are not commanded to remember His birth [as a memorial]. The birth of John was the beginning of the fulfillment of God's promise. The birth of Jesus was another important step toward the fulfillment of God's promise to redeem Mankind.

- Books of the Bible – Books of the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, Romans (4 books gospels, 1 book history, 1 book letter of Paul)

— The Birth of Jesus 204

The New Testament begins in Matthew with the genealogy of Jesus of Nazareth. John introduced **JESUS** to the world as **the Son of God**. The people of Judea listened and many came to believe that Jesus was the Messiah and the Son of God.

➢ **Announcement of the Birth of Jesus –** Lk 1:26-38 The angel Gabriel announced the birth of **JESUS** to Mary, a woman who was in favor with God, a virgin who was not married. Mary would conceive and bear a Son **JESUS**. He would be called the Son of the Highest (the Son of God).

➢ **The Birth of Jesus –** Lk 2:1-38 When the angel told Mary that Jesus would be born, Mary believed him. She said that she was willing to do whatever God asked her to do. After the angel spoke to Mary, she went to the house of Elizabeth. After three months, she returned to her own house. [Although it is not stated, it seems that God chose Joseph to serve as the earthly father of Jesus.] He learned that his wife-to-be was with child. He knew that he was not the father and assumed that Mary must have been with another man, which would have been a sinful act. Joseph determined to put her away secretly; but an angel appeared to Joseph to explain what was happening. The angel told Joseph that he should take Mary to live with as his wife, but that Mary should remain a virgin until after the child was born. Joseph and Mary did as the angel had said.

Joseph and Mary lived in Nazareth of Galilee. The Roman Emperor made a law that the whole world would be taxed. All Jews were required to go to their native town to be registered; so they went to Bethlehem of Judea (the city of David). They wanted to stay at the inn, but there was no room for them. They stayed in a stable (a house for animals). Jesus was born there. He was wrapped in swaddling clothes. His bed was a manger (a feeding trough for animals).

➢ **Angels Announce that Jesus Is Born –** Lk 2:8-20 Some shepherds were in the field at night to keep watch over their flock. An angel appeared to them, surrounded by the glory of the Lord. He announced the birth of Jesus, the Son of God, Lk 2:10-11,

Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord.

There was a great display in the heavens--a multitude of heavenly hosts praising God. The shepherds went to the stable and found Jesus. They ***returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.***

Joseph and Mary did everything according to the law: Jesus was circumcised the eighth day; a sacrifice was offered at the temple (40 days). Simeon saw Jesus at the temple and told about the SALVATION which God had promised to Judah. Anna, a prophetess, acknowledged Jesus, and said that the SALVATION OF GOD had come.

The Birth of Jesus

- Memory Verse – Discuss meaning. Be able to repeat from memory.

➢ ***For with God nothing will be impossible.*** Lk 1:37

➢ ***He has visited and redeemed His people.*** Lk 1:68

➢ ***And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus.*** Lk 1:31

➢ ***Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord.*** Lk 2:10-11

1. Who told Joseph about Mary being with child?
2. Why did Joseph take Mary as his wife when he did?
3. Why was it important for Mary to remain a virgin until after Jesus was born?
4. Where did Joseph and Mary live?
5. Why was it necessary for them to go to Bethlehem in Judea?
6. Why were Joseph and Mary in a stable when Jesus was born?
7. After Jesus was born, in what was He wrapped?
8. Where was He laid (His bed)?
9. Who announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds?
10. A multitude of angels appeared in the sky to praise God and His Son who was born of Mary. How did the angels describe the child who was born?
11. What did the shepherds do when they heard this announcement?

Suggestions - This lesson tells us about the birth of Jesus. In the announcements made by angels and the prophetic statements spoken by Zacharias, Elizabeth, Mary, Simeon and Anna, there is a lot of information about this person **JESUS**. Focus on who this person Jesus is. Consider the miracles, the prophetic statements and the statements of angels. WHAT AN AWESOME EVENT IN THE WORLD! **THE SON OF GOD HAS COME FROM HEAVEN TO LIVE ON EARTH AS A MAN!** God promised it! It was happening! All that God promised by the mouth of all of the prophets was beginning to take place! The **FAITH** and **HOPE** of many people concerning the Messiah and the kingdom of God and **SALVATION** was now beginning to be realized.

PRAISE BE TO GOD!

- Books of the Bible – Books of the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians (4 books gospels, 1 book history, 3 books--letters of Paul)

— The Wise Men Visit Jesus 205

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem. Mt 2:1

Jesus was at least 40 days old before the wise men visited Him. The shepherds were in the stable to worship Jesus; the wise men were not. They were from a country to the East, probably Chaldea. Abraham, Daniel and many others were associated with this region. These men apparently had knowledge of the God of Judah and His Word. They knew about the prophecies of the Messiah (including Numbers 24:17).

It was customary to honor the coronation of a king or the birth of a male who would become king. People in positions of honor would come to bring gifts and join in the celebration in honor of the person. We know that it was possible to know when and where the Messiah would be born (from Old Testament prophecies). The wise men, the chief priests and the scribes knew. People all over the world knew.

- **The wise men guided by a star –** Mt 2:2,7,9 ***We have seen His star in the East.*** What is this star all about? They followed a star. Herod wanted to know <u>when</u> the star appeared. Leaving Herod, the star showed them the house where Jesus was staying. It is clear that the wise men had knowledge of what was going to occur. When they saw the star, they believed that it was a sign from God that the King had been born.

- **The wise men visited Herod –** Mt 2:1-9 Herod was astonished when the wise men asked the question, ***Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?*** Herod was afraid since he was not a Jew nor was he really a king. If a person was born who might be the rightful **KING OF THE JEWS**, Herod's rule might be in jeopardy. The Romans permitted him to govern and to wear the title "king". They could take it away. Herod wanted the wise men to find the child *so that I may worship Him also*— in reality, Herod wanted to kill Jesus.

- **The Wise Men Visited Jesus –** Mt 2:9-12 The wise men learned that the King would be born in Bethlehem of Judea. As they went toward Bethlehem, the star reappeared to guide them to the house where Jesus was. The purpose for their long journey was to worship the newborn King. This they did. They brought gifts for the King: gold, frankincense and myrrh. There were 3 types of gifts, but the number of wise men is uncertain. A vision warned them against returning to see Herod.

- **Divine Warning - Herod killed male children –** Mt 2:13-23 An angel warned Joseph to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt — Herod wanted to kill Jesus. They went to Egypt. Two thousand male children were killed by Herod. This man called "Herod" died. An angel told Joseph to return to Israel. So they went to Judea; but they were warned about the new ruler and went to Galilee. They lived in <u>the city of Nazareth</u>.

The Wise Men Visit Jesus

- Memory Verse – Discuss meaning. Be able to repeat from memory.

- ***For with God nothing will be impossible.*** Lk 1:37
- ***He has visited and redeemed His people.*** Lk 1:68
- ***And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus.*** Lk 1:31
- ***Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord.*** Lk 2:10-11
- ***Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?*** Mt 2:2

Background Information – Luke 2:1-3 identifies the point in history when these events occurred. Evidence indicates that Jesus would have been at least 40 days old before the wise men visited. Shepherds were in the stable to worship Jesus; the wise men were not. These men were from a country to the East, probably Chaldea. This is the same region from which Abraham came. It is thought that Job lived in this region also. In the rule of Babylon, Daniel was associated with the Chaldeans (wise men, advisors to the king). A part of their knowledge was of the heavens – the sun, moon and stars. Men in this region would have been associated with the Jews for at least 70 years during the captivity of Judah. The Jews and the Chaldeans developed the Aramaic language. It is certain that there was communication of ideas. A knowledge of the God of Judah and the Word of God is also likely, especially among the wise men. It is likely also that they knew about the prophecies of the Messiah, including Balaam's prophecy in Numbers 24:17. [Matthew and part of the Book of Daniel were written in Aramaic.]

It was the custom to honor the coronation of a king or the birth of a male who would become king. The greater the king or the kingdom, the higher the position of the people of honor would be who would come to join in the celebration in honor of the person. This story gives some facts that relate to the birth of Jesus: it was possible to know from the Old Testament prophecies when and where the Messiah would be born. The wise men from the East knew about it. The chief priests and scribes knew. Secular History tells us that people all over the world knew about the king who would come.

1. Why did the wise men come to Jerusalem? Was God involved?
2. Why did they go to Herod?
3. Was Herod concerned about the question? Did the chief priests and scribes help?
4. What guided the wise men to where Jesus was? Discuss Balaam's prophecy.
5. What did the wise men do when they came into the house where Jesus was?

Suggestions - This wonderful story includes God, angels, visions, dreams, prophecy and its fulfillment, rulership, politics, religion, intrigue, sincere faith and hope in the promise of God, and honorable wise men. Everyone in the world should seek and find the Lord and worship Him in spirit and in truth.

- Books of the Bible – Books of the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians
  (4 books gospels, 1 book history, 7 books--letters of Paul)

— Jesus and His Father in Heaven 206

Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business? Lk 2:49

Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah

- Jesus was the Lord's Christ (Messiah) and the Savior of the world.
  Lk 2:26; 2:11,30-32; Mt 1:21
- The coming of the person referred to as the Messiah (Christ) was mentioned in Old Testament prophecy. (Example: Isa 7:14; Mt 1:23)

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son,
and shall call His name Immanuel.

- Examples: Dan 9:25-26; Isa 53:8-9; Lk 23:1-25

And after sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself.

- Jesus of Nazareth is the Son of God. Mt 27:57-60
- The Father sent His Son to earth. He is ***God with us.*** Mt 1:23
- He is **THE SON OF GOD**. Jn 1:34; 6:68-69; 11:27

The Coming of the Messiah

- Jesus was sent from heaven to earth to live as a man — He is both God and Man. He was sent to do the works of the Father. Heb 10:7; Jn 5:30,36-40
- He was sent to save the lost (those who are in sin, without God / hope). Lk 19:10
  - The sacrifice of Jesus Christ saves us from our sins. Jn 1:29
  - He was sent to die on the cross for the sins of Mankind. Heb 10:9-14

The Eternal Purpose of God was Accomplished in Jesus Christ

God's Purpose was that everyone should be a partaker of God's promise in Christ through the gospel. It is possible for everyone to be saved. Eph 3:1-12

God's Plan was foretold by several prophets of God. When it happened, anyone could know that it was just what God had said and have the basis to believe.

Summary - Jesus lived in heaven as God (Deity). He volunteered to submit to the person we know as God the Father. He volunteered to come to earth to live as a man. From the conception of Jesus in the womb of Mary until His final ascension into heaven (Acts 1), the Son of God obeyed His Father in heaven and He did the works of His Father which allows us to be saved and have the hope of eternal life in heaven. While He was on the earth, Jesus did His father's business. We are blessed with forgiveness of our sins, fellowship with God, a way of life, and hope of eternal life.

Jesus and His Father in Heaven

- Memory Verse – Discuss meaning. Be able to repeat from memory.

➢ ***For with God nothing will be impossible.*** Lk 1:37

➢ ***He has visited and redeemed His people.*** Lk 1:68

➢ ***And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus.*** Lk 1:31

➢ ***Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord.*** Lk 2:10-11

➢ ***Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?*** Mt 2:2

➢ ***Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?*** Lk 2:49

1. Jesus has a Heavenly Father. Explain who that is.
2. When He was 12 years old, Jesus took the initiative to do the work which His Father had sent Him to do. When He was questioned by His parents, what did He say?
3. Jesus is called **"Immanuel"**. What does this name mean?
4. Jesus is called **"Christ"** (or Messiah). What does this title mean?
5. Jesus is called **"the Son of God"**. What does this mean?
6. It was not uncommon for a Father to send his son to transact business on his behalf. In such a situation, the son had the same authority as the father who sent him. What business did Jesus' heavenly Father send Him to do? Did Jesus do the business His Heavenly Father sent Him to do?
7. Should people today ***"be about"*** the business of their Heavenly Father? Discuss.

Suggestions - This lesson provides some descriptions of the person **Jesus Christ**. It also describes briefly the work which Jesus came to do. These descriptions should be used to **relate the person Jesus to His Heavenly Father** and to our **Salvation** and **Hope**. There is only one Christ, one revelation of truth from God which should guide everyone today (the New Testament), one sacrifice for sins, and one Hope. All of these things were made possible by Jesus Christ according to the Eternal Purpose of God.

- Books of the Bible – Books of the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians (4 books gospels, 1 book history, 7 books--letters of Paul)

— Jesus and His Parents on Earth 207

The relationship of parents to children and children to parents is a basic principle of the Bible. Human beings are social creatures who have the need and the desire to communicate and to share in the various activities of life on earth. A man and a woman who are married to each other are told by God, *Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it* (Gen 1:28). God gives parents responsibilities with respect to conceiving, giving birth, loving, protecting, providing for, and training their children. The father has the greater responsibility in a family. Children have a responsibility toward their parents all the days of their lives. The character of this responsibility changes as a person progresses through infancy and adolescence into adulthood. As an infant or adolescent, I have a responsibility to love, honor, respect and obey my parents. When my parents are old and need assistance, I (along with my brothers and sisters) have a responsibility to provide for them. Eph 6:1-4

Jesus tends to the business of His heavenly Father

When Jesus is 12 years old, He goes to Jerusalem with His family. Their visit concluded, the family leaves Jerusalem; but Jesus stays behind. He is busy tending to His Father's business (the work which His Father in heaven sent Him to do). His parents are concerned when they are not able to find him (it was customary for members of one family to travel with members of another family or families so that boys of the same age could associate and girls of the same age likewise). Joseph and Mary allow Jesus this privilege; but as they try to check on Him, they are not able to find Him. They eventually find Jesus in Jerusalem—He is asking and answering questions with the religious teachers at the temple. He explains to His parents; but they do not understand. Mary remembers this occasion for the future.

Jesus shows respect for His parents on earth – He submits to them

We are able to learn several important things from this story. Jesus shows us that doing the will of God is the most important thing for my life. After this, it is very important that I love my parents and show the proper respect towards them. One way that I show respect and love toward my parents is by being obedient to them. I do not talk back. I am neither impudent nor discourteous. I try to do what my parents ask me to do. I try to please them in what I say and what I do. In the Bible story, Jesus submits to the will of His heavenly Father and to the will of His parents on earth.

Parents are a great blessing from God

The parents of Jesus fulfill their role: they protect, provide for and train Jesus. Joseph is a carpenter and Jesus becomes a carpenter. Parents are a great blessing from God. Jesus grows up/develops in 4 ways:

INTELLECTUALLY – PHYSICALLY – SPIRITUALLY – SOCIALLY

Jesus and His Parents on Earth

- Memory Verse – Discuss meaning. Be able to repeat from memory.

- ***For with God nothing will be impossible.*** Lk 1:37
- ***He has visited and redeemed His people.*** Lk 1:68
- ***Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?*** Lk 2:49
- ***Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart.*** Lk 2:51

1. The parents of Jesus on earth: father _____ mother _____.
2. Mary conceived and gave birth to Jesus. Joseph was willing to serve as the father of Jesus on earth. It took a lot of faith and willingness to do the will of God for Mary to become the mother of Jesus and for Joseph to serve as His father on earth. Think about the tremendous responsibility. Why was Mary willing to do this?
3. Why are parents willing to accept the responsibility of having children?
4. What is a primary function of fathers (Eph 6:1-4)?
5. What are some important responsibilities of mothers (Titus 2:4-5)?
6. What are children to do with respect to their parents (Eph 6:1-3)?
7. God commands children to obey their parents. Jesus was obedient to His parents on earth. If you are a child, should you obey your parents?
8. Discuss the 4 areas in which Jesus developed:
   - **Intellectually**
   - **Physically**
   - **Spiritually**
   - **Socially**

Suggestions - This lesson shows some important things about the responsibilities of parents toward their children and the responsibilities of children toward their parents. It shows what Jesus did with respect to His parents on earth and His heavenly Father. This should be used to relate the attitude and actions of Jesus to parents and children today. The areas in which Jesus developed are the same areas in which every child should grow and develop. It is not enough to have intelligence or knowledge. Without knowledge of God, I am ignorant. Without God in my life, I am incomplete. Without God as my God, I am denying the very nature of my existence. Without God, I am lost eternally.

- Books of the Bible – Books of the New Testament: Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians (7 books--letters of Paul)

— John Preaches the Gospel of the Kingdom 208

Preaching is proclaiming publicly a message for people to hear, often used with respect to a religious or spiritual message. John was a prophet who was sent by God to **prepare the way for the Lord**. As we look at the entire story of John, it is easy to see that John preached **the gospel of the kingdom** because this is the message that God gave him to proclaim. Why? Because it was time for **the king** (the Messiah or ***Christ***); it was time for **the spiritual kingdom** about which Daniel prophesied (Dan 2:44). Jesus was the Lord for whom John prepared the way. Jesus was the king. Jesus established the spiritual kingdom about which Daniel prophesied and John preached. The purpose of this preaching was to remind people about God and His plan and His purpose. A part of John's mission was ***to turn the hearts of the people to God.*** John was essentially telling people that God is NOW bringing to the world what He had promised through all of His prophets—**the kingdom** and **the king**.

John preaches the gospel of the kingdom

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, ***Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!*** Mt 3:2

John the Baptist was the only voice of God to announce the arrival of the king and the kingdom. To turn the hearts of the people to God, John preached the message that was given to him by the Holy Spirit (he was a prophet). The message essentially said, Remember God! Remember the law of God! Remember the promises of God! When you remember God and His law and you realize you have sinned, you need to repent! You need to turn back to God! You need to turn back to the way of God! The term that we use to mean that we turn away from something—**sin**—and that we turn to something—**God**—is the term **REPENT**! John did not apologize for preaching the truth. He did not apologize for calling people sinners. He spoke clearly when he told people to repent. If people do not have respect for God and the word of God, then Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of God, will mean little to them and will be of no value to them. People must understand the importance of the spiritual things which God has provided for us and act upon their conviction in a consistent way. Only then will **JESUS** have meaning and be of benefit to them individually.

Peter said that, ***by the mouth of all His prophets,*** God had foretold of these things that were now being fulfilled (Acts 3:18). The Jews knew about all of these prophecies. Many believed John's message and were baptized with the baptism of repentance. This was a baptism commanded by God. [The baptism later commanded by Jesus was the same form (immersion in water) but for a different purpose.] Some refused John's message and also refused baptism. These same people were responsible for the death of Jesus on the cross, while admitting that, ***he saved others***.

John Preaches the Gospel of the Kingdom

- Memory Verse – Discuss meaning. Be able to repeat from memory.

➢ ***For with God nothing will be impossible.*** Lk 1:37

➢ ***He has visited and redeemed His people.*** Luke 1:68

➢ ***Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*** Mt 3:2

➢ ***Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance.*** Mt 3:8

➢ ***Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!*** Jn 1:29

1. The prophet John was sent by God with what Mission?
2. What did John preach?
3. Why was John's preaching about the kingdom timely?
4. Who was the king of the kingdom?
5. Who was the Old Testament prophet who foretold this spiritual kingdom?
6. A part of John's mission was ***to turn the hearts of the people to God.*** What was the message which John preached (Mt 3:2)?
7. What does the word **REPENT** mean in this context? Explain.
8. If a person does not respect God and His word, will Jesus mean very much to him?
9. Why must a person understand the importance (value) of spiritual things?
10. **All of the prophets** foretold of Christ and His kingdom. Is this significant?

Suggestions - This lesson shows the power of the message of God: The Son of God, The Messiah, The Redeemer, The King of the Kingdom, The Lord, The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, etc. What a powerful message God gave to John. All of these things had been foretold hundreds of years before. Jesus of Nazareth is the only person who fulfilled these prophecies. Jesus is the only person in all of the past, present or future who could possibly fulfill these prophecies—

JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF GOD!

There is no other. He is the only-one-of-His-kind Son of God (John 3:16). All of the love, mercy and grace which God pours out on Mankind to save and to bless are provided for us through Jesus Christ. There is no other answer. There is no other remedy for sin. There is no other Savior.

- Books of the Bible – New Testament:
  1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 &2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon (6 books--letters of Paul)

— The Person Jesus 209

There is no one like Him! No one can compare to Him! **Jesus of Nazareth** is the only person who ever lived on earth who was completely God and completely Man!

The people who saw Jesus on the earth saw a man. Isaiah's description of His physical appearance is that He had no special characteristics which would cause people to like Him, follow Him or desire to associate with Him. Isa 53:2-3

God demonstrated that Jesus was Deity by miraculous signs: Jesus was born of a virgin (Mt 1:18-25); the angels appeared to the shepherds and declared that the Savior is born this day (Lk 2:8-20); a star appeared in the heavens to guide the wise men (Mt 2).

Jesus showed His qualities of Deity when He was 12 years old at the temple—He astonished teachers of the Law with His knowledge and discernment. Lk 2:41-50

Just before the death of Jesus, Thomas said to Him, ***Show us the Father***. Jesus replied, ***If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father.*** He simply indicated that I am just like my Heavenly Father. His power and authority, His goodness, etc., expressed the attributes of God.

- The person Jesus submitted to His earthly parents. Lk 2:51-52
- The person Jesus submitted to His heavenly Father. Heb 5:8
- The person Jesus lived a sinless life. 1 Pet 2:22
- Jesus taught people about the kingdom of heaven which would soon begin. He prepared people to enter the kingdom by means of His teaching. Mt 5, 6, 7, 13
- Jesus performed miracles which He called the works of My Father. Jn 5
- Jesus had a mission: **to seek and to save the lost** (sinners). Lk 19:10
- He came to earth to die as **the sacrifice for sin**. Jn 1:29
- Jesus had compassion for the poor; but He stated that, ***the poor you have with you always***. It was not His mission nor His goal to save people from poverty.
  Jesus had compassion for the sick; but it was not His goal to heal all sick people.
  The primary mission of Jesus was **the salvation of mankind**. He fulfilled all of the prophecies concerning this promise of God, including **His death, burial, resurrection** and **the establishment of His kingdom**. Lk 24:44-48
- **Jesus is the Christ the Son of the living God.** Acts 8:37
- The life of the person Jesus is a life that we should emulate. 1 Pet 2:21-25
- Jesus now dwells in heaven and reigns as king over His kingdom. Mk 16:19

NO GREATER PERSON HAS EVER LIVED ON THE EARTH!

The Person Jesus

- Memory Verse – Discuss meaning. Be able to repeat from memory.

➢ ***For with God nothing will be impossible.*** Lk 1:37

➢ ***For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.*** Lk 2:11

➢ ***And Jesus Increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.*** Lk 2:52

➢ ***Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.*** Acts 2:36

➢ ***Though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.*** Heb 5:8

➢ ***Jesus is the Christ the Son of the living God.*** Acts 8:37

1. The person Jesus was completely God and completely Man (human being). Explain why this is important.
2. Did the physical man have any special appearance or charisma that might attract people to him?
3. Discuss the Humanity aspect of Jesus of Nazareth.
4. The qualities of Deity which Jesus demonstrated were apparent to anyone who observed His manner of life (He did not sin while He lived on the earth), His preaching (***No man ever spoke like this man!***), His ability to answer wisely every question and solve every dilemma put to Him, and the miracles He performed. Discuss the Deity of Jesus.
5. Explain and discuss the items below:

The person that we know as Jesus of Nazareth was a unique person:

- **The only person who was ever born of a virgin.**
- **The only person who has ever lived on the earth who was completely God and completely Man.**
- **The only person who ever lived His entire life on the earth without committing even one sin.**
- **The only person who is the sacrifice for sin.**
- **The only person who is the Savior of the world (the souls of people).**

- Books of the Bible – New Testament: 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 &2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, 1 & 2 Peter (7 books--letters of Paul—3 general letters)

— What John Said about Jesus 210

John the Baptist was a prophet of God who was given a special mission — to ***prepare the way of the Lord*** (Matt 3:3). He did this through preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God. He preached that the kingdom is at hand (near, or coming soon). He preached that one is coming after me whose shoes I am not worthy to untie, referring to the king or the Messiah. John said:

❖ **He is far greater than I.** As an act of hospitality, it was a common practice to wash the feet of a guest in your house. Often, this was the task of a humble servant. The sandals that were worn usually had leather ties that must be untied to take off the sandals in order to wash the feet. John said that, by comparison with Jesus, he was more lowly than the most humble servant. Jesus was far greater than John. Jn 1:27

❖ ***Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!*** Jn 1:29 This wonderful exclamation was made to announce to the world that Jesus is the means by which forgiveness of sins could be obtained. Jesus came to the earth to be a sacrifice for sins — **the sins of everyone who lives on the earth.** After Adam and Eve sinned in the garden of Eden, there was an announcement of the coming of the Messiah, the Savior of the world (Gen 3:15). He would overcome Satan and sin and its consequences (death). Jesus came to die so that we might live! He suffered the death that we as sinners deserve to receive. He died for you and me!

❖ ***This is the Son of God.*** Jn 1:34 This is an emphatic statement of a man who was a prophet of God and, based on what had been revealed to him in a miraculous way, showed beyond any doubt that Jesus of Nazareth is the Son of God. In later lessons we will see the significance of this fact.

❖ ***He shall increase but I shall decrease.*** Jn 3:30 John had been preaching about six months when he made the statement about Jesus being the Son of God. John had many disciples or followers which seemed to be a measure of greatness. Jesus was only beginning to preach and gain disciples. Very soon, many disciples of John became disciples of Jesus instead. John said that my popularity and number of disciples will diminish, but the disciples of Jesus would become more numerous. John preached about God and sin and repentance to turn people back to God, to prepare the hearts of people to receive the Messiah. John was not preaching about himself or for himself; he was preaching about Jesus, the Son of God, and the coming of His kingdom.

— Jesus described John as the greatest person ever born among women (Mt 11:11). However, Jesus was greater than John. The reality is that Jesus of Nazareth is the greatest person who has ever lived on earth. What John the Baptist himself said was enough to establish this fact; but God gave testimony also (Jn 5:31-36; Acts 2:22). Read all of John chapter 1 and see the great declarations about Jesus, the Son of God.

What John Said about Jesus

- Memory Verse – Discuss meaning. Be able to repeat from memory.

- ***For with God nothing will be impossible.*** Lk 1:37
- ***Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!*** Jn 1:29
- ***And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.*** Jn 1:34
- ***He shall increase but I shall decrease.*** Jn 3:30
- ***For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*** Jn 3:16

1. An angel of the Lord foretold of the conception and birth of John. What did the angel say that this child would do when he became a man? Lk 1:13-17

2. When John was born, what did his father Zacharias prophesy concerning him? Lk 1:67-79

3. John was a great prophet of God who was sent to prepare the way of the Lord. He knew and understood the importance of what he said about Him.
   a. What did he say about Jesus as a sacrifice for sin? Jn 1:29 Discuss.
   b. What did he say about Jesus' relationship to God? Jn 1:34 Discuss.
   c. How did John describe the greatness of Jesus by comparison to himself? Jn 3:30 Discuss.
   d. What great thing did God do for the world (the people in the world)? John 3:16 Discuss.

Suggestions - This lesson shows the greatness of Jesus through the declarations of John the Baptist. Consider who John was. Then consider carefully what he had to say about Jesus. These statements are a key to our understanding of the person Jesus. Relate the substance of the lesson to the reality of the person Jesus.

- Books of the Bible – New Testament:
  Hebrews, James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2 & 3 John, Jude, Revelation
  (1 book—letter of Paul—7 general letters—1 book of prophecy)

— Review Lessons 201 - 210 R 21

This group of lessons introduces the New Testament (Matthew-Revelation), the primary story line being about Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ and the Son of God. The New Testament begins with 4 "gospels" which tell about the life of Jesus Christ. **Matthew** was written in the Aramaic language with the Jews in mind. **Mark** was written in the common Greek language with the Romans in mind. **Luke** was written in a literary style with the Greeks in mind. **John** wrote in the Greek language in a different style with all people of the world in mind in a way to produce faith so that those who believe may have life, a new spiritual life with God, and soon, eternal life.

201 – Zacharias and **Elizabeth** would have a son though they were past the age for bearing children (a miracle). An angel foretold the birth of John to his father. What the angel said about John and his mission was important to our story. The unusual circumstances of the announcement show that this was very significant to God.

202 – John was born. God permitted Zacharias to speak again. He prophesied about John and his work. It was clear that John would be a tremendous asset to what God was bringing about on the earth through Jesus Christ.

203 – Mary would have a Son though she was a virgin—the Holy Spirit would cause her to conceive (a miracle). **Elizabeth** confirmed to Mary what the angel had said.

204 – Jesus was born to Mary in Bethlehem of Judea. The angels of God announced His birth—***a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord***—to shepherds who then went to worship Him in the stable where He was born. Jesus was circumcised the eighth day and a sacrifice was offered according to the law. At the temple, **Simeon**, a prophet, and **Anna**, a prophetess, prophesied that **the Salvation of God** had come (**CHRIST**).

205 – Wise men from the east followed a star to the house where the infant Jesus was living. They knew that the Messiah was to be born. They believed that the star was a sign from God that He had been born and came to worship Him. It is clear that Herod's wise men and the priests understood that it was the right time for the Messiah to be born (from Old Testament prophecies). They brought expensive gifts to honor the Messiah and they worshiped Him. [People in many parts of the world knew about the Messiah who was to be born.]

206 – Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah and the Savior of the world. Prophecies of the Old Testament foretold of the coming Messiah: that He would be born of a virgin, that He would be the Son of God, that God would bless all of the people of the world through Him. **The Eternal Purpose of God** and **His Plan for the Salvation of Mankind** were fulfilled and accomplished for Mankind through Jesus Christ.

In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed… Gen 22:16-18

207 – Jesus and His parents on earth show that Jesus respected and submitted to his earthly parents even though He Himself was God—it was God's order for how things should be—***Children obey your parents***—Jesus respected it. Parents are a blessing.

208 – John preaches the gospel of the kingdom—the kingdom, the king and the citizens in the kingdom. He preached that people should **REPENT** and turn to God—**believe** and **obey** God. People went into the wilderness to hear John preach. Many people did believe John's message and were baptized with a baptism of repentance. John's preaching prepared people for the coming of the Messiah and His kingdom.

209 – This lesson described briefly the person Jesus. Although He was God, He was born as a human being and lived as a human being on earth until He was crucified at the demand of the leaders of the Jews. He lived on earth for about 33-1/2 years. He was tempted in the same ways that all of us are tempted, yet He did not sin. He was poor—He had little of this world's goods. He knows what it is like to be a human being and to live on the earth. He knows what it is like to be hungry and thirsty, tired and sleepy. He understands emotional pain and needs. When you pray, He knows what you are trying to say and what you need. Jesus came to earth to seek and to save the lost and to be a sacrifice for sin. His life experiences qualified Him to be the High Priest. He died on the cross for the sins of the world, He was buried and then He was resurrected the third day. Through His death, He became **the Savior of the world**.

No greater person has ever lived on the earth!

210 – John spoke about Jesus. This lesson presents some important aspects of Jesus about which John spoke:

— **He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!**

— **He is the Son of God!**

— **He is the king of the kingdom about which John preached.**

— **He was greater than John** (or anyone else before or since).

- ***In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed…*** Gen 22:18
- ***For with God nothing will be impossible.*** Lk 1:37
- ***For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.*** Lk 2:11
- ***Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.*** Jn 1:29
- ***And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.*** Jn 1:34
- ***For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*** Jn 3:16

1. Explain who are Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
2. Explain how Jesus fulfilled God's promise that ***In your seed…*** Gen 22:16-18
3. Explain what it means that Jesus is ***the Lamb of God who takes away…*** Jn 1:29
4. Explain what it means that Jesus Christ is ***the Son of God.*** Jn 1:34

- Books of the Bible – Repeat from memory the 27 books of the New Testament.

— Review Series Lessons 1 - 60 S 21

We began this series by looking at what is in the Bible, an overview, including some information about the structure and principle components of the Bible. Then we began to look at The Story of the Bible from the Bible text: The Creation of all things, including Mankind; the uniqueness and importance of Mankind; Man sinned, which changed many things [God set in motion His plan for redeeming Mankind which was established before the foundation of the earth (Eph 1:4)]; Man became very sinful, so God destroyed the earth with a flood of waters, but saved Noah and his family in the ark; the nations were divided according to the families of the 3 sons of Noah; God chose Abram (Abraham) and his descendants as His people. The story of how God dealt with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and later with His people while being faithful to His covenant with Abraham is a very important part of the story of the Bible. The people of Israel went to Egypt where they lived for 215 years and became a nation; they left Egypt; God gave the Law of Moses for Israel as a covenant to keep (believe and obey); then the story of conquering the promised land; the land is ruled by judges who were chosen by God until Samuel, when God chose a king.

❖ **Group 1 -** These lessons are about **The Contents of the Bible**, the Word of God.

❖ **Group 2 -** These lessons are about **The Beginning** of all things that pertain to the physical universe: the Creation of the universe and all living things, the Creation of Mankind and the uniqueness of Man among all of God's creatures — he has a spirit which is like God's which will continue to exist forever. The devil deceived Eve and she ate of the forbidden fruit — she sinned! Adam also ate and sinned by doing so. This sin brought spiritual death (separation from God). It also brought physical death because Man was driven from the garden and the tree of life. God announced the consequences of their sin, including the roles of men and women. **He also announced the coming of the Messiah, the Savior of the world.** Cain and Abel show us the importance of acceptable worship to God. Enosh is born and ***Then men began to call on the name of the Lord.*** About 1600 years after Creation, God caused a flood which covered the entire earth. Noah and his family (8 souls) were saved in the ark which God commanded Noah to build. It took over 100 years to build the ark, but Noah was faithful and persevered and was saved along with his family. God divided the nations according to the families of the three sons of Noah.

❖ **Group 3 -** In order to accomplish His purpose for Mankind, God chose a man, Abram (Abraham) to be the beginning of **God's Chosen People**. God made promises to Abram which came to be a covenant with Abram and his descendants. This covenant is the basis for what follows in the Bible. The promise that ***in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed*** (Gen 22:18) was fulfilled by the Messiah (Christ), Jesus of Nazareth (Gal 3:16). We are able to see the personal relationship between Abraham and God, Isaac and God, and Jacob and God. It is easy to understand that this covenant relationship was kept by God on a continuing basis….

…[The same is true today for Christians who are in a covenant relationship with God by way of the New Testament (covenant) which is the gospel of Jesus Christ.] This family comes to be a People while in Egypt. This is a beautiful story of life and how God works to love and care for His people.

❖ **Group 4 - In Egypt, the family becomes a People.** This is the story of how Jacob and his family come to live in Egypt for 215 years. Joseph is a principle character. As long as Joseph was alive, the Hebrews were treated with respect.

❖ **Group 5 - The nation of Israel Leaves Egypt.** Several years after Joseph died, a king ruled in Egypt who was afraid of the Hebrews because they had grown to be so many. He decided to enslave them and work them with rigor to cause them to be weak and to die more quickly. This did not work. As things became more difficult, the people cried out in anguish and God heard them. He raised up Moses to deliver His people with a mighty hand out of Egypt to a bountiful land called Canaan. Through Moses, God gave the Law of Moses for the people of Israel. The Tabernacle was erected and the presence of God was demonstrated in a wonderful manner.

❖ **Group 6 - The nation of Israel Enters Canaan.** God is with them and gives them the land for a possession under the leadership of Joshua. They cross the Jordan River from the east and begin their conquest of Canaan there. When they decide not to fight anymore, the land is divided according to tribes. They are ruled by judges until Samuel, a judge and a prophet. Samuel's leadership brought Israel together with great faith in God. Eventually, the people asked for a king and God consented.

- Memory Verse – Discuss meaning. Be able to repeat from memory.

➢ ***All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*** 2 Tim 3:16-17

➢ ***In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*** Gen 1:1

➢ ***And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.*** Gen 12:3

➢ ***The Lord was with Joseph, and he was a successful man.*** Gen 39:2

➢ ***So the people believed; and when they heard that the Lord had visited the children of Israel and that He had looked on their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshiped.*** Ex 4:31

➢ ***I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.*** Ex 20:2

➢ ***…choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve… But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.*** Josh 24:15

➢ ***In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.*** Judg 21:25

WE HAVE COVERED IN THE BIBLE

4004 BC CREATION 0 AM

GOD CREATED ALL THINGS IN THE PHYSICAL UNIVERSE. GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE AND PLAN FOR MAN'S SALVATION BEGINS TO UNFOLD.

2348 BC FLOOD 1656 AM

GOD DESTROYED THE EARTH AND THE PEOPLE ON THE EARTH WITH A FLOOD OF WATERS, BUT SAVED NOAH AND HIS FAMILY—8 SOULS.

1921 BC PROMISES 2083 AM

GOD MADE PROMISES TO ABRAHAM: NATION—SEED—LAND. THESE WERE CONFIRMED WITH A COVENANT. THROUGH ABRAHAM, ISAAC, JACOB AND ISRAEL, GOD BLESSED THE WORLD THROUGH THE MESSIAH, JESUS CHRIST OF NAZARETH.

1491 BC EXODUS 2513 AM

GOD DELIVERED THE NATION OF ISRAEL FROM SLAVERY IN EGYPT. GOD GAVE THEM "THE FIRST COVENANT" AND MADE THEM HIS CHOSEN PEOPLE.

1451 BC THE PROMISED LAND 2553 AM

GOD GAVE THE LAND OF CANAAN TO THE NATION OF ISRAEL. EACH TRIBE HAD A TERRITORY; BUT THEY WERE ONE NATION. THEY WERE RULED BY GOD AND JUDGES.

1095 BC ISRAEL – A KINGDOM 2909 AM

THE FIRST KINGS OF ISRAEL WERE SAUL, DAVID AND SOLOMON. EACH RULED FOR ABOUT 40 YEARS. THE TEMPLE WAS BUILT. THE KINGDOM WAS FIRMLY ESTABLISHED. THEN SOLOMON INTRODUCED IDOLATROUS WORSHIP TO ISRAEL.

975 BC ISRAEL & JUDAH – 2 KINGDOMS 3029 AM

THE KINGDOM OF ISRAEL WAS DIVIDED INTO 2 KINGDOMS: **JUDAH** AND **ISRAEL**.

JUDAH - REHOBOAM RULED OVER JUDAH. THE KINGS THAT FOLLOWED WERE RIGHTEOUS AND LED JUDAH TO FOLLOW GOD WHILE OTHERS WERE NOT RIGHTEOUS KINGS. EVENTUALLY, GOD ALLOWED NEBUCHADNEZZAR TO TAKE JUDAH INTO CAPTIVITY FOR 70 YEARS IN 605 BC. AT THE COMMAND OF GOD, 536 BC THEY BEGAN TO RETURN TO RESTORE THE KINGDOM AND WORSHIP OF THE TRUE GOD OF HEAVEN. JUDAH WAS RULED BY A FOREIGN POWER UNTIL 70 AD, WHEN THEY CEASED TO EXIST.

ISRAEL - JEROBOAM RULED OVER ISRAEL. THE KINGS THAT FOLLOWED WERE NOT RIGHTEOUS AND LED ISRAEL TO FOLLOW IDOLS. AFTER SOME TIME, THE ASSYRIANS TOOK OVER. ISRAEL CEASED TO EXIST AS A NATION IN 721 BC. 2 Kings 17

0 BC JESUS OF NAZARETH 4004 AM

A VIRGIN NAMED MARY CONCEIVED BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. HER SON, NAMED JESUS ("HE WILL SAVE") AND EMMANUEL ("GOD WITH US") WAS BORN IN BETHLEHEM OF JUDEA. GOD ANNOUNCED,

THERE IS BORN TO YOU THIS DAY IN THE CITY OF DAVID
A SAVIOR, WHO IS CHRIST THE LORD.

AT AGE 30, HE WAS BAPTIZED BY JOHN, TEMPTED BY THE DEVIL WITHOUT SINNING, AND THEN BEGAN TO PREACH THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD. FOR 3.5 YEARS, HE PREACHED AND PERFORMED MANY MIRACLES. THEN HE DIED ON A CROSS, WAS BURIED, AND RESURRECTED THE THIRD DAY. HE NOW REIGNS FROM HEAVEN AS KING AND THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD.

BOOK 6 **GROUP 22**

Series 701	*THE STORY OF THE BIBLE*
Group 22	**THE GOSPELS - JESUS**
Subtopic	**Jesus Preaches the Gospel**
En 701-211	Jesus Is Baptized by John
En 701-212	Jesus Is Tempted by the Devil
En 701-213	Jesus Begins to Preach the Gospel of the Kingdom
En 701-214	You Are the Son of God
En 701-215	Wedding Feast at Cana of Galilee
En 701-216	Jesus and the Money Changers
En 701-217	Jesus Has a Conversation with Nicodemus
En 701-218	Jesus Has a Conversation with a Woman of Samaria
En 701-219	Jesus Was a Person of Compassion
En 701-220	The Work and Authority of Jesus
En 701-R22	Review Lessons 211 – 220
En 701-S22	Review Series Lessons 61 – 80, 201 – 220

AUTHORS: MEREDITH R. CHILDRESS / RONALD B. ROARK

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THE WAY OF LIFE
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USA

— Jesus Is Baptized by John 211

We have seen some very important highlights about Jesus and John which have a tremendous impact on ***The Story of the Bible***, but especially on the spiritual well-being of every person on earth. Notice how personal this becomes for Jesus.

John was preaching by the Jordan River when Jesus came from Galilee to be baptized by him. Knowing Jesus' perfection, John resisted, saying that he should be baptized by Jesus. But Jesus asked John to allow it, so that the will of God and all righteousness would be fulfilled. So John baptized Jesus in the Jordan River. Immediately after His baptism, while Jesus was praying, the heavens parted and the Spirit of God descended on Jesus like a dove. And suddenly a voice from heaven said:

This is My Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

And so John was able to give testimony that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God, on 3 different days to 3 different groups. The first group was the Pharisees in Bethabara. They could not understand why John was baptizing since he was not the Christ, Elijah, or "the Prophet". John said to them: *"I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Make straight the way of the Lord."* (Isa 40:3) This meant that John had come to prepare the way for Christ, much the same way that messengers always preceded a king as he traveled to make sure the way was clear, and to let everyone know that he was coming. And John also explained that his baptism was with water, but that Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

A second group of Jews on the second day heard John say:

*Behold! **The Lamb of God** who takes away the sin of the world! This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.'*

This was because John was sent before Him to reveal Him and to baptize with water. [*John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on…Christ Jesus.* Acts 19:4] And John once again spoke of witnessing the Spirit descending from heaven and remaining on Jesus. He told the Jews that God had told him that *"Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit."* Therefore, John was able to say that he had seen and could testify that

JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD.

Two disciples of John also heard him speak of Jesus as the Christ and followed Jesus. Always giving preeminence to Jesus, John's message prepared the way for the Lord Christ Jesus [John was the forerunner of the Lord].

The baptism of Jesus is a momentous event as the following things show—the discussion about it between John and Jesus; the appearance of the Holy Spirit in physical form; and the voice from heaven which declared: Mt 3:17,

THIS IS MY BELOVED SON, IN WHOM I AM WELL PLEASED.

Jesus Is Baptized by John

- **Memory Verses –** Discuss meaning. Be able to repeat from memory.

➢ ***In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed…*** Gen 22:18

➢ ***For with God nothing will be impossible.*** Lk 1:37

➢ ***For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.*** Lk 2:11

➢ ***Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.*** Jn 1:29

➢ ***And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.*** Jn 1:34

➢ ***For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*** Jn 3:16

1. Where was John preaching when Jesus came to him to be baptized?
2. Since Jesus had no sin, why was He baptized by John?
3. After Jesus was baptized, He was praying. What did a voice from heaven say? Who spoke from heaven? Discuss the significance of this event.
4. In what visible physical form did the Holy Spirit appear? This is significant because the people could see with their own eyes something very important. What did John say was so important about this? Jn 1:31-34
5. Jesus is **the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world**. What does this mean?
6. The Bible tells us about <u>only one person</u> who had the mission to prepare the way of the Lord—John the Baptist.
   a. Discuss the importance of John's preaching —the message.
   b. Discuss the importance of John's eyewitness testimony—
      (1) **The Messiah** (2) **The Lamb of God** (3) **The Son of God**
7. What shows us that the event of <u>Jesus being baptized by John</u> was important?

Suggestions - This lesson centers around **Jesus Christ**. Little is said about Jesus from the events surrounding His birth until His baptism at age 30. After His baptism, He is the focus of everything contained in the four gospels. So this is a significant event as is indicated by the things which occurred and the things which were said. In the Law of Moses, there were many types of washings for many different purposes. That God would command baptism (immersion) in water is therefore not surprising. Baptism is a physical act with a spiritual significance—<u>washing sins away</u>.

- **Books of the Bible –** Be able to repeat from memory 27 books of the New Testament
- **Consider also –** Mt 3:13-17; Mk 1:9-11; Lk 3:21-22

— Jesus Is Tempted by the Devil 212

Immediately after John had baptized Jesus, the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness where He was tempted by the devil for 40 days.[1] Jesus was tempted just as you and I are tempted in our daily lives; He endured temptation and did not sin.[2] Adam and Eve were tempted in the Garden of Eden after God had told them not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. They yielded to temptation when they saw that the tree was good for food **(lust of the flesh)**, pleasant to the eyes **(lust of the eyes)**, and a tree desirable to make one wise **(pride of life)**. They ate and sinned.[3]

The devil appealed to Jesus in the same ways as he appealed to Adam and Eve. First, because Jesus was hungry, the devil said to Jesus: *"If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."* The devil believed that after 40 days of fasting, Jesus was hungry enough to sin; but he was wrong! Jesus said to him: *"It is written,* ***'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'****"* [4] Jesus did what pleased God.

But the devil did not give up! He took Jesus into Jerusalem and sat Him on a pinnacle of the temple. Then he said: *"If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you, and in their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.'"* Even though the devil twisted the meaning of these verses from Psalms, Jesus was not deceived and replied: *"It is written again,* ***'You shall not tempt the Lord yourGod.'****"* [5] The children of Israel had tested God in Marah when they angrily demanded that Moses give them water where there was none.[6]

For the 3rd temptation, the devil took Jesus onto a high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. Then he promised the world and all its glory to Jesus, if He would worship him. Having the whole world would be a temptation for many, but Jesus answered: *"Get behind me, Satan! For it is written,* ***'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.'****"*[7] The Israelites in the wilderness had tested God rather than worshiping Him; but Jesus was true to God's will. The book of Hebrews tells us: ***For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.***[2] Do not think that it was easy for Jesus to defend himself against the devil's temptations. He was tempted in the same way that we are! Defeated, the devil left Jesus.[8] **If you resist the devil through faith in God, he will leave you too.** [9]

Jesus told us to pray, ***"Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."*** [10] James describes the progressive nature which leads to full-blown sin.[11] We can overcome temptation and sin and the devil with the help of God.[12]

[1]Mt 4:1-11; Mk 1:12-13; Lk 4:1-13 [2]Heb 4:14-16; 1 Jn 2:15-17 [3]Gen 3:1-8 [4]Mt 4:3-4 [5]Mt 4:5-7
[6]Ex 15:22-27 [7]Mt 4:8-10 [8]Mt 4:11 [9]Jas 4:7 [10]Mt 6:13 [11]Jas 1:12-16 [12]1 Cor 10:13

Jesus Is Tempted by the Devil

- **Memory Verses –** Discuss meaning. Be able to repeat from memory.

  - ***It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.*** Mt 4:4
  - ***It is written, You shall not tempt the Lord your God.*** Mt 4:7
  - ***It is written, You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve.*** Mt 4:10
  - ***Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.*** Mt 6:13

1. What does **"devil"** mean as used in this context?
2. Discuss what Jesus says about the devil. Jn 8:44
3. In what 3 ways was Eve tempted in the Garden of Eden?
4. In what 3 ways was Jesus tempted by the devil?
5. In what 3 ways are you tempted by the devil?
6. When the devil asked Jesus to command that stones be turned into bread so that Jesus would have something to eat, what did Jesus respond?
7. When the devil asked Jesus to throw Himself down from the pinnacle of the temple, what did Jesus respond?
8. When the devil asked Jesus to worship him so that He could receive all the kingdoms of the world, what did Jesus respond?
9. If we resist the devil, what will the devil do?
10. Notice that Jesus did not tell us to pray that God would not lead us into sin. For what should we pray?
11. From what you have learned in this lesson, summarize how you think a person can overcome the devil and temptation and sin.

Suggestions - This lesson centers around the temptation of **Jesus Christ** immediately after He is baptized by John. The devil tempts Jesus to sin against God. Jesus wisely uses the Word of God to overcome these temptations. We should do the same today. Temptation and sin are important topics. The 3 avenues of sin suggested in 1 John 2:15-17. We need to know how the devil tempts us and with what. He uses things which appeal to us and makes them appear to be innocent or not so bad or perhaps even better than what God says. God tells us how to overcome temptation.

Consider the temptation of Jesus and learn from it. Think about why it was important for Jesus to live on this earth as a man and for Him to be tempted in the same manner every person is tempted at one time or another with one thing or another. The devil knows our weaknesses and uses them. He also strikes when we least expect it and takes us by surprise. Beware! Be prepared!

- **Books of the Bible –** Be able to repeat from memory 27 books of the New Testament

— Jesus Begins to Preach the Gospel of the Kingdom 213

At this time, **Jesus began to preach**, saying: ***Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*** John the Baptist had prepared the way for Jesus' message by preaching **repentance**, but he was now in prison. Jesus began to choose men to help him spread the call to repentance. Simon **Peter**, his brother **Andrew**, **James** and his brother **John** were all fishermen who left the work of fishing to be "fishers of men." **Philip** and **Nathanael** also followed Jesus, who was going throughout Galilee teaching **the gospel of the kingdom** in the synagogues. As He went, He also healed all kinds of sickness and disease. His fame went throughout Syria, and great multitudes followed Him from Galilee, the Decapolis (which included 10 cities), Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan. And so Jesus began his ministry with teaching, preaching and healing. The people were astonished at His teaching, because He taught as a person with authority, and not as the scribes. They were also amazed as He healed a man of an unclean spirit, realizing that He had authority over demons.

When Jesus left the synagogue, He went to the house of Simon and Andrew with James and John. Simon's mother-in-law was sick with a high fever, but Jesus healed her, so that she was immediately able to serve them. Then the people brought many sick and many possessed by demons for Jesus to heal. The whole city was at the door! So in the early hours of the morning, Jesus went to a solitary place to pray. The next morning, His disciples expected Him to go back into Capernaum, but Jesus said to them: "Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, **because for this purpose I have come forth**." So He preached in their synagogues and cast out demons. Then a leper came to Jesus on his knees, begging Jesus to heal him. Jesus was moved with compassion and healed him, saying that he should not tell anyone, but to go to the priest and offer sacrifices as Moses commanded for a testimony. But the leper spread the good news of his miraculous healing so loudly that Jesus left the city, going into a deserted place, where people came to Him from every direction.

Another time, in a synagogue in Nazareth, Jesus read from the prophet Isaiah:

> The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, **because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel** to the poor; He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.

Then Jesus said to those in the synagogue:

> Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing. And because Jesus continued to teach with authority, the men became angry and threw Him out of the synagogue, intending to throw him over a cliff; but He escaped from them by disappearing through the crowd. Why would these people in His "home town" reject the **Son of God**, the **Messiah** whom God promised to send?

WHY WOULD YOU?

He is the **Person** through whom **God would bless every person** on earth!

Jesus Begins to Preach the Gospel of the Kingdom

- **Memory Verses –** Discuss meaning. Be able to repeat from memory.
  - ***For with God nothing will be impossible.*** Lk 1:37
  - ***It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.*** Mt 4:4
  - ***And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.*** Mt 4:17

1. When Jesus began to preach the gospel of the kingdom, what was His message?
2. What was John's message when he preached the gospel of the kingdom? (refer to Lesson En 701-208)
3. When John and Jesus preached that people should **REPENT**, what were they asking people to do? (What does the word ***repent*** mean?)
4. Jesus taught and preached in many types of places or situations. What specific type of place is mentioned in the text where Jesus taught the gospel?
5. What did Jesus also do as He went from place to place?
6. In the house of Simon (Peter) and Andrew, what woman did Jesus heal?
7. Jesus said, ***because for this purpose I have come forth***. To what did He refer?
8. Jesus was able to cast out demons. What does this demonstrate?
9. When people became aware of the power of Jesus to heal, what was the result?
10. Why do you think that the people in the city of Nazareth rejected Jesus?
11. Why do you think that people reject Jesus today?

Suggestions - **The word of God** is important. The gospel of the kingdom is God's message to all mankind for the dispensation of Jesus Christ [the period of time when God rules every person through Jesus Christ (New Covenant/New Testament)]. Jesus presented these principles through His teaching and preaching. The gospel was also preached by the apostles and disciples of Jesus. What God wants us to know has been revealed in the New Testament. Jesus said that **preaching the gospel of the kingdom** was an important work for Him to do. Through preaching, the people were informed about God and God's message for mankind. Many people today do not want to hear what God has to say. They are happy to know what they know and believe what they believe. Do you think that the same situation existed at the time of Jesus and the apostles? Do you think that the same situation exists today? What do you believe and why? Do you follow the teachings of Jesus, the gospel of the kingdom of God?

- **Books of the Bible –** Be able to repeat from memory 27 books of the New Testament
- **Consider also –** Mk 1:1-45; Lk 4:14-5:26; Jn 1:35-51

— Jesus Is the Son of God 214

One of the metaphors which Jesus used was that He is **the bread of life**. The Jews understood the importance of bread for life, especially because their fathers had eaten manna sent by God for them to eat in the wilderness. Without manna, the children of Israel would have died. Bread is not usually difficult to get, but it must go through a process before it is ready to be eaten. The grain must be grown and harvested. Then the grain is ground up by a mill to make it useable by mixing with a liquid and creating a loaf. After it is baked, it is ready for eating. Most cultures have bread as the main staple of their diet. Even in the poorest home, bread can be made and eaten by the family. **Bread sustains life** and represents nourishment from the earth.

John 6:41-71 - Jesus was teaching in the synagogue while in Capernaum, and to the Jews assembled, He said, ***"I am the living bread which came down from heaven, if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread I shall give is my flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world."*** In words they should have understood, Jesus was explaining to them that He alone was the food that would sustain them for an eternal life. The Jews listening to Jesus—even many of His disciples—could not understand how they could eat this Man's flesh. And Jesus said to them, ***Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you.*** This caused murmuring in the crowd, just as the manna had caused murmuring among the Israelites hundreds of years before. Jesus explained that He was not talking about a literal form of bread, but **the true bread of life** which would be given to those who believed on Him, and who were willing to eat His flesh and drink His blood. They could not literally partake of His flesh and blood, but they could partake of His body and blood figuratively. But they did not understand. Then Jesus asked what they would think if they saw Him ascend into heaven from whence He had come. Then He said to them:

It is the Spirit who gives life, the flesh profits nothing.
The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.

But Jesus knew that many who were there were unbelievers and betrayers. So He said to them:

Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me
unless it has been granted to him by My Father.

After this, many of His disciples went away and did not follow Him anymore. And Jesus turned to the twelve apostles and asked them if they too wanted to go away. But Simon Peter said,

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

Also we have come to believe and know that

You are the Christ,the Son of the living God.

- **John 20:30-31 -** John's purpose for writing his gospel: **THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE…**

Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,
and that believing you may have life in His name.

Jesus Is the Son of God

- **Memory Verses –** Discuss meaning. Be able to repeat from memory.
  - ***"I am the living bread which came down from heaven"*** Jn 6:51
  - ***Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.*** Jn 6:68-69
  - ***And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.*** Jn 20:30-31

1. Who is **the bread of life**? What does this mean?
2. Explain what Jesus meant by saying: <u>you must eat My flesh and drink My blood</u>.
   [Why would Jesus even try to teach something to which there seemed to be such a negative response? Is this literal or figurative language? Bread was a common way to refer to bread or to food in general because bread was a basic food which was served with almost every meal. It was also a common way to refer to that which sustains physical life. So **LIFE** and that which sustains life is what Jesus was discussing. First, the things which people understood about physical life; and then, an application in figurative language that the people could understand. Eating or drinking the blood of animals was strictly forbidden under the law of Moses. So why would Jesus say this? What did He really mean?]
3. Jesus made public statements about who He was and what He was. What was the response of the people in general?
4. The people were looking for the Messiah—a king, a deliverer, a great person who would be called "the Son of the Highest". They believed that God had promised such a person. They believed that they needed such a person. They wanted such a person. Why then would they reject the message of Jesus and Jesus Himself?
5. The people who were listening to Jesus rejected Him and began to go away. So many people were going away that Jesus asked the 12, ***Will you also go away?*** Peter gave the wonderful response,

   Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

   Who is **the bread of life**? Who is the **Savior** of the world?

   What other person is the source of **the words of life**? Discuss.
6. What Jesus said indicated that He was the Son of God. Peter said that we (the 12) have come to know and believe this fact. How might this faith have developed?

- **Books of the Bible –** Be able to repeat from memory the first 5 books of the Bible
- **Consider also –** Jn 1:1-51; Mt 16:13-19

— Wedding Feast at Cana of Galilee 215

In the culture of the Jews, there was usually a period of betrothal, which was the time between an agreement for a man and a woman to marry, until the time they began to live together as husband and wife. A wedding feast would usually be given by the bridegroom for relatives and friends, when the couple would be united.

Although Jesus had preached the gospel of the kingdom and taught in many synagogues, He had not performed any miracles so far in His ministry. On this occasion, Jesus, His mother, and His disciples—Andrew, Simon Peter, Philip, Nathanael, and one who was unnamed, probably John—were at a wedding feast in Cana of Galilee. Jesus' mother came to Him and said that there was no more wine. Since a wedding feast often lasted for 7 days, this would have been an embarrassing situation for the bridegroom, because he was responsible for the feast. Jesus replied: ***Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour is not yet come.*** Then Mary told the servants to do whatever He asked. Jesus told them to fill six stone waterpots with water. The pots were stone for purity (rather than earthenware) and could hold water used for ceremonial washing. They filled the pots to the brim. Then He told them to draw out some of the liquid and take it to the master of the feast, who was not aware of where it came from. Upon tasting the wine, the master said to the bridegroom: ***Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then that which is inferior; but you have kept the good wine until now.*** The master of the feast was surprised that the best wine had been kept until after an inferior wine had been consumed. The water Jesus turned into wine was far superior to the best wine that had been served previously.

Jesus addressed His mother as "woman", which may sound disrespectful; but, at this time, it was commonly used to address an adult female, and is still common in many cultures today. "Man" is also commonly used to address an adult male in many cultures. "Woman" may be used to express qualities that we appreciate in a good woman—she is gracious, pleasant, tender, caring. On this occasion, Jesus separates Himself from His mother, because the mission that He was beginning had nothing to do with the fact that Mary was His mother. For now and in the future, Jesus must not be seen as the son of Joseph and Mary, but He must be viewed in His role as the Messiah, **the Son of God**, whose purpose was and is the salvation of mankind.

A wedding feast was very important to families. Planning, preparation and then the delivering of what was needed at such a feast reflected the quality of a family. So then, what was the significance of the miracle of **turning water into wine**? ***Jesus… manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.*** It demonstrates the power of Jesus over the elements of the physical world, which also proves that Jesus is Deity. This miracle was the beginning of all the signs (or miracles) which Jesus did.

Wedding Feast at Cana of Galilee

- **Memory Verses –** Discuss meaning. Be able to repeat from memory.

➢ ***I am the living bread which came down from heaven.*** Jn 6:51

➢ ***Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.*** Jn 6:68-69

➢ ***And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.*** Jn 20:30-31

➢ ***And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.*** Jn 1:34

➢ ***For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*** Jn 3:16

1. In what town did Jesus attend a wedding feast?
2. What person was there who was a close relative of Jesus?
3. Who came to the feast with Jesus?
4. Mary told Jesus, "They have no wine." Why was that important?
5. Why do you think that Mary told Jesus about the problem?
6. What did Mary tell the servants to do?
7. What did Jesus tell the servants to do?
8. When the water pots were filled with water, what did Jesus tell the servants to do?
9. What did the master of the feast say about the wine which Jesus made from water?
10. Mary knew: (1) what Gabriel told her before she conceived (2) what Elizabeth prophesied when Mary visited her (3) what happened when Jesus was born---the shepherds visited/worshiped Jesus (4) When Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple "to present Him to the Lord", and 2 people spoke to them and others about JESUS (5) many other events in the life of Jesus were witnessed by Mary, and on occasion, the scripture says, ***But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.*** Lk 2:19 (6) Why would Mary believe in Jesus?
11. Why should you believe in Jesus?

Suggestions - This lesson centers around the first sign (miracle) that Jesus did:

This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee,
and manifested His glory;
and His disciples believed in Him.

Jesus Christ. This shows that:

- Jesus did not perform signs/miracles previous to the beginning of His personal ministry.
- His disciples were not following Him because they had seen some miracle performed.
- Signs/miracles would be associated with causing belief during the personal ministry of Jesus.

- **Books of the Bible –** Be able to repeat from memory the first 8 books of the Bible

— Jesus and the Moneychangers 216

Jesus was in Jerusalem for the Passover, the annual feast commemorating Israel's deliverance from slavery in Egypt, and, therefore, a time when Jews from all over the Roman Empire came to worship God.[1] Because worshipers could not bring animals for sacrifice from far away, merchants took advantage of this situation by setting up a marketplace for oxen, sheep and doves, as well as a money exchange in the temple. This was the scene that Jesus saw when he entered the outer court of the holy temple. **The temple was a holy place, set apart for the worship and service of the Lord.** It was the only place where a believing Jew could meet with God and offer a sacrifice to God in order to receive forgiveness and blessings from God. The people had been given this right and privilege, but the priests had allowed God's house to be turned into a marketplace for their own gain. They had even allowed moneychangers to set up tables where they charged a high rate for exchanging foreign money for use in buying a sacrifice and paying the temple tax (every man over the age of 20 was required to pay the tax of one shekel by weight, a Jewish coin).

When Jesus saw the mockery that was made there, how the temple had been turned into a marketplace rather than a place of worship, He made a whip of cords and drove the men and animals out of the temple, overturning the tables of the moneychangers. And He said to them: ***Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations'? But you have made it a 'den of thieves'.*** [2] After this, Jesus healed the blind and lame in the temple. But when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that He did, and the children crying out, ***Hosanna to the Son of David!***[3] they were indignant and asked Jesus if He heard what they were saying. Jesus answered that He had heard them, and asked them if they had read these words: ***Out of the mouths of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise?***[4] Then Jesus left the temple and went to Bethany. Now the scribes and chief priests, fearing Jesus for His teaching, healing, and casting the profane out of the temple, looked for a way to destroy Him without arousing the anger of the people.

The next day near Bethany, Jesus was hungry and saw a fig tree from a distance with lush green leaves on it. He looked for fruit on the tree, but found none. And He said to the fig tree, *Let no one eat fruit from you ever again.* The next morning, His disciples were amazed at how quickly the fig tree had withered. Jesus said to them: ***Have faith in God.*** And, Whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you will receive them, and you will have them. **Faith** produces **fruit** of the spirit, which God looks for in our lives, just as Jesus looked for fruit on the fig tree.[5] Jesus also said,

Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. [6]

[1]Jn 2:13-25 [2]Mk 11:17 [3]Mt 21:14-16 [4]Ps 8:2 [5]Mk 11:12-14,20-24 [6]Mt 7:21

Jesus and the Moneychangers

- **Memory Verses –** Discuss meaning. Be able to repeat from memory.

- ***Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.*** Jn 6:68-69
- ***My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.*** Mk 11:17
- ***Hosanna to the Son of David!*** Mt 21:15
- ***Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.*** Mt 7:21

1. In this story, the Jews were coming together in Jerusalem for what feast?

2. What did this feast commemorate?

3. In the Old Testament, we learn that the temple was **a holy place**. Jesus said that it was ***a house of prayer***. So things of a secular (worldly) nature were not allowed in the temple or on the temple grounds, except what was specified in the Law. Buying and selling/exchanging money and things like this would be strictly forbidden. What factors may have caused what Jesus found at the temple?

4. List the different motives and actions which you think violated the principles that Jesus mentioned and any other principles that you can see are implied.

5. What did Jesus do to the men and animals that were on the temple grounds that should not have been there?

6. What did Jesus do that caused people to say, ***Hosanna to the Son of David!***?
   Hosanna originally meant: ***Save, we pray***. It came to mean **praise to the Lord** (for saving/helping/healing/freeing/blessing…)

7. After Jesus "cleansed the temple", the religious leaders feared His teaching and His possible actions. What did they want to do to Jesus? How?

Suggestions - This lesson centers around the holiness of the temple and the activities that should take place there. God is the one who says when something is holy and when something is profane. Respect God and His word—do what He says the way that He says to do it.

- **Books of the Bible –** Be able to repeat from memory the first 14 books of the Bible

— Jesus Has a Conversation with Nicodemus 217

Nicodemus was a Pharisee and a member of the Sanhedrin, the ruling council of the Jews at that time. He came to Jesus at night to talk to him about the miracles and signs He had done, saying that no man could do them unless they were from God. Jesus told Nicodemus that to be in the kingdom of God, a person would have to be ***born again***. But Nicodemus did not understand how a man could be reborn. As a leader and teacher of the Jews, Nicodemus should have understood the spiritual cleansing that was necessary to be in God's kingdom; but like most Jews of his time, he thought he would get into the kingdom by obeying physical acts of the law of Moses. Jesus was saying to him that God is looking for men with spiritual hearts that are willing to be cleansed of worldly thoughts and actions. In other words, God seeks men who are born again spiritually through the cleansing of water and the Spirit (baptism). Jesus was using physical terms to explain **a spiritual transformation**.

Then Jesus taught further by reminding Nicodemus of what happened to the Israelites when they could not go through Edom, but had to take the long way around it. They complained: *Why have you brought us up out of the land of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread.* Num 21:5 This is a people who had been in slavery for over 100 years. If they had fought with Edom, one of the warring nations, many may have died and they would be discouraged, so God told Moses to go around that country. They were given everything they needed to live, but they complained bitterly. So God sent poisonous serpents that bit some of them, and many died. They acknowledged to Moses that they had sinned and asked him to ask God to take away the serpents. But God told Moses that He would not take the serpents away, but that He would provide **a remedy**. Moses was to make a serpent of bronze and put it up on a pole, so that all could see it; a person who was bitten could look up to it and not die.

Then Jesus said that He must be lifted up in the same way to be **a remedy for sin**: *And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, **even so must the Son of Man be lifted up**, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.* By being **born again**, Nicodemus could have eternal life in Jesus' name. Because Jesus the Son of God brought the good news from heaven to us, we can also believe on His name.

Many men might say that Jesus came into the world to condemn the world; but our own sins had condemned us already. Jesus did not come into the world to condemn us, but **to save us** from an evil and rebellious world. Those who do evil things do not like the light (**truth**) because it shows their wickedness. But those who love the truth of God love the light, because it provides salvation and **hope** in a world lost in darkness. Receiving the light, we must be born again.

Jesus Has a Conversation with Nicodemus

- **Memory Verses –** Discuss meaning. Be able to repeat from memory.

➢ ***Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.***
Also we have come to believe and know that
You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jn 6:68-69

➢ ***Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.*** Mt 7:21

➢ ***…unless one is born of water and the Spirit,***
he cannot enter the kingdom of God. Jn 3:5

➢ ***For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*** Jn 3:16

1. Who was Nicodemus?
2. What did he say about Jesus when he first began to speak?
3. Nicodemus was a member of the Jewish Council. So he was knowledgeable of the Law of Moses. What did Jesus tell him that he must do? Jn 3:3,5
4. What one word describes what Jesus said that Nicodemus must do?
5. Discuss what Jesus said about the difference between ***the flesh*** and ***the spirit***. Why is this so important? Jn 3:6-12
6. ***The Son of Man*** came down from heaven. What does this signify?
7. ***Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness.*** Num 21:4-9
Why was this necessary? Why did Jesus have to die on the cross?
8. Discuss how God showed His love for us and what it means to us.

Suggestions - This lesson is about the Eternal Purpose of God for the Salvation of Mankind. All of the factors are present: Jesus is Deity who came down from heaven to be born as a human being, to live as a man on the earth, to live a perfect life (an example for us), to be obedient to His heavenly Father, to teach the gospel of the kingdom of heaven, to perform miracles, to establish that HE WAS THE MESSIAH, THE SON OF GOD, to tell why Jesus had to die on the cross, to tell why God was willing to give His only begotten Son to suffer and die for sinners. Also present is God's condition for entering the kingdom: YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN!

- **Books of the Bible –** Be able to repeat from memory the first 18 books of the Bible
- **Consider also –** Gal 3:15-18; Eph 3:8-12; Heb 2:1-18; Lk 19:9-10; Jn 3:14-21

— Jesus Has a Conversation with a Woman of Samaria 218

As Jesus left Judea to go home to Galilee, He went through Samaria. Being tired from His journey, He rested in Sychar at Jacob's well, while his disciples went into town to buy food. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water from the well, Jesus asked her for a drink. She was surprised by the request, asking why Jesus would even speak to her since Jews had nothing to do with Samaritans. There had been a long dispute between them because the Jews believed in the whole of the Old Testament, while the Samaritans accepted only the first 5 books. Jesus answered her question by saying: *If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you* ***living water***. The Samaritan woman asked Him where He would get the living water, since He had nothing to draw with and the well was deep. Jesus said to her: *Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.* Then the woman asked for the water of life. Jesus told her to get her husband and return. She replied to Jesus that she had no husband. And He said to her that she had spoken correctly—she had been married 5 times, but the man she was living with now was not her husband. Because Jesus knew all about her life, she believed that **He was a prophet**. And she spoke to Him about the Jews worshiping in Jerusalem and the Samaritans in Mt. Gerizim.

Then Jesus said to her: *Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father….But the hour is coming, and now is, when* ***the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth****; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.* And the Samaritan woman expressed her belief that when the Messiah came, He would explain everything. Then Jesus said to her: ***I who speak to you am He.*** While going about her daily rituals, this woman talked with the **Messiah** (a surprising occasion because she was a woman and a Samaritan), the **Savior** that the Jewish people had been waiting to hear. Then she talked with many people in her city, and they also believed because of her words. And when they heard Jesus themselves, **they believed because of His words**.

What was the message that they heard? What does God want us to do? Here Jesus is explaining **the salvation** that we obtain when we believe Him and receive His words. Through the living water, we are made new and a fountain of water springs up within us to everlasting life. We are no longer full of sin, but have the capacity for producing fruit of the spirit, living a holy life before God. God is looking for true worshipers because:

God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship
in spirit and in truth.

God sent His Son that we might believe. We should hear Him.

Jesus Has a Conversation with a Woman of Samaria

- **Memory Verses –** Discuss meaning. Be able to repeat from memory.

➢ ***Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.*** Jn 6:68-69

➢ ***I know that Messiah is coming (who is called Christ). When He comes, He will tell us all things.*** Jn 4:25

➢ ***I who speak to you am He.*** Jn 4:26

➢ ***For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*** Jn 3:16

➢ ***God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.*** Jn 4:24

o Describe the woman of Samaria. Who was she?

o When Jesus asked the woman for a drink of water, what was her response? What reason is given for the character of her response?

o Jesus used the subject of physical water to speak to her about ***living water*** (spiritual). What is ***living water***?

o What is the end result of "drinking" ***living water***?

5. The character of worship is important: <u>salvation is of the Jews</u>; worship God (a true worshiper); in spirit and truth. At what location should we worship?
6. Jesus said that the fields are ready to be harvested. Discuss this concept.
   a. The woman came to believe that Jesus was the Christ. What did she do?
   b. How much training do we need to teach what we know?
   c. How much training do we need to tell people what we believe?
   d. The woman went into the city and told people about Jesus. What did they do?
7. Discuss these concepts:
   a) The woman said to Jesus, ***Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.*** Jn 4:19
   b) When the Christ comes, ***He will tell us all things.*** Jn 4:25
   c) The woman said about Jesus, ***He told me all that I ever did.*** Jn 4:39
8. When Jesus said that, if the temple was destroyed, He would raise it up in 3 days, what did He mean?

Suggestions - This lesson discusses living water, the character of worship, who Jesus is, the faith of the woman and what she did as a result of her faith. These simple concepts apply to each of us today, regardless of who I am.

- **Books of the Bible –** Be able to repeat from memory the first 22 books of the Bible

— Jesus Was a Person of Compassion 219

When Jesus began His ministry, He *went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.* Mt 9:35 Because of this, great multitudes followed Jesus to be healed, to be fed, or to witness Him performing miracles. Jesus went into homes and synagogues, to weddings, funerals and feasts at the temple. He walked through fields, by the sea and to the mountains. He watched a farmer sowing seed and observed how it grew. He saw how birds built their nests and how children played in the marketplace. And He was often followed by crowds of people: *But when He saw the multitudes, **He was moved with compassion for them**, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.* Mt 9:36 When sheep have no shepherd, they are lost, aimless and fearful. These people were much like lost sheep, living under and subject to the laws and taxes of Roman rulers, as well as rules from the Jewish leaders who added unnecessary burdens to their spiritual duties. But when over 5,000 people were hungry because they had followed Jesus all day, He fed them all from one child's meal of loaves and fishes. That is compassion! When great multitudes came to Him, having with them lame, blind, mute, maimed and many others, and laid them down at Jesus' feet, He healed them. That is compassion! Jesus had conversations with publicans, sinners and prostitutes; but He did not allow them to believe they could remain in sin and be pleasing to God.

When the woman taken in adultery was about to be stoned, Jesus said to her accusers: *He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first.* The accusers went away; then Jesus said to her, *Go and sin no more.* Jn 8:2-11

The **compassion** Jesus had for people was not only a **feeling** of pity and sympathy, but **doing** what He could to help. This kind of compassion shows courage and authority, and is closely connected to love and mercy. Jesus showed us that we cannot depend on any form of government to help us solve our problems and give us good lives. But He was not only thinking of their physical and social needs; He was more concerned with their spiritual needs. That is why Jesus gave them—and us—**a way of life** to follow. We can find peace and hope on this earth only by turning to Jesus. For it is through Jesus Christ that we can live a godly life, knowing that when we die, we will have an eternal home in heaven. How sad it was for Jesus as He mourned the spiritual state of some of the Jews, and said:

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem,
the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her!
How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers
her brood under her wings, but you were not willing! Lk 13:34

What could He do to remedy their spiritual ills? He suffered and died on the cross, so that they could receive **forgiveness** and have **salvation**.

Jesus was a person of compassion. He is **the remedy** for our sins today.

Jesus Was a Person of Compassion

- **Memory Verses –** Discuss meaning. Be able to repeat from memory.

➢ ***I know that Messiah is coming (who is called Christ). When He comes, He will tell us all things.*** Jn 4:25

➢ ***For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*** Jn 3:16

➢ ***Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.*** Jn 1:29

➢ ***And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.*** Jn 1:34

1. Define the word **compassion**.

2. Jesus *went about all the cities and villages, teaching…preaching the gospel of the kingdom…and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.* What Jesus was doing was for the people. Which was more important: the <u>healing</u> or the <u>teaching and preaching</u>? Explain your answer.

3. The lesson explains that Jesus was in a lot of different venues as He went from place to place to be a part of the daily lives of many people. How much salary did Jesus receive each month? What kind of fringe benefits did he receive? Why did He not look for a better paying job? Discuss <u>why</u> Jesus did what He did.

4. Mt 9:36, ***He was moved with compassion for them***. Jesus had compassion for people. What is mentioned specifically that caused Jesus to have compassion for the people at this moment in time?

5. How did Jesus show His compassion for the people?

6. Jesus provided for us **a way of life** to follow. Jn 14:6; Heb 10:19-20; Acts 9:2 What do these scriptures suggest about **THE WAY**?

7. What characteristics of God the Father and Jesus the Son suggest that they had **compassion** for people?

- **Books of the Bible –** Be able to repeat from memory the first 27 books of the Bible

— The Work and Authority of Jesus 220

The gospel of John begins with: ***In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.*** Jesus came to earth from heaven to save mankind from sin and evil. Taking human form *(And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us…*), He was known as the son of Joseph and Mary. And *He was in the world, and the world was made through Him and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.* When Jesus began to teach and preach, He began revealing himself as **the Son of God**. The chief priests and scribes kept asking Him by what authority He did things. In His wisdom, Jesus showed His authority with signs and miracles and wise teaching, while His Father gave His approval from heaven. Jesus taught in a profound, yet simple way. He told His disciples that many people who thought they were following God would not be acknowledged by the Father. These people were like the man who built his house on the sand; when the rains came with floods, and the winds blew hard against it, the house fell—and great was its fall! But those who heard His words and did them were like the man who built his house on rock; when the rains came and the winds blew against it, the house did not fall, because it was built on a solid foundation. The crowds listening to Jesus were astounded at His teaching,

*for **He taught them as one having authority** and not as the scribes.*

Then one Sabbath day, Jesus and His disciples were going through a field of grain and eating some grain as they went. The Pharisees asked Jesus why they were doing "what was not lawful on the Sabbath". Jesus reminded them of the time that David and his men ate the showbread when it was forbidden to all but the priests. Then Jesus said to them, *The Son of Man is also **Lord** of the Sabbath.* But to His disciples, Jesus said:

All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

But the Jews wrongly accused Jesus and looked for a way to kill Him because He had done "unlawful things on the Sabbath". They became more angry when Jesus said: ***My Father has been working until now, and I have been working.*** **"**Breaking the Sabbath" was bad enough, but now Jesus was equating Himself with God! One of the most beautiful evidences that Jesus is the Son of God is seen in the transfiguration of Christ. Mt 17:1-13 Jesus took Peter, James and John up on a high mountain where Jesus was transfigured before them: *His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. And, behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them.* Peter wanted to honor Jesus/Moses/Elijah. Then a bright cloud overshadowed them and a voice from the cloud said,

This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!

The Work and Authority of Jesus

- **Memory Verses –** Discuss meaning. Be able to repeat from memory.

➢ ***Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.*** Jn 1:29

➢ ***And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.*** Jn 1:34

➢ ***I know that Messiah is coming (who is called Christ).***
When He comes, He will tell us all things. Jn 4:25

➢ ***I who speak to you am He.*** Jn 4:26

➢ ***Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.***
Also we have come to believe and know that
You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jn 6:68-69

➢ ***And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples,***
which are not written in this book; but these are written
that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,
and that believing you may have life in His name. Jn 20:30-31

The Work and Authority of Jesus is ***The Story of the Bible***. The most important work of the Bible is to tell human beings about God. When a man meets God and understands WHO HE IS, he has to be in awe of Him: His authority and power – His holiness – His goodness – His love – His mercy – His grace – His promises – His covenant – His blessings – His justice – HIS STORY. And woven into this story is the relationship that GOD has with MAN and the relationship that MAN has with HIS GOD. From the stated commandments of God, the examples of people of God, and God's response to what people do, we are able to learn. From the many stories in the Bible, we learn what pleases God and what displeases Him—what is right and what is wrong—how we should live on this earth as human beings—believing in God/believing God (what He says)—loving God and being obedient to Him. Love – compassion – forgiveness – sharing – helping – giving – working – praying – denying self – putting the kingdom of Christ first in my life – putting others ahead of myself – rejoicing in the Lord – delighting in His word – working righteousness every day.

Jesus has all authority. Mt 28:18 He will reign until death is destroyed (no more physical death). 1 Cor 15:25-26 His Work was to establish Himself as the Son of God through the example of His life (1 Pet 2:21-25), His teaching (Jn 7:46), His miracles (Jn 20:30-31), and the attributes of God which people were able to see (Jn 14:7-11), reveal the New Covenant [New Testament] (Jn 16:5-15; Mt 28:18-20; Heb 8:7-13; 9:15-17,22,28; 10:10), and be ***The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!*** (Jn 1:29), ***the Savior*** of the world (Lk 2:11).

1. The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are ONE – that is, united as ONE –
   In Purpose / Plan / Message / Promises / Salvation / Hope / in all things.
   Discuss this principle from John 5:16-47; 14:7-11.
2. Simply stated, the work of Jesus was to show that He was the Messiah (Christ) and the Son of God. He did this through His Life, Teaching and Miracles. Then He was to die to save all sinners who would ever live. Did He do this?
3. What more do we need than what we are able to receive through Jesus Christ?

- **Books of the Bible –** Be able to repeat from memory the first 33 books of the Bible

— Review Lessons 211 - 220 R 22

This group of lessons is about Jesus Christ:

WHO HE IS—WHAT HE DID— WHAT HE ACCOMPLISHED
—WHAT THESE THINGS MEAN TO US.

There are so many things that teach us about Jesus. There are so many things that teach us what He wants us to do to please Him. There are so many lessons that show us the LOVE of God and Jesus for us and the good things that result from believing and obeying Him.

211 – When He was 30 years of age, **Jesus Is Baptized by John**—a significant event in the story of the life of Jesus. The discussion between John the Baptist and Jesus about whether Jesus should be baptized or not is very informative. After Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit appeared in the form of a dove and lighted on Jesus; and a voice from heaven declared,

This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Mt 3:13-17

212 – Jesus Is Tempted by the Devil—He was tempted in the same ways in which all human beings are tempted: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. Eve was tempted in these ways also. And the apostle John tells us that these are the ways that we are tempted. 1 Jn 2:15-17 Jesus demonstrates that He was able to endure the temptations of the Devil without sinning—we are able to do the same. Jesus quoted a Bible text to overcome each temptation; and we can do the same.

213 – Jesus Begins to Preach the Gospel of the Kingdom of God or the kingdom of heaven. This kingdom is equivalent to the spiritual kingdom spoken of by Daniel in Daniel chapter 2. This **kingdom** is the same as the **church** spoken of hundreds of times in the New Testament after its beginning as recorded in Acts 2. John the Baptist preached about the coming kingdom (Mt 3:1-3)—Jesus preached the same message (Mt 4:17): ***Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*** This means that the kingdom (church) would be **present with power** during the lives of some of the people to whom Jesus was speaking (Mk 9:1). It would not only exist, it would have the power (authority) to do and accomplish God's purpose and plan for it: the people who were **saved** were **added to the church** (Acts 2:47)—

Christ is head of the church, and He is the Savior of the body (Eph 5:23).

Jesus explained what the kingdom was and the characteristics of the people who would be in the kingdom. (Mt 5,6,7; Jn 3) From the time that Jesus began to preach about the kingdom, it was a topic preached on and written about, and still is today.

214 – JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD is the essential fact that must be accepted and believed by a person before he can be saved. This fact is the basis for the entire Bible. This fact is the foundation of the truth and the foundation of the church. This fact is the foundation principle of our salvation. Jesus established this essential fact as TRUTH. It is up to each of us to accept it, believe it, and apply it in our lives.

215 – At the **Wedding Feast at Cana of Galilee**, Jesus turned water into wine (grape juice). This was the beginning of signs performed by Jesus. Each of the "signs" showed some specific power (authority) of Jesus over something. Now, try to think of something that Jesus does not control (besides God the Father). Mt 28:18

216 – Jesus and the Moneychangers shows that the people who were exchanging money (the temple tax was a specific amount: 1 shekel) were providing something that was needful/helpful, especially to Jews coming to the temple in Jerusalem from foreign countries. However, Jesus points out that THE TEMPLE, a holy place, was not the place to carry on business of any kind—it was ***a house of prayer*** (or worship addressed to God). Animals for sacrifice were also being sold at the temple —people needed an animal to sacrifice—but the temple was not an appropriate place for this to be done. **Jesus drove the moneychangers/sellers of animals out of the temple.**

217 – Jesus Has a Conversation with Nicodemus which tells about The Eternal Purpose of God and a part of God's Plan for redeeming Mankind: You must be born again. We learn WHY Jesus had to die on the cross. We learn WHY God was willing to give His Son to suffer and to die—***for God so loved the world...*** Jn 3:16

218 – Jesus Has a Conversation with a Woman of Samaria, the circumstances of which are very interesting. The conversation is also interesting. The woman thinks that Jesus is a prophet. They discuss her life and marital status, physical and spiritual water, where to worship God, the fact that Jesus is the ***Messiah*** (***Christ***), the fact that ***God is spirit*** and He is to be worshiped ***in spirit and in truth***. Jn 4:23-24 The woman believes in Jesus. So she goes into the city and tells others. They believe her. The people come to hear Jesus—then they believe because of His words.

219 – Jesus Was a Person of Compassion. Compassion is a feeling, a sentiment, an emotion. You see or hear about someone who is injured physically or suffering from some disease or emotionally distressed because of a death or anxious about their relationship with God, and you feel with them the pain or sorrow or anxiety—that is **compassion**. On occasion, the feeling of Jesus for others is stated. At other times, what Jesus did showed that He was a person of compassion—He loves you and cares about you. He wants you to be saved and go to heaven. He died to save you.

220 – The Work and Authority of Jesus is a focus of many things that occurred in the life of Christ: "By what authority are You doing these things?" "Who gave you this authority?" The work of Jesus was to establish that He was the Messiah (Christ) and the Son of God. He did this through His manner of life, teaching, miracles, and His death, burial and resurrection from the dead. We must believe in Him to be saved.

- ***I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.*** Acts 8:37

1. The question is, Do you believe that ***Jesus Christ is the Son of God***?
2. The next question is, What are you doing about it?

- **Books of the Bible –** Be able to repeat from memory the first 39 books of the Bible

— Review Series Lessons 61 – 80, 201 – 220 S 22

The Law of Moses in the Old Testament was ***our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.***[1] The eternal purpose of God was established before the foundation of the world.[2] God made promises to Abraham[3]:

(1) God promised to give his descendents a **LAND** which they would possess—the land of Canaan. Moses led them to the land; Joshua led them into the land—they had to fight to obtain the land and possess it, but God was with them and really did give them the land. This promise was fulfilled.[4]

(2) God also promised to make of his descendents a **GREAT NATION**—it was called the nation of ISRAEL. They went down into the land of Egypt because of a famine. They were in Canaan for 215 years (though they did not possess it). Then they were in Egypt for 215 years where they became a great nation.[5]

(3) God promised Abraham that in his **SEED** all of the families of the earth will be blessed. This promise was fulfilled in Jesus Christ.[6] It was through Jesus Christ that SALVATION was made available to every person in the world—what a great blessing—what a great Savior—what a great God!

And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

[1]Gal 3:24 [2]Eph 1:4; 3:8-12 [3]Gen 12:1-3 [4]Josh 24:6,13 [5]Deut 26:5 [6]Gal 3:16 (3:1-29)

Lessons 61 to 70 – These lessons are about the period of the **KINGDOM OF ISRAEL** when it was united under one king, a period of 120 years (except for a period of about 7 years). Saul was the first king of Israel. He reigned for about 40 years. There is much more said in these lessons about David: as a young man; anointed to be king; fought and defeated the giant Goliath; married the daughter of King Saul; on the run from king Saul for many years; Saul died and David became the King; David was the second King of Israel—he reigned for 40 years. David's son Solomon, ruled next. He built the temple of God at Jerusalem. Israel reached the pinnacle of its power under Solomon. But Solomon married 700 wives and 300 concubines. Some of his wives swayed Solomon away from God and led him to worship idols. He then introduced the worship of idols to the kingdom of Israel. God took 10 tribes from his son's rule.

Lessons 71 to 80 – These lessons are about the period of the Kingdom of Israel after God divided it into 2 kingdoms: **ISRAEL** & **JUDAH**.

Judah, the southern kingdom, was ruled by Rehoboam, Solomon's son. He inherited reign over 12 tribes, but God took away 10 tribes. He was a good king for about 3 years. He reigned for 17 years.

Israel, the northern kingdom, was ruled by Jeroboam, a man chosen by God, for 22 years. God promised him that he would cause him to be successful if he would be faithful to God. But he very quickly appointed 2 places of worship: at Dan and Bethel. He initiated the worship of a golden calf, saying that these are the gods who brought you up out of Egypt. His entire reign was in opposition to God. The kings of Israel who followed continued in the same path as Jeroboam. Four prophets of God and their work are looked at more closely: Nathan, Gad, Shemaiah and Ahijah.

Group 21 – John the Baptist: prophecies about the character of his life and work; his birth, his way of life, his preaching and the response of the people to it. John would go before Jesus to prepare the way for Him. He preached that the people should repent and turn back to God. He preached about the kingdom of heaven. He preached about one who was coming after him who is THE MESSIAH who was promised by God (prophecies of the Old Testament). When Jesus came to John, John identified Jesus as

the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world and ***This is the Son of God.***

Jn 1:29,34 John said that Jesus was greater than he and that Jesus would increase but that John would decrease. **Jesus the Christ, the Son of God:** prophecies about the character of the person, His birth and early life. Focus: Jesus is the **SAVIOR** of the world. Everything we learn is centered in **WHO HE IS** and **HIS PURPOSE FOR COMING TO EARTH.** To fulfill His Purpose: He lived a perfect life (without sinning); He taught about God, the kingdom of God, citizens in the kingdom, sin and salvation, final judgment, the eternal purpose of God, the love of God, the promises of God, the hope that we have in Christ, and much more. His teaching and miracles established that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, the Savior of the world. His death/burial/resurrection are the basis of the gospel. 1 Cor 15:1-4

Group 22 – This group of lessons is about **JESUS CHRIST** and some personal events in His life which reveal very important things to us. Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist—God spoke from heaven, ***This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.***—the Holy Spirit appeared in the form of a dove. Jesus was tempted by the devil—He did not sin. Jesus begins to preach the gospel of the kingdom of heaven: ***Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*** Mt 4:17 The kingdom was a very important part of the teaching of Jesus. **Jesus is the bread of life.** As He talked about this topic, many of His disciples went away. Jesus asked the 12 if they wanted to go away—Peter said, ***Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.*** Jn 6:68-69 Time after time Jesus was challenged with respect to His teaching and His actions. We should all adopt Peter's response as our own. At a wedding feast in Cana of Galilee, Jesus turned water into wine (grape juice). This was the beginning of signs or miracles that Jesus performed. Jesus had little toleration for those who knowingly and willfully disobeyed God, especially with respect to those things that God said was holy. He demonstrated this when He drove the moneychangers and those who were selling merchandise out of the temple—

My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations?
But you have made it a den of thieves. Mk 11:17

Jesus talked with Nicodemus—we learn about the Purpose of God, the Love of God and the Plan of God to save Mankind. Jesus talked with a woman of Samaria—we learn about salvation and worship of God and that Jesus is the Messiah (Christ). Jesus is a person of Compassion—He loves you. The Work and Authority of Jesus was established by Him as He lived here on earth.

- **Books of the Bible –** Be able to repeat from memory the 66 books of the Bible

WE HAVE COVERED IN THE BIBLE

4004 BC CREATION 0 AM

GOD CREATED ALL THINGS IN THE PHYSICAL UNIVERSE.
THE ETERNAL PURPOSE OF GOD IS THE SALVATION OF MANKIND.

2348 BC FLOOD 1656 AM

GOD DESTROYED THE WORLD BECAUSE OF THE WICKEDNESS OF MANKIND. HE SAVED 8 RIGHTEOUS SOULS—NOAH & HIS FAMILY.

1921 BC PROMISES 2083 AM

GOD MADE PROMISES TO ABRAHAM: LAND—NATION—SEED.
THESE PROMISES WERE CONFIRMED WITH A COVENANT.
THROUGH ABRAHAM, ISAAC, JACOB AND ISRAEL—GOD BLESSED THE WORLD BY SENDING THE CHRIST, JESUS OF NAZARETH.

1491 BC EXODUS 2513 AM

GOD FREED THE NATION OF ISRAEL FROM SLAVERY IN EGYPT.
GOD GAVE THEM "THE FIRST COVENANT", THE LAW OF MOSES.

1451 BC THE LAND PROMISE 2553 AM

GOD GAVE THE LAND OF CANAAN TO THE NATION OF ISRAEL.

1095 BC THE KINGDOM OF ISRAEL 2909 AM

THE FIRST KINGS OF ISRAEL WERE SAUL, DAVID & SOLOMON.
THE KINGDOM WAS FIRMLY ESTABLISHED. TEMPLE WAS BUILT.

975 BC 2 KINGDOMS - ISRAEL & JUDAH 3029 AM

ISRAEL WAS DIVIDED INTO 2 KINGDOMS. **JUDAH -** REHOBOAM RULED OVER JUDAH. **ISRAEL -** JEROBOAM RULED OVER ISRAEL.

0 BC JESUS OF NAZARETH 4004 AM

MARY WAS A VIRGIN WHO CONCEIVED BY THE POWER OF GOD.
HER SON JESUS *(HE SHALL SAVE)* & IMMANUEL *(GOD WITH US)*
WAS BORN IN BETHLEHEM OF JUDEA.
GOD ANNOUNCED HIS BIRTH:
FOR THERE IS BORN TO YOU THIS DAY IN THE CITY OF DAVID A SAVIOR, WHO IS CHRIST THE LORD.
WHEN HE WAS 30 YEARS OLD, HE WAS BAPTIZED BY JOHN.
THEN HE WAS TEMPTED BY THE DEVIL (HE DID NOT SIN).
HE BEGAN TO PREACH THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM.
FOR 3.5 YEARS, HE PREACHED/PERFORMED MIRACLES.
HE SHOWED THAT HE WAS THE CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD.
HIS TEACHINGS PREPARED PEOPLE FOR THE COMING KINGDOM.

BOOK 6 **GROUP 23**

Series 701	***THE STORY OF THE BIBLE***
Group 23	**THE GOSPELS - JESUS**
Subtopic	**The Sermon on the Mount**
En 701-221	The Beatitudes – 1
En 701-222	The Beatitudes – 2
En 701-223	You Are Salt and Light
En 701-224	Jesus and the Law and Prophets
En 701-225	Others have said… but I say…
En 701-226	Charitable deeds, prayer, fasting
En 701-227	Seek first the kingdom of God
En 701-228	Judging - Discernment
En 701-229	The Golden Rule
En 701-230	Build on the Rock
En 701-R23	Review Lessons 221 - 230
En 701-S23	Review Series Lessons 201 - 230

AUTHORS: MEREDITH R. CHILDRESS / RONALD B. ROARK
2009, 2018

THE WAY OF LIFE
www.thewayoflife.training
USA

— The Beatitudes – 1 221

There are 9 beatitudes which Jesus uses to begin **The Sermon on the Mount** (Matthew chapters 5, 6 and 7). A **beatitude** is **a state of blessedness** (the condition of someone who has been blessed), such that the blessed person is usually happy or content with his life or condition of his life.

- **BLESSED -** The use of this word involves both the state of the person who is blessed and also the act of blessing (by God). The idea of receiving a blessing or being blessed indicates that something good or valuable is being received. Here we see that there is a spiritual blessing of great value to the recipient. It is very clear that God blesses some people or some types of people. It is also clear that those who are blessed must be in a condition or qualify to receive the blessing.

- **THE POOR IN SPIRIT -** The person who is in the condition or has the quality of being poor in spirit qualifies to receive this blessing. Those who were poor were often dependent on the landowners for work. Without this work, they would starve to death. So a man who wanted to work would submit to the commands and wishes of the landowner. The landowner or overseer would take note of those who did as they were told. Such a person would be chosen most often because he was dependable and productive. He would therefore be blessed by more work and therefore more money than others. This beatitude is saying that a person who has the willingness to submit to his Master (God) will be blessed spiritually.

  - **THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN**

- **THOSE WHO MOURN -** The person who is grieving on account of deep personal loss is the person who qualifies to receive this blessing. The idea seems to be more about a person who has sorrow because of the death of someone who is close or dear. While this may be too general, the implication is that the sentiments of the person who mourns are sincere and the relief which comes from the comfort is an awareness of the new state of the departed person.

  - **THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED**

- **THE MEEK -** The concept of a person who is meek is found several times in the Old Testament. Meek suggests inner strength – gentle, kind, not easily provoked; absolutely good and wise. While the view of the world is that the man with the right title or with the gun or with the money is the man who will win; the spiritual strength of the meek person will eventually win over the dominant, the ruffian, the bully, the one who tries to take advantage of his position to manipulate, control or destroy others. There are 2 outstanding people whom the Bible calls meek: Moses and Jesus—**meek**, not weak. Meekness is a fruit of power.

  - **THEY SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH**

- **THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS -** The idea used here is of a person who gets hungry or thirsty. This is a powerful picture for many who have been hungry or thirsty physically. But Jesus wants to relate this to the idea of a hunger for learning about what is right and doing what is right. Quite often, we do not get involved in an activity unless there is a very strong desire or motivation. Hunger is a very strong motivation. Thirst is perhaps even stronger. Everyone needs to have an intense desire to please God by knowing what is right and doing what is right. My spiritual hunger and thirst shall be satisfied.
  - **THEY SHALL BE FILLED**

The Beatitudes – 1

- **Memory Verses –** Discuss meaning. Be able to repeat from memory.
  - ***Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.*** Mt 5:6

1. In the beatitudes, who provides the blessing to a person?
2. Jesus does not command that a person must be ***poor in spirit***. He simply says that, if you have this quality or characteristic, then you will be blessed by God. Discuss the concept of the blessing by God and the basis of the blessing.
3. What are the 4 characteristics in a person that are mentioned in this lesson which will cause God to bless a person? What are the corresponding blessings?

1. THE POOR IN SPIRIT	1. _____
2. THOSE WHO MOURN	2. _____
3. THE MEEK	3. _____
4. THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS	4. _____

4. Discuss the characteristics that a person should possess to receive the blessing. Do you see how wonderful are the blessings? Does anyone deserve to receive them?
5. If we make this very personal, are you living in a state of blessedness?
   If your answer is "yes", do you appreciate how greatly you have been blessed?
   If your answer is "no", why are you not blessed? Why do you not want to be?

Suggestions - This lesson is at the beginning of **The Sermon on the Mount**. Jesus deals with many important topics in this sermon. He tells about the characteristics of persons who will be in the kingdom of heaven after it would be established by Jesus. Acts 2 In the same manner as suggested by the beatitudes, a person must possess certain qualities to be allowed to be in the kingdom of which Jesus is now the king.

- **Books of the Bible –** Be able to repeat from memory all 66 books of the Bible.

— The Beatitudes – 2 222

There are 9 beatitudes which Jesus uses to begin **The Sermon on the Mount**. A **beatitude** is **a state of blessedness** (the condition of someone who has been blessed), which usually results in the blessed person being happy or content with his life.

- **BLESSED -** The use of this word involves both the state of the person who is blessed and also the act of blessing (by God). The idea of being blessed indicates that something good or valuable is being received.

- **THE MERCIFUL -** Mercy includes compassion; feelings of kindness, goodwill and pity; in a legal sense, a person who is guilty of a crime (sin) receives mercy from the lawful authority—the person does not have to suffer the penalty prescribed by law. Most of us are not "the lawful authority" and are not therefore qualified to extend mercy to the convicted person; but in a general sense, what we expect or require from a person who does something against us personally may be done with an attitude of mercy. This concept includes sincere feelings of love and concern for other human beings who are suffering or in need. Be merciful.
  - **THEY SHALL OBTAIN MERCY**

- **THE PURE IN HEART -** The person whose thoughts and motives are pure. A man goes to a particular church because he believes that he can sell a lot of insurance. A man gives a lot of money to a charity so that he can receive praise from men. Jesus says, ***A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil things.*** A man is what he thinks in his heart. Be pure in heart.
  - **THEY SHALL SEE GOD**

- **THE PEACEMAKERS -** The most important concept of peace in the Bible is peace between God and man. But in this context, the idea of peace is harmonious relationships between men—how you get along with your neighbors, your friends, your family, people in general—are you a troublemaker or a peacemaker? Some people will never get along with anyone. Their goal is to stir up trouble. We are always going to have some problems that need consideration and decisions. Seek to gain peace on God's terms. Eph 4:1-3 Be a peacemaker.
  - **THEY SHALL BE CALLED SONS OF GOD**

- **THOSE WHO ARE PERSECUTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS' SAKE -** Persecution is being threatened, hurt, imprisoned, beaten or put to death because of their faith. Jesus is talking about a person who is persecuted because of their faith in Christ. Jesus says, Be faithful even if it costs you your life. Rev 2:10
  - **THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN**

- **WHEN THEY REVILE AND PERSECUTE YOU, AND SAY ALL KINDS OF EVIL AGAINST YOU FALSELY FOR MY SAKE -** The idea of "revile" is added to the idea of "persecute". Persecute is an action against while revile is speaking against. It is hard to take being persecuted or falsely accused. The end result shows whether it is worth it or not. Examine your faith/actions and be sure that what you are standing for is what God has said in the Bible. Then stand for it.
  - **GREAT IS YOUR REWARD IN HEAVEN**

The Beatitudes – 2

- **Memory Verses –** Discuss meaning. Be able to repeat from memory.
  - ***Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.*** Mt 5:7
  - ***Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.*** Mt 5:8
  - ***Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.*** Mt 5:9

1. Describe the concept of being **BLESSED** by God in this context.
2. Some lepers cried out to Jesus, "Have mercy on us." He did. An important principle is mentioned in The Sermon on the Mount—I cannot expect that God will have mercy on me if I do not have mercy on others. Discuss this principle.
3. Is it important for the heart of a person to be pure?
4. If a person's heart is filled with idolatry, what will likely happen to that person?
5. If a person's heart is filled with adultery, what will likely happen to that person?
6. If a person's heart is filled with covetousness, what will likely happen?
7. Why is it important to be at peace with your family?
8. Why is it important to be at peace in the church?
9. Being persecuted and reviled for God's sake will bring great blessings. Why?
10. What are the 5 qualities in a person that are mentioned in this lesson which will cause God to bless a person? What are the corresponding blessings?

5. THE MERCIFUL	5. _____
6. THE PURE IN HEART	6. _____
7. THE PEACEMAKERS	7. _____
8. THOSE WHO ARE PERSECUTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS' SAKE	8. _____
9. WHEN THEY REVILE…PERSECUTE YOU…SAY ALL KINDS OF EVIL…FOR MY SAKE.	9. _____

11. Discuss the entire concept of Jesus and the beatitudes (what we can learn).

- **Books of the Bible –** Be able to repeat from memory all 66 books of the Bible.

— You Are Salt and Light 223

Jesus uses figurative language in His teaching, such as parables. A parable is a story about a true physical thing or process that is used to illustrate a spiritual truth. Jesus often used comparisons of similar things and contrasts as well. In our Bible text, Jesus says that those who will be in His kingdom are **SALT** and **LIGHT**.

- **SALT -** ***You are the salt of the earth.***

SALT is the same kind of salt with which you season your food. The primary characteristic which Jesus uses for this comparison is the "preserving power" or "saving power" of salt. Before refrigeration, a person would kill an animal for food and preserve most of it for future use by cutting it into appropriate parts, rubbing it with salt and putting the parts into a "salt box" for a period of time (6 weeks, for example). When the meat was removed from the box, it was "cured" or safe to be used at some time in the future. The excess salt was removed and the meat was hung in a house designed for that purpose.

If the salt had no "saving power" or "preserving power", it was good for nothing. If the salt has a salty taste, it still has its "saving power".

Christians are the **SALT**, or "saving power" of the earth. This means that Jesus intends for Christians to be the instruments by which people on the earth will be saved from their sins and saved for eternity in heaven. The **faith**, **example** and **teaching** of Christians is the **SAVING POWER** to which Jesus refers.

- **LIGHT -** ***You are the light of the world.***

LIGHT is the same kind of light which comes from the sun or provides the light by which we are able to see things. Imagine what it would be like to live without light, unable to see what is around you, unable to see the person with whom you are talking. Jesus uses the concept of light to express the idea of spiritual knowledge and understanding. And he also uses the "city set on a hill" concept. Jerusalem was such a city. If you are walking and approaching the city at night, you are able to see this city from a great distance. Also, a person who lights a lamp does not do so in order to hide the light, but to let the light shine for its intended purpose.

Christians are LIGHT. Jesus intends for Christians to be the instruments by which people in the world would come to know the truth and possess the knowledge to follow that certain path which leads to heaven.

Let your light so shine… says that each person has a responsibility to live as God would have him to live so that his good works will be seen by men and God will be glorified. [We should not do good works to receive personal praise from men.]

You Are Salt and Light

- **Memory Verses –** Discuss meaning. Be able to repeat from memory.

➢ ***You are the salt of the earth.*** Mt 5:13

➢ ***You are the light of the world.*** Mt 5:14

➢ ***Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*** Mt 5:16

1. Discuss the language that Jesus used in His teaching. Give some examples.

2. What is SALT? What characteristic does salt have that is significant to this text?

3. What spiritual application is made with the term SALT?

4. Discuss what Jesus meant when He said, ***You are the salt of the earth.***

5. What is LIGHT? What characteristic does light have that is significant to this text?

6. What spiritual application is made with the term LIGHT?

7. Discuss what Jesus meant when He said, ***You are the light of the world.***

8. What personal responsibility is found in the comparison to the SALT?

9. What personal responsibility is found in the comparison to the LIGHT?

10. Discuss the concept of LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE.

11. Consider the universal nature of each of these concepts. What is the end result that Jesus is seeking? …for the person? …for others?

Suggestions - Jesus often uses familiar things or processes to illustrate some spiritual truth. We need to understand this point so that we do not take what Jesus said in a figurative way to be literal as to its application. The people understood clearly the idea of the curative and preserving power of salt. Therefore they could easily understand the spiritual truth that Jesus mentioned. The same is true of the concept of light. This idea is used with respect to Jesus several times. The personal responsibility of every person to live acceptably before God and to lead others in the way of the Lord is a compelling thought which should be a part of everyday life.

- **Books of the Bible –** Be able to repeat from memory all 66 books of the Bible.

— Jesus and the Law and the Prophets 224

Jesus introduces His teaching in "the sermon on the mount" by saying that He did not come to take away the Law and the Prophets—He came to fulfill them. Jesus makes it clear that He is going to teach some things that are different than the Law of Moses; but the Law of Moses is still in effect and every person who is subject to the Law must continue to obey the Law until it is fulfilled. (See Lesson 225.) Lk 24:44-49,

> Jesus said to the eleven, [44] ***These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.***

These words of Jesus (Luke 24) were spoken after He was resurrected from the dead; but they help us to understand the specifics to which Jesus was referring in "the sermon on the mount": **until all is fulfilled**. As He spoke to the eleven just before His final ascension into heaven, Jesus said it was necessary for all things which were written in the Old Testament concerning Him **must be fulfilled**.

- **THE LAW OF MOSES -** Moses wrote about the coming of Jesus. Acts 3:22-23,

> [22] ***For Moses truly said to the fathers, 'The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you.*** [23] ***And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.'***

Jesus the Prophet—whatever He says, we are to hear / accept / believe / obey.

- **THE PROPHETS -** The prophets foretold the coming of Jesus. Acts 3:18,24-25,

> [18] ***But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled….*** [24] ***Yes, and all the prophets, from Samuel and those who follow, as many as have spoken, have also foretold these days.*** [25] ***You are sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'***

All of the prophets of the Old Testament spoke about the coming of Jesus and told WHO HE WAS / WHAT HE WOULD DO / WHAT HE WOULD BE.

- **THE PSALMS -** The Psalms tell about the death of Jesus. Ps 22:16-17,

> [16] ***For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet;*** [17] ***I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me.***

This describes how Jesus would be received and treated BECAUSE HE WAS the Messiah, the Son of God—they crucified Him. He died so that we could live.

Jesus and the Law and the Prophets

- **Memory Verses –** Discuss meaning. Be able to repeat from memory.

➢ ***…unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will be no means enter the kingdom of heaven.*** Mt 5:20

➢ ***These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.*** Lk 24:44

➢ ***For Moses truly said to the fathers, 'The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you.*** Acts 3:22

➢ ***Yes, and all the prophets, from Samuel and those who follow, as many as have spoken, have also foretold these days.*** Acts 3:24

1. Jesus teaches about **AUTHORITY**. Mt 5:17-20 What law were the Jews obligated to keep until it was fulfilled?

2. Jesus teaches the **BEATITUDES**. Mt 5:1-12 Was it possible for a person to adopt the characteristics Jesus taught without violating the Law of Moses?

3. Jesus teaches about the **FULFILLMENT** of what was written about Him in the Old Testament. Lk 24:44-49 Why was this important?

4. What does the **FULFILLMENT** of Old Testament prophecy establish or prove?

5. When the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms were **FULFILLED**, what law or **AUTHORITY** would all people be obligated to believe and obey? Acts 3:22

6. In what ways do we refer to the law that all people are obligated to believe and obey? Rom 1:16; Acts 9:2; Heb 8:13; 10:14-25; Jude 1:3

Suggestions - This lesson is about Jesus and some of His teachings. As He talks about **the Law and the Prophets**, He tells them that He is going to teach them some new things; but the Jews must continue to obey the Law of Moses until it is fulfilled. He is indicating that His teachings will be a part of the New Covenant which would be in effect later. (The teachings of Jesus became effective when He died. Mt 28:18-20; Acts 2:36; 3:22,26; Heb 9:15-17,22)

- **Books of the Bible –** Be able to repeat from memory all 66 books of the Bible.

— Others have said… but I say… 225

In the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew chapters 5, 6, 7), Jesus teaches about the characteristics of people who will be in the kingdom of heaven (the church/the saved) while they are living here on the earth. He teaches things that are different from the Law of Moses. Therefore, He says that everyone who is obligated to keep the Law of Moses (the Jews) must continue to keep the Law until it is fulfilled. **THEN**, they will no longer be obligated to keep the Law of Moses (the old covenant)—**THEN**, they will be obligated to keep **THE NEW COVENANT** (the New Testament: Matthew - Revelation; the Gospel of Jesus Christ). Discuss each of the following statements:

(1) *You have heard that it was said to those of old…* (2) *but I say to you…*

(1) ***You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.***

(2) ***Whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire.***

Raca = "empty, intellectually rather than morally, empty-headed…worse than being angry…"
Fool = "a godless, moral reprobate". W.E. Vine

(a) Angry with his brother without a cause **(b) Says to his brother, 'Raca'**
(c) Says to his brother, 'You fool'. I must respect my brother, even if he does something that hurts me, or something that I do not like. He is the image of God.

(1) ***You shall not commit adultery.***

(2) ***Whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.***

Adultery begins in the heart—do not even think about committing adultery and you will not do so. If you desire to commit adultery with a particular woman who is not your wife (if you look at a woman to lust for her), you have committed adultery with her already in your heart. Govern your heart—Govern yourself.

(1) ***Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.***

(2) ***Whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.***

It seems that the Jews did not understand God's law of marriage: they seemed to believe that God's law permitted a man to divorce his wife for just any cause. When someone asked Jesus about divorce, His reply began with what marriage is. Mt 19:3-10 If we understand marriage, divorce will not be much of an issue. This answer is clear; but other scriptures must also be considered.

(1) ***You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.***

(2) ***Do not swear at all: … But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.'***

Oaths were used, and in some cases, required in the Law of Moses. But they had become so common that a person was not believed unless he gave his oath: He swore by the temple, or the gold of the temple…things that he did not possess and did not control. The purpose of an oath was to be a surety for what was sworn. Jesus said that you should be so honest and have so much integrity that you say what you mean and mean what you say every time. And you do what you say you will do every time. And when you refuse to do something on the basis of principle, you will not do it. This is how Christians should speak and be trusted.

(1) ***An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.***

(2) ***I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also....*****Go the second mile.**

The justice of the law said that, if I knock out the tooth of someone, he had the right to knock out my tooth. If I was responsible for the death of a person, the surviving family members had the right to take my life. Jesus said: **NO MORE REVENGE!** God will take care of it. Maybe not now, but He will repay. If someone does evil to you, do not resist him. Accept unjust treatment. And more than that, if someone can legally require you to go one mile, go with him two (do more than what is required of you).

(1) ***You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.***

(2) ***Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.***

God never commanded anyone to <u>hate</u> someone else. But He did command that they not make treaties or agreements with the people of Canaan. They were not to associate with people who were not Israelites. They were not to marry people who were not Israelites. So, it might be possible to hate people who were not Israelites. You should love every person and treat him as if you love him.

Others have said… but I say…

- **Memory Verses –** Discuss meaning. Be able to repeat from memory.
  - ***Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.*** Mt 5:7
  - ***Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.*** Mt 5:8
  - ***Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.*** Mt 5:9
  - ***But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes', and your 'No', 'No'.*** Mt 5:37
  - ***Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.*** Mt 5:44
- **Books of the Bible –** Be able to repeat from memory all 66 books of the Bible.

— Charitable deeds, prayer, fasting 226

Do not do your good works to be seen by men.
Do what you do in secret and God will reward you openly.

1) Mt 6:1-4 - Charitable deeds are things you do for others because you love them (care about them). Do your charitable deeds in secret—not to be seen by men. God knows —He will reward you openly. We should do what we do to please God—others are helped in some way when we do what He has said.

2) Mt 6:5-9a - Jesus gave these comments about prayer: Do not pray in the same way that the hypocrites pray—to be seen by men. Pray in secret—God will reward you openly. Do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do—they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Say what you mean : Mean what you say. Pray from your heart to your God and Father.

3) Mt 6:9b-13 - Jesus gave this prayer as a model for His disciples to learn how to pray. Remember that the rituals of the Law of Moses would soon be done away. All things would be made new. How should we worship God? How should we pray? Etc. Prayer was just one area that the disciples would need to learn about.

> ***Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.***

This prayer is directed to God; but it is about God. He is praised and revered. His interests and purposes are mentioned—we are praying that what God wants will come to pass. Then we pray for personal desires and needs. Many people lived from day to day—what they harvested or earned that day was what they had to eat: no harvest/no work equals nothing to eat. Forgive us our debts, what we owe to God on account of sin—recognizing that God will forgive me on the same basis that I forgive those who do something against me. We pray for God's help to overcome temptation and Satan. The prayer closes with the recognition of the power of God and the greatness of His kingdom. Amen.

4) Mt 6:14-15 - Jesus then continues with a comment about praying for forgiveness:

> ***For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.***

5) Mt 6:16-18 - Jesus talks about fasting - Do not fast to be seen by men—do not appear to others to be fasting. Your Father will see and reward you openly.

Charitable deeds, prayer, fasting

- **Memory Verses –** Discuss meaning. Be able to repeat from memory.

- ***Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*** Mt 6:9b-13
- ***You are the salt of the earth.*** Mt 5:13
- ***You are the light of the world.*** Mt 5:14
- ***But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes', and your 'No', 'No'.*** Mt 5:37

1. What is a charitable deed?
2. Should we do charitable deeds to be seen by men (to receive praise from men)?
3. Should we do charitable deeds in secret to be seen by God (rewarded by God)?
4. Should we pray like the hypocrites (to be seen by men)?
5. Should we pray in secret?

   Why?
6. Should we pray in from our hearts to God?

   Why?
7. Jesus gave a model prayer to teach us the manner in which we should pray. It is not a prayer to be repeated by rote as a ritual for any occasion that a prayer should be offered. What can we learn from this prayer about how to pray?

8. Can we expect to receive forgiveness from God if we do not forgive others? Discuss.

9. What is fasting?

10. Does Jesus require Christians to fast today?

Suggestions - Jesus reminds us that our service to God is between a person and His God. We should not do what we do for the Lord to be seen by men (and then praised for our actions by men). We should not pray to be seen by men or pray long prayers, believing that God is more likely to hear us. Learn the manner in which you should pray from the model given by Jesus. You cannot expect forgiveness from God if you do not forgive other men. Learn some rules for fasting.

- **Books of the Bible –** Be able to repeat from memory all 66 books of the Bible.

— Seek first the kingdom of God 227

Priorities are a challenge to every person, every family, and every local church: What is our primary concern for the next year? How do we plan to spend our money? Who do we want to help in some way? Why? **What is my priority and why?**

In His sermon on the mount, Jesus talks about many topics of concern to people. He concludes this part of His lesson by saying,

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,
and all these things shall be added to you. Mt 6:33

✓ Jesus says, **SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD.** The priority of my life should be the kingdom of God (the church). Jesus loved the church and gave Himself for it—He purchased the church with His own blood. Eph 5:25; Acts 20:28 That means that I care what happens in the church and to the church. I assist the church in whatever ways that I can.

Eph 4:11-16 Paul describes some of the leaders in the church and their work. The main work that is described here involves teaching. Some men need to lead: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors (elders, bishops, presbyters), teachers. But being a "leader" in the church does not give anyone the right to make laws for God, add to what God has said, or take away from what God has said. The law of Christ (the New Covenant, the Gospel) was given by Jesus Christ. Heb 1:1-2; 8:13; Jn 16:13-15; Rom 1:16 Jesus is the ***head over all things to the church.*** Eph 1:22-23

1 Cor 12:12-27 Members of the body of Christ (members of the church of Christ), are to share in the various functions in the church so that everything the church is to do can be accomplished. There is a picture of cooperation in a spirit of love, respect, concern, and assistance for the wellbeing of each member as well as for the wellbeing of the collective body.

✓ Jesus says, **SEEK FIRST THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD.** The priority of my life should be the righteousness of God. The entire Bible deals with the concepts of sin and righteousness. 1 Jn 3:4,7 God tells us what is lawless or sinful. God also tells us what is lawful and righteous and good. Jesus is explaining in this sermon the characteristics of a person that God will accept into fellowship in the kingdom. We should seek to be blessed by the righteousness which God has commanded that we possess and practice.

Remember that Eve knew what God had said—**DO NOT EAT** of the tree in the middle of the garden, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil—Satan tempted her, deceived her, and she sinned—she ate of the forbidden fruit. She had plenty to eat. She had many fruits to choose from that she could eat. She **WANTED TO** eat of the forbidden fruit because of the words of Satan. **DEATH ENTERED THE WORLD.**

Seek first the kingdom of God

- **Memory Verses –** Discuss meaning. Be able to repeat from memory.
  - ***For with God nothing will be impossible.*** Lk 1:37
  - ***He has visited and redeemed His people.*** Lk 1:68
  - ***But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*** Mt 6:33
  - ***Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.*** 1 Jn 3:4
  - ***He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.*** 1 Jn 3:7

1. Make a list of the priorities of your life in <u>the order of their importance to you</u>.

2. Does <u>the order of their importance to you</u> on your list agree with what Jesus says?

3. Jesus said that we should ***seek first the kingdom of God***. Name some ways that I may be able to accomplish this.

4. Based on my own observations of my life, am I seeking first the kingdom of God?
5. Jesus said that we should ***seek first the righteousness of God***. Name some ways that I may be able to accomplish this.
6. Based on my own observations of my life, am I seeking first the righteousness of God?
7. Mt 6:19-34 Consider the text of this lesson:

   (1) Where should I lay up treasures? Discuss.

   (2) What is ***the lamp of the body***? What does this mean to me?

   (3) Why should I worry since God is my God? Discuss.

Suggestion - This lesson is a personal challenge to **ME**. Who am I, really? What do I do in my life to show my love for God and His kingdom? What do I do in my life to show my love for righteousness and serving God faithfully? It is easier to say, "I love you" than it is to show by your actions that you love someone. Consider this lesson carefully and have the openness of heart to be honest with yourself and with God.

- **Books of the Bible –** Be able to repeat from memory all 66 books of the Bible.

— Judging - Discernment 228

Judging is a topic which brings forth disagreements about what Jesus is saying,

Judge not, that you be not judged.

Most people do not like to be "judged". If I criticize a person: the way he is dressed, the comment that he just made, or judge that he is "out of order" in any way, quite often the response will be "Jesus said, 'Do not judge' other people".

To understand what Jesus is saying in this verse, we need to look at the meaning of the word ***judge***. The word is used in several different ways in the New Testament. But, in this verse, it means "to assume the office of a judge". (W.E.Vine) You are not a judge, but you act like you are. There is a warning being given: if you are going to assume the position of the judge of another, remember that later on, you will be judged in the same way that you have judged. Moses was asked the question, ***Who made you a prince and a judge over us?*** Ex 2:14 This is a very good question. Being a judge is a very important position. Can just anyone be a judge? If a man assumes the position of judge, what is the significance of his judgment? He has no authority to judge. But this is perhaps one of the most common things to happen on a day-to-day basis among our brethren.

James addressed this matter specifically:

…have you not shown partiality among yourselves,
and become judges with evil thoughts? Jas 2:4

Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another? Jas 4:11-12

Censorious judging is what is condemned.

Jesus mentions the topic of judging in another text. Jn 7:24

Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.

Jesus says that we should judge; but we should judge with righteous judgment—what is fair and just based on the facts in the case. We must judge whether the truth is being taught and take action, if necessary. 2 Jn 9-11 The church was told to judge with respect to the guilt or innocence of a person accused of some sin. 1 Cor 5:8-10; Mt 18:15-17 When we grow to be mature Christians, we are able to ***discern*** (judge) ***both good and evil.*** Heb 5:12-14

Whatever we do should be done in love. If I believe that a person is guilty of some sin, I should approach him in humility and in love, desiring the best possible outcome for him. Eph 4:15; Gal 6:1-5 Love the sinner—hate the sin. Jude 20-23

Judging – Discernment

- **Memory Verses –** Discuss meaning. Be able to repeat from memory.

- ***Judge not, that you be not judged.*** Mt 7:1
- ***Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.*** Jn 7:24
- ***Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.*** 2 Jn 9
- ***There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another?*** Jas 4:12

1. Jesus says, ***Judge not, that you be not judged.***
   (1) Does this statement indicate that no one should make any judgments?
   (2) What warning is given with respect to judging? Discuss.

   (3) Is this warning similar to another warning Jesus gave about forgiveness? Mt 6:14-15

   (4) What kind of **judging** is Jesus condemning? Discuss.

2. Jas 4:11-12 Consider these verses carefully.
   (1) v.11 Speaking evil of a brother is connected directly to judging him (implies censorious judgment). Discuss.

   (2) v.11 Speaking evil of a brother and judging a brother is connected directly to speaking evil of the law and judging the law. If I judge the law, I am not a doer of the law but a judge. ***Who made you a prince and a judge over us?*** What is your function with respect to the law? Discuss.

   (3) Rom 1:16-17 What is the LAW that everyone in the world is obligated to obey?

   (4) v.12 ***There is one Lawgiver.*** Who is it?
   (5) v.12 What does this Lawgiver have the power to do?
   (5) v.12 ***Who are you to judge another?*** Discuss.

Suggestion - How we view other people and what they do is the focus of this lesson. Every day, we all discern what is happening, make judgments of one kind or another, make decisions about what to do and what we think about a particular person or actions of a person. Do I have the right to judge another person or his actions? We must make judgments about some things—but how we make those judgments: my purpose, my attitude, what I desire from my actions, etc.—these are important considerations. What the New Testament says about these things are also very important for me to form a correct attitude and action in things that I decide to judge.

- **Books of the Bible –** Be able to repeat from memory all 66 books of the Bible.

— The Golden Rule 229

Whenever **GOLD** or **GOLDEN** is spoken of, it usually is talking about the person, or the item, being the best it can be. **The Golden Rule** of the Bible is recorded in Matthew 7:12. Everyone agrees that this is it.

Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them,
for this is the Law and the Prophets.

The truth is that, if everyone followed **The Golden Rule**, everyone in the world would be happier and more satisfied with their lives on earth. They would also be more pleasing to God. A picture of final judgment is given by Jesus in which He shows the importance of loving other people, caring about other people, and doing something to express that love and care. Mt 25:31-46 A failure to do this is shown to be unacceptable to God.

So, love God and love your neighbor. Jesus says that this is what we should do.

Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said to him,
You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, and with all your mind...

And…You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Mt 22:34-40

Jesus says that loving God is the most important thing that we can do; but the degree to which we are to love Him is equally important: with **ALL** your heart, with **ALL** your soul, with **ALL** your mind—the commandment is that I must love God with the entirety of my being—I put God ahead of everyone else and ahead of everything else. The second commandment is like the first: love your neighbor. The degree to which we are to love our neighbor is equally important: I must love my neighbor as much as I love myself. People ask, how should I love my neighbor. Jesus already answered that; but we may not like the answer. This is much easier to say than to do. My attitude towards God and towards my neighbor I must knowingly build to the completeness that God requires.

We should realize that there is a repetition of the concepts of love in the teachings of Jesus. Some people use the word **LOVE** all the time about many things: I love chicken, I love football, I love the lake, I love my wife, I love God…. Remember the degree to which we are to love God and the degree to which we are to love our neighbor—this is not casual nor is it without genuine feeling.

- If I love God, I will keep His commandments. 1 Jn 2:3-6; 5:2
- If I love Jesus, I will do what He says. Jn 15:9-17; 1 Jn 4:19
- If I love God and Jesus, I will be faithful, no matter what may happen to me or my family while I live on the earth. Mt 25:21,23; 1 Cor 15:58; Rev 2:10
- If I love God and Jesus, I will want to go to heaven. Jas 1:12

The Golden Rule

- **Memory Verses –** Discuss meaning. Be able to repeat from memory.

➢ ***Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.*** Mt 7:12

➢ ***You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.*** Mt 22:37

➢ ***You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*** Mt 22:39

➢ ***Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.*** 1 Jn 2:3

➢ ***You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.*** Jn 15:14

➢ ***Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.*** Rev 2:10

1. Discuss the concept that Jesus expresses as a way of life for everyone. Mt 7:12

2. To what degree should I love God?

3. Name some ways that I can show that **I LOVE GOD**.

4. To what degree should I love my neighbor?

5. Name some ways that I can show that **I LOVE MY NEIGHBOR**.

6. Who is my neighbor?

7. Discuss the principle of **LOVE** in salvation—what does **LOVE** have to do with it?

8. Discuss the principle of **LOVE** in my daily life—does **LOVE** fit into my life?
   (1) My family - (a) wife/husband (b) children (c) father/mother (d) extended...

   (2) My church family - (a) elders (b) preacher (c) deacons (d) teachers
   (e) other brothers and sisters in local church (f) other Christians in the world

   (3) My friends and neighbors - (a) doctor (b) mechanic (c) carpenter (d) others

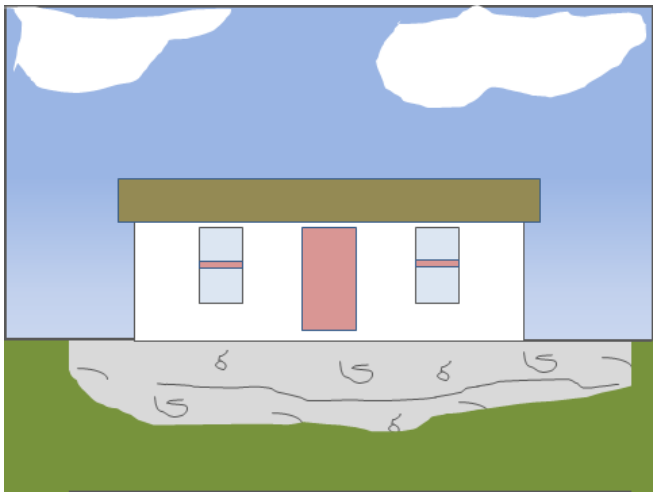
Suggestion - There is no doubt that there is a God—His way works far better than anything that man has devised. This lesson focuses on the golden rule of the Bible: <u>treat others as you would like to be treated</u>. What a wonderful concept. When it is put into practice, everyone benefits. Every person should put it into practice in their lives.

- **Books of the Bible –** Be able to repeat from memory all 66 books of the Bible.

— Build on the Rock 230

The Bible shows from the very beginning that **God is God**. Since He is God, we are to revere Him and worship Him and serve Him according to His Will. The Old Testament pictures people who believe and obey God and are blessed by God. It also pictures those who do not believe and/or do not obey God and are punished. These are examples for us to know about God and what He expects from us.

The picture Jesus paints in this story is so clear that everyone can easily understand it. Jesus is the source of all authority. Mt 28:18 He is the head of all things to the church. Eph 1:22-23 The beginning of knowing what to do about anything is to see what Jesus has to say about it. The New Testament is the testament of Jesus Christ which He sealed with His blood (when He died on the cross). Heb 9:16 ***Him you are to hear in all things, whatever He says to you.*** Acts 3:22 When we look to Jesus for guidance in the New Testament—when we accept what He says and believe what He says and do what He says—**we are building on the rock.**



GRACE and TRUTH and
A NEW and LIVING WAY
came by Jesus Christ. Jn 1:17; Heb 10:20
Jesus: the way/the truth/the life. Jn 14:6

BUILD ON THE ROCK—

The rock is a solid/firm foundation. The teachings of Jesus about **LOVE**: love God, neighbor, wife/husband, children, one another, enemies, is a principle of life and living. If we employ this one simple idea—**LOVE**—in our daily lives, we have a tremendous advantage for living life in a happy and profitable way. And, in the process, we are obeying God. If God says that something is a sin, we are better off not to engage in that activity—whether there is a God or not—whether there is heaven/hell or not.



When we do not look to Jesus for our guidance in the New Testament—when we reject what He says and disbelieve what He says and do not do what He says— **we are building on the sand.**

DO NOT BUILD ON THE SAND—

Build on the Rock

- **Memory Verses –** Discuss meaning. Be able to repeat from memory.

- ***And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.*** Mt 28:18
- ***And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.*** Eph 1:22-23
- ***For Moses truly said to the fathers, 'The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you.'*** Acts 3:22
- ***For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.*** Heb 9:16
- ***by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh,*** Heb 10:20
- ***Jesus said to him, I am the way, the truth, and the life.*** Jn 14:6

1. Who is the source of all authority in this period of God's law for mankind?
2. Who is the head of all things to the church?
3. How was the New Testament sealed (made effective / binding)?
4. Moses foretold of ***a Prophet like me*** whom God would raise up. What does this expression mean? [Moses was a prophet, a lawgiver, a mediator of the law, and the leader of God's people. Does this also describe Jesus?]
5. Who is ***the way, the truth, and the life***?
6. What do we need to do to be able to say, **I build on the rock**?
7. ***Grace and truth*** came by Jesus Christ. What does this mean to us?
8. ***A new and living way*** came by Jesus Christ. What does this mean to us?
9. We are told to build on **"the rock"**. What is **"the rock"** in this context? Mt 7:24-29
10. What principle of life and living can help us to live happy and profitable lives?
11. If God identifies something as **SIN**, what should be my attitude towards it?
12. We are told not to build on **"the sand"**. What is **"the sand"** in this context?

- **Books of the Bible –** Be able to repeat from memory all 66 books of the Bible.

— Review Lessons 221 - 230 R 23

This group of lessons is about The Sermon on the Mount. This is the most lengthy dissertation that is recorded for us in the New Testament. Jesus introduces many teachings that are different from what is contained in the Law of Moses (Old Covenant). He says that the people are to continue to obey the Law of Moses until it is fulfilled. Then they should hear, believe and follow the teachings of Jesus. At the end of His sermon, ***the people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.*** Mt 7:28-29

221 – The Beatitudes – 1 The meaning of the word ***blessed*** is given: the state of the person who is blessed; the act of blessing (by God). Four of the nine beatitudes are discussed in this lesson: the poor in spirit; those who mourn; the meek; those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. Each receives a blessing from God. These beatitudes describe the character of those who are suited to be in the kingdom of God.

222 – The Beatitudes – 2 Five of the beatitudes are discussed in this lesson: the merciful; the pure in heart; the peacemakers; those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake; when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for my sake. Each receives a blessing from God. We are able to see what pleases God by looking at these beatitudes. We should become what Jesus says we should be.

223 – You Are Salt and Light - The attributes of salt are mentioned to show why **SALT** is used as a way to describe His disciples: it has "preserving power" and "saving power". The life/teaching of disciples would save them and others as well. **LIGHT** is another way Jesus used to describe His disciples: they provide the spiritual knowledge/understanding which people need to obey Jesus. ***Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.***

224 – Jesus and the Law and the Prophets - Jesus is going to present some teachings that were different from the Law of Moses. So He made an emphatic statement that everyone who was obligated to obey the Law must continue to do so until the Law was fulfilled. After His resurrection from the dead, Jesus says that ***all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.*** These things were fulfilled. The Law of Moses was "nailed to the cross". The teachings of Jesus became effective. When Jesus says to the apostles to "Go teach all nations", He told them to teach what He had already taught them. Jesus prepared the people and the apostles for the new spiritual kingdom, for salvation, for the hope of eternal life. In the "sermon on the mount", Jesus was preparing the people for what was to come in fulfillment of what God had promised.

225 – Others have said… but I say… This lesson presents some things that had been taught in the past by comparison with what Jesus is teaching would be the character of the people who would qualify to enter the kingdom of God. These teachings would become a part of the New Covenant that Jesus would establish for the benefit of all mankind in the world. It is clear that Jesus goes beyond the teachings of the Law where certain actions were condemned—**what is in the heart of a man** is just as important as what he does, as far as God is concerned—a higher level for man in his relationship with his God than stated in the Law of Moses. For example, Moses said, ***Do not murder***—Jesus said, ***Do not hate***. If you do not hate, you will not murder. Jesus goes to the root of the problem—what is in your heart.

226 – Charitable deeds, prayer, fasting – (1) Do your deeds of love in secret and God will reward you openly. (2) Jesus gives some principles about prayer: Do not pray like the heathen, like the hypocrite, with many words, to be seen by men—pray from your heart to your God and Father. (3) Jesus gives the model prayer as an example to help us to know how to pray. Notice the emphasis on **God**. (4) I need to forgive my fellow man if I expect to be forgiven by God. (5) Jesus gives some suggestions about fasting (not a command)—it is voluntary.

227 – *Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness* - The priority of my life should be **God**! What God wants! How I can please God! Jesus says that I do this by making the kingdom of God the priority of my life. And equally important is the righteousness which God has taught me that I am to possess—this is who I am!

228 – Judging – Discernment – Jesus condemns censorious judgment—the purpose of which is to condemn, often for personal gain or gratification, not for justice. Jesus also said to judge with righteous judgment: for the right purpose, to accomplish what is good (or just), to accomplish what is good for the accused and/or those adversely affected by his actions. **Discernment** comes with maturity in the **USE** of the gospel to ***discern*** between what is ***good*** and what is ***evil***.

229 – The Golden Rule – This name was given by man to this statement of Jesus. The name indicates that this is the best, the greatest, and the most important commandment that Jesus gave to mankind. It is easy to understand that everyone in the world would be better off, happier, and more pleasing to God if they practiced what Jesus said: treat others as you would like to be treated by others.

230 – Build on the Rock – This lesson tells us that we should build our lives on a solid foundation (**the rock**) rather than on an unstable foundation (**the sand**). The solid foundation is the teachings of Jesus.

- **Memory Verses –** Discuss meaning. Be able to repeat from memory.
- ***For with God nothing will be impossible.*** Luke 1:37
- **Books of the Bible –** Be able to repeat from memory all 66 books of the Bible.

— Review Series Lessons 201 - 230 S 23

We began this series by looking at what is in the Bible. Then we began to look at *The Story of the Bible* from the Bible text. After Adam and Eve sinned, God set in motion His plan for redeeming Mankind which was established before the foundation of the earth. Eph 1:4 Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were chosen by God to receive promises and blessings. The people of Israel were their descendants and also received promises and blessings. A big part of *The Story of the Bible* is about the story of the nation of Israel, who later came to be called the Jews. Jesus said that ***salvation is of the Jews***. Jn 4:22 The promise of God to Abraham: ***In your seed all nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.*** Gen 22:18 Paul said that the ***Seed*** of promise is Jesus Christ. Gal 3:16 Book 6 is about Jesus Christ.

❖ **Group 21 -** This group of lessons introduces the New Testament (Matthew-Revelation). The first 4 books ("the gospels") tell us that Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ and the Son of God. These lessons remind us of important Old Testament prophecies: (1) the coming of John the Baptist—his character, his manner of life, the work that he would do. (2) the coming of Jesus Christ—who He is, the manner of His birth. The story continues to describe His manner of life, His teachings, His miracles, His power and authority, His death/burial/resurrection, and the giving of the great commission. When He was born, He was acknowledged by God through the angels to the shepherds. He was acknowledged at the temple by Anna, a prophetess and Simeon, a prophet. He was acknowledged by the wise men from the east. At age 12, He astounded the teachers of the Law of Moses by His questions and His answers to their questions. He was acknowledged by John the Baptist as ***the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world***. He was acknowledged by God who spoke from heaven when Jesus was baptized at age 30, ***This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased***. The Holy Spirit also alighted on Him in the form of a dove. John the Baptist then declared—***this is the Son of God.*** Through His death, He became ***the Savior of the world***.

No greater person has ever lived on the earth!

❖ **Group 22 -** This group of lessons is about Jesus Christ: WHO HE IS—WHAT HE DID—WHAT HE ACCOMPLISHED—WHAT THESE THINGS MEAN TO US. Many things teach us about Jesus. Many things teach us what He wants us to do to please Him. Many, many lessons show us the LOVE of God and Jesus for us and the good things that result from believing and obeying Him. The conversationJesus had with Nicodemus showed the knowledge that Jesus had of the eternal purpose and plan of God. Jesus convinced the woman of Samaria that He was the Messiah—she believed the Messiah would tell people all things. She told the people in the city about Jesus—they believed. Then they heard Him and believed because of His words.

❖ **Group 23 -** This group of lessons is about The Sermon on the Mount. Many of the teachings of Jesus and principles He would teach us to follow as He continued His personal ministry on earth are recorded for us in this sermon. So, many of the things that He taught are discussed in this group of lessons.

- The first 2 lessons focus on the 9 beatitudes (blessings). If a person is in a particular position in his life, God will bless Him in a particular way. The concept is that God cares, He loves us, He wants to help us. And, He does if we are willing.
- **You Are Salt and Light -** The life/teaching of disciples would save them and others as well. His disciples would provide the spiritual knowledge/understanding which people need to obey Jesus. ***Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.***
- Jesus spoke about **the Law and the Prophets -** Jesus was going to present some teachings that are different from the Law of Moses. So He says that everyone who is obligated to obey the Law until the Law was fulfilled. This idea is clarified after His resurrection from the dead—He fulfilled the Law/the Psalms/the Prophets. Lk 24:44
- Jesus taught: **others have said… but I say…** This lesson presents some things that had been taught in the past by comparison with what Jesus is teaching would be the character of the people who would qualify to enter the kingdom of God. These teachings would become a part of the New Covenant that Jesus would establish. Jesus teaches that **what is in the heart of a man** is just as important as what he does, as far as God is concerned—a higher level for man in his relationship with his God.
- **Charitable deeds –** Do your deeds of love in secret and God will reward you openly. **Prayer –** Jesus gives some principles about prayer: Do not pray like the heathen, like the hypocrite, with many words, to be seen by men—pray from your heart to your God and Father. Jesus gives the model prayer as an example to help us to know how to pray. I must forgive my fellow man if I expect God to forgive me. Jesus gives some suggestions about fasting (not a command)—it is voluntary.
- ***Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness -*** The priority of my life should be **God**! What God wants! How I can please God! And equally important is the righteousness which God has taught me that I am to possess—this is who I am!
- **Judging – Discernment –** Jesus condemns censorious judgment—the purpose of which is to condemn, not for justice. Jesus says to judge with righteous judgment: for the right purpose, to accomplish what is good (or just). **Discernment** comes with maturity in the **USE** of the gospel to ***discern*** between what is ***good*** and what is ***evil***.
- **The Golden Rule –** This statement of Jesus is considered to be the most important commandment that Jesus gave to mankind. Everyone in the world would be better off, happier, and more pleasing to God if they practiced this.
- **Build on the Rock –** We should build our lives on a solid foundation (Jesus' teachings) rather than on an unstable foundation (the sand).

- ***For with God nothing will be impossible.*** Lk 1:37

WE HAVE COVERED IN THE BIBLE

4004 BC **CREATION** 0 AM

GOD CREATED ALL THINGS IN THE PHYSICAL UNIVERSE.
THE ETERNAL PURPOSE OF GOD IS THE SALVATION OF MANKIND.

2348 BC **FLOOD** 1656 AM

GOD DESTROYED THE WORLD BECAUSE OF SIN—SAVED 8 SOULS.

1921 BC **PROMISES** 2083 AM

GOD MADE PROMISES TO ABRAHAM: LAND—NATION—SEED.
JESUS CHRIST IS THE "SEED" THROUGH WHOM GOD BLESSES ALL

1491 BC **EXODUS** 2513 AM

GOD SAVED THE NATION OF ISRAEL FROM EGYPT—GAVE LAW.

1451 BC **THE LAND PROMISE** 2553 AM

GOD GAVE THE LAND OF CANAAN TO THE NATION OF ISRAEL.

1095 BC **THE KINGDOM OF ISRAEL** 2909 AM

THE FIRST KINGS OF ISRAEL WERE SAUL, DAVID & SOLOMON.

975 BC **2 KINGDOMS - ISRAEL & JUDAH** 3029 AM

JUDAH - REHOBOAM RULED. **ISRAEL -** JEROBOAM RULED.

0 BC **JESUS OF NAZARETH** 4004 AM

MARY WAS A VIRGIN WHO CONCEIVED BY THE POWER OF GOD.
HER SON JESUS IS THE SAVIOR WHO IS CHRIST THE LORD.
JESUS WAS BAPTIZED. HE BEGAN TO PREACH THE GOSPEL.
FOR 3.5 YEARS, HE PREACHED AND PERFORMED MIRACLES—
HE SHOWED THAT HE WAS THE CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD.
HIS TEACHINGS PREPARED PEOPLE FOR THE COMING KINGDOM.
JESUS CHOSE 12 DISCIPLES WHO BECAME HIS APOSTLES—
THEY WERE TOGETHER FOR OVER 3 YEARS—WITNESSES TO ALL THAT JESUS SAID AND DID. THROUGH THESE EYEWITNESSES AND PROPHETS THAT JESUS OR HIS APOSTLES CHOSE, THE STORY OF WHAT HAPPENED WAS WRITTEN DOWN SO THAT WE COULD KNOW ABOUT HOW GOD FULFILLED HIS PROMISES—RECORDED IN THE LAW OF MOSES, THE PROPHETS AND THE PSALMS. WE KNOW FROM WHAT WAS WRITTEN DOWN THE CHARACTER AND WORK OF JESUS CHRIST AS HE SHOWED TO THE WORLD THAT HE WAS THE MESSIAH (CHRIST), THE SON OF GOD. THE EVIDENCE IS OVERWHELMING.

BOOK 6 **GROUP 24**

Series 701	***THE STORY OF THE BIBLE***
Group 24	**THE GOSPELS - JESUS**
Subtopic	**JESUS - Teaching, Miracles – Response**
En 701-231	Jesus Teaches Them as One Having Authority
En 701-232	Fishing – the Great Catch
En 701-233	Jesus – the Great Physician
En 701-234	Jesus Chooses 12 Disciples – "Follow Me!"
En 701-235	Jesus Sends the 12 to Preach the Gospel of the Kingdom
En 701-236	Jesus Sends 70 Others to Preach the Gospel of the Kingdom
En 701-237	FAITH - Jesus Heals The Nobleman's Son
En 701-238	Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man at the Pool of Bethesda
En 701-239	Jesus Feeds 5,000 Men Plus Women and Children
En 701-240	Jesus – The Bread of Life
En 701-R24	Review Lessons 231 - 240
En 701-S24	Review Series Lessons 201 - 240

AUTHORS: MEREDITH R. CHILDRESS / RONALD B. ROARK
2009, 2018

THE WAY OF LIFE
www.thewayoflife.training
USA

— Jesus Teaches Them as One Having Authority 231

And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings that the people were astonished at his teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

This statement is made at the end of the sermon spoken by Jesus, which is commonly called "The Sermon on the Mount". This lesson discusses why this statement is significant. Much of the information in the gospels is about Jesus and what He says and does and the response that people have to it. In this case, their response is to what Jesus says—He speaks as one having authority.

A comparison is made between Jesus and His teaching and the scribes and their teaching. A scribe had good knowledge of the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms because their job was to make copies (manually) of these documents. Because of the repetition of looking carefully at the words and statements made, they were in a good position to say to people, "This is what God said." But they did not say or express the idea that they themselves originated the message. Whereas, Jesus says throughout this sermon ***"…but I say to you"***. The people are impressed by what Jesus has to say. But the power and authority with which He speaks was so important for that particular occasion and for the remainder of His time on the earth.

There were many occasions when the discussion that Jesus was having with people had to do with this principle of **authority**. On one occasion (Mt 15:1-20), He accuses the Pharisees of setting aside the commandment of God so that they could follow ***the tradition of the elders***. Jesus indicates that **it does matter what authority a person follows to guide him in his life**.

Jesus is accused of casting out demons by the power of Beelzebub (Mt 12:22-32). The accusation against Jesus is actually an accusation against the Holy Spirit—the accusation says that the power by which this miracle is done is an evil power, the power of an evil spirit. Such an accusation is blasphemy, a very serious sin.

Jesus says that we should **build on the rock**. Mt 7:21-27 He means by this that we should direct our lives according to His teachings. The authority of His teachings is the foundation principle of the gospel message. **Jesus is the Messiah (Christ), the Son of God.** Jn 4:25-26 He has all authority in heaven and on earth. Mt 28:20

Jesus says that everyone will be judged by the words He has spoken, Jn 12:48,

He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him —the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.

Who rules your life? By what authority do you live your life? If you are not living according to the teachings of Jesus, for whatever reason, you will be judged by the words that He has spoken on the Day of Judgment. The greater condemnation will be on those who do not do what Jesus has said. Mt 25:31-46

Jesus Teaches Them as One Having Authority

- **Memory Verses –** Discuss meaning. Be able to repeat from memory.
  - ***But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*** Mt 6:33
  - ***Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.*** 1 Jn 3:4
  - ***He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.*** 1 Jn 3:7
  - ***Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.*** Mt 7:21
  - ***He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him —the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.*** Jn 12:48

1. Jesus taught as one having authority. Why is that important? Would you want to follow a man who speaks loudly, but has no authority? If my eternal destiny depends on who I follow, does it make sense to follow someone who can deliver on what He has promised? ***"…but I say to you"***.

2. Mt 15:1-20 - The principle of **authority**. Jesus accuses the Pharisees of <u>setting aside the commandment of God</u> so that they could follow ***the tradition of the elders***. Discuss the principle of setting aside the commandment of God and, instead, following a commandment originated by some man. Where will this lead? What would be the spiritual value of following a man? Of following Jesus Christ?

3. Mt 12:22-32 - Jesus is accused of casting out demons by means of an evil power. How does Jesus respond to this accusation?

4. Mt 7:21-27 - Jesus says that everyone should **build on the rock**. In this context, what does Jesus mean? Mt 28:20

   What does Jesus mean when He says, **Do not build on the sand.**?

5. Jn 4:25-26 - **Jesus is the Messiah (Christ), the Son of God.** In this context, there is the indication of great anticipation of the coming of the Messiah. Why?

   What does the woman do when Jesus says, ***I who speak to you am He.***?

   With what result?

6. Jn 12:48 - By what will everyone be judged on the Day of Judgment?

- **Books of the Bible –** Be able to repeat from memory Genesis – Ruth. .

— Fishing – The Great Catch 232

Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch…they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink…he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken….

Again, Jesus is teaching the word of God to multitudes of people standing beside the Sea of Galilee. Since the people are pressing against Him, He gets into Simon Peter's boat and asks him to move away from the shore. Then Jesus sits down in the boat and teaches the people from the boat. Jesus sees that the fishermen are washing their nets from fishing the night before, but they have caught nothing. He stops speaking to the people and tells Simon to lower the nets into the deeper part of the sea. Simon does as Jesus says. The nets are breaking with the weight of all the fish they are catching. Their fishing partners come to help them with another boat. Together they pull in so many fish that their boats begin to sink. All of the fishermen with Simon, as well as James and John, are astonished at their catch of fish.

And Jesus said to Simon, Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men.

Then the fishermen brought their boats to land and forsook all and followed Jesus.

This is the story of Jesus—wherever He is, whoever is present, He uses the occasion to talk about spiritual things or a miracle to illustrate some spiritual truth. The sum total of what Jesus does is to teach spiritual truths that people need to know and also to establish the fact that ***Jesus is the Christ and the Son of God***. And, He does it using the circumstances of the occasion and something nearby that people know about to illustrate an important lesson.

Following are some examples to illustrate what is described above:

1) The wedding feast at Cana of Galilee: Jesus is present. Mary tells Him that they are out of wine. Jesus turns the water in 6 waterpots into wine for the occasion.[1]
2) Nicodemus visits Jesus to learn about Him: Jesus says, **You must be born again** to see the kingdom of God or to enter the kingdom. The purpose and plan of God for the salvation of man and God's love for us is revealed in this conversation. [2]
3) The woman of Samaria at Jacob's well: Jesus asks for a drink of water. Then He talks about living water (spiritual) which leads to eternal life. He is the Messiah.[3]
4) The Great Catch: Jesus preaches to the people, tells some fishermen what to do to have a Great Catch—they are overwhelmed by the volume of fish—Jesus says, I will make you fishers of men. They left all and followed Him.[4]

[1] Jn 2:1-11 [2] Jn 3:1-21 [3] Jn 4:1-26 [4] Lk 5:1-11

Fishing – The Great Catch

- **Memory Verses –** Discuss meaning. Be able to repeat from memory.
  - ***And Jesus said to Simon, Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men.*** Lk 5:10
- ***And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings that the people were astonished at his teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.*** Mt 7:28-29
  - ***He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him —the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.*** Jn 12:48
  - ***For with God nothing will be impossible.*** Lk 1:37
  - ***He has visited and redeemed His people.*** Lk 1:68

1. Simon Peter and 3 other fishermen had been fishing all night and had caught nothing. What did Jesus do, using Peter's boat?
2. After teaching multitudes of people, what did Jesus tell Peter to do?
3. What was the result of Peter and the other fishermen doing what Jesus told them?
4. What was their response to this remarkable miracle? Discuss.
5. What did Jesus say to Simon Peter that Jesus was going to make them into? Discuss.
6. The fisherman brought their boats to the land. Then, what did they do with respect to Jesus? Discuss.
7. In His teaching, what does Jesus often use to help to cause people to see what He is teaching?
8. Discuss each of the 4 examples of how Jesus uses the occasion to teach people.

Suggestions - This lesson tells us about a Great Catch of Fish. The catch was amazing because Jesus performed a miracle to make it possible to happen. Jesus used this as an occasion to inform these fishermen that He was going to make them fishers of men. The apostles of Jesus certainly caught a lot of men with the gospel of Jesus.

- **Books of the Bible –** Be able to repeat from memory Genesis – Ruth.

— Jesus – the Great Physician 233

Is there no balm in Gilead, is there no physician there? Why then is there no recovery for the health of the daughter of my people?[1]

We have a physician and we have the medicine to apply—Why is it that there is no healing taking place? The text is speaking of Judah and the manner in which they are acting toward God, the Law of Moses and the God-given message of the prophets. God had provided what they needed to be spiritually healthy—but they are not.

Jesus is the Great Physician that God has provided so that we can be healed from our sins—our souls can be made well. Many people experienced healing by the physician or witnessed others being healed by Him. He was able to heal physically which showed that He had the power to heal spiritually.[2]

The problem with disease is that it makes a person uncomfortable or feel pain. It can be debilitating; cause paralysis, heart or brain malfunctions; or cause death. The same is true of sin, the disease of the soul. As there are different kinds of physical diseases, there are different types of spiritual diseases. Each type of spiritual disease has a different effect, some more serious than others. But the ultimate result of sin to any person is **DEATH**. The primary meaning of death is separation: ***…as her soul was departing (for she died)…***[3] In the day that Adam and Eve sinned, they died spiritually to God—a warm, friendly, personal relationship between Man and God came to an end; Man also began to die physically.[4]

The **purpose**/**plan** of God for the **salvation** of Mankind is seen in **JESUS CHRIST**, the Savior of the world.[5] There is only **ONE CHRIST**.[6] There is only **one sacrifice for sin**.[7] There is only **one lawgiver**.[8] There is only **one head of the church**.[9] There is only **one savior**.[10] There is only **one high priest**.[11] There is only **one judge**.[12] There is only **one conclusion** that anyone can possibly reach—**JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF GOD**—if I want to be saved and go to heaven for eternity, I must believe and obey Jesus.[13]

I need the **Great Physician** and the **remedy** for sin that He provides for those who are sick with the terminal disease called **SIN**. Jesus is the Great Physician. Jesus is the only person who can save me. Anyone who claims otherwise is lying. Anyone who claims to be the head of the church besides Jesus is lying. Anyone who establishes a religion and says that people should follow him is lying. No one can provide the road map to heaven but Jesus. Jesus is the **all-in-all** of salvation.

Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.[14]

[1]Jer 8:22 [2]Mk 2:1-12; Jn 1:29 [3]Gen 35:18 [4]Gen 2:16-17; 3:6,22-24; Rom 5:12
[5]Lk 2:8-14; Jn 3:1-21 [6]Jn 4:26,42 [7]Rev 5:1-14 [8]Jas 4:12 [9]Eph 1:22-23 [10]Mt 1:21
[11]Heb 5:1-11 [12]Acts 17:30-31 [13]Jn 8:24; 14:6 [14]Mk 2:17

Jesus – the Great Physician

- **Memory Verses –** Discuss meaning. Be able to repeat from memory.
- ***Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.*** Mk 2:17
- ***Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!*** Jn 1:29
- ***For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*** Jn 3:16
- ***I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*** Jn 14:6

1. Mk 5:22-24 - A man named Jairus begged Jesus to heal his dying daughter. What did he say to Jesus?

2. Mk 5:25-34 - A woman among a crowd of people touched Jesus and was healed. What was her physical problem? What had she done to try to solve her problem? What did she think might happen if she touched Jesus' clothes?

3. Lk 4:16-30 - Jesus reads a text of scripture in the synagogue of the Jews; He then says, ***Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.*** The people ***marveled at His gracious words***, but said, ***Is this not Joseph's son?*** and ***'Physician, heal yourself!'*** Jesus is at Nazareth. The people are very impressed by Jesus and His words—**BUT**, this is a local boy, this text of scripture could not possibly refer to Him! And, He did a lot of miracles in Capernaum, He should do miracles here if He wants us to believe in Him. So, their reasoning led them not to believe in Jesus **AND** they tried to kill Him. Discuss **BELIEF** from what we learn from this story.

4. **Jesus Christ is the Son of God.** This is the confession that was made by the Ethiopian. Acts 8:37 Explain how the stories mentioned in this lesson show the truthfulness of this statement.

- **Books of the Bible –** Be able to repeat from memory Ezra – Song of Solomon.

— Jesus Chooses 12 Disciples – "Follow Me!" 234

The gospels describe in some way that Jesus chose 12 disciples, who would later become His apostles (except for Judas, who betrayed Him). The plan is for these men to be eyewitnesses of His life, His teachings, His miracles, and His death, burial and resurrection. Lk 24:48; Acts 1:15-26; 2 Pet 1:6-21 After His resurrection from the dead, Jesus gives the eleven apostles what is called, the great commission:

Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.
He who believes and is baptized will be saved. Mk 16:15-16

Jesus wants every person in the world to hear the gospel and be saved. The message of the gospel is that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that ***believing we may have life in His name***. Jn 20:30-31

Consider what the 4 fishermen gave up. The had an ongoing business. They had investment in their boats and nets and other equipment. They likely had a network for the distribution of the fish that they caught, agreements with specific people who would take a portion of their catch. The father of 2 of the men was involved in the business. These 4 men **LEFT ALL** and followed Jesus. They gave up their business, their source of income. How would they support themselves and their families? Think about how important this was to them—more important than what they had spent most of their lives doing—more important than their families—more important than anything they had ever done. As we go forward, we see that they do not yet know all that they need to know; they do not yet know what would be required of them. But, like Abraham, they did what they were told to do because they believed it was the right thing to do and it was what needed to be done now. **IT WAS IMPORTANT.** At this time, they did not realize that **the whole world would be affected by JESUS and the work that He would give them to do.**

If we wait to calculate the cost of being a disciple of Jesus before becoming a disciple of Jesus, we may never become His disciples. As soon as we realize the necessity and the value of becoming a disciple of Jesus, we need to act. Any and all of what may result that is negative will be worth the cost. Any and all of what will result because I believe and obey Jesus will be a blessing to me in this life and will bring me to the blessing of eternal life in heaven. Jesus gave up heaven and more to come to earth to live and show me the way to live so that I will have the right to enter heaven. He gave Himself—**HE LEFT ALL** so that I could live eternally. He suffered and died on the cross for me. Can I not live for Him? Jesus said: Mt 11:28-30,

Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.

Jesus Chooses 12 Disciples – "Follow Me!"

- **Memory Verses –** Discuss meaning. Be able to repeat from memory.

➢ ***Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved.*** Mk 16:15-16

- ***And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.*** Jn 20:30-31

➢ ***Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.*** Mt 11:28-30

1. For what purpose did Jesus choose 12 disciples who would company with Jesus during His personal ministry? Lk 24:48; Acts 1:15-26; 2 Pet 1:6-21

2. What did these disciples come to be called (except Judas)?
3. Mk 16:15-16 - The apostles are commissioned by Jesus to do what?

   What was the message that they were to preach?

4. Jn 20:30-31 - The apostles John wrote about specific signs that Jesus performed. For what purpose?

5. The 4 fishermen are a part of The Great Catch and are very impressed by Jesus. What did they do as a result? Why?
6. The other 8 disciples are chosen at different times and in different ways. It is clear that they likewise left whatever they were doing to FOLLOW JESUS. Why was it important for these 12 disciples to **LEAVE ALL** to follow Jesus?

7. <u>Counting the Cost</u> - How much are you willing to pay to go to heaven?
   Is it possible to buy your way into heaven? What does the grace of God do?
   Jn 1:18; Eph 2:8; Titus 2:11-14
8. **NO JESUS—NO GRACE. NO GRACE—NO SALVATION.**
   NO SALVATION—NO HEAVEN.
   You can receive the grace of God and salvation and heaven only by believing and obeying Jesus. The question is, will you?

- **Books of the Bible –** Be able to repeat from memory Ezra – Song of Solomon.

— Jesus Sends the 12 to Preach the Gospel of the Kingdom 235

He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick….So they departed and went through the towns, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.[1]

God's plan included someone going before Jesus to prepare the way.[2] Jesus sends out the 12, and 70 others later, to prepare the way for Jesus.[3] It is clear that **preaching** is important to God and to Jesus—it is part of the plan to prepare for the coming of Jesus; John the Baptist and his disciples preached;[4] Jesus and His disciples preached.[5] After Jesus was resurrected, He sent His apostles to preach.[6] In the church, there were apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers whose primary functions were to preach and teach.[7]

Jesus sends the 12 to preach the gospel of the kingdom of God. They go to their brethren, the Jews. Their brethren should receive them and provide for their physical needs: a place to sleep, food, water, etc. Jesus gives them power and authority over unclean spirits (demons), to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease.[8]

Jesus chooses the 12, ***Follow me***. At first, Jesus does all of the teaching. The 12 are learning from His teaching, miracles, and the example of His life. Jesus often refers to the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms, from which they learn how to apply the statements of the Old Testament to what Jesus is teaching and what is really taking place for the spiritual wellbeing of Mankind.

Later in their time together, Jesus told them that they would be treated in the same way that He would be treated.[9] But for now: they know the message—they heard it from Jesus many times; they use the power and authority that Jesus gave them and they preach the gospel.

So they departed and went through the towns,
preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.[10]

They believe in Jesus; they believe Jesus; they obey Him: they go where He tells them to go/they do what He tells them to do—they are fully committed to Him.

Many people witness what the 12 do. The word spreads around. However, no one says anything to indicate that Jesus patted them on the back or had a parade through town, nor were they given a bonus. They do what Jesus tells them to do—they do their jobs—there is no special praise or reward for doing what Jesus tells them to do. Many people witness what Jesus does. The word spreads around. Even Herod hears about Jesus and wants to see Him. The plan of God is moving along to accomplish the purpose of Jesus and God.

[1]Luke 9:2,6 [2]Mal 3:1; 4:5-6; Lk 1:17; Mt 11:14 [3]Luke 9:2; 10:1 [4]Mt 3:1-3 [5]Mt 4:17
[6]Mt 28:18-20 [7]Eph 4:11-16 [8]Luke 9:1-6; Mt 10:1-15,40-42 [9]Mt 10:16-26 [10]Luke 9:6

Jesus Sends the 12 to Preach the Gospel of the Kingdom

- **Memory Verses –** Discuss meaning. Be able to repeat from memory.
- ***He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.*** Lk 9:2
- ***Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved.*** Mk 16:15-16
- ***And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.*** Jn 20:30-31

1. Is preaching and teaching the gospel important for Jesus to be able to accomplish His mission?

2. The 12 were all Jews. The people to whom Jesus sent the 12 were all Jews. They were brethren. Jesus indicated that, since these people are your brethren, they should assist you in the spiritual work that you are doing by providing the things that you need for your physical maintenance. Is this principle also taught in other places in the New Testament? Discuss. Mt 25:31-46; 3 Jn 5-8

3. The 12 followed Jesus. They heard the message many times and were well-prepared to go and preach the message of the gospel. They had also witnessed the miracles that Jesus had performed. So, they understood what was happening when Jesus gave them the power to heal and they used that power. By what authority/ power did the 12 cast out demons and heal people of all kinds of illnesses?

4. Jesus had great power and authority, which He demonstrated. Discuss the power of the **faith** of the 12 to believe Jesus and do what He commanded them to do.

5. Discuss the power of the **faith** of a person today to believe Jesus and do what He commands them to do.

6. We are watching the plan of God unfold. A big part of the plan was to inform the people about God, His plan, His kingdom. Who did this work?

- **Books of the Bible –** Be able to repeat from memory Isaiah - Daniel.

— Jesus Sends 70 Others to Preach the Gospel of the Kingdom 236

After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go….Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name…. [1]

God's plan includes someone going before Jesus to prepare the way. Jesus sends out the 12, and later 70 others. He sends them to preach the gospel of the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.[2] He sends them to preach to their brethren, the Jews.

Notice how important these messengers of the gospel are in the eyes of Jesus. No matter whether they are received or not received by the people—the messengers are important. There is no to them for the fact of being messengers: they wear no special clothing; no one bows down to them, no one kisses them as some spiritual ritual of worship or honor. These messengers are servants of the Lord: they are chosen by the Lord; they are sent out by the Lord; the Lord tells them what they are to do; He tells them what message to preach; He tells them about the miraculous powers they possess and how they are to use them.[3] They do their jobs—they do what Jesus sends them to do.

Notice how important the message of the gospel is in the eyes of Jesus. No matter whether people like the message or not, it is the message Jesus gives them to preach.[4] If a town does not receive the message, tell the city that you are wiping off the dust of the city that clings to the messenger, as a testimony against the people of that town—then tell them, ***Nevertheless, know this, that the kingdom of God has come near you.*** Even after you know that they have rejected the message about the kingdom of God, tell them again.[5] The message is important and it is the truth. Woe is pronounced by Jesus on those cities which did not repent.[6]

The seventy return with joy. Even the demons are subject to them in the name of Jesus. This is saying that, all of the miraculous powers that they were given by Jesus, they use as He had instructed. The most difficult task is casting out demons—they can do this in the name of Jesus. They are messengers: they deliver their message successfully. They are messengers with miraculous powers who use those powers successfully. They return **WITH JOY**—they obey Jesus—they are successful in their mission. ***Their names are written in heaven.***[7]

The casting out of demons shows the superiority of the authority of Jesus over the authority of Satan: ***I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.*** The miraculous power that Jesus gives to these men is truly amazing. **Jesus is the Son of God.**[8]

[1]Lk 10:1-20 [2]Lk 10:9 [3]Lk 10:1-12 [4]Lk 10:9,11 [5]Lk 10:10-12 [6]Lk 10:10-16 [7]Lk10:17-20
[8]Lk 10:18-20; 1 Cor 12:1-11; Jn 6:66-69

Jesus Sends 70 Others to Preach the Gospel of the Kingdom

- **Memory Verses –** Discuss meaning. Be able to repeat from memory.
- ***The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.*** Lk 10:2
- ***I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.*** Lk 10:18
- ***All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*** 2 Tim 3:16-17
- ***Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.***
  Also we have come to believe and know that
  You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jn 6:68-69

1. Preaching/teaching the gospel of Jesus Christ was important for the mission of Jesus to be accomplished. How is that mission accomplished today?

2. The 70 were all Jews. The people to whom Jesus sent them were all Jews. The cities they went to should have received them and assisted them in their spiritual work. How may preachers/preaching be received/assisted by people today?

3. Why were the messengers important? ***(How shall they hear…)*** Rom 10:8-17

4. Why are the messengers important today?

5. Why was the message important? ***(He who believes…)*** Mk 16:15-16

6. Why is the message important today?

7. By what authority did the messengers go? By what authority did they preach? By what authority did they preach the message that they preached? By what authority did they perform miracles/cast out demons?

8. By what authority do we go to preach today? By what authority do we preach today? By what authority do we preach the message that we preach today?

   Does anyone have the authority to perform miracles/cast out demons today?

9. The 70 returned from their preaching mission **WITH JOY**. Why with joy?

10. Where were the names of these messengers written?

11. What is the significance of Jesus saying that He saw Satan fall from heaven?

- **Books of the Bible –** Be able to repeat from memory Hosea – Micah.

— Faith – Jesus Heals the Nobleman's Son 237

Jesus leaves Galilee and goes into Judea. Then He returns. So this story begins in Cana of Galilee, where Jesus turned water into wine. A nobleman learns that Jesus is back in Galilee and comes to see Him. He implores Jesus to come to his house in Capernaum and heal his son who is at the point of death. Jesus says to him,

Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe.

After Jesus says this, the nobleman again implores Him to come to his house (18-20 miles away) and heal his son before he dies. Jesus says to him,

Go your way; your son lives.

The nobleman believes Jesus and goes his way. The next day, he meets some of his servants who are coming to find him. They tell him, ***Your son lives!*** He asks them at what hour his son got better. When they tell him ***the seventh hour***, the nobleman knows that it was the same hour that Jesus said to him, your son lives. The nobleman believes in Jesus—his whole household (everyone in his house) believes in Jesus.

FAITH - As we look at this story, it is clear that the nobleman believed in Jesus before he came to see Him. His faith in Jesus and His power to heal is what prompted him to go to Jesus to ask Him to heal his son. When he sees Jesus, he makes his request. When Jesus says, your son lives, he believes Jesus. When his servants tell him, your son lives, he asks at what hour did he get better. When they tell him, he knows that Jesus is responsible for his son being healed—he believes in Jesus—his whole household believes. Consider all of the factors:

First of all, the reputation of Jesus: the nobleman knows of the power of Jesus to heal.

Second, the distance factor: the man comes a long way to get to where Jesus is.

Jesus heals the boy even though He is a long distance away from the boy.

Third, the nobleman:

BEFORE - he believes in Jesus before he ever sees Him. (Heard witnesses…)

DURING - he believes in Jesus as they are having a conversation about the boy.

AFTER - he believes in Jesus as he hears the news that his son lives.

THIS IS FAITH!

- Some people put conditions on their willingness to believe:
  IF Jesus will appear to me, I will believe.
  IF Jesus will heal my child, I will believe.
  IF Jesus will let us win the football game, I will believe in Him and serve Him.

But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear. Mt 13:16

Jesus Heals the Nobleman's Son

- **Memory Verses –** Discuss meaning. Be able to repeat from memory.
  - ***A prophet has no honor in his own country.*** Jn 4:44
  - ***Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe.*** Jn 4:48
  - ***Go your way; your son lives.*** Jn 4:50
  - ***All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*** 2 Tim 3:16-17
  - ***Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.***
    Also we have come to believe and know that
    You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jn 6:68-69

1. What prompts a nobleman of Capernaum to go to Cana of Galilee to see Jesus?

2. What request does the nobleman make of Jesus?

3. What response does Jesus make to the nobleman?

4. The words of Jesus may seem to be discouraging to the nobleman. However, he again asks Jesus to come to his house and heal his son before he dies. What does Jesus say to the nobleman?

Consider the **FAITH** of the nobleman:

5. **BEFORE** the nobleman sees Jesus, he believes in Him. Discuss.

6. **DURING** the conversation between Jesus and the nobleman, it is apparent that the nobleman believes in Jesus. Explain the circumstances and the nobleman's faith.

7. **AFTER** he receives the news from his servants that his son lives, discuss the faith that the nobleman has and also the faith of his whole household.

8. Discuss some of the conditions people put on God before they are willing to believe. Do you ever do that? Even unintentionally?

9. Jesus pronounced a blessing on the eyes and ears of His disciples. Why?

- **Books of the Bible –** Be able to repeat from memory Nahum – Malachi.

— Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man at the Pool of Bethesda 238

Jesus leaves Galilee and goes up to Jerusalem for a feast of the Jews. He comes to a pool of water with 5 porches named Bethesda. In these porches lay a great multitude of sick, lame, blind and paralytic people. All of them are waiting for an angel to come down and stir the water of the pool ***(an angel came down at a certain time)***. The first person into the pool after the water is stirred would be healed of his disease.

Jesus sees a man near the pool who has an infirmity (for 38 years). Jesus says to the man, ***Do you want to be made well?*** The man explains to Jesus that there was no one to help him into the water after it was stirred by the angel before someone else enters the water. So Jesus says to the man, ***Rise, take up your bed and walk.*** The man is healed immediately and takes up his bed and walks. When the Jews see that the man is made well and it is the Sabbath day, they tell the man that it is unlawful for him to carry his bed on the Sabbath. The man says that the Man who healed him told him to take up his bed and walk. So they ask, who healed you; but he did not know. Then Jesus finds the man in the temple and says to him: ***See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you.*** After that, the man leaves the temple and tells the Jews that it was Jesus who healed him. So the Jews begin to persecute Jesus and look for a way to kill Him for the things He did on the Sabbath.

The way that some people define **miracle** would not include an angel coming down and stirring the water and then a person being healed—if it is not a miracle, what is it? Changing the definition of biblical terms is the primary way that false teachers are able to "establish"??? their doctrines as "true"???. But, the reality is that people are not able to outsmart God—they may outsmart themselves—they may outsmart some people—but they will never outsmart God. A false teacher may have a large following, but on the day of final judgment, all of his eloquence and deceitful words will be exposed—the biggest harm is to the people who follow him. Mt 7:13-23 Every person who has ever lived on the earth will be judged by Jesus Christ (2 Cor 5:10) according to the words that **JESUS CHRIST** has spoken—the New Testament, Matthew through Revelation. Jn 12:48; Rom 1:16; 2 Thess 1:3-10; Mt 25:31-46

The man who had an infirmity was obviously healed. The religious leaders of the Jews were not impressed—they said, Jesus violated the Sabbath. Did the Law say so? No. But these leaders were **SO WRAPPED UP IN THEIR OWN TRADITIONS**, they not only condemned Jesus, they persecuted Him and sought to kill Him.

Christians all over the world are intimidated and persecuted in one way or another every day. Many are killed, simply because they are Christians. It seems that Satan felt the same way about Jesus: if I kill Him, I will be rid of Him—I will win!

So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; … and his angels were cast out with him. Rev 12:9

Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man at the Pool of Bethesda

- **Memory Verses –** Discuss meaning. Be able to repeat from memory.
- ***Do you want to be made well?*** Jn 5:6
- ***Rise, take up your bed and walk.*** Jn 5:8
- ***For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.*** Rom 1:16
- ***He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.*** Jn 12:48
- ***Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.*** Rev 12:10
- ***And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.*** Rev 12:11

1. The Romans often built pools with water for a place of relaxation, especially when the weather was hot. Why were many people at the pool of Bethesda?
2. Jesus sees a man near the pool who has an infirmity (for 38 years). What does Jesus say to the man?
3. What does the man say was the reason that he had not been healed?
4. What did Jesus say for the man to do?
5. When the Jews saw that the man was carrying his bed, they realized that he had been healed. Discuss their response and the man's response to their demand.
6. Later, Jesus found the man in the temple and told him who had healed him. What else did Jesus say to the man?
7. The man announced who it was who had healed him. What did the Jews begin to do when they knew this?
8. Every person who ever lived on the earth will be judged by Jesus. On what basis will each of us be judged?
9. Jesus gave us forgiveness of sins by His death on the cross. Then, what happened to Satan?

- **Books of the Bible –** Be able to repeat from memory Matthew – Acts.

Text: John 6:2-14; Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44; Luke 9:10-17

— Jesus Feeds 5,000 Men Plus Women and Children 239

The 12 apostles of Jesus return from a missionary trip. Jesus takes them to a deserted place near Bethsaida where they tell Him about what they taught and what they did. Some people see Jesus and a multitude follow Him ***because they saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased.*** Jn 6:2

…and He received them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who had need of healing. Lk 9:11

This opportunity for Jesus to teach the people continues for much of the day. As the day begins to end, the 12 come and suggest that Jesus let the people go so that they could get something to eat and have a place to sleep in the nearby towns. Jesus says that we should feed them. In the whole multitude, they found one boy who had 5 loaves and 2 fish. Jesus says that the people should sit down in groups of 50 and 100.

He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the multitude. Lk 9:16

He tells the 12 to distribute the food. Everyone present eats and is filled. Jesus says that they should gather up whatever is left that nothing should be lost—12 baskets full of leftover fragments of bread are taken up.

Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Mt 14:21

We should note that, in all of the texts referenced at the top of the page, very few words are used to describe the actual feeding of the people: descriptions are given of the location, what is going on between Jesus and His apostles, why the multitude of people are following Jesus, Jesus has compassion on the people, Jesus teaches the people and heals those who need healing, etc. Think about the number of people who are fed from a very small amount of food, my estimate is 15,000 to 25,000 people. If you were there and hungry and you ate and were filled, you would be impressed.

Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world. Jn 6:14; Deut 18:15; Acts 3:22

Who else, in the history of the world, ever did anything even close to this? **NO ONE!** What a miracle! What a teacher! What a Savior! What a Christ! Jesus of Nazareth! Jesus the Son of God! And this is just one of thousands/perhaps millions of miracles performed by Jesus while He was on the earth. I should never be ashamed to be a Christian. I should never be ashamed of **the truth** or of following the truth.

On another occasion, Jesus feeds about 4,000 with 7 loaves and a few small fish. Afterwards, they take up 7 large baskets of leftover fragments.

I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now continued with Me three days and have nothing to eat. Mk 8:1-10

Jesus Feeds 5,000 Men Plus Women and Children

- **Memory Verses –** Discuss meaning. Be able to repeat from memory.

➢ ***And as for Me, Then a great multitude followed Him, because they saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased.*** Jn 6:2

➢ ***But when the multitudes knew it, they followed Him; and He received them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who had need of healing.*** Lk 9:11

- ***He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the multitude.*** Lk 9:16
- ***Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.*** Jn 6:14
- ***I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now continued with Me three days and have nothing to eat.*** Mk 8:1-10

1. When Jesus and the apostles went to a deserted place, a multitude followed them. Why?
2. Jesus received the multitude. What did He do in response to their presence?
3. Jesus is teaching for much of the day. As the day is ending, what do His disciples suggest to Him?

   What does Jesus say in response?
4. How much food was available from those who were present?

   What does this indicate about the preparation of the people to be there?
5. Lk 9:16 - Describe Jesus and His blessing for the food. What can we learn?
6. Mt 14:21 - The number of people who ate and were filled: 5,000 men plus women and children. Estimate of total: 15,000 – 25,000 people. 12 baskets full were picked up as leftovers. Was this a great and wonderful miracle? Discuss.
7. Jn 6:14 - What did the men say after they had seen this sign (miracle)? Discuss.
8. Should we be ashamed to be a Christian? Ashamed to believe/obey the **TRUTH**?
9. What motivated Jesus to feed the 4,000?
   How long were they with Jesus without eating before He fed them?

- **Books of the Bible –** Be able to repeat from memory Romans – Colossians.

— Jesus – The Bread of Life 240

…My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world...I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.[1]

…he who believes in Me has everlasting life. I am the bread of life.[2]

I am the living bread which came down from heaven.[3]

BREAD is the word often used as a metaphor for the food that we eat to sustain our lives. Jesus uses this word in that way. He uses it to talk about who He is. **I AM:** (1) **the true bread** (2) **the bread of God** (3) **the bread of life** (4) **the living bread** It is easy to see that Jesus is talking about life and what is needed to sustain life. He is comparing the physical concepts to the spiritual concepts of who He is. The remarks that He makes are about these things and also about the things that relate to or result from these realities of who He is.

The true bread implies that there may be a bread that is not true. If you know the true bread, you will not accept a bread that is not true. ***My Father*** (God) gives you ***the true bread***. What other person who lives on the earth in the history of the world ever came down from heaven? **NO ONE!** What other person can claim that His Father is in heaven? **NO ONE!**

The bread of God indicates that God made this bread and gave this bread. This bread comes down from heaven to live on the earth as a man. What other person who lives on the earth in the history of the world ever came down from heaven? **NO ONE!** What other person ***gives life to the world***? **NO ONE!**

The bread of life indicates that this is what I need to live. If I come to Jesus, it says that I believe in Him and that I am willing to follow Him. If I do this, I will never hunger; I will never thirst. What other person who lives on the earth in the history of the world can provide this for a person on earth? **NO ONE!**

The living bread indicates much the same thing as the bread of life—the life is in the bread. But it is necessary to eat the bread to benefit from it. To be in the bread, to have fellowship with the bread, to be a fellow worker with the bread, to share with the bread are all synonymous with the spiritual relationship and blessings that we have in Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

This acknowledgment by Jesus of who He is was easy to understand; but it was rejected by many of the disciples of Jesus. They went away from Jesus. So many were going away that Jesus asked the 12, Will you also go away? Peter replied,

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.[4]

[1]Jn 6:32-35 [2]Jn 6:47-48 [3]Jn 6:51 [1]Jn 6:68

Jesus – The Bread of Life

- **Memory Verses –** Discuss meaning. Be able to repeat from memory.
- ***I am the bread of life.*** Jn 6:48
- ***Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.***
  Also we have come to believe and know that
  You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jn 6:68-69
- ***He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—***
  the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. Jn 12:48
- ***For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ,***
  for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes,
  for the Jew first and also for the Greek. Rom 1:16
- ***I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.*** Acts 8:37

1. Jn 6:32-35 – Did Jesus live in heaven before He was born to Mary on the earth?
2. When **BREAD** is used as a metaphor, what does it mean?
3. Who is **the true bread** that God sent down from heaven to earth? Discuss.
4. Who is **the bread of God** that came down from heaven to earth? Discuss.
5. What does this bread do for us?
6. Who is **the bread of life**? What does bread of life signify? Discuss.
7. Who is **the living bread**? Discuss what this means to every person.
8. Discuss the spiritual relationship and blessings that we have in Jesus Christ.
9. Why should we believe in Jesus? Why should we believe the words of Jesus? Why should we obey Jesus?

THE BREAD OF LIFE – THE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE

- **Books of the Bible –** Be able to repeat from memory 1 Thessalonians – Philemon.

— Review Lessons 231 - 240 R 24

I am the bread of life. Jn 6:48

This group of lessons focuses on Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Jesus is pictured in various ways in figurative language. These figures help us to understand Jesus.

231 – Jesus Teaches Them as One Having Authority – This lesson talks about the Sermon on the Mount. Mt 5, 6, 7 At the end of His presentation, the people said that He taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. They recognized that Jesus had authority, simply from His teaching. Some men heard Jesus teach and commented, ***No man ever spoke like this man!*** Jn 7:46 In His teaching, Jesus was preparing people for the coming kingdom and king. Especially in Matthew's gospel, many things are said about the kingdom of God. The characteristics that a person needed so he could be in the kingdom are described in this sermon. There was going to be a change in the law—Jesus gave some examples of teachings that are new. He cautions us to ***seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness***. He teaches that we should **build on the rock**. Mt 7:21-27 He means by this that we should direct our lives according to His teachings—His teachings are the foundation principles of the gospel message: **Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.** Jn 4:25-26 He has all authority.

232 – Fishing – the Great Catch – Four fishermen in 2 boats have been fishing all night without catching any fish. Jesus tells them to go out to the deeper water and cast in their nets. They catch so many fish that the boats begin to sink. The fishermen are astonished at the great catch of fish. ***And Jesus said to Simon, Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men.*** The fishermen brought their boats to land and forsook all and followed Jesus.

233 – Jesus – the Great Physician – **Jesus is the Great Physician** that God has provided so that we can be healed from our sins—our souls can be made well. Many people experienced healing by Jesus or witnessed others being healed by Him. He was able to heal physically which showed that He had the power to heal spiritually. The purpose/plan of God for the salvation of Mankind is seen in JESUS CHRIST, the Savior of the world. There is only ONE CHRIST. There is only one sacrifice for sin. There is only one Lawgiver. There is only one Head of the church. There is only one Savior. There is only one High Priest. There is only one Judge. There is only one conclusion that anyone can possibly reach—JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF GOD —if I want to be saved and go to heaven for eternity, I must believe and obey Jesus.

234 – Jesus Chose 12 Disciples – "Follow Me!" – The gospels describe that Jesus chose 12 disciples, who would later become His apostles (except for Judas). The plan is for these men to be eyewitnesses of His life, His teachings, His miracles, and His death, burial and resurrection. Jesus said, ***Follow Me!*** And the 12 did. Mt 11:28-30

235 – Jesus Sent the 12 to Preach the Gospel of the Kingdom – Jesus sends the 12 to preach the gospel of the kingdom of God to Jews. Jesus gives them power over demons, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and disease. They know the message—they use the power Jesus gave them and preach the gospel. Lk 9:6

236 – Jesus Sent 70 Others to Preach the Gospel of the Kingdom – The 70 were sent to the Jews. These messengers are important / the message is important:

Nevertheless, know this, that the kingdom of God has come near you.

They use the miraculous powers that Jesus gave them. They return **WITH JOY**—they obey Jesus—their mission is successful. ***Their names are written in heaven.***

I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. **Jesus is the Son of God.**

237 – FAITH – Jesus Healed the Nobleman's Son – Jesus returns to Cana of Galilee. A nobleman comes to Jesus to ask him to heal his son who is dying. Jesus heals his son who is many miles away in Capernaum. The nobleman believes in Jesus BEFORE he comes to Jesus. He believes in Jesus DURING his conversation with Him. He believes in Jesus AFTER his servants tell him that his son lives.

238 – Jesus Healed a Paralyzed Man at the Pool of Bethesda – Jesus goes up to Jerusalem for a feast of the Jews. At the pool of Bethesda, He encounters a man who needs help to be healed. Jesus asks, ***Do you want to be made well?*** Jesus says to the man, ***Rise, take up your bed and walk.*** The man is healed immediately and obeys. The man learns that it was Jesus who healed him. The man tells the Jews that Jesus healed him. The Jews begin to persecute Jesus and look for a way to kill Him.

239 – Jesus Feeds 5,000 Men Plus Women and Children – A multitude follows Jesus ***because they saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased. …and He received them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who had need of healing.*** Jesus teaches all day. Jesus feeds them.

He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the multitude. Lk 9:16

Everyone present eats and is filled. They gather up 12 baskets of fragments. 5,000 men are fed, besides women and children. Mt 14:21 The men believe in Jesus. Jn 6:14

240 – Jesus – the Bread of Life – This lesson compares the manna during the time of Moses to Himself as the bread that came down from heaven so that people could eat and have life. The bread that Jesus offers provides eternal life to the believers.

- **Memory Verses –** Discuss meaning. Be able to repeat from memory.
- ***For with God nothing will be impossible.*** Lk 1:37
- ***This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.*** Jn 6:29
- ***But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*** Mt 6:33
- **Books of the Bible –** Be able to repeat from memory all 66 books of the Bible.

— Review Series Lessons 201 - 240 S 24

This is the first group of lessons in this series called "The Story of the Bible" which is about the New Testament. The focus of these lessons is Jesus Christ. The primary message, which was preached by John the Baptist and Jesus and their disciples, was ***the kingdom of God*** (the kingdom of heaven). The Jews were looking for the kingdom and the ***King*** who would rule over the kingdom. In prophecy, the king was called the ***Messiah*** (which is the same name as ***Christ***). Moses called Him the ***Prophet*** that everyone must hear.

The most important part of the story of **THE LIFE OF CHRIST** is the fact that **Jesus Christ is the Son of God**. Jesus began His personal ministry when He was 30 years of age; it covered a period of 3.5 years, until He died on the cross. These things established the fact that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God: (1) The Character of His Life; (2) His Teachings; (3) His Miracles; (4) His Resurrection from the Dead.

❖ **THE BIRTH AND EARLY LIFE OF JESUS** is the theme of **Group 21**. The announcement that Mary will conceive and bear a son named Jesus tells us a lot about who He is. Those who came in contact with the baby at the temple glorified Him. The wise men visited Jesus to worship Him. They understood when He was to be born and who He was from the Old Testament scriptures. At 12 years of age, Jesus showed His amazing knowledge and wisdom with people who were scholars of the Law of Moses when He was at the temple in Jerusalem. The wise men from the east visited Jesus to worship Him. They understood when He was to be born and who He was from the Old Testament scriptures. When John the Baptist was about 30 years of age, he began to preach **repentance** and **the gospel of the kingdom of God**. Through his message, he was preparing people for the coming king and kingdom. He had much to say about Jesus to the people which described many characteristics of the person Jesus. We learn a lot about who Jesus is.

❖ **JESUS PREACHES THE GOSPEL** is the theme of **Group 22**. When He is 30 years of age, Jesus is baptized by John. Then He is tempted by the devil—He did not sin. Then He began to preach (the same message that John was preaching). John told the people that Jesus is ***the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world*** AND that ***Jesus is the Son of God***. At a wedding feast at Cana of Galilee, Jesus turns 6 waterpots full of water into wine. Jesus showed that He had authority when He drove those selling animals at the temple and the money changers out of the temple: My house shall be a house of prayer. In the conversation Jesus had with Nicodemus, Jesus expressed the primary concepts of God's eternal purpose—**the salvation of mankind.** Living water, worship of God, Jesus is the Messiah are subjects discussed with the woman of Samaria at Jacob's well.

Group 22 (continued) - Jesus was a person of compassion. This is stated several times—Jesus cared about people on a personal level. The Work and Authority of Jesus is a very significant study which is applicable to us today. **Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ, and the Savior of the world.**

❖ **THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT** is the theme of **Group 23**. Jesus discusses many topics which set forth some of His Teachings, some of which were somewhat different to what they had learned from the Law of Moses—***He spoke as one having authority.*** If you are looking to understand Jesus and His teachings, this is where you should begin. Jesus prepared the people for the coming ***King*** and ***Kingdom*** and the ***New Covenant*** to which people would commit themselves in their service to God. This Covenant is between God and every person who desires to be saved, everyone who will believe and obey Him. Jesus brought **a new way of life** to benefit us all.

❖ **JESUS – Teaching, Miracles – Response – Group 24 –** Some of the Teachings of Jesus and some of His Miracles are discussed. These things were for the purpose of teaching people, but also to show beyond any doubt that **Jesus Christ is the Son of God.** A very important part of these lessons is the response that the people had to the teachings and the miracles. Although the people mentioned in these lessons actually witnessed the teachings and miracles, we have a response to these things just as they had a response. Some people rejected the Teachings—some people rejected the Miracles—some people rejected the Man. However, over the period of time that Jesus publicly presented Himself to the people, the majority of the people accepted Jesus as the King and the Messiah—His triumphal entry into Jerusalem showed this. What is your Response? Do you believe the Teachings of Jesus? Do you believe that He performed the Miracles that He performed? If you do, then you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Will you act on that faith in obedience?

➢ ***For Moses truly said to the fathers, The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you.*** Acts 3:22

I am the bread of life. Jn 6:48

- **Books of the Bible –** Be able to repeat from memory 1 John – Revelation.

WE HAVE COVERED IN THE BIBLE

4004 BC **CREATION** 0 AM

GOD CREATED ALL THINGS IN THE PHYSICAL UNIVERSE.
THE ETERNAL PURPOSE OF GOD IS THE SALVATION OF MANKIND.

2348 BC **FLOOD** 1656 AM

GOD DESTROYED THE WORLD BECAUSE OF SIN—SAVED 8 SOULS.

1921 BC **PROMISES** 2083 AM

GOD MADE PROMISES TO ABRAHAM: LAND—NATION—SEED.
JESUS CHRIST IS THE "SEED" THROUGH WHOM GOD BLESSES ALL

1491 BC **EXODUS** 2513 AM

GOD SAVED THE NATION OF ISRAEL FROM EGYPT—GAVE LAW.

1451 BC **THE LAND PROMISE** 2553 AM

GOD GAVE THE LAND OF CANAAN TO THE NATION OF ISRAEL.

1095 BC **THE KINGDOM OF ISRAEL** 2909 AM

THE FIRST KINGS OF ISRAEL WERE SAUL, DAVID & SOLOMON.

975 BC **2 KINGDOMS - ISRAEL & JUDAH** 3029 AM

JUDAH - REHOBOAM RULED. **ISRAEL -** JEROBOAM RULED.

0 BC **JESUS OF NAZARETH** 4004 AM

MARY WAS A VIRGIN WHO CONCEIVED BY THE POWER OF GOD.
HER SON JESUS IS THE SAVIOR WHO IS CHRIST THE LORD.
JESUS WAS BAPTIZED. HE BEGAN TO PREACH THE GOSPEL.
FOR 3.5 YEARS, HE PREACHED AND PERFORMED MIRACLES—
HE SHOWED THAT HE WAS THE CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD.
HIS TEACHINGS PREPARED PEOPLE FOR THE COMING KINGDOM.
JESUS CHOSE 12 DISCIPLES WHO BECAME HIS APOSTLES—
THEY WERE TOGETHER FOR OVER 3 YEARS—WITNESSES TO ALL THAT JESUS SAID AND DID. THROUGH THESE EYEWITNESSES AND PROPHETS THAT JESUS OR HIS APOSTLES CHOSE, THE STORY OF WHAT HAPPENED WAS WRITTEN DOWN SO THAT WE COULD KNOW ABOUT HOW GOD FULFILLED HIS PROMISES—RECORDED IN THE LAW OF MOSES, THE PROPHETS AND THE PSALMS. WE KNOW FROM WHAT WAS WRITTEN DOWN THE CHARACTER AND WORK OF JESUS CHRIST AS HE SHOWED TO THE WORLD THAT HE WAS THE MESSIAH (CHRIST), THE SON OF GOD. THE EVIDENCE IS OVERWHELMING.