

THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD



SUNDAY SCHOOL
STUDENT'S MANUAL

2016 / 2017
UK, IRELAND AND EUROPE EDITION

Sunday School
Student's Manual
2016/2017
UK, Ireland and Europe Edition

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PREFACE

An excellent Christian is one who is so well versed in the the knowledge of the unadulterated word of God. We are to seek the word of truth, know it and in essence, we are to study the Bible to discover the treasures in it.

Our counsel to you now and always is to continuously study to show yourselves approved to God. As you lay new foundations and repair old ones, continue trimming your lamps, getting ready for the soon return of the Master. This Sunday school year is expected to be a year of firm and dedicated study. This year's manual is a compilation of sound biblical doctrines. Our personal goal should be to study the Bible to discover the treasures in it.

Keep on renewing your mind for the Almighty God to see that your capacity has been enlarged so that He can reveal Himself to you more and more on an ever increasing basis. You are the one that can stop the revelation of God through you. Welcome to this glorious Sunday school year.

God bless you, richly.

Pastor E. A. Adeboye
General Overseer
The Redeemed Christian Church of God



FOREWORD

Welcome to this glorious year of His Fullness, it is my prayer that as we continue in this new Sunday school year, each one of us will continue to increase in the fullness of the knowledge of Him and His divine purpose , plans as well as design agenda for our lives.

I will like to commend to you to the latest edition of the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG) Sunday School manual diligently prepared for the United Kingdom and Europe audiences.

This manual is one of the key discipleship tools of the mission and forms the curriculum for the Sunday school programme of the RCCG ministry. It has been put together out of a desire to make mature disciples of all nations especially at a time like this when the foundations of our Christian heritage is under severe attack on all sides.

Accompanying the manual is the Sunday School workbook, a study companion designed to challenge, reinforce and integrate the lessons, it's values and teachings into our daily living in practical ways. Each student is urged strongly to make use of this material to reinforce and extend their understanding of lessons taught.

The manual is broken again into 4 teaching quarters that is assessed after 12 topics, this is designed to lay great emphasis on certain aspects of our Christian journey to enable us arrive our divine destination which is eternity with Jesus.

The first quarter focuses on challenging us as individual believers to take responsibility for our walk with Him, laying to one side everything and

anything that will hamper us in our race to life eternal in Heaven. In the second quarter, the emphasis shifts to encouraging us to each develop the right relationships with our Lord as well as with mankind here on Earth as we prepare for our eternal home.

In the third quarter, we will be looking at further preparations that we need to make as we aspire to get into His divine presence after our sojourn on Earth. The standard of the Lord is indeed high and no unclean thing will get there. The last quarter will focus us on using all the grace of God made available to us optimally to do great exploits for the Lord in our time here.

This year, higher premium is placed on prayer and so a special day has been set aside for prayers as we close the Sunday School year in August 2017 and prepare for the start of the new one in September.

We will like to thank the Directorate of Christian Education in Nigeria for contributing resourceful materials and granting the permission to adapt them into a more fitting context for those living in Europe. The sole aim of this is reaching a wider audience with the foundational biblical truths. We also use this opportunity to acknowledge and appreciate them for the invaluable advice and oversight of the process that has led to the production of this edition.

We are equally thankful for the efforts of the RCCG Sunday school team here in the U.K. for putting this together so beautifully.

It is my prayer and desire for you that you will use this to both sharpen and strengthen your spiritual understanding and walk with the Lord as you go through it diligently this new Sunday school year.

Pastor Agu Irukwu
SATGO and Chairman Joint
National Executive Council RCCG UK

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HYMN

1. O Sunday School, on the Lord's day,
O How I love Thee well,
I am happy, it makes me glad
To rejoice at Thy birth.
2. O Sunday School, on the Lord's day,
Thy friendship suits me well,
Both young and old will sing Thy song,
We long for Sunday School.
3. O Sunday School, on the Lord's day,
Christ was Thy first teacher,
The Holy Spirit, great teacher,
Does manifest in thee.
4. O Sunday School, on the Lord's day,
This testimony is sure,
That God, the Father Almighty,
Poured His blessing on Thee.
5. O Sunday School, on the Lord's day,
Though the sun be so bright,
Or if the clouds be black with rain,
I'll be in Sunday School.
6. O Sunday School, on the Lord's day,
I rejoice to see Thee,
Will thou pass over me today?
Without my being blest?

RCCG VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT

1. To make Heaven
2. To take as many people as possible with us.
3. To have a member of The RCCG in every family of all nations.
4. To accomplish No. 1 above, holiness will be our lifestyle.
5. To accomplish No. 2 and 3 above, we will plant churches within five minutes walking distance in every city and town of developing countries and within five minutes driving distance in every city and town of developed countries.
6. We will pursue these objectives until every nation in the world is reached for Jesus Christ our Lord.

ACCEPTABLE CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

MEMORY VERSE

“God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth”. **John 4:24**

BIBLE PASSAGE: John 4: 19-25

INTRODUCTION

Worship is an act of paying homage which involves deep respect, reverence, adoration and showing sincere love to a supreme being. The Almighty God who created us must be worshipped for who He is and not because He needs anything from us (**Acts 17:23-25**). We are created to show the splendour of God by glorifying Him (**Ps. 29:2**). Since we are created for worship, it is important that we find out ways to do it so as to be acceptable by Him who commands it.

LESSON OUTLINES

1. Preparing for worship
2. Acceptable worship

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

The following steps should be taken by anyone preparing to worship God in an acceptable manner:

- 1) Put your heart in order.** Before moving into the external act of worship, there is the need for you to put your heart in order. This is to ensure that hindrances to your worship are off-loaded from your heart. We must get rid of anger, hatred, un-forgiveness, bitterness and other vices (**Col. 3:8-9**).
- 2) Reconcile with all.** There is the need for us to reconcile with God and man in any area of offence (**Matt. 5:23-24; Acts 24:16**). We need to reconcile and retribute our ways where necessary (**Lk. 19:8**).

ACCEPTABLE WORSHIP

Not all worship is acceptable to God (**Ps. 15:1-5; Matt. 7:21**). There are various forms of unacceptable worship. These include:

- 1) Vain worship: this is based on lip service and not from the heart (**Mk. 7:6**).
- 2) Ignorant worship: it refers to worship without the knowledge of who God really is and how He should be worshipped (**Jn. 4:22; Acts 17:22-23**).
- 3) Will or self-imposed worship: it refers to satisfying personal will and desire instead of carrying out God's instruction (**Col 2:20-23; Lev. 10:1-2**)

Acceptable worship is based on worship rendered to God in spirit and in truth (**Jn. 4:20-24**). Acceptable worship or service is always offered in holiness (**Ps. 96:9**): from a heart "void of offence toward God, and toward men" (**Acts 24:16**). It is one done by faith, like the sacrifice of Abel (**Jn. 9:36-38; Heb. 11:4**).

CONCLUSION

In the world today, people choose to worship different gods using diverse methods. The scripture teaches that only the Almighty God should be worshipped and this should be done in spirit and in truth (**Ex. 20:1-5; 34:14**). Such worship is what is acceptable to God and it is what touches His heart and thus, the blessing of God is released on these true worshippers.

QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to worship God in spirit and in truth?
2. Identify the consequences of unacceptable worship in Leviticus 10:1-3 and Genesis 4:3-7.

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: **1Samuel 15:22**- Obedience is better than sacrifice.

TUE: **Isaiah 29:13**- Worship the Lord from your heart.

WED: **Hebrew 12:28-29**- Worship God with reverence and awe.

THU: **1Chronicles 16:23**- Praise God always and proclaim the good news of salvation.

FRI: **Romans 12:1-2**- Offer your bodies to God in holiness.

SAT: **Exodus 34:14**- Do not worship any other god.

SUN: **Revelation 14:7**- Fear God and give Him glory.

A HEART OF GRATITUDE

MEMORY VERSE

“And Jesus answering said; were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?” **Luke 17:17**

BIBLE PASSAGE: Luke 17:11-19

INTRODUCTION

Thanksgiving is the art of giving thanks, or a show of gratitude and appreciation for something done to you. Why are people not showing appreciation to God? Is it that God has not done anything? Jesus Christ appreciates thanksgiving. He was surprised that only one of the ten lepers came back to express appreciation. All of them were in need, all cried for mercy, all persevered, all believed and obeyed but only one returned to express appreciation after the healing (**Lk.17:17-18**).

LESSON OUTLINES

1. Only one came back
2. The Christian approach

ONLY ONE CAME BACK

Only one out of the ten lepers came back to express appreciation and he was a Samaritan. It is like saying that out of every ten members of a church, only one person who does not even know much about Jesus, gives thanks. The rest may see no reason to thank God because of:

1. Discouragement and tribulations (**Dan. 2:23**). Daniel was a captive at the time he began thanking God.
2. Lack of knowledge of God's word (**Hosea 4:6**).
3. Taking God for granted and using thanksgiving as a substitute for obedience (**Lk. 18:9-14**).
4. Fellowship with the wrong crowd (**Eph. 5:1-5**).
5. Refusal to take account of what God has done (**Lk.17:18**).

THE CHRISTIAN APPROACH

Real Christians should find time to thank God for the following reasons, among others:

1. Thanksgiving is a command (**1Thess.5:18; Eph. 5:20; Col 3:17**). We are to come to His presence with thanksgiving (**Ps.100:4**).
2. For the salvation of our souls and the hope of eternal life with God (**Lk. 10:17-21**).
3. It is a show of appreciation for what the Lord has done (**Ex. 15:1-21; Lk. 17:11-19; 1:46**).
4. It shows we have great faith in God as in the case of Lazarus (**Jn. 11:41**)
5. It is a powerful weapon of warfare (**2 Chro. 20:20-27**).
6. It is an evangelistic tool (**Acts 16:25-34**)
7. It sustains selflessness and humility (**Dan. 2:23-24; Lk. 18:9-14; 1Tim. 1:12-13**).
8. It puts a seal of perfection on our testimonies. The man who came back to express appreciation was made whole (**Lk.17:19**).
9. We are called to show forth the praise of Him who has called us out of darkness into His marvellous light (**1Pet.2:9**).

CONCLUSION

A wise believer will always offer thanks to God all days of their lives, we have no reason to disobey the call to give thanks at all times as contained in Ps 34:1.

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

- MON: **Acts 28:10**- One way to appreciate God is to appreciate His servants.
- TUE: **Eph.5: 20**- Appreciation to God should be a continuous exercise.
- WED: **Isa. 38:19**- Thank God for life daily.
- THU: **Ruth 2:10**- There should be an expression of gratitude from man to man
- FRI: **Ps.51:15**- The salvation of God upon your life should open your lips of gratitude.
- SAT: **Luke 2:20**- Your experiences about life are enough to show appreciation daily.
- SUN: **Acts 2:47**- An important tool to grow the church is thanksgiving to God.

ONLY ONE GOD

MEMORY VERSE

“For thou art great and doest wondrous things; thou art God alone.” **Psalm 86:10.**

BIBLE PASSAGE: Isaiah 43:10-15

INTRODUCTION

The name “GOD”, has an unknown derivation, which is uncertain, we give to Him, the eternal, infinite, perfect, and incomprehensible Being, the Creator of all things, who preserves and governs all by His almighty power and wisdom, and is the only proper object of worship. The proper Hebrew name for God is ‘JEHOVAH’, which signifies ‘He is’. Hence, there is no one else besides our God.

LESSON OUTLINES

1. Only one God
2. Idolatry opposes God

ONLY ONE GOD

The infallible scriptures confirm that there is only one God, great and marvelous in His deeds (**Deut. 6:4; Deut. 32:39, Rev 15:3**). He is a fulfiller of destiny, promises, doing exceedingly abundantly above all that we know (**Jer. 1:5, 29:11**). He is able to subdue all things maintain all things and sustain His own people who acknowledge Him as their Lord and personal saviour to the very end. (**Heb. 7:25; Jude 24**). He is full of compassion, long suffering, plenteous in mercy, plenteous in truth, He stands sure in His counsels (**Ps. 86:15**) and is abundantly rich in grace and favour. (**Gen. 12:1-3; Lk. 1:30**). He is omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient (**Lk. 1:37; Ps. 115:3; Ps. 139:7-13; Ps. 147:5**) and sovereign (**Ps. 29:10; Dan. 2:20-22**).

IDOLATRY OPPOSES GOD

Idolatry is simply the worship of a physical object as a god or immoderate attachment or devotion to something more than you are devoted to God. As far as God is concerned, this is a sinful act that is forbidden and very dangerous to do. (**Ex. 20:4; Lev. 26:1; Deut. 11:16; Isa. 42:8; 1Jn. 5:21**). There are so many gods mentioned by various names in the early days of the Bible and in many nations and traditions of the world. Some of them are still worshiped in our generations now in form of various popular cultures and festivals adapted and celebrated in the name of diversity and multiculturalism today: Ashtaroath, Baal, Baalpeor, Chemosh, Dagon Diana and Molech (**Judg. 2:13; Num. 25:3; 2Kgs. 23:13; 1Sam. 5:2; Act. 19:24**). Some have worshiped heavenly demonic bodies, devils but none of these gods have the attributes of Jehovah God. (**Deut. 4:19**). Jehovah the Almighty God is full of life, whilst idols are inactive, perishable, helpless, empty with nothing to offer and therefore, unworthy of worship (**Deut. 4:28; Jer. 10:5; Acts. 17:29; Rom. 1:22-23**).

CONCLUSION

Acknowledging God as the Almighty and the only true One undoubtedly qualifies for a Christian life that operates in the miraculous. It is, therefore, wise to do so knowing full well that God always be the true one that He claims to be and will not share His glory with another.

QUESTION

1. Justify with scriptures that there is only one God.
2. How is idolatry dangerous?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: Ps. 83: 18- Give no allowance to fear and defeat.

TUE: 1Chr.17: 20- He is the unchangeable Lord.

WED: Ps. 44: 6-7- Placing trust and confidence in anything besides God is mere suicide.

THU: Mk.12: 29- If Jesus said it, then no controversy.

FRI: 1Cor. 8:4- Get it right; an idol has no standing in this world.

SAT: Eph. 4:6- God is supreme.

SUN: 1Tim. 2:5- Jesus alone mediates between us and the Almighty and not an idol or any form of it.

CONSECRATION

MEMORY VERSE

“For Moses had said, Consecrate yourselves to day to the LORD, even every man upon his son, and upon his brother; that he may bestow upon you a blessing this day” **Exodus 32:29**

BIBLE PASSAGE: Judges 13:3-7

INTRODUCTION

Consecration is a process or practice of making something or someone sacred, dedicated and set apart for the Lord. It also means the devoting or setting apart of anything or anyone to the worship or service of God (**Ex. 28:41**). The race of Abraham and the tribe of Levi were thus consecrated (**Num. 3:12**). According to the Mosaic Law, the first-born both of man and beast were consecrated to God (**Ex.13:2, 12, and 15**). In the New Testament, Christians are regarded as consecrated to the Lord (**1Pet. 2:9**).

LESSON OUTLINES

1. Means and benefits of consecration
2. Broken consecration

MEANS AND BENEFITS OF CONSECRATION

A consecrated person is called to live a life of purity, free from sin and contamination. How then can one be consecrated? The call to personal consecration demands that one presents oneself wholly as holy a sacrifice to God (**Lev. 11:44; Rom.12:1; 2Chro. 17:16**) and be willing to purge oneself of all filthiness of the flesh and spirit (**2Tim.2:21**). This is made possible through absolute compliance to divine instructions given by God in His Word (**Jn.17:17; Ps. 119:9; Eph. 5:26**).

Some of the benefits of consecration are:

1. Overflowing blessings (**Ex. 32:29**).
2. Overflowing anointing (**Heb.1:9; Act. 5:12**).
3. Becoming a chosen vessel of God (**2Tim. 2:21; Act. 9:15**).
4. Ever abiding presence of God (**Ps. 91:1; Matt. 28:19-20**).
5. Outstanding victory without a fight (**Prov. 16:7; 2Chro.20:15-19**).

BROKEN CONSECRATION

A broken consecration is a state of contamination of a consecrated person. It is when the consecrated one has backslidden and become polluted. We have examples of consecrated vessels that were contaminated by one thing or the other: Our prayer is that we never go back to our vomit but stand strong in the life that God has chosen for us (**2 Thess 2:15**).

1. Samson's consecration was broken by his disobedience and lust for strange women (**Jug. 14:1-3**).
2. Miriam was a prophetess in (**Ex. 15:20**) but her consecration was broken by envy (**Num. 12:1-10**).
3. Moses' consecration was contaminated by anger (**Num. 20:7-12**).
4. Gideon was set apart for God's mighty work of deliverance but pride broke his consecration (**Jug. 8:22-27**).
5. The desire for comfort contaminated David - the consecrated one (**2Sam. 11:1-27**).

CONCLUSION

God is calling you to live a consecrated life unto Him as a unique, peculiar person being part of His chosen royal priesthood and He is waiting to see you exhibit the life of consecration unto Him, take up this mantle and be part of the best that God has for you. Do not disappoint Him.

QUESTIONS

1. What are the benefits of consecration?
2. Describe a broken consecration.

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: Exodus 32:29-Living a daily life of consecration is profitable.

TUE: Ezekiel 43:26-Thoughtfully consecrate your self today.

WED: Exodus 15:20-21-Pray against envy as an agent of contamination.

THU: John 17:17-The word of God sanctifies.

FRI: Hebrew 13:12-Jesus paid for your sanctification and consecration.

SAT: 1Thessalonians 5:23-May the God of peace consecrate you wholly.

SUN: Jude 1:24-Pray that the Lord will keep you from contamination.

THE PURSUIT OF GOD

MEMORY VERSE

“Seek the LORD while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near,”
Isaiah 55:6

BIBLE PASSAGE: 2Chronicles 15:2-4

INTRODUCTION

To “seek” means to look for, search for, inquire about, investigate, pursue and strive after (**Matt. 13:44-46**). In **Gen. 4:26**, the Bible records that men began to seek God..... “then began men to call upon the name of the LORD”. The call to seek the Lord is an urgent one. It is our prayer that in our pursuit of God, we shall find Him and also be found of Him in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

LESSON OUTLINES

1. Why pursue God?
2. How to pursue Him

WHY PURSUE GOD?

- a) Because we are so imperfect outside Him, we can't do anything without Him (**Phil 3:12, Jn. 15:5**)
- b) When we pursue God He becomes available, accessible, near to us to answer us (**Isa. 55:6; Ps 145:18; Is 50:8, 2Chro. 7:14; Jer. 29:11-14, 1Chro. 28:9**).
- c) To seek God is a command that must be obeyed (**2Chro. 14:4**).
- d) God will give us rest in His presence (**2Chro. 14:7; 14:10-15**).
- e) God is the source of blessing, so we should seek Him (**Matt. 6:33; Ps. 34:9-10**).
- f) To be able to live righteously, we must seek God (**Hos. 10:12**).
- g) God is the only hope of everlasting life (**John 8:51; Jn. 5:39**).

HOW TO PURSUE GOD

1. We should pursue the Lord with all our heart (**Deut. 4:29; Jer. 29:13**).
2. He should be sought continually (**Ps. 105:4; 1Chro. 16:11**). This should be daily (**Isa. 58:2**).
3. We should seek Him diligently (**Heb. 11:6**).
4. We should do it with humility (**2Chro. 7:14**).
5. We must realise that seeking the Lord is the source of life (**Amos 5:4**).

CONCLUSION

Every true child of God must see the pursuit of his Father as an inevitable and highly rewarding task. They must also daily aspire to become just like Him in all ways, changed according to His standards. Our pursuit of Him is the pursuit of righteousness, so as to acquire His characteristics thus becoming His true ambassadors on Earth.

QUESTIONS

1. Why should you pursue God?
2. How does a believer pursue?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

- MON: **2Chronicles 7:14**- Seek the Lord through prayers.
TUE: **Matthew 6:33**- Let the kingdom of God be your first priority.
WED: **Amos 5:4**- Seek God and you shall live.
THU: **Isaiah 58:2**- Delight in God's ways.
FRI: **Deuteronomy 4:29**- Seek God with all your heart.
SAT: **Psalms 105:4**- Seek God continually.
SUN: **Hebrew 11:6**- God rewards those who diligently seek Him.

THE GOD CHASERS

MEMORY VERSE

“My soul followeth hard after thee: thy right hand upholdeth me” **Psalm 63:8**

BIBLE PASSAGE: Psalm 63:1-8

INTRODUCTION

A God Chaser is a person whose passion for God’s presence compels them to chase after God until they find God personally Isa. 55:6. A God chaser is one who has an insatiable hunger for the manifested presence of God. A child chases a loving parent until suddenly the strong arms of the father enfolds the chaser (**Gen. 5:24; Phil 3:12**). If you desire God strongly enough you will always find Him (**Jer. 29:11-14**). We see David who was a man completely sold out for God and completely broken. He was a good example of someone who was in love with God. He lived with an acute awareness of his need for God. His view of God was so big, he actually believed God was a real physical shepherd to him and he lived throughout his life with this principle. He wrote wonderful love songs to God in the book of Psalms. David is an example that we should follow, he was a God chaser.

LESSON OUTLINES

1. Examples of God chasers
2. The God chaser’s map

EXAMPLES OF GOD CHASERS

The Bible records examples of those who diligently sought after God and were found of Him. They include: Enoch (**Gen. 5:22- 24**); Moses (**Ex. 33:13-23**); Jacob (**Gen. 32:24-30**); Ezra (**Ezra 7:10**); Daniel (**Dan. 6:10-22**); David (**Ps. 63:1-8**); and Paul (**Phil 3:7-14**). They were not chasing after God because of what they wanted for themselves alone, but wholeheartedly believed God (**Jn. 6:65-69**). They also acknowledged their emptiness and nothingness without God (**Jn. 15:5**).

THE GOD CHASER'S MAP

A map gives a representation of a location needed for navigation. Anyone chasing after God must understand His spiritual location. While God is omnipresent, His manifest presence is only for those who diligently chase after Him.

- a) Hence, among others, the Lord will be found in the place of praise (**Ps. 100:3-4; 22:3**).
- b) He will be found in the place of prayer and fasting (**2Chro. 20:3; Ezra 8:21; Dan. 9:1-3, Acts 13:2**).
- c) You will also find the Lord when you strive to live in holiness (**2Chro. 34:3; Ezra 6:21; Heb. 12:14**).
- d) Ultimately, the Lord will be found in His Word (**Jn. 5:39; Ezra 7:10; Ps. 34:4**).

CONCLUSION

We require the Lord to help us and be on our side when seeking the Lord. We cannot do it by human efforts. Let us call on the Lord today to help us to be a daily God chaser.

QUESTIONS

1. Mention other examples of God chasers apart from those listed above.
2. Where can one find God and be found of Him?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: **2Chronicles 15:2**- The Lord is near to those who seek Him.

TUE: **Psalms 34:10**- The Lord has good things in store for those who seek Him.

WED: **1Chronicles 16:11**- Seeking the Lord should be a lifelong experience.

THU: **1Chronicles 28:9**- Training on how to seek the Lord should start from the home.

FRI: **Luke 11:10** - The only one you will find when you seek is the Lord.

SAT: **Hosea 10:12** - A good preparation plus seeking the Lord will result in abundance.

SUN: **Amos 5:4** - Seeking the Lord is a key to life.

TEMPTATION

MEMORY VERSE

“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.” **1Corinthians 10:13**

BIBLE PASSAGE: James 1:12-27

INTRODUCTION

Temptation is one of the most familiar experiences of a true child of God and no one can totally escape from it. Even our Lord Jesus Christ was tempted (**Matt.4:1; Heb.4:15**). This is why the Lord taught us to include in our daily prayer the petition, “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”

LESSON OUTLINES

1. Sources of and reasons for temptations
2. How do temptations arise?

SOURCES OF AND REASONS FOR TEMPTATIONS

God never tempts any man although He may give permission to the devil to do so when He is certain that the end result would be to His glory (**Jas. 1:13**). In which case, He sets the boundaries (**Job 1:1-12; 2:6**). The actual sources of temptation are:

- (a) Satan (**Matt. 4:1**)
- (b) The flesh (**Jas. 1:14**)
- (c) Evil association (**Prov. 1:10**)
- (d) Christian friends (**Matt. 16:22-23**).

When can God allow temptations to come our way? The answer is simply:

1. When He wants to test our faith (**Jas. 1:2-3**).
2. When He wants to test our obedience (**Gen. 22:1**).

God tests men to know the depth of their love and the sincerity of their hearts. God wants to know if they would obey Him in all things and at all times. It is easy to say that we love God and that He can do all things but when we are put to the test would this prove to be true? It is only at the time of severe trials that we can discover how strong our faith and trust in God is. However, in all these cases, God always provides a way for us to overcome **(1Cor. 10:13)**. Of course, there are temptations that we bring upon ourselves through the lust of the flesh, but even in these scenarios with the help of God we can overcome **(1Jn.2:15-17)**.

HOW DO TEMPTATIONS ARISE?

Temptations can come through many avenues. We shall list a few of them to know how to watch out. Temptations can come through:

1. Poverty or prosperity **(Prov. 30:9)**.
2. Discouragement **(Ps. 42:11; 1Kgs. 19:4)**.
3. Pride of achievement as in the case of Nebuchadnezzar that led to his fall **(Dan. 4:30)**.
4. Love for worldly pleasure above love for God, that led Demas astray **(2Tim. 4:10)**.
5. Strong desire for power for selfish purposes, that brought a curse on Simon Magus **(Acts 8:19-24)**.
6. Lust for material possessions that ruined Achan **(Joshua 7)**.
7. Love of women, that ruined Solomon and caused the anger of God against David **(Neh. 13:26; 2Sam. 11:2-4)**.
8. Love of money, that led to the destruction of Judas Iscariot **(1Tim. 6:9; Jn. 13:21-30)**.

CONCLUSION

To be tempted is not a sin in itself however; to yield to temptation is a sin **(1 Peter 5:8)**. God promises to provide a "way of escape" when we are tempted **(1 Corinthians 10:13)**, but often that way is to avoid the situation altogether. "Flee the evil desires of youth" **(2 Timothy 2:22)**. Jesus taught us to pray, "Lead us not into temptation" **(Luke 11:4)**, but we have a responsibility to pay attention to the direction God is leading us to and avoid temptation whenever we can.

QUESTIONS

1. Identify the primary sources of temptation
2. Mention five pointers to temptation

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

- MON: **1Corinthians 10:13**- Rely on God to overcome your temptations.
- TUE: **James 1:13**- Stop blaming God for your temptation.
- WED: **James 1:3**- Lord, help me to overcome all temptations and trials.
- THU: **Matthew 16:22**- Father, I refuse to be an instrument that will make others fall.
- FRI: **1John 2:16**- Lord, please deliver me from every spirit of lust and pride.
- SAT: **Psalm 42:11**- I rebuke every spirit of discouragement in my life.
- SUN: **Proverbs 1:10**- Father, please separate me from every evil associations.

OVERCOMING TEMPTATION

MEMORY VERSE

“For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted” **Hebrews 2:18**

BIBLE PASSAGE: Hebrews 4:14-16

INTRODUCTION

Just as we are powerless to stop birds from flying over our heads but have the ability to stop them from nesting in our hair, so also can we not stop evil thoughts from passing through our minds. However, we do not need to accept them or allow them to create a stronghold in our thoughts and imaginations. The consequence of yielding to temptation can often be very disastrous and lead to serious regrets later on in our lives. There are huge benefits of resisting temptations, it, births spiritual and physical victory. It is our prayer that through this lesson, you will obtain the tools needed to help you overcome temptations daily.

LESSON OUTLINES

1. The results of temptations
2. How can one overcome?

THE RESULTS OF TEMPTATIONS

There are two possible outcomes of temptations. We either yield to it or resist it. If a Christian yields to temptation, it becomes sin (**1Tim. 6:9**). The result then is that the Christian’s testimony is badly affected and this believer becomes spiritually weak (**Matt. 26:41**). If the temptation is resisted, the Lord is glorified and the Christian grows spiritually stronger and is thus able to resist other temptations in the future (**Jam.1:2-4, 1Pet. 1:6-7**). The victorious Christian grows in faith and maturity. God is happy because the determination of the Christian to obey Him is confirmed.

WAYS OF OVERCOMING TEMPTATIONS?

There are several ways of overcoming temptations. We shall mention some of them:

1. By submitting and trusting God. We can rely on God's faithfulness. He remains the same always. We receive power to resist temptation when we submit and trust Him. (**Jas. 4:7, 1Cor. 1:9, 10:13, Heb 13:8**).
2. By memorising the word of God and quoting them when the need arises, like Jesus did in (**Matt. 4:5-11, Psalm 119:11**.) Regular, consistent study of the word helps to maintain a healthy mind, shift our focus from sinful things to holy things. (**Rom 12;1-2, Col 3:2**)
3. By constant prayer and carefulness (**Matt. 26:41, 1Pet. 4:7, Matt. 5:29**). E.g, the man who knows that his weakness is alcoholic drinks should stay away from places or situations that will expose them to alcohol such as pubs, clubs, parties organised by unbelievers where mostly alcohol is served. Guard your steps; keep them away from path that leads to temptation. Prov. 4:14-15
4. By fleeing/running or keeping your distance from anything that will likely tempt you to sin (**2Tim. 2:22, 1Thess. 5:22**). Joseph resisted and fled from Potiphar's wife lustful advances. Gen. 39:6-13
5. By resisting (**Jas. 4:7**). The devil is a coward. If we resist him, he flees. That is, he runs away in terror.

CONCLUSION

Avoid falling into temptation whenever it comes. Rely on Jesus Christ who is constantly praying for us (**Lk. 22:31-32, Rom. 8:34**). Beware of yielding to sin, it will cut you open like a nasty injury and although healing, forgiveness may occur with genuine repentance, but the scars will always remain. Remember, we can do all things through Christ, including resisting temptations.

QUESTIONS

1. List four possible ways of escape from temptation?
2. What are the results of temptations?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: **1John 2:16** - Resist those things that are not the fruit of the Holy Spirit.
 TUE: **Numbers 22:17** - Do not be tempted to work against the will of God.
 WED: **Job 2:9**- Resist temptation even if it is from your spouse or closest friend.
 THU: **Matthew 4:6**- With the word of God, you can overcome all temptations.
 FRI: **Matthew 4:9**- The devil is a liar and deceiver. Resist him and he will flee.
 SAT: **Revelation 3:10**- Obeying God keeps you from temptations.
 SUN: **2Peter 2:9**- The Lord will always deliver His own from temptations.

ADULTERY AND FORNICATION

MEMORY VERSE

“But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart” **Matthew 5:28**

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1Corinthians 6:15-20

INTRODUCTION

Sexual immorality is a grievous sin that God hates. It is, therefore, alarming that it exists even among the members of the church (**1Cor.5:1-2; Eph. 5:3**).

Sexual immorality is any habit or act that contradicts God's laid down plan, principle and practice concerning sexual activity. Adultery and fornication are forms of sexual immorality.

Other forms of sexual immorality are homosexuality, lesbianism, bestialism, incest, rape, masturbation, pornography, lustful desires and immoral thoughts.

Although all unrighteousness is sin 1 John 5:17, sexual immorality is considered grave and great sin before God (**1Cor. 3:16-17**).

LESSON OUTLINES

1. Adultery and Fornication
2. Causes of adultery and fornication

ADULTERY AND FORNICATION

Adultery can simply be described as marital infidelity. Adultery is any illicit sexual relationship (physically or mentally) between a married person and another person(s) who is not his or her spouse. It could also mean sexual relationship between a married person and someone that is betrothed (engaged) to another.

Adultery and fornication are listed among the works of the flesh (**Gal. 5:19**). Not to commit adultery is among the first 10 commandments given to Israel (**Ex. 20:14**). Adultery was regarded as a serious sin punishable by death (**Lev. 20:10; Jn. 8:4-5**). It is regarded as foolishness, brings dishonor, destruction and eternal reproach to the person engaged in it. (**Prov. 6:32-33**). Adultery starts from the heart; lusting sexually in your heart for someone who is not your husband or wife is an act of adultery (**Matt. 5:27-28, 15:19 2Pet. 2:14**). Polygamy and polyandry also constitute adultery; it violates/breaks the bond of ONENESS in the marriage union. (Deut. 31:16-21, Jer. 11.10).

Sexual immorality or intercourse between unmarried couples is fornication. Fornication has gone viral among the young adults both in and outside the church (**1Cor. 5:1**). The cities and towns are filled with baby push chairs or prams pushed by young unwed, mothers who are often in a non – committal relationship and baby fathers, who have no desire to get married. It has become the norm within the society for men and women to live together, bearing children outside of marriage. The temptation to commit fornication or adultery is common to all, but you do not have to fall for it (**1Cor.10:12-13**). Adultery and fornication are the greatest arrester of one’s destiny, Judg.16:1-31, Gen. 35:22

CAUSES OF ADULTERY AND FORNICATION

Some of the likely causes of adultery are:

1. Untamed lustful desire (**Jas. 1:13-14**).
2. Covetousness (**Ex. 20:17, Luke 12:15**).
3. Lack of contentment due to unmet sexual needs from a spouse (**1Cor.7:2-5**).
4. Separation, divorce and remarriage are gateways to adultery (**Matt. 19:9; Rom. 7:2-3**).
5. Hardship/challenges in the family. E,g financial lack, health problems,

In addition, the following can lead to fornication:

1. Curiosity (**Gen. 3:1-5**).
2. Youthful lust (2Tim. 2:22).
3. Peer pressure (**Ex. 23:2**).
4. Undefined boundaries in relationship with the opposite sex (1Cor. 7:2).
5. Unnecessarily prolonged courtship (1Cor. 7:9).

CONCLUSION

Sex before or outside marriage is totally forbidden by God (**Eph. 5:3**). Saints must abstain from fornication and all things prevalent in our environment or associations that may act as catalysts that lead to their succumbing into it. (**Acts 15:20, 29, 1Thess.5:22**). Christians must consciously put to death fornication which is an attribute and strong passion of the uncrucified flesh (**Col. 3:5**).

QUESTIONS

1. Describe adultery and fornication.
2. Mention the likely causes of Adultery and fornication.

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: **1Corinthians 6:18**- Flee from sexual immorality.
TUE: **Exodus 20:14**- Do not commit adultery.
WED: **1Corinthians 10:12**- Take heed lest you fall.
THU: **Hebrews 13:4**- The marriage bed should be pure.
FRI: **Proverbs 5:19**- Be satisfied with your spouse.
SAT: **Colossians 3:5**- Put to death fornication.
SUN: **2Timothy 1:7**- Exercise self-control

FLEE FROM ADULTERY AND FORNICATION

MEMORY VERSE

"If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are" **1Corinthians 3:17**

BIBLE PASSAGE

Proverbs 6:23-29, 32-33

INTRODUCTION

Adultery and fornication are not just sins against God (**1Cor. 6:19-20**), but also against one's soul (**1Pet. 2:11**) and body (**1Cor. 6:18**). Having known the meaning of adultery and fornication as well as their causes, we shall proceed to consider the inherent dangers or consequences of these sins. We will also find out the remedies for adultery and fornication that will help us as true believers to flee from this terrible sin.

LESSON OUTLINES

1. Dangers/consequences
2. Antidotes/remedies

DANGERS/CONSEQUENCES

1. Loss of dignity and honour (**Prov. 6:32-33**).
2. Exposure to and transfer of spiritual curses and afflictions (**Gen. 49:3-4; Jg. 16:1-31**).
3. Exposure to deadly diseases and unplanned pregnancies (**Rom. 1:27, 1Cor. 3:16-17**).
4. Untimely death that could cut short divine destiny (**Jug. 16:6, 30**).
5. Eternal destruction and separation from God (**1Cor. 6:9; Rev. 21:8; Heb. 13:4b**).

ANTIDOTES/REMEDIES

1. Have a consciousness of sin and fear God (**Gen. 39:9; Rom. 6:12-14**).
2. Make a covenant with your eyes and flesh not to commit adultery or fornication (**Job 31:1**).

3. Abstain from all appearances or resemblance of sexual immorality **(1Thess. 5:22)**.
4. Do not stay in the alluring environment of adultery and fornication hoping to resist the temptation. Run away as far as your legs can carry you. Learn from Joseph and do not be like Samson **(1Cor. 6:18; Gen. 39:10-12; Jg. 16:1)**.
5. Get married as soon as you are convicted by the Holy Spirit and matured to do so **(1Cor. 7:2; Heb. 13:4a, Prov. 3:5-7)**.
6. Married couples should strive to mutually satisfy each other in all things and guard against infiltration of strange women and men **(1Cor. 7:3-5; Prov. 5:18-20)**.
7. Always meditate on the word of God and depend on the strength of the Holy Spirit **(Phil. 4:8, 13)**.
8. Pray for grace to exercise self-control and be sanctified at all times and in all things **(1Cor. 7:9; 1Cor. 9:25)**.
9. Glorify God in your body **(1Cor. 6:20)**.

CONCLUSION

Run away from every appearance of evil **(1Thess. 5:22)** Adultery as well as fornication kills.

QUESTIONS

1. Mention and discuss the dangers/consequences of adultery and fornication.
2. Discuss four antidotes of and remedies to adultery and fornication.

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: **1Thessalonians 5:22**- Flee from all appearance of evil.

TUE: **Matthew 5:28**- Fornication and adultery start from the heart of a man.

WED: **Philippians 4:8**- Brethren do whatsoever which is good.

THU: **Genesis 39:9**- Fornication and adultery is a great sin against God.

FRI: **Matthew 5:28**- Do not lustfully look at a man or woman.

SAT: **Proverbs 5:18**- Be contented with your wife.

SUN: **Romans 6:12**- Let your mortal body remain holy in God.

VICTORY OVER SIN

MEMORY VERSE

“Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.” **Romans 6:13**

BIBLE PASSAGE: Romans 6:8-14

INTRODUCTION: After salvation, the deep and sincere cry of the believer should be for holiness, to be like Christ, to overcome sin and to live a blameless and holy life. Some Christians try to be holy in their own way, and when they fail in the process, become discouraged and give up wanting to be holy. They become fearful of preaching holiness lest they be seen as preaching something they cannot practise. Some Christians have never even heard of the victorious life of holiness so they continue sinning and confessing from day to day. The Bible teaches glorious victory over sin for every believer. In **1John 5:4**, John was not speaking about victory in Heaven but of victory on earth; daily victory over the world and the lusts thereof.

OUTLINE

1. Claiming the promises of God
2. Making the right choice

CLAIMING THE PROMISES OF GOD

Did God promise victory over sin for believers? Yes, He asked us to be holy as He is holy (**1 Pet.1:15-16**). He, however, added that without Him we can do nothing (**Jn.15:5**). That is, without His assistance we cannot live a holy and victorious life. Therefore, we are assured by Him, through His servant Paul that sin shall not have dominion over us (**Rom. 6:14**), that we shall conquer sin through Him (**Rom. 8:37**), for He will cause us to triumph always through Christ (**2Cor. 2:14**).

When God promises anything, He will do it. 1Thess 5:24, Heb 10:23. I am to believe the following facts that are established in the word of God:

1. I died with Christ (**Gal. 2:20**). Death frees a man once and for all from the power and dominion of sin (**Rom. 6:7**). A dead man cannot steal, fornicate, covet or commit any other sin.
2. I was buried with Him (**Rom. 6:4**). All that is evil in me should remain permanently buried.
3. I rose with Christ (**Rom. 6:5**). Christ rose with a glorified body, a body over which sin can have no power or dominion. Since I rose with Him, sin can no longer have dominion over me.
4. I now have power to live triumphantly with Him (**Rom. 6:8**).

MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICE

As a Christian, I still have my own free will. I can choose or reject a life of victory over sin. If I choose victory, I certainly will have it as a gift from the Lord. If it is true that I am dead to sin in Christ, then, there is only one thing for me to do and that is to yield myself to God (**Rom. 6:13**). If I do this, then I can assume my new position by faith as someone who is “alive from the dead.” It is no longer a question of fighting sin but a matter of yielding to a more powerful force, the power of the resurrected Christ. The choice, however, is entirely mine to either yield to sin or to Christ (**Rom. 6:16**). If I yield to Christ, I shall be free from the power of sin (**Rom. 6:18**). If I yield to sin, I shall go down from iniquity to iniquity (**Rom. 6:19**).

CONCLUSION

Probably you have tried to live victoriously before and you have failed. What should be done now? **1John 1:9** is still true. Jesus has never failed. Your failure has not weakened Christ. Obey the commands of the Spirit as He directs you in your daily endeavours.

QUESTIONS

1. Is it possible to live a life of victory over sin? If yes, state how
2. Name two promises of God on the issue.

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

- MON: **John 10:10**- Hang on to Jesus Christ and you will forever live a victorious life.
- TUE: **Galatians 5:16**- Walk in the spirit and you will be victorious.
- WED: **Galatians 3:11**- The just shall surely live by faith.
- THU: **Hebrews 10:38**- You will lose your victorious life if you look back.
- FRI: **2Corinthians 12:9**- His grace shall always be sufficient for you.
- SAT: **Colossians 1:27**- The riches and glory of Christ are for you.
- SUN: **1Corinthians 10:13**- Overcoming temptations lead to glory.

“THE WORD” AS THE TRUTH

MEMORY VERSE

“Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth” **John 17:17**

BIBLE PASSAGE: 2Timothy 3: 15-17

INTRODUCTION

The Word of God is forever settled (**Ps. 119:89**). God’s word does not change with time neither should anything be added or subtracted from it (**Rev. 22:18-19**). It cuts across all generations, race, nations, gender, age etc. Regardless of the influx of false doctrines, God’s word cannot be manipulated because it is ‘the Truth’. The Bible says there is nothing anyone can do against the truth but for the truth (**2Cor. 13:8**).

LESSON OUTLINES

1. The word is the truth
2. Beware of false doctrines

“THE WORD” IS THE TRUTH

If the foundation of a man’s life is to be really imparted properly, it will be wise to submit to the One who originally framed it all by His word (**Heb. 11:3**). The Word of God, the Truth, is divinely inspired and therefore profitable for doctrine, salvation, healings, miracles, signs, instruction in righteousness, deliverance, peace, wisdom, knowledge and understanding (**Jn.17:17; 2Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 2:21; Deut. 11:18; Ps.119:9; Col.3:16; Jer. 5:14; Jer. 23:29; Heb. 4:12; Isa. 9:6; Jn. 20:31; Jn.8:32,36; Mt.8:5-10**). This is why it was taught in the Old and New Testament times, to give God’s people a solid spiritual foundation (**2Chr.17:9; Neh. 8:13; Isa. 2:3**). God’s Word remains the same today – nothing wanting, nothing missing. The knowledge of the truth starts with the acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. He is “the Word” and “the Truth” (**Jn.1:1, 14; 14:6; 8:32**).

BEWARE OF FALSE DOCTRINES

Almost at the same pace as the word is overflowing with sound doctrines that are profitable for instruction in righteousness and godliness. The devil is also making efforts to counter the purpose of God through the introduction of diverse and varying false doctrines such as: -

1. That Jesus is not the Son of God (**1Jn. 4:1-3**).
2. That there is no resurrection of the dead (**Mt. 22:23-33; 1Cor.15:13-19, 35-42**).
3. That the days of miracles are over (**Isa. 9:6; Ex. 3:14; Heb. 13:8; Phil. 2:9-11**).
4. That one can worship anything created and not the Creator (**Exo. 20:4-5**).
5. That the days of tithing are over (**Mal. 3:10-13**).
6. That holiness is practically impossible (**Phil. 4:13; Lk. 1:37**).
7. That prosperity is synonymous with material wealth only (**3 Jn. 2; Lk. 12:16-31**).

CONCLUSION

Any time spent in ensuring that the original truth of God's word is mastered and that one becomes so accustomed to it is not a waste at all. This is important especially as we know that Satan is more determined in these last days to spread false doctrines. It is the duty of Christians on the Lord's side to make sure the devil fails at all cost.

QUESTIONS

1. How is the word the truth?
2. Mention some false doctrines and scriptures that counter such.

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: **2Cor. 1:20**- God's promises for your life are forever sure.

TUE: **1Pet. 2:9**- You are a ROYAL PRIESTHOOD.

WED: **Ps.139:14**-You are not a mistake but a divine choice.

THU: **Ps.107:20**- God will speak great and mighty things into your life today.

FRI: **1Pet.5:8**- We are winners by God's grace.

SAT: **2Jn. 7**- Note the mark of the anti-Christ.

SUN: **Num. 23:19**- Pray for grace to lean and trust completely on God who cannot lie.

WEEK 13 *Nov 27th 2016*

WELCOME TO THE FIRST INTERACTIVE SESSION

YOUR PRIVILEGE

- To Ask Questions
On Past Lessons For Clarity
- To Give Critical Appraisal
Of The Outlines
- To Give Useful Suggestions
Towards Better Performance
- To Give Useful
Spiritual Contributions
- Etc

BIBLICAL COVENANTS

MEMORY VERSE

“Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah” **Jeremiah 31:31**

BIBLE PASSAGE: **Jeremiah 31:31-34**

INTRODUCTION

Covenants are important features of the Bible's teaching. Seven specific covenants are revealed in the Scripture. These seven covenants fall into three categories—conditional, unconditional, and general. Conditional covenants are based on certain obligations and prerequisites; if the requirements are not fulfilled, the covenant is broken. Unconditional covenants are made with no strings attached and will be kept regardless of one party's fidelity or infidelity. General covenants are not specific to one people group and can involve a wide range of people.

LESSON OUTLINES

1. The biblical covenants of old
2. The new covenant

THE BIBLICAL COVENANTS OF OLD

The general covenants of old are:

1. **Adamic Covenant.** This covenant is in two parts. The Edenic covenant found in **Gen. 1:26-30; 2:16-17**, which outlined man's responsibility toward creation and God's directive regarding the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The second part of the Adamic covenant includes the curses pronounced against mankind for the sin of Adam and Eve as well as God's future provision for man's redemption **Gen.3:15**.

2. **Noahic Covenant.** This was made between God and Noah following the departure of Noah, his family, and the animals from the ark. **Gen. 9:11**. This covenant included a sign of God's faithfulness to keep it—the rainbow.

The unconditional covenants are:

1. **Abrahamic Covenant.** In this covenant, God promised many things to Abraham. He personally promised that He would make Abraham's name great **Gen. 12:1-3**, that Abraham would have numerous physical descendants **Gen 13:16**, and that he would be the father of a multitude of nations; **Gen. 17:4-5**. God also made promises regarding a nation called Israel. Another provision in the Abrahamic Covenant is that the families of the world will be blessed through the physical line of Abraham **Gen. 12:3;22:18**. This is a reference to the Messiah, who would come from the line of Abraham.
2. **Palestinian Covenant.** God promised to scatter Israel if they disobeyed Him, then to restore them at a later time to their land **Deut. 30:1-10**. This covenant has been fulfilled twice, with the Babylonian Captivity and subsequent rebuilding of Jerusalem under Cyrus the Great; and with the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70, followed by the reinstatement of the nation of Israel in 1948.
3. **Davidic Covenant.** God promised to bless David's family line and assured an everlasting kingdom **2 Sam. 7:8-16**. Jesus is from the family line of David **Luke 1:32-33** and, as the Son of David **Mark 10:47**, is the fulfilment of this covenant.
4. The **Mosaic Covenant was a conditional covenant**. It is found in **Deut.11, 28**. It promised the Israelites a blessing for obedience and a curse for disobedience. The Ten Commandments; **Ex.20** and the rest of the law are parts of the Mosaic covenant. Much of the Old Testament chronicles the fulfilment of this cycle of judgment for sin and later blessing when God's people repented and returned to God.

THE NEW COVENANT

This covenant, found in **Jer. 31:31-34**, promised that God would forgive sin and have a close, unbroken relationship with His people. Under this new covenant, Jesus died in place of sinners, **Heb. 9: 23-28; Jn. 1: 29; Matt. 26: 26-30**. His blood would truly remove the sins of all who place their faith in Him **1 Jn. 1: 9**. It is a better covenant **Heb. 8: 6-13**. It is a covenant of hope **Heb. 7: 18-19** and it is an everlasting one **Heb. 13: 20**. It is a covenant of eternal inheritance, **Heb. 9: 15**. This is the new and better way. It is the covenant of grace **Eph. 2:8-9** that is, Christ's offer to forgive our sins and bring us to God through His sacrificial death. It is new in application because it is written in our hearts and minds. It offers a new way to forgiveness through faith.

CONCLUSION

Have you entered into this new covenant and started walking in the better way?

QUESTION

1. Mention the seven specific covenants in the Bible.
2. Explain the importance of the new covenant.

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: **Mark 10:47**- Call on Jesus Christ for mercy.

TUE: **Heb. 9:15**- Jesus is the fulfilment of the new covenant.

WED: **Gen.17:4-5**- God is faithful to his covenant.

THU: **Luke 1:33**- God reigns forever.

FRI: **Jer.31:33**- God's word must be in our heart.

SAT: **Eph 2:8**- The new covenant is the covenant of grace.

SUN: **1Jn1:9**- Jesus can cleanse from all unrighteousness.

COVENANT: DEFINITION AND PURPOSE

MEMORY VERSE

"And I, behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with your seed after you;" **Genesis 9:9**

BIBLE PASSAGE: **Genesis 9:9-17**

INTRODUCTION: The word "Testamentum" is often used in Latin to express the Hebrew word which signifies covenant. The word covenant in the Hebrew language is "Berith." The corresponding Greek word is "Diatheke" (where one of the parties is infinitely superior to the other, as in a covenant between God and man) Gen.15:1-21. The Greek term "Suntheke" is a word for a covenant between two equals (**Josh. 9:6, 15**). It is not a New Testament word. "Diatheke" is the term the New Testament employs to translate either covenant or testament. The reason is obvious; God made no covenant with man as man's equal.

LESSON OUTLINES

1. Definition and examples
2. Understanding the purpose of covenant

DEFINITION AND EXAMPLES

A covenant is a contract or agreement between two or more parties. It is a solemn promise made binding by an oath, which may be either verbal or symbolic. It is a solemn agreement binding on all parties to fulfil obligations. Where one of the parties is infinitely superior to the other, as in a covenant between God and man, God's covenant assumes the nature of a promise (**Isa. 59: 21; Jer. 31: 33, 34; Gal. 3: 15-18**). In the Bible, God made promissory covenant with various people at various times. God covenanted with Noah, Abraham, and David (**Gen. 9:8- 9; 17:4- 5; Ps. 89:3- 4**). While these are "covenants of promise" made alone by God. The Bible makes a distinction between covenants of promise and covenants of law. The children of Ephraim refused to keep God's covenant by refusing to walk in His law (**Ps. 78:9-10**).

UNDERSTANDING THE PURPOSE OF COVENANT

Covenant is how God first decided to deal with mankind (**Heb. 13:20**). Covenant is how God has chosen to communicate with us, to redeem us, and to guarantee us eternal life in Jesus. These truths, revealed in the Bible, are the basis of Christianity. Because we can rely on God's word for eternity, we can take great comfort in His covenant promising us eternal life in His Son (**Jn. 5:39**). Understanding covenant helps us to know our responsibilities to God as well as His to us (**Deut. 28:1**). It also helps us to better appreciate the symbols used by God in covenant ratification: the Lord's Supper and Baptism (**1Cor. 11:24-26; Rom. 6:4**). Through covenant, God establishes a deep relationship with His people so that they could live in a way that glorifies Him (**Rom. 15:9; 1Cor. 6:20**).

CONCLUSION

In divine covenant, man has nothing to do with making the covenant but to accept and enjoy its benefits or reject it and suffer consequences.

QUESTIONS

1. Explain what you understand by covenant.
2. Mention three purposes of covenant.

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

- MON: **Gen. 9:9**– God's covenant is for me and my children.
TUE: **Deut. 28:1**– Father set me on high above all nations.
WED: **Heb. 13:20** – I claim the covenant of life by the blood of Jesus.
THU: **Josh. 7: 21**– I receive the grace never to covet again.
FRI: **Rom. 15:9** – Oh God, I glorify thee for thy mercy.
SAT: **1Cor. 6:20** – Thank you Lord for bringing me into a covenant relationship with you.
SUN: **Acts 3:25** – The blessings of Abraham is also mine.

PRECIOUS RELATIONSHIP

MEMORY VERSE

“Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife *see* that she reverence *her* husband.” **Ephesians 5:33**

BIBLE PASSAGE: Ephesians 5:22-23

INTRODUCTION

In the previous lessons, we examined biblical covenants and their purposes. Marriage is a covenant between a **Man** and a **Woman** to become one single entity in the presence of the Lord. This will be our focus in the next few lessons. Discussions on Christian living will be incomplete without a thorough discussion on family life. This is an institution that the Lord Jesus Christ likened to the relationship between Him and His Church. May the Holy Spirit teach and bless us the more, in Jesus' name.

OUTLINES

1. The wife in true submission
2. The loving husband
3. The king's children

THE WIFE IN TRUE SUBMISSION

The true Christian wife must recognise and joyfully accept the God-ordained headship of the husband and be submissive to this divine ordination and pattern of God. **1Pet.3:1; Col.3:18; 1 Tim.2:11-14**. The scope of the submission should be as unto the Lord Jesus in everything. Other qualities of the wife include obedience **1Pet.3:1**, reverence **Eph.5:33; 1Pet.3:5**, humility in outward appearance **1Pet.3:4; 1Tim.2:9-10**. The true Christian wife should adorn herself with meekness, quiet and prayerful spirit only, which will make greater impact in the home, church and the nation **1Pet.3:4; Tit.2:5**. Other qualities are purity and holiness **Titus 2:4-5; 1Pet.3:5**, loveliness **Tit.2:4; Songs 1:6-7**, mother's heart **Ps.128:3; 1Sam.2:19; Prov. 6:20-25**, diligence and dependability **Ps.144:11-12; Prov.12:14; 31:30-31**, hospitality **Ps.31:20; 2Kgs.4:8-10** and prayerfulness **Mt.15:22-28; Acts 1:14**.

THE LOVING HUSBAND

The husband, by godly plan, is the head of the wife **Eph.5:23; 1Cor.11:3**. It has nothing to do with education, talent or wealth. The husband is to love his wife as Christ loves the Church **Rom.5:6-10**. He must love in sickness, pain, sorrow or weakness. His love must be sacrificial **Eph.5:25; Phil.2:5-8**. The love must not be because of what the man can get from the woman but be God-ordained. The head stays with the body until death **Eph.5:28-29, 31**. Where the home is blessed with children, the husband is to train them and not to provoke them to wrath **Col.3:21**.

THE KING'S CHILDREN

In the family also are children who must be trained and nurtured in the fear of God **Prov.22:6**. They are God's heritage and blessed is the family where they are found **Ps.127:3-7; Ps.128:1-6**. They are the crown of old age and the glory of their fathers **Prov.17:6**. Of them also is the kingdom of Heaven – **Mt.19:14**. God commands them to obey their parents in the Lord **Eph.6:1; Col.3:20**.

CONCLUSION

The family life is a precious relationship ordained by God. How is yours? You can prayerfully answer the question today as you turn to the perfect architect and master builder, that is, the Lord Jesus Christ, who can perfect all about your home.

QUESTIONS

1. What is the Lord's command to the wife? Justify with scriptures.
2. What other qualities should a Christian wife possess?
3. What is the responsibility of the husband in the family?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

- MON: **1Cor. 7:32** - God will have us care more for the things of heavenly value because that is the ultimate, anyway.
- TUE: **1Cor. 13:1-13** - God is Love. Christian marriages should be wrapped up in godly love.
- WED: **Ps.127:3-5** - Children belong to the Lord and are of great significance at home.
- THU: **Ex. 20:14-17** - The word of God is forever settled about Christian marriage. Ask for grace to adhere to these precepts.
- FRI: **Lev.20:10** - The sin of adultery is not ordinary as far as God is concerned.
- SAT: **Eph. 5:25** - The instruction to the husband is clear and simple and absolute obedience would usher in the blessings.
- SUN: **1Tim. 3:11** - The duty of the wife is simple enough for the sober and sanctified heart.

CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

MEMORY VERSE

“And Adam said, this is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.” **Genesis 2:23**

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 2:21-25

INTRODUCTION

The marriage institution was ordained by God as part of the essential process of life. It is one of the fundamental and basic sacraments in the Christian church. It is the oldest institution which God Himself established at the beginning of creation. It is the bedrock of the church. We should approach marriage with dignity as a sacred and divine institution (**Heb.13:4**).

LESSON OUTLINES

1. The reason for marriage
2. Marriage is for adults

THE REASON FOR MARRIAGE

There are various reasons people go into a marriage relationship. The first principal reason for Christian marriage is for mutual fellowship. Loneliness is not good. It is dangerous. The Lord saw the man needed companionship, hence, the creation of woman **Gen.2:18-22, 24**. There are exceptions according to the Apostle Paul in **1 Cor.7:32**. Secondly, God made us with sexual desires that are good, holy and legitimate but must only be satisfied in marriage. This will also check the sinful life of adultery or fornication **1Cor.7:2**. Thirdly, to obey the command of God, which is to be fruitful, multiply, propagate the human race and replenish the Earth through child bearing/rearing in the fear of God **Gen.1:28; 9:1; Prov.22:6**. Fourthly, two are better than one because they have a good reward for their efforts and endeavours **Eccl.4:9-11**. Lastly, it takes two (a man and a woman) to make “one flesh.” **Gen.2:24**.

MARRIAGE IS FOR ADULTS

Anyone who wants to marry must be matured physically and should have attained the age of accountability. Financially, the intending couple, especially the man, should be strong enough to provide for a household **1Tim.5:8**. They should also be mentally and emotionally balanced **Tit.1:8**. Marriage requires an emotional separation from parents based on a sense of maturity **Mk.10:6-9**. It carries a lot of responsibilities that childish minded persons cannot bear **1Sam.25:18-25**. A good Christian marriage also requires the consent and blessing of parents of both parties. **Gen.24:50-51, 59-60**.

CONCLUSION

Marriage is a holy institution and God is the author. He has set the ideals in the Bible. Anyone who fails to apply these will surely have problems with their homes. Let us pray for the success of all Christian marriages world-wide. ***You can refer to previous manuals of the Sunday School UK in the following years for further lessons on marriage; year 2010-2011 Lessons 38-44, year 2012-2013 Lessons 34-36, year 2013-2014 Lessons 45-48 and year 2015-2016 Lessons 36-37**

QUESTIONS

1. Give reasons for marriage?
2. Who is qualified to marry?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

- MON: Col.3:1-2** – Heaven is the ultimate. God wants us to care more for heavenly things.
- TUE: Sos.2:4** – Christian marriage should be wrapped in godly love.
- WED: Prov.25:11** – Good communication promotes cordiality at home.
- THU: Eph.5:33** – Couples who deviate from biblical counsels for marriage will find the home environment sour.
- FRI: Col.3:16-17** – Christian marriage survives where the couple both understand God's principle for a happy home. Do you?
- SAT: Prov.19:14** - Appreciate the Lord for your spouse.
- SUN: 1Tim.3:11** – The duty of the wife is simple enough for the sober and sanctified heart.

RAISING GODLY CHILDREN

MEMORY VERSE

“Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it” **Proverbs 22:6**

BIBLE PASSAGE: Deuteronomy 6:6-9

INTRODUCTION

Raising a godly generation in the midst of a godless society is a challenging task. While the responsibility of nurturing godly children falls primarily on parents, it is not confined to them only but to the entire believers' community. Notice the sequence according to Deut. 6:6-9. God's commandments must be central in the lives of fathers and mothers first before they are taught to the children.

LESSON OUTLINES

1. Good and godly children
2. Examples of godly children raised in the Bible

GOOD AND GODLY CHILDREN

Too often, if a father spends any time with his children it is on things like sports and other technicalities. His principal concern is that the children get good college degrees and high paying jobs. Mothers on the other hand, are concerned about things like clothes, fashion, beauty, cooking, etc. Such things are good but are potentially harmful without the knowledge and fear of God.

In **Proverbs 4:1-7**, Solomon shared some insight into what his father, David, taught him when he was young. Above all, he instructed him to seek wisdom and understanding. No wonder Solomon asked only for divine wisdom (**2Chro. 1:6-12**).

Hence, Christian parents should lay more emphasis on godly living than achieving good success in human endeavours. It is godliness with contentment that gives great gain (**1Tim. 6:6**).

EXAMPLES OF GODLY CHILDREN RAISED IN THE BIBLE

- a. Josiah walked in the ways of his father, David, and did not deviate (**2Chro. 34:1-3**).
- b. Timothy was blessed to have a godly grandmother and mother who taught him the scriptures as a child (**2Tim. 1:5; 3:15**).
- c. Sons of Rechab kept the instructions of their father for generations even when persuaded to do contrary by a reputable prophet of God (**Jer. 35:1-6; 2Cor. 11:3-4; Gal. 1:8**).
- d. Daniel and the three Hebrew boys upheld the godly training they had received and refused to compromise with others even in a strange land (**Dan. 1:4-8; 3: 16-18, 28; 6:3-10**).
- e. Samuel grew in the knowledge and fear of God (**1Sam. 2:26; 3:1, 19**).

CONCLUSION

We should remember that a godly child is more than a virtuous child or well-trained child. A godly child has those qualities, but he also has a great affection for God, His Word and His ways.

QUESTIONS

1. Good and godly virtues should be instilled in children. Discuss
2. Mention five characters in the Bible who maintained their godly virtues all through their lifetime. Discuss how they were able to achieve this feat.

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: **1Tim 6:6**- Teach your child to be contented.

TUE: **Gal 1:8**- Beware of heresies.

WED: **Dan. 3:28**- Teach your children to honour God above all at all times.

THU: **Prov. 22:8**- Train your child in the way of God.

FRI: **1Sam 2:26**- Your children will find favour with men and God.

SAT: **2Tim 3:15**- Teach your children the word of God when they are young.

SUN: **1Sam 3:19**- God's presence always abide with those who fear Him.

FAMILY CHALLENGES AND REMEDIES

MEMORY VERSE

“For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.” **Ephesians 5:31**

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 19:3-32

INTRODUCTION: Having discovered that marriage and family relationship should be precious with the various responsibilities of the husband, wife and even children, sometimes, some marriages still hit the rock. It is a known fact that life as well as marriage is not always a bed of roses. However, if Christ is permitted to reign in the “ship” of any marriage/family, no storm will be able to overcome it. In this lesson, we shall be discussing some fundamental challenges truncating the will of God for mankind in family relationship.

LESSON OUTLINES

1. Divorce and God’s remedy
2. Other family challenges and remedies
3. Separation

DIVORCE AND GOD’S REMEDY

Divorce is not the will of God for the family (**Mal.2:16**). Many things could be responsible for divorce among which are: failure to actually leave and cleave to the wife as instructed (**Gen.2:24; Mt.19:4-6**), giving the devil a place (**Eph.4:27; 1Pet.5:7-9**). The devil can come through gossip, false prophecy and suspicion (**1Jn.4:1**). Other things responsible for divorce include extravagance and worldliness (**Eph.5:22-31; Rom.12:1-2**), comparing your family with others, criticism and failure to forgive (**2Cor.12:5; Jn.17:20**), and lack of love and affection (**Eph.5:25-28; Tit.2:4**).

OTHER FAMILY CHALLENGES AND REMEDIES

Other challenges include the wife usurping the duty/authority of the husband. This is not God’s pattern (**1Pet.3:4-7; Col.3:18-20**). The ordained head of the

family is the husband and he is to be the center of authority to provide leadership for the family. When the headship of the husband is challenged due to unusual economic realities, he should turn to the Lord Jesus in prayer. Otherwise, pride sets in (**Jn.13:3-5; 1Sam.1:9-19**). The Lord's command is that we have faith in God to intervene in seemingly impossible situations (**Mk.11:22-23**). Any alternative source of help centered on unbelief will not be acceptable in God's sight (**Rom.14:23**). Polygamy is another challenge. It is not allowed by God (**Gen.29:29-32**). Family income budgeting can also be a challenge. The family should avoid being in bondage to creditors (**Rom.13:8**).

SEPARATION

Marriage is intended by God to be a lifetime affair. In case of marital infidelity or life threatening confrontations, separation may occur (**Mt.5:31-32; Rom.7:2-3**) temporarily while the underlying issues are being addressed. Every effort must be made to reconcile to provide a stable home for the children and to fulfill God' mandate of staying together till death separate the couple.

CONCLUSION

Jesus can make all things right. Hand over your family to God today.

QUESTIONS

1. Justify why divorce is not of God.
2. Mention some family problems and God's remedy.
3. Is separation allowed by God?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

- MON: **Gen. 2:24** - Examine thoroughly the original divine plan in marriage. This plan emphasises cleaving.
- TUE: **1Cor. 13:1-13** - The divine principle of love, when encouraged in the family, gives solution to some occasional family issues.
- WED: **Mk. 10:9** - Do not formulate your own marriage principles. No man can put asunder what God has joined together.
- THU: **1Pet. 5:8** - The devil is a liar, an accuser and a destroyer of God's plan in marriage. Do not give room for him or his agents.
- FRI: **Tit. 2:3-4** - You need to be resolute in your marriage vows. It is a union that can be terminated only by death, not friends, yourself or your pastor.
- SAT: **Gen.2:25** – God expects transparency in marital association.
- SUN: **Pro.6:29** – Sex outside of marriage is cursed by God.

AVOIDING GENERATIONAL DEPARTURE

MEMORY VERSE

“Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set.” **Proverbs 22:28**

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1Samuel 2:12-17

INTRODUCTION

God has laid down principles for children upbringing which must not be ignored irrespective of the prevailing social or societal opinions. (**2 Tim. 2:19**). The anger of God kindles upon all His children who disobey divine parenting principles for godless methods (**Eph. 5:6; Eccl. 10:8**). The role of parents is therefore crucial to the fulfillment of God’s plan and purpose for His children (**Deut. 6:6-9**). While there are records of children raised in godly ways who remained on that narrow path, the Bible also has records of those who departed from the path of truth.

LESSON OUTLINES

1. Children that departed from godly upbringing
2. How to avoid generational departure

CHILDREN THAT DEPARTED FROM GODLY UPBRINGING

Biblical examples of children that departed from godly ways include:

1. Samson (**Jug. 13:3-5; 14:1-3, 8-9; 16:16-17**).
2. Hophni and Phinehas; sons of Eli (**1Sam. 2:12-17, 22; 4:11**).
3. Solomon (**1Kgs. 11:4-7; Eccl. 1:1; 2:10-11**).
4. Nadab and Abihu; sons of Aaron (**Lev. 10:1; Num. 26:61**).
5. Demas (**2Tim. 4:10**).

HOW TO AVOID GENERATIONAL DEPARTURE

In order to keep our children on the path of righteousness, parents have the following obligations to fulfill:

1. Love God fervently (**Deut. 6:4-6**). Have a deep personal relationship with God. You cannot pass on to your children what you do not possess (**Jn. 14:21; 15:10; 1Jn. 5:3**).

2. Teach your children diligently about God (**Deut. 6:7-9**). If God's Word is on your heart continually, then you will be talking about it constantly with your children (**Prov. 4:3-4, Eph. 6:4**).
3. You need to answer your children's questions about God and the Christian life (**Deut. 6:20-25; 1Pet 3:15**).
4. Focus on obeying and pleasing God only (**Deut. 6:17-18**) and also train your children, in agreement with your spouse, to please God in all their endeavours.
5. Live out/model godly lifestyle before children (**Jas. 5:12; Matt. 5:16-17; Tit. 2:7; 1Pet. 5:3**).
6. Discipline your children in love (**Heb. 12:6; Prov. 3:11-12**).
7. Inculcate emotional stability but do not indulge your children (**Prov. 19:18; Col 3:21**).

CONCLUSION

We should pray and seek God's direction in training our children that they would love God wholeheartedly. If you want to raise godly children, you must love God fervently, teach your children about Him diligently and live out a godly life for them to see.

QUESTIONS

1. Mention four biblical examples of children who departed from godly ways.
2. State five obligations of parents to keep their children on godly path.

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

- MON: **Isa. 38:19**- The father makes known to the children God's faithfulness.
- TUE: **2Tim. 1:6**- Stir up the gift of God in you.
- WED: **Prov. 29:17**- Discipline your son and he will give you rest
- THU: **Jas. 1:17**- Children are perfect gifts from above
- FRI: **Ps. 127:3**- Children are God's heritage
- SAT: **Prov. 29:15**- The rod and reproof brings wisdom
- SUN: **2Tim. 3:14**- Continue in what you have learned and believed.

MEANINGFUL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

MEMORY VERSE

“And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart” **Acts 2:46**

BIBLE PASSAGE: Acts 2:44-47

INTRODUCTION

A tree cannot make a forest neither a soldier make up an army. There has always been a crucial need for relational interaction among Christians alike. For fellowship to be meaningful and beneficial, it must go beyond the realms of preaching, teaching, fasting, studying, praise/worship and other spiritual activities. It must be full of deep felt concern and care for the emotional and physical wellbeing of one another in the household of God. Effective fellowship is putting oneself in the shoes of others to feel what they are passing through (**Rom. 12:15**).

LESSON OUTLINES

1. Meaning of Christian Fellowship
2. Benefits of Christian Fellowship

MEANING OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship means spending time together in sharing of personal experiences and learning from them (**Ps.133:1-3**). Christians are enjoined to have fellowship with God and also with one another (**Heb.10:25**). However, Christian interaction should transcend the confines of spirituality. It should extend to all areas of human physical, emotional and physiological needs (**Acts 2:42-46**). Through genuine fellowship, Christians will understand each other’s strengths and weaknesses rather than being judgmental (**Rom. 14:1, 13**). Believers must support one another when rejoicing or facing challenges (**Prov. 27:17**). All these must be done without selfish or ulterior motives but in line with the will of God (**Col. 3:23**).

BENEFITS OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Some of the benefits of Christian fellowship are summarised thus:

- a) It is an atmosphere to share personal day to day experiences and learn from each other (**Prov. 27:17**).
- b) It allows for personal growth and accountability (**Eph. 4:15**).
- c) It helps one to receive and render support for crucial family needs e.g. childcare, job opportunities, business ideas and important information (**Gal. 6:10**).
- d) It brings about effective mentoring to avert worldly influence (**1Tim. 6:20**).
- e) It provides ample support and encouragement in times of adversity (**Gal 6:2**).
- f) It creates opportunity for joy, mutual comfort, unity, encouragement and peace (**2Cor. 13:11**).
- g) It brings about answers to ones prayers and the prayer of others (**1Thess. 3:11-13**).

CONCLUSION

Christian fellowship is crucial to both spiritual and physiological growth of the church. The household of God should be a safe haven for support and encouragement in times of need. Hence, all efforts must be geared to making adequate provisions for the spiritual as well as the physical needs of the worshippers within the confines of the church.

QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the meaning of Christian fellowship
2. Mention at least five benefits of Christian fellowship.

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: **John 13:34**- Love one another.

TUE: **Heb. 13:1**- Show brotherly love.

WED: **Rom. 12:13**- Support and encourage the clergy around you.

THU: **Heb. 13:16**- Be generous especially to fellow believers.

FRI: **James 5:16**- Spiritual support by fellowshipping with other believers.

SAT: **1Peter 4:9**- Stop complaining.

SUN: **James 1:27**- Compassionate visitation is key to meaningful fellowship.

FORGIVING ONE ANOTHER

MEMORY VERSE

“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you” **Ephesians 4:32**

BIBLE PASSAGE: Colossians 3:12 -15

INTRODUCTION

To forgive means to pardon, to wave any negative feeling or desire for punishment (**Matt.18:25-27**). In other words, forgiveness is the intentional and voluntary process by which the offended undergoes a change in feelings and attitude regarding an offence, let go of negative emotions such as vengefulness, bitterness, malice, etc. , with an increased ability to wish the offender well (**Luke 17:3**).

LESSON OUTLINES

1. Why should we forgive one another?
2. Evidences of forgiveness

WHY SHOULD WE FORGIVE ONE ANOTHER?

In our dealings as humans, there is tendency to step on one another's toes, but we must learn to forgive one another even as God forgives us (**Mark.11:25-26**). The reasons why we should forgive one another include the fact that:

1. Forgiveness is a command from God (**Luke 17:3-4; Col. 3:13**).
2. It is a condition for answered prayers by God (**Jas.5:16; Matt. 5:24-25**).
3. It is the one who forgives that God defends (**Rom. 12:19**).
4. It helps to gain our brethren (**Matt. 18:15**).
5. Unforgiveness leads to bitterness and in turn results in ill health (**Prov. 17:22**).
6. Unforgiveness opens the door to demonic attack (**Eccl. 10:8; 1Sam. 18:8-11**).
7. Forgiving one another is a condition for us to make Heaven (**Heb. 12:14**).

EVIDENCES OF FORGIVENESS

The man who forgives from the heart will not seek revenge (**Rom. 12:19; Gen. 45:4-5**). He will always seek peace (**Rom. 12:18**). Such individual will show love and will be willing to pray for the offender (**Rom. 12:20; Act 7:59-60; Matt. 5:44**). He does not keep record of wrongdoing (**Heb. 8:12; Jer. 31:34**).

CONCLUSION

What a beautiful place the world would be if we all forgive ourselves of offences. As beloved children of God, we should show good examples especially as our God has commanded us (**Tit. 2:7a; 1Tim. 4:12**).

QUESTIONS

1. Why should we forgive one another?
2. What are the evidences of forgiveness?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

- MON: **Hebrews 12:14** – Follow peace with all men.
TUE: **Proverbs 15:13** – Keep a cheerful countenance.
WED: **Matthew 6:14** – Learn to forgive others.
THU: **Proverbs 4:23** – Guard your heart always.
FRI: **Philippians 2:3** – Regard others better than you.
SAT: **Psalms 1:1** – Do not keep company with the ungodly.
SUN: **Nehemiah 8:10b** – The joy of the Lord is your strength.

THE PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL

MEMORY VERSE

“For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!” **1 Corinthians 9:16**

BIBLE PASSAGE: Mark 16:15-20

INTRODUCTION: Shortly after the baptism and wilderness experiences of Jesus Christ, His earthly ministry started with the preaching of the gospel and ended with the commissioning of the disciples for the same assignment (**Mk.1:9-14; Mt.28:18-20**). Without doubt, this must have been an issue topmost in the heart of the Lord Jesus Christ for all generations. May the Holy Spirit teach and help us to obey the will of the Master today, in Jesus’ name.

LESSON OUTLINES

1. A must for all believers
2. The message is simple

A MUST FOR ALL BELIEVERS

The Lord commands the believer to go and preach the gospel (**Mt.28:18-20**), the power and the wisdom of God (**1Cor.1:24**). A refusal to preach, as Apostle Paul was concerned, is a curse (**1Cor.9:16**). It is a duty that is not limited by seasonal changes, societal, spiritual or marital status (**2Tim.4:2; Acts 18:26**).

The Lord does not want anyone to perish (**2Pet.3:9; 1Tim.2:4**). He promises rest for the weary, rescue for the perishing soul and everlasting life for the repentant sinner (**Mt. 11:28; Jn.3:36**). He remains our Advocate with the heavenly Father (**1Jn.2:1-2**) and His blood still cleanses from all sins (**1Jn.1:7**). Therefore, every believer must see the task of preaching the gospel and soul winning as an inevitable one (**1Cor.9:16**). Do not shy away from it (**Rom.1:16**).

THE MESSAGE IS SIMPLE

The word from the beginning (**Jn.1:1, 14**) makes it abundantly clear that all souls are His (**Ez.18:4**) and that these souls have all sinned (**Rom.3:23**). Whosoever confesses and forsakes his or her sins will obtain mercy (**Prov.28:13; 1Jn.1:8-10**) since the grace of God in Christ Jesus will grant him or her eternal life (**Rom.6:23**). This is a new covenant in the blood of Jesus, which alone can atone for the sins of the whole world (**Heb.9:14**).

CONCLUSION

If the Lord Jesus Christ saw the preaching of the gospel as unavoidable, then, believers therefore have no excuse. He has promised that we will do greater works (**Jn.14:12**) and that He will be with us always (**Mt.28:20**). Pray and obey now.

QUESTIONS

1. Why is the preaching of the gospel a must for all believers?
2. Give a summary of the simple message.

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

- MON: **Matt.9:35** – The Lord Jesus Christ has left us a perfect example to follow as Christians.
- TUE: **Lk.9:6** – Teaching and preaching the gospel is our primary assignment as believers in Christ.
- WED: **Acts 28:31** – Do not stop to teach and preach Jesus.
- THU: **Eph.2:17** – No doubt, God is gracious to us.
- FRI: **Acts 5:20** – If your obedience to Christ is total, angels will run errands for you.
- SAT: **1Pet.3:16** – Preach Christ only and leave your accusers in His hands.
- SUN: **Acts 8:5** – Our preaching assignments will take us out of our immediate environment.

THE PREACHER'S TOOL

MEMORY VERSE

"But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God." **1Corinthians 1:24**

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1Corinthians 1:18-24

INTRODUCTION

We were made to understand last Sunday that the preaching of the gospel is compulsory for all believers. It follows, therefore, that if this assignment is to be carried out cheerfully and fearlessly, and with divine approval, divine wisdom, compassion and the Holy Spirit, power must be possessed by any would-be preacher of the gospel. May the Holy Spirit teach us as we study, in Jesus' name.

LESSON OUTLINES

1. Godly wisdom
2. Compassion
3. Power

GODLY WISDOM

It is God's perfect will to give wisdom to any who lack it and who will ask in faith (**Jam.1:5-8**) for it is the wisdom of God that can confound the wise of this world (**1Cor.1:27**) as it happened during Paul's ministration to the Athenians (**Acts 17:15-34**). Furthermore, the preaching of the gospel that has Jesus Christ as its theme always, is indeed wisdom because He does not only expose carnality but also impacts spiritual things (**1Cor.3:2-4; 2:13, 16**).

COMPASSION

This was the divine nature that was manifested in the Lord Jesus Christ throughout His earthly ministry (**Mt.9:36; 23:37; Mk.1:41; Lk.7:13**). Gospel preachers can be likened to Pharaoh's daughter who came to the rescue of baby Moses (**Ex.2:6**). We must take a cue from our Lord and be

compassionate. His admonition to persecutors as well reveals this **(Lk.6:28)**. When we were yet sinners, Christ died for us **(Rom.5:8)**.

POWER

The need for power in gospel preaching cannot be over emphasised. The Lord made an open declaration of this in His great commission to us **(Mt.28:18-20; Acts 1:8)**. Believers are to preach the gospel with boldness, for the Spirit of God is for boldness, love, power and sound mind **(Acts 4:31; 2Tim.1:7)**. This power will pull down all the strongholds of the enemy (Satan) and his agents, in and around both the speaker and the hearer, which may want to render the message ineffective **(2Cor.10:4-5; Acts 16:16-18)**.

CONCLUSION

Let us, as true ambassadors for Christ **(2Cor.5:20)**, rise up in obedience to the command of our Lord and preach the gospel with compassion and power. His grace is our sufficiency **(Phil.4:13)**. Please pray to God and go. Tomorrow may be too late.

QUESTIONS

1. The Lord Jesus Christ is what and what from our study?
2. Why is it compulsory for gospel preachers to be compassionate?
3. Give reasons for the need of the Holy Ghost power in gospel preaching?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

- MON: **Ps.78:38** – Let us have the compassion even to restore the backslider.
- TUE: **Jer.12:15** – The Christ-like compassion can even restore the backslider.
- WED: **Lam.3:32** – Glory be to God for His mercy.
- THU: **Jn.11:35** – Jesus wept for compassion, so take the case of that sinner friend serious.
- FRI: **Prov.11:30** – The wise, as far as God is concerned, is the soul winner. Be wise.
- SAT: **Acts 9:29** – Supernatural boldness is the identification mark of the Holy Ghost carrier.
- SUN: **Acts 14:3** – Preach the word and signs and wonders will follow you.

THE CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY

MEMORY VERSE

“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” **Mark 16:15**

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 28:19-20

INTRODUCTION

The business of missions does not exclude the Almighty God, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit and the Church. Mission is a must and all real Christians should be interested.

OUTLINES

1. Christian missions and home support
2. Lessons from the Macedonian and Philippian churches
3. You can be personally involved

CHRISTIAN MISSIONS AND HOME SUPPORT

Missionaries are those Christians sent across geographical and cultural boundaries to proclaim the gospel. The take off point is usually from an established body of Christ. It automatically follows, therefore, that the upkeep of the missionary there is the sole responsibility of other members of the body at home. It is written that if a member suffers, other members suffer also (**1Cor.12:25-26**). Christians are supposed to be co-labourers together with God (**1Cor.3:8-9**). Support in prayers and provision of physical needs for the missionaries on the field are the responsibilities of Christians at home. This is missions by proxy. There, on the mission field, it is expected of the missionary to concentrate in order to achieve the purpose for which God has sent him or her (**Mt.6:20-21**). Any distractions whatsoever may hinder the speed of his or her primary assignments. Hence, the need for active and prompt home supports.

LESSONS FROM THE MACEDONIAN AND PHILIPPIAN CHURCHES

The Macedonian churches submitted themselves to the will of God and they willingly gave of their substances for the cause of the gospel.

Similarly, the Philippians church communicated their substances with Apostle Paul, their gifts were sacrifices acceptable and of sweet odour unto God (**Phil.4:15-18**). The unique ability of the Philippians church to give to the mission field as compared to other churches at that time was also commended by Paul (**Phil.4:19**).

YOU CAN BE PERSONALLY INVOLVED

The woman of Shunem in her spiritual perception found out the man of God (**2Kgs.4:8-10**). God needed a place for the man of God to lay his head. Both she and her husband agreed to make a chamber for the man of God and put there some essential things needed by him. Priscilla and Aquila, a wonderful Christian couple, were helpers of Apostle Paul (**Rom.16:3-4**).

CONCLUSION

It is obvious that not all born again Christians can be out there on the mission field but all can be involved either directly or by proxy. God is still calling today. Whosoever is willing should respond. You can decide to begin to support a missionary, at least.

QUESTIONS

1. Give the biblical support for missions and home support.
2. What is peculiar about the Macedonian and Philippians churches in relation to missions?
3. Give two examples of families involved in mission by proxy, in the early Church.

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

- MON: **Lk.6:38**- Give to missions and you will be rewarded by God.
TUE: **Prov.11:24-25**- Money spent on missions is wise spending.
WED: **2Cor.9:6-7**- Sow into missions.
THU: **1Cor.12:25-26**- Give to missions so that the body of Christ will not suffer.
FRI: **Phil.4:15-18**- Emulate the Philippians by giving to missions.
SAT: **Rom.16:3-4**- Help God by giving to missions.
SUN: **Mt.6:20-21**- Giving to missions is a way of laying treasures for yourself in Heaven.

WEEK 26 *Feb 26th 2017*

**WELCOME TO THE
SECOND INTERACTIVE SESSION**

YOUR PRIVILEGE

- To Ask Questions
On Past Lessons For Clarity
- To Give Critical Appraisal
Of The Outlines
- To Give Useful Suggestions
Towards Better Performance
- To Give Useful
Spiritual Contributions
- Etc

DEDICATION

MEMORY VERSE

“Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.” **John 4:34.**

BIBLE PASSAGE: 2Corinthians 11:22-28

INTRODUCTION

One quality that is getting eroded gradually by advances in technology and civilization is dedication. Impatience and inconsistency are replacing commitment to a particular cause for living which is aligned to the will of God or doing what is right. We, therefore, need to go back to the drawing board to learn about dedication and practice it.

LESSON OUTLINES

1. What is Dedication?
2. The Call for Self-Discipline

WHAT IS DEDICATION?

Simply put, it is the yearning desire in the Christian believer that makes them put in every effort at all costs to ensure that the work or assignment given to them is completely done. When others have retired or tired, he wants to see that the work is done. He will always say, “Having done all, I stand” ... (**Eph. 6:13**). It is the will to want to pray often, fast often, watch often and even die daily for Christ’s sake (**1Thess. 5:17; 1Cor. 15:31**). It is a godly desire to keep pressing forward no matter what, running with patience the race that is set before us until the victory is won (**Phil. 3:13-14, Heb. 12:1**), knowing that the race is not a short one like an hundred meter dash but a marathon (**Phil.2:16**).

THE CALL FOR SELF DISCIPLINE

Dedication calls for a high degree of self-discipline or control. When others want to quit, it takes the dedicated to continue, knowing that “Winners don’t quit and quitters don’t win” (**1Cor. 9:24-27**). He is, therefore, a champion, that is, one who remains fighting consistently even

when the battles are over (**Rom. 8:37-39, Phil.1:27**). The dedicated must have control over his passions, tongue and flesh if they are to finish well and strong (**Prov. 16:32; Jas. 3:2; Rom. 6:12**).

CONCLUSION

We have just studied one of the cardinal virtues that must be found in a heaven-bound Christian, which is dedication. Pray for this divine ability today and it shall be yours in Jesus' Name.

QUESTIONS

1. What exactly is dedication?
2. Mention what it involves to be dedicated.

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

- MON: **1Cor. 15: 58**- Being dedicated to a good cause is not a sin, but a blessing.
- TUE: **Acts 4: 19-20**- It pays to be incurably loyal to the cause of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- WED: **Heb. 12:1**- Remaining heaven-focused goes a long way in Christian pilgrimage. .
- THU: **Mt. 10:22**- Endurance is a very good key to dedication.
- FRI: **1Pet. 1:13**- We, as sober Christians, must be ready to persevere to the end.
- SAT: **Rev. 3:11**- Our dedication is so important that the Lord Himself had to sound an advance warning concerning it. Let us heed it.
- SUN: **Lk. 9:51** - Let us learn from our Lord, the perfect example.

SEIZE THE MOMENT (CARPE DIEM)

MEMORY VERSE

“And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do; the heads of them were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their commandment”
1Chronicles 12:32

BIBLE PASSAGE: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

INTRODUCTION

Time may be difficult to define precisely. However, some have defined time as a fragment of eternity. It is a particular period or part of duration, whether past, present or future. It may also be referred to as the duration of one's life; the hours and days which a person has at their disposal. Time is very important to everyone and for everything in life. We should remember our days, not years (Ps. 90:12). The understanding of time is one of the virtues of the wise. A wise man knows the importance of following the directives of God in due season of time (Eccl. 8:5b; 1Chro. 12:32).

LESSON OUTLINES

1. To everything there is time
2. Time management

TO EVERYTHING THERE IS TIME

In this world things do not just happen. There is time and season for everything. This is one of the most important laws that work in every part of the earth (**Eccl. 3:1; Gen. 8:22**). What a man does at every point in time determines his destiny (**Gen. 12:4a**). It is important for us to understand God and His timing for different events in our lives and the lives of the people around us (**Gen. 26:1-3; 1Kgs. 17:9-10**)

TIME MANAGEMENT

We need to comprehensively understand and manage the time of events and activities in our lives to maximize output and efficiency. The following points will surely help:

1. Avoid time wasters e.g. jesting, unprofitable ventures, activities and associations, etc. (**Eph. 5:4; 2Cor. 6:14**).
2. Stop procrastinating (**Jn. 9:4**).
3. Do what only you can do and delegate what others can do for you (**Ex. 18:20-22; Acts 6:2-4**).
4. Have a proper plan for your day-to-day activities and events (**Prov. 24:30, 33**).
5. Be disciplined and adhere strictly to the time allotted for every task (**Eccl. 3:1**).
6. Have a vision, set attainable goals and pursue it diligently (**Hab. 2:2-3**).
7. Prioritize your activities. Strike out any activity or event that is neither urgent nor important (**Acts 6:2**).
8. Above all, have a personal relationship with God, walk closely with Him and pray for the ability to discern time, so that your actions and steps will be guided and directed by Him (**Ps. 37:23; 1Chro. 12:32**).

CONCLUSION

When you understand and key into God's time and purpose, you will be successful in life. What does God want to do in your life? What does He expect from you at this time?

QUESTIONS

1. Do you know/understand the time you are now in God's plan?
2. How can you manage your time?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: **Gen. 12:4a**- Seek and obey God's direction

TUE: **Prov. 24:30**- Have a proper plan

WED: **Jn. 9:4** - Do not procrastinate

THU: **Ps. 90:12**- Live one day at a time

FRI: **Eph. 5:4**- Avoid unprofitable activities and associations

SAT: **Acts 6:2**- Prioritize your activities

SUN: **Eccl. 8:5b**- Be wise

FRESH ANOINTING

MEMORY VERSE

"But my horn shalt thou exalt like *the horn of* an unicorn: I shall be anointed with fresh oil." **Psalm 92:10**

BIBLE PASSAGE: Psalm 92:1-15

INTRODUCTION

Anointing, in the Scriptures, is either a physical impartation with oil to set a person apart for a specific task or assignment or it could be a spiritual impartation through the power of the Holy Ghost. Spiritual anointing with the Holy Ghost is conferred upon Christians by God (**2Cor. 1:21**). Anointing expresses the sanctifying influences of the Holy Spirit upon Christians who are priests and kings unto God. Our Lord, Jesus Christ, was called the "Anointed" or Messiah (**Ps. 2:2; Dan. 9: 24**), because He was anointed with the Holy Ghost (**Isa. 61:1**), figuratively called the "oil of gladness" (**Ps. 45:7; Heb. 1:9**). As believers in Christ, we need to learn about God's promises of fresh anointing and how to obtain it.

LESSON OUTLINES

1. God's promises fresh anointing
2. Obtaining the fresh anointing

GOD'S PROMISES FRESH ANOINTING

Every born again, sanctified and Holy Spirit-filled believer has some degree of anointing (**1Jn.2:27**). However, just as any automobile that goes through wear and tear requires regular servicing of its engine, all Christians require fresh anointing for effective performance of their Christian duties (**Ps.92:10**). This anointing is characterised by supernatural utterance (e.g. diverse tongues), psalms and hymns, giving of thanks and submission one to another (**Eph.5:18-21**). Fresh anointing keeps the believer glowing until eternity with Christ in spite of all forms of adversities, hardships and oppositions from enemies (**Ps.92:10-15**). It is easy for Christians with fresh anointing to flow within God's plan only and not be tossed by waves of false doctrines unlike Israel that hewed for

themselves broken cisterns that could not hold water (**Isa.40:28-31; Jer.2:9-13**).

OBTAINING THE FRESH ANOINTING

Fresh oil, otherwise called fresh anointing, can be obtained in the following ways:

1. Through a daily life of thanksgiving and worship (**Ps.108:1; 57:7; 92:1**). A life of appreciation of all that God is and does will enable us to praise and worship Him. Praise is the natural dwelling place of God (**Ps.22:3**). High praises pave way for fresh anointing (**Ps.149:6-7**). This type of praise naturally results in joy, which is the strength of believers (**Neh.8:10**). No wonder Paul said we should rejoice in the Lord always (**Phil.4:4**). The Lord Jesus Christ is our perfect example, whose life of thanksgiving and praise opened doors for constant exploits e.g. at the tomb of Lazarus (**Jn.11:41-44**).
2. Through a life that testifies of God's faithfulness (**Ps. 34:1-7**).
3. Through a life of biblical fasting and prayer (**Isa.58: 6-9**).
4. Through the inspired word of God (**Ps.107:20**).

CONCLUSION

Determine today to live a life of constant praise, thanksgiving, testimonies, biblical fasting, prayer and study of God's word so that a constant release of the fresh anointing will remain your daily experience till Jesus returns.

QUESTIONS

1. How often do we experience the fresh oil God's promise for the Church today?
2. How can we obtain fresh anointing?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

- MON: **1Kgs. 3: 16-27** – Fresh oil can handle difficult situations.
TUE: **Rev. 12:11** – The blood of Jesus Christ avails saints with numerous privileges.
WED: **Isa.59:19** – The name of Jesus deals with demonic appearances.
THU: **Acts 10:38** – Anointing makes the difference in the life of a believer.
FRI: **Lk.4:14** – The anointed Jesus worked in signs and wonders.
SAT: **Acts 4:33** – Evangelism is made easy only by the anointing.
SUN: **Zec.4:6** – The Holy Ghost power is mightier than physical forces.

RAPTURE: PURPOSE AND QUALIFICATION

MEMORY VERSE

“In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you” **John 14:2**

BIBLE PASSAGE: John 14:1-6

INTRODUCTION

Without any doubt, we are indeed in the last days and the return of our Saviour Jesus Christ to gather up His saints is at hand. The process through this will be done is called the rapture, this is our focus of study today. Today's lesson will show us the reasons and the qualification for rapture. May the good Lord teach our hearts and bless our lives with His truth by His Spirit, in Jesus' name.

LESSON OUTLINES

1. Why will the rapture take place?
2. Who will be raptured?

WHY WILL THE RAPTURE TAKE PLACE?

1. To resurrect the just of all ages from among the dead (**1Thess. 4:13-17**).
2. To take the saints out of the world before the tribulation (**2Thess. 2:7-8; 1Thess. 1:10**).
3. That Jesus Christ might present to Himself a Church without spots or wrinkles (**Eph. 5:27; Jn.14:1-3**).
4. To transform or change the bodies of all faithful saints from mortality to immortality (**Phil.3:20-21; 1Cor.15:42-44, 51-53**).
5. To assemble the saints at the marriage supper of the Lamb (**Rev. 19:7-9**).
6. To allow the revelation of the anti-Christ (**2Thess. 2:1-4**).
7. To present saints to God the Father (**Jude 24**).
8. To make the saints become like Christ at His appearance (**1Jn.3:2-3**).

WHO WILL BE RAPTURED?

1. Those who are in Christ at His coming (**Jn.1:12; 2 Cor.5:17**).
2. Those who earnestly desire His appearance (**Titus 2:13; Phil.3:20**).
3. Those who love the Lord wholeheartedly (**Phil.3:7-10; Jn.21:15-17**).
4. Those whose citizenship is in Heaven (**Phil.3:20-21; Eph.2:19**).
5. Those who will live holy even as He is holy (**1Pet.1:16; Heb.12:14; 1 Jn.3:1-3**).

CONCLUSION

Let us be sober in watchfulness, always fellowshiping together and keeping the unity of the faith in the bond of peace (**1Thess.5:6; Heb.10:25; Eph.4:3**).

QUESTIONS

1. State five reasons the rapture would take place.
2. Mention the qualifications of people that would be raptured.

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: **Lk.13:3**-Repent today and you will not perish.

TUE: **Matt.25:13**- Watch and pray because His second coming is imminent.

WED: **Rev.21:27**- Remain holy as nothing that is defiled shall enter Heaven.

THU: **Matt.22:13**- Belong to Christ's family and be branded for Him.

FRI: **1Tim.1:14**- Obedience is a great asset to cherish and display always.

SAT: **2Tim.2:19**- The Lord knows those that belong to Him.

SUN: **Rev.19:7**- The Marriage Supper of the Lamb is a moment of great celebration.

THE DAYS OF TRIBULATION

MEMORY VERSE

“For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be” **Matthew 24:21**

BIBLE PASSAGE: Mark 13:19-25

INTRODUCTION

The word tribulation means trouble or suffering. There are different kinds of tribulations mentioned in the Bible (**Jn. 16:33**). There is tribulation as a result of the acceptance of or obedience to the word of God (**Matt. 13:2; Job 5:6, 7**). The focus of this lesson is the Great tribulation. It is “the mother” of all tribulations (**Matt. 24:21**). The hardship, turmoil, distress and perplexity that would be experienced in the days of the Great tribulation are unprecedented.

What is the Great tribulation all about? When will it be? What are the events in the days of tribulation? These and many more questions will be answered in this lesson.

OUTLINES

1. Understanding the great tribulation
2. Events in the days of great tribulation

UNDERSTANDING THE GREAT TRIBULATION

It is called the time of Jacob’s (the nation – Israel) trouble (**Jer. 30: 7**). The unbelieving Jews (and unsaved or backslidden Gentiles) will be the candidates of the Great tribulation (**Dan. 9:12**). It will begin after the rapture of the saints and the revelation of the antichrist, the “man of sin” (**2Thess. 2:3-4, 8**).

The time of the Great tribulation is the “**seventieth week**”, that is, the **last one week** of the **seventy weeks** of Daniel’s prophecy (**Dan. 9:20-27**). The first half of the last one week (the first three and a half years) will be for the full physical manifestation of the antichrist, during which he shall make a covenant with Israel (**Dan. 9:27**). The second half of the last one

week (the last three and half years) will be time of unprecedented trouble (**Dan. 9:27; 11:36; Matt. 24:15**). The last three and a half years of the Great tribulation will culminate in the second coming of Christ with the saints (**Mk. 13:24-26; 2Thess. 2:8**)

EVENTS IN THE DAYS OF GREAT TRIBULATION

The Great tribulation will witness series of significant but terrifying events. These include:

1. Unprecedented religious persecution of those who missed the rapture (**Matt. 24:21, 22**).
2. Unparalleled global religious deception (**Matt. 24:24-28**).
3. Untold global economic hardships and restrictions of commerce, in which only those who receive the mark of the Beast can buy or sell (**Rev. 13:17, 18**).
4. Series of unrighteous and abominable religious practices (**2Thess. 2:3, 4, 10**).
5. Intense temptation all over the world (**Rev. 3:10**).

CONCLUSION

Those who have received Christ as their Lord and personal Saviour and keep themselves holy till He comes at rapture shall be delivered (through rapture) from the days of the Great tribulation. However, the sinners and the backsliders will face the danger of the Great tribulation.

QUESTIONS

1. What do you understand by the Great tribulation?
2. Mention the events that characterise the days of Great tribulation
3. What is the way out from Great tribulation?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: **Jn. 16:33**- Victory is sure for believers passing through earthly trials.

TUE: **Rev. 2:10**- Earthly troubles have expiry date, so do not lose hope.

WED: **Jas. 1:4**- You must endure and be patient till the end.

THU: **Rev. 3:10**- The Lord shall deliver the faithful from the Great tribulation.

FRI: **1Jn. 3:3**- Keep yourself pure.

SAT: **Matt. 24:42**- Watch and pray.

SUN: **Matt. 24:33**- Be mindful of the signs of the end-time.

THE JUDGMENT

MEMORY VERSE

“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment”
Hebrew 9:27

BIBLE PASSAGE: Revelation 20:4-15

INTRODUCTION

Judgement is imminent. Whether we believe it or not, we are going to give account of all that we do here on earth, whether it be good or bad, righteous or wicked. We will all appear before the One that God has appointed to judge all, Jesus Christ.

LESSON OUTLINES

1. How many judgements are there?
2. The Great White throne Judgment

HOW MANY JUDGEMENTS ARE THERE?

The Bible speaks of at least seven different judgements:

1. The Saviour on the cross being judged for our sins (**Isa. 53:3-5**).
2. The believers' self-judgment (**1Cor. 11:31**).
3. The judgment of the believers (**2Cor. 5:10-11**).
4. The judgment of the nations, when sheep will be separated from goats (**Matt. 25:32**).
5. The judgment of Israel after the great tribulation (**Ezek. 20:30-44**).
6. The judgment of the fallen angels which are reserved in darkness, waiting (**Jude 6**).
7. The judgment of the wicked dead or the Great White Throne judgment (**Rev. 20:11-12, 15**).

THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGEMENT

The wicked or sinners shall face the white throne judgment (**Rev. 21:8; Heb. 13:4b**). This judgment is not to determine whether the wicked will be in Heaven or hell (**Rev. 22:15**). Rather, it is to seal the eternal destination of the wicked in hell and ultimately the lake of fire (**1Cor. 6:9-**

10; Eph. 5:5) because their names are not in the book of life (**Rev.20:13-15**). It will be an open and impartial judgement (**Matt. 7:21-23**). Godless people and those who reject Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord shall face this judgment (**Jn. 3:17-18**). Fallen angels shall also be judged (**2Pet. 2:4, Jude 6**).

Jesus Christ will be the judge. All judgment is committed to Him (**Acts 17:31; John 5:22, 27**).

The time of the judgment will be after the resurrection (Heb. 9:27; Acts 17:31).

CONCLUSION

The great white throne judgment is better imagined than experienced. If you are a believer in Christ, do all you to avoid the great white throne judgment.

QUESTIONS

1. Mention the types of judgment in the bible
2. Describe the great white throne judgment

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: **1 Jn. 2:3-6** - The way we act can give us assurance that we belong to Jesus.

TUE: **Matt. 5:28** - Mental adultery is sin. Beware.

WED: **Matt. 5:9** - Do your actions reflect the humility and self-sacrifice of Jesus your King?

THU: **2 Tim. 2:22** - Remove yourself physically from any situation that stimulates your desire to sin.

FRI: **1 Jn. 1:9** - Confess, repent, and God will cleanse you r from all unrighteousness.

SAT: **Is. 14:12-14** - Pride willfully opposes God and it will lead to judgement. Beware of pride.

SUN: **Jam. 1:25** - Be a doer and not a hearer only.

WHAT IS HEAVEN LIKE?

MEMORY VERSE

“For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.” **2Corinthians 5:1**

BIBLE PASSAGE: Revelation 21:1- 8

INTRODUCTION: God created the Heaven and the Earth in the beginning (**Gen.1:1**). According to the Jewish notion, there are three heavens (**2Cor.12:2**). The first heaven is the air or atmosphere, where clouds gather and birds fly (**Gen. 2:19; Lam.4:19**). The second is the firmament, in which the sun, moon and stars are fixed (**Jer. 8:2; Matt. 24:29**). The third Heaven is the "The heaven of heavens" (**Deut. 10:14**): the home or throne of God and His angels, the invisible realm of holiness and happiness; the home of the children of God. Heaven is eternal (**2Cor.5:1**) and it is a prepared place for a prepared people (**Jn.14:2**).

OUTLINES

1. What is Heaven like?
2. Who are the inhabitants of Heaven?

WHAT IS HEAVEN LIKE?

Heaven is a building of God and not man-made (**2Cor.5:1**). It is also called the Kingdom of God and of Christ (**Eph. 5: 5**). Surely, it is the Father's House (**Jn.14: 2**). It is a place of rest (**Heb. 4:9**). Heaven cannot be measured (**Jer. 31:37**). Heaven is a high place (**Isa. 57:15**), a holy place (**Ps. 20:6**), a happy place (**Rev. 7:17**), a place without death, tears, sorrow, crying or pain (**Rev. 21: 4**). Heaven is a place without night or darkness (**Rev. 22:3-5**), a place without hunger, thirst or excessive heat or cold (**Rev. 7:16**). Heaven is a place of perfect satisfaction (**Rev. 22:1-2**). It is also a place of perfect righteousness (**Rev. 22: 3**), a place of perfect government, ruled by God, the just One and the Lamb. It is a place of perfect communion (**Rev. 22: 4**), where we shall behold His face and His Name shall be on our foreheads. Heaven is a place of perfect glory (**Rev. 22: 5**).

WHO ARE THE INHABITANTS OF HEAVEN?

Let us start by listing those who can NEVER be there.

1. The devil and the fallen angels will never enter there (**Rev.20:10; Jude 6**).
2. The unrighteous (**1Cor. 6:9-10**), thieves (**Lk.12: 33**), liars, whoremongers and the fearful will not enter (**Rev.21: 8**) and anyone in whose life is found the works of the flesh (**Gal.5: 19-21**).
3. Careless Christians and everyone whose name is not found in the book of life (**Matt.25:24-30; Rev.20:15**)

The following are already there:

1. God the Father (**Matt. 6: 9**), Jesus Christ our Lord (**Acts. 3: 20-21**) and holy angels (**Matt.18: 10**).
2. Enoch, Elijah, Moses and Abraham (**Gen.5: 24; Matt.17: 3; Lk.16:23**).
3. The Saints of old, all those who have died trusting in Jesus (**1Thess.4: 14**).

CONCLUSION

Heaven is the holy abode of holy God. Only holy people will get there (**Heb.12:14**).

Do you want to go to Heaven? Live holy.

QUESTIONS

1. What type of place is Heaven?
2. Who will not get there?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: **Lk. 10:20** - Christians should rejoice because their names are written in Heaven.

TUE: **Jn. 14:2-3** - Jesus promised a heavenly home for His followers. Claim yours.

WED: **Col. 1:27** - Paul referred to the hope of heaven as the hope of glory.

THU: **2Cor. 5:5** - The Holy Spirit is the pledge of the believer's participation in Heaven.

FRI: **Matt. 26:29** - Jesus spoke of Heavenly life as a time of joy, celebration, and fellowship with God. Will you be there?

SAT: **Ps. 89:29** - Heaven stands as a symbol of power and unchanging, enduring existence.

SUN: **Deut. 26:15** - Heaven is the divine workplace, where God sends blessings to His people. Expect yours today.

THE REALITY OF HELL

MEMORY VERSE

“The wicked shall be turned into hell and all the nations that forget God”
Psalm 9:17

BIBLE PASSAGE: Luke 16:19-31

INTRODUCTION

Is there an everlasting hell? The Bible declares in very certain terms that there is. There are 162 texts in the New Testament alone that speak of the doom that awaits the unrepentant sinners. The Lord Himself uttered 70 of these. Hell is a reality; it is an awful place that no human being should go to if only they live for Jesus. The angels that sinned under the influence of Satan; that great deceiver are-now in hell waiting for judgment (**2Pet.2: 4**). The Bible makes it abundantly clear that the wicked and anyone that finally rejects Christ will be turned into hell (**Ps. 9:17**).

OUTLINES

1. How real is Hell?
2. Other questions about Hell

HOW REAL IS HELL?

Hell is a place of torment and punishment, of unquenchable thirst, of suffering and agony at its worst (**Lk.16: 23**). Hell is banishment from the presence of God (**2 Thess.1: 9**). It is a sort of prison where the wicked are punished forever (**Matt. 25: 46**). The heat of hell-fire is unbearable (**Isa.33:14; Matt.13:42**). The justice of God demands degrees of punishment; therefore, some parts of hell are hotter than others (**Deut. 32:22**).

Hell was originally prepared for the devil and his wicked angels (**Matt. 25:41**). Hell was never intended for man but if men insist on rejecting Heaven through the Saviour, Jesus Christ, then they must accompany Satan forever (**Ps.9:17**). The original size of hell is not known but because of man’s insistence on going there, hell has enlarged itself (**Isa. 5:14**).

The worst part of it is that just as those who go to Heaven will recognise themselves, those who go to hell will also recognise themselves (**Lk. 16:23**). They will even be able to pray but their prayers will never be answered (**Lk. 16:27**). The torment there is everlasting.

OTHER QUESTIONS ABOUT HELL

1. Who will go to hell? All persons, of all ranks, ages, and conditions whose names are not found written in the book of life (**Rev.20:15**).
2. Where is hell? The Bible says it is “down” (**Isa. 14: 9**).
3. Does “hell” not mean “grave” where both the good and the bad must go? No. In **Lk.16**, both the rich man and Lazarus died and went to the grave, as both were buried. However, their souls went to different places. One was in a place where he was comforted, the other in a place of torment and the two were separated by a great gulf to prevent travel back and forth.
4. Will the doomed repent in hell, seek the Lord, and then be forgiven? No. Salvation is limited to this life. There is no repentance in the grave. All prayers of the doomed are denied (**Lk.16: 24-27**).
5. Is there a place of probation, purgatory, after death? Certainly not. Once a person dies, he either goes straight to paradise or the place of torment (**Heb.9:27**).

CONCLUSION

How does one get to hell? It is simply by neglecting the salvation purchased for us by the Blood of Jesus (**Heb. 2:3**). How does one avoid hell? By receiving Jesus as one’s personal Saviour, and Lord (**Jn.3:16; Prov.15:24**). What is your choice?

QUESTIONS

1. Who are those who will go to hell?
2. How can someone miss going to hell?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

- MON: **Matt. 8:12** - Hell is a place of punishment and utter darkness. May you never be there in Jesus name. Amen
- TUE: **2Thess. 1:9** - Those in hell experience everlasting separation from God never to see the glory of His power.
- WED: **Ps. 9:17** - Hell is for the wicked.
- THU: **Ps. 86:13** - Accept Christ and be delivered from hell.
- FRI: **Prov. 15:24** - Be wise. Depart from the ways that will lead to hell.
- SAT: **Isa. 28: 15** - Beware of lies and falsehood. All liars will go to hell.
- SUN: **Matt. 5:29** - Make sure that nothing in this life lures you into hell fire.

THE RIGHTEOUS LIFE

MEMORY VERSE

“And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I *am* the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect” **Genesis 17:1**

BIBLE PASSAGE: **Philippians 4:8-9**

INTRODUCTION: Solomon, to whom God gave wisdom, said, "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people" (**Prov. 14:34**). Solomon came to recognise that only in God can a man find real significance and lasting satisfaction (**Eccl. 12:13; Ps. 103:5**). Examples of righteous men in the Bible include Noah (**Gen. 6:8-9**), Abraham (**Jas. 2:21-23**) and Job (**Job 1:1, 8**).

1. Understanding a righteous life
2. The benefits of living right

UNDERSTANDING A RIGHTEOUS LIFE

Righteousness is defined as "the character or quality of being right or just." It is doing right and refers to the state a believer ought to be before God and man (**Acts 10:35**). It is holy and upright living, in accordance with God's standard and it is given through faith in Jesus Christ (**Phil. 3:9**). Our righteousness is filthy rags before God (Isaiah 64:6), therefore the ability to live righteously is only attainable through Jesus Christ. (1Cor. 1:30, Phil 3:9, Rom. 7:21-27, Tit. 2:12)

God's character is the source of all righteousness (**Gen. 18:25; Rom. 9:14**). God takes great pleasure in righteousness (**Jer. 9:24**). At salvation, we received the fruit of righteousness from Jesus Christ and we are to bear it in our lives. (Phil 1:11). We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for righteous works that has been prepared before we were born to walk in them (Eph 2:10). Hence, now we are saved, let us walk in righteousness.

Righteousness requires a voluntary change (**Eph. 4:24**). It is the act of combating sin (**Ps. 119:10-11**). It is a fruit borne by those who have been

trained through chastening./discipline. (**Heb. 12:11**). Righteousness reveals genuine salvation (**1Jn. 2:29**). It produces spiritual and visible fruits (**Matt. 7:16, Lk.3:8**). We ought to be living daily the kind of life that reflects Jesus Christ (**Phil. 2:5; 4:8, 1Jn.2:6**).

THE BENEFITS OF LIVING RIGHT

Righteous living makes you a partner with the Almighty God (**Gen.18:17-19; Amos 3:3**) and this attracts certain things to you. These include:

1. The good of the land (**Isa. 1:18-19**).
2. Overflowing blessings (**Deut. 28:1-2**).
3. Victory without a fight (**Deut. 28:7**).
4. Continuous success (**Ps. 1:3**).
5. Becoming a terror to your enemies (**Deut. 28:9-10**).
6. Eradication of poverty (**Deut. 30:9**).
7. Permanent open heavens (**Lev. 26:4**).
8. Being the head and not be tail (**Deut. 28:13**).
9. Boldness and fearlessness (**Prov. 28:1b; Ps. 23:4**).
10. Answer to prayers (**1Pet. 3:12**).
11. Good health and victory over sickness and diseases (**Ex. 15:26; 23:25**).
12. Unspeakable joy and peace of mind (**Rom. 14:17; 15:13; Ps. 118:15**).

CONCLUSION

God expects us to live right. Are you numbered among God's righteous people? The danger of unrighteous living is that you become the slave of Satan, doing his bidding. Rom 6:16, however when you live right by God, then are you His child; you are no longer slaves but friend and children. John 1:12, Rom. 8:14, John 15:15.

QUESTIONS

1. What is righteous living?
2. What are the benefits of partnership with God?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

- MON: **Job 1:1**- Be perfect, upright, fear God and eschew evil.
TUE: **Deuteronomy 6:5**- Love God with everything you have.
WED: **Deuteronomy 15:4**- The Lord wants you to overflow.
THU: **Deuteronomy 30:9**- Overflowing blessing is your portion.
FRI: **Proverbs 21:21**- Righteousness and mercy bring abundant life.
SAT: **1 Timothy 6:11**- Flee evil and follow after righteousness.
SUN: **Deut. 11:14**- God is never late. He will bless in due season.

VIRTUE

MEMORY VERSE

“According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue” **2Peter 1:3**

BIBLE PASSAGE: 2Peter 1:3-7

INTRODUCTION

There are two root words in Greek translated virtue. The first is “dunamis” as in Luke 6:19; 8:46 meaning ‘miraculous power’. The second is “arête” meaning ‘moral excellence’ or ‘goodness’. A virtue is a right inner disposition, and a disposition is a tendency to act in certain ways. It is not a sudden impulse but a settled habit of mind. Virtues are general character traits that provide inner sanctions on our particular motives, intentions and outward conduct.

LESSON OUTLINES

1. How to achieve virtue (Excellence)
2. The desire to excel

HOW TO ACHIEVE VIRTUE

Our God is excellent in all ways (**Ps. 76:4; Matt. 5:48**). He expects His children to be like Him (**Gen. 17:1; 1Pet.1:15-16**). Hence, the main aim of a Christian should be to walk in pleasing God. Moral or spiritual excellence is only attainable through the help of our Lord Jesus Christ (**Rom.7:21-27, John 15:5**)

2Pet. 1:5-7 tells us how to achieve virtue. It is like climbing up a ladder; the attaining of one level leads to the next, and so on. The sequence begins with faith and ends with love. Without faith, nobody can have virtue. Faith supplies moral excellence as taught in the Bible (**Heb. 11:6**). After we have attained some knowledge, we add self-control, or self-discipline. This is the opposite of the excess of the world. Perseverance means to view the unfolding of time with God's eyes (**2Pet. 3:8-9; Heb. 12:2; Matt. 6:33**).

Godliness means that we have a very practical awareness of God in every aspect of our life (**1Tim. 6:6; 2Pet. 1:3**). Kindness is described here as “philadelphia”, the kind of love that we have for brothers and sisters. The most magnificent virtue of all: Christian love. This love is "agape" and results in self-sacrificing action for another (**1Cor 13; Jn.3:16; 1Jn. 3:16**).

THE DESIRE TO EXCEL

The desire to excel comes with the recognition of excellence, and a consciousness of falling short of it. The goal is to be like Jesus Christ because He is the glory of God revealed (**Heb. 1:3; Jn. 17:3; Rom. 3:23**). This desire to excel also involve: willingness to give up lesser things to achieve a greater goal (**Matt. 19:16-26**) and willingness to work hard towards perfection (**Luke 10:17-20; Matt. 17:15-21**). There must also be willingness to be taught, not only by those who are in a higher position, but anyone regardless of position or age (**1Cor. 1:19-29**).

CONCLUSION

To have these virtues as an integral part of our life, to continue and grow in them, would result in a fruitful and pleasing life before Christ. And also means we are living out the true image of Christ. Mt.5:16

QUESTIONS

1. What is the will of God for His children?
2. How would you recognise the desire to excel in you?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

- MON: **Romans 6:19**- Moral Excellence should cut across every areas of one's life.
- TUE: **2Corinthians 7:1** – Personal efforts cannot be ignored in moral excellence.
- WED: **Psalms 76:4**- Our God is the most excellent.
- THU: **Hebrews 12:2**- Fix your eyes on Jesus.
- FRI: **2Peter 1:3**- You have all it takes to be godly.
- SAT: **Philippians 4:8**- Think about things of virtue.
- SUN: **Ephesians 4:24** – God expects sanctification after salvation.

STAND OUT

MEMORY VERSE

“Wherefore come out from among them and be ye separate, saith the Lord and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.” **2Corinthians 6:17**

BIBLE PASSAGE: 2Corinthians 6:14-18

INTRODUCTION

Another word for ‘stand out’ is ‘be separate’. In **1John 2:15**, we are told not to love the world. **Eph. 5:1-2** admonishes us to live as children of light. We must shine as light in a world filled with darkness as imitators and representatives of God on earth. To stand out is a call to be distinguished as a child of God from the common practices of the world around us just as light stands out clearly apart from darkness. May you be a child of God that stands out in Jesus name Amen.

LESSON OUTLINES

1. Stand Out as A Believer in Christ
2. Why and How?

STAND OUT AS A BELIEVER IN CHRIST

Believers in Christ are to stand out from all forms of sin, worldly pleasure and be separate unto God. Basically, a believer must:

1. Stand out from all forms of sin such as fornication, adultery, alcoholism, smoking, etc. (**Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 4:22**).
2. Stand out from all works of darkness (**Eph. 5:8; 11**).
3. Stand out from heresies, false doctrines and their perpetrators (**2Jn. 9-11; 1Tim.6:5**).
4. Stand out from customs and traditions of men that contradict scriptures (**Col. 2:8**).
5. Never marry an unbeliever. It is forbidden (**2Cor. 6:12-17**).
6. Stand out from any relationship, association, business partnership or friendship in which Christ is not glorified or proclaimed. **Jn.4:4, Prov. 1:10, 15**

WHY AND HOW?

To gain divine acceptance and approval as a son or daughter of God, every believer in Christ must stand out (**2Cor. 6:17-18**). Hence, it is important to know how to really stand out. Here are some steps to take;

1. Be sober, vigilant and prayerful (**1Pet. 5:8; Matt. 26:41**).
2. Abstain from all appearance of evil: evil communications and corrupt companies (**1Thess. 5:22; 1Cor. 15:33**) (**Mt.5:37**).
3. Be a fruit producer: bear the fruit of the Spirit and win souls (**Matt. 12:33; Gal. 5:22-23**).
4. Examine and renew your mind daily (**2Cor. 13:5; Rom. 12:2**).
5. Study and meditate on the word of God to know His plan and purpose for your life (**2Tim. 2:15; Ps. 1:1-3; Josh. 1:8**).
6. Put all your trust in God and not in mortals (**Prov. 3:5-6; Ps. 118:8**).
7. **Do not stand in the way of the sinners (Ps.1:1)**

CONCLUSION

If you stand out completely from sin and worldly amusement and separate unto God, you shall be transformed into the image of Jesus Christ (**2Cor. 3:18**); the Lord shall receive you (**2Cor. 6:17**) and you shall be a vessel unto honour fit for the master's use (**2Tim. 2:20-21**).

QUESTIONS

1. In what ways should a believer stand out?
2. Why and how should a believer stand out?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

- MON: **1Peter 2:9**- In everything, stand out.
TUE: **Ezekiel 11:20**- Walk in God's statutes.
WED: **Colossians 2:8**- Stand for godly customs.
THU: **1John 2:15**- Do not love the world.
FRI: **1Peter 1:24**- Do not please men but God.
SAT: **John 15:4**- Abide in Him.
SUN: **Ephesians 6:10**- Be strong.

GOD'S CHASTENING

MEMORY VERSE

"If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not" **Hebrew 12:7**

BIBLE PASSAGE: Hebrews 12:5-12

INTRODUCTION

To chasten is to correct or discipline someone, often with the use of some pretty sharp punishment for the purpose of moral improvement (**Prov.19:18; 23:13**). We need to consider God's chastening and what He (God) as our Father expects from us in response to the chastisement we receive from Him (**Deut. 8:5**). Note that chastisement is not meant for destruction. A parent chastises the child he or she loves (**Prov. 3:12; 13:24**).

LESSON OUTLINES

1. Purpose of divine chastening
2. Biblical examples

PURPOSE OF DIVINE CHASTENING

God's chastening is an expression of His love which He uses to check us and to ensure that as His children, we are living right with Him. Though painful, it eventually yields the fruit of righteousness (**Heb.12:11**). It is a test of true love: a corrective measure and not a punitive one (**2Sam.7:14-15; Ps.118:18**). It is also to help us grow and bring about revival in the church (**Heb.12:10**). Divine chastening brings about restoration in order for us to continually have fellowship with God and ultimately reign with Him (**Isa. 26:15**). It is to prepare us as vessels unto honour for God's use (**2Tim. 3:16-17**). We must not despise God's chastening as dear children lest we be condemned with the world (**Prov.3:11; 1Cor. 11:32**).

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

We need to consider some characters in the Bible that endured God's chastening and became better for it .They include:

1. David- God chastened him for committing adultery with Bath-sheba and killing Uriah, her husband (**2Sam.11:4, 16-17; 12:9-10, 18-20**).
2. Nebuchadnezzar- God dealt with him for ascribing the glory due God to himself. He was later restored after acknowledging God as the almighty (**Dan. 4:29-36**).
3. Moses- Moses was chastised for not fully believing God with regards to his calling and failing to observe the token of God's covenant with Abraham (**Ex. 4:14, 24-27; Gen. 17:11**).
4. Paul- God chastised Saul for persecuting the church, but he was restored as a chosen vessel (**Acts 9:1-16**).
5. Jonah- For attempting to run from his responsibility towards the salvation of the city of Nineveh, God made a fish to swallow him for three days until he repented (**Jon. 1:1-4, 17; 2:10; 3:1-2**).

CONCLUSION

If we fail to yield to God's chastening, the consequence can be grievous. Let us learn from the examples of Eli (**1Sam. 2:30; 3:12-13; 4:17**) and King Saul (**1Sam. 15:26; 16:1**)

QUESTIONS

1. Why did God chastise His children?
2. Mention five biblical examples of people chastised by God.

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: **1John 2:15-17**- There is danger in loving the world.

TUE: **Matthew 5:48**- We must strive to attain perfection.

WED: **John 16:33**- The world is a battle field.

THU: **1Corinthians 15:58**- God rewards steadfastness.

FRI: **1Samuel 15:22**- To obey is better than sacrifice.

SAT: **2Corinthians 13:5**- Examine yourself .

SUN: **Hebrews 12:7**- Endure divine chastening.

WEEK 39 *May 28th 2017*

WELCOME TO THE THIRD INTERACTIVE SESSION

YOUR PRIVILEGE

- To Ask Questions
On Past Lessons For Clarity
- To Give Critical Appraisal
Of The Outlines
- To Give Useful Suggestions
Towards Better Performance
- To Give Useful
Spiritual Contributions
- Etc

THE EXPLOITS OF FAITH

MEMORY VERSE

“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” **Hebrews 11:6**

BIBLE PASSAGE: Hebrews 11:17-25

INTRODUCTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ specifically promised that miracles are bread for the children of the kingdom (**Matt. 15:26**). This implies that every child of God should experience miracles daily. The miraculous power of God must be demonstrated in us daily. This cannot be except through faith (**Heb. 11:6**).

OUTLINES

1. Many are living below God's best for them
2. The exploits of faith are many

MANY ARE LIVING BELOW GOD'S BEST FOR THEM

A number of believers are living far below the best of God's plan for their lives because they lack sufficient faith in God and His promises. (**Jer. 29:11**). While many are ignorant of God's free gifts (**Hos. 4:6**), others are unstable as a result of doubt which denies them the best from God (**Jam. 1:6-8**). Christ demonstrated faith throughout His earthly ministry and expects every believer to imitate Him (**Jn. 14:12**). Without faith it is impossible to meet God's expectations for one's life (**Heb. 11:6**). Faith is inevitable for every pursuit in a believer's life (**Num. 13:31-33**). Jesus even laid emphasis on the important of faith Lk.18:8

THE EXPLOITS OF FAITH ARE MANY

The exploits of faith cannot be exhausted. When a Christian has God's kind of faith which calls those things which are not as though they are (**Rom. 4:17**), his blessings are countless. For example, faith gives us access to God's power because God honours faith always (**Jam. 5:15**). Faith

destroys the works of Satan and commands victory for us over the world (**1Jn. 5:4**). It also infuses the power of performance into our prayers (**Matt. 21:19-21**). Only men of faith are profited through the word (**Heb. 4:2**). God is moved to action when He sees faith in men in the face of troubles and trials (**Matt. 15:22-28; Dan.3:16-25**).

CONCLUSION

The only route to experience exploits from God is faith. You need faith to get the best from God.

QUESTIONS

1. Mention three reasons many believers are living below God's best for them
2. Mention some biblical exploits of faith.

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

- MON: **Jeremiah 29:11**- Have faith in God's plan for your life.
TUE: **Hosea 4:6**- Depart from ignorance.
WED: **Hebrews 4:2**- Faith with God's word produces exploits.
THU: **James 5:15**- God honours your faith.
FRI: **Hebrews 11:6**- God is pleased with your faith in him.
SAT: **1John 5:4**- Faith overcomes the world.
SUN: **John 14:12**- You can do greater works through faith.

ALL PRAYERS

MEMORY VERSE

“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints”
Ephesians 6:18

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 6:9-13

INTRODUCTION

Prayer is simply defined as communicating with God. In the Garden of Eden, God and man talked (**Gen.3:8-13**). In Genesis 4:26, calling the name of God was first mentioned in prayer. Prayer is the master key to lock and unlock any door in the spirit realm. However, any prayer offered not in form of dialogue with God is not regarded as true prayer.

LESSON OUTLINES

1. There are different prayer postures
2. Things which should accompany our prayers

THERE ARE DIFFERENT PRAYER POSTURES

Prayer is a place of humility before God and generally, the prayer position shows our dependence on God. However, our posture can be any of the following: on the face, between knees, bowing down, kneeling, standing and lifted hands (**Josh.5:14; Mt.26:39; 1Kgs.18:42; Gen.24:26; Ex.4:31; 12:27; 9:5; Ps.95:6; Acts 7:60; Eph.3:14; Mk.11:25; Lk.18:11-13; Ps.28:2; 1Tim.2:8**). The state of the spirit of the praying Christian often determines which posture they take.

THINGS WHICH SHOULD ACCOMPANY OUR PRAYERS

Anytime we pray, we need to acknowledge the fact that our God is holy and perfect in all things so when we pray, we must be alert, confess personal and corporate sins, repent, fast if need be, praise, give thanks, supplicate and intercede (**Lk.21:36; Col.4:2; Jam.5:16; 1Kgs.8:33**;

Dan.9:3; Jer.31:19; Hos.12:3; Ps.66:17; Phil.4:6; Ps.48:1-3; 18:3-46).
All prayers should be done in spirit and in truth according to the will of God (**Jn. 4:24; Jas. 4:3**) **LK18:1**

CONCLUSION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the true Shepherd, has demonstrated an important aspect why He came to this world again, that is, having dialogue with our Maker. Therefore, as we have attained this knowledge and wisdom, God will continue to give us the ability to play our role, in Jesus' name.

QUESTIONS

1. Name four prayer postures.
2. Name four ingredients of prayer.

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

- MON: Acts 6:4** – Give yourself to prayers and the word.
TUE: Matthew 5:22-24 – Hate unforgiving spirit.
WED: Ezekiel 8:5-18 – Keep idols away in your heart.
THU: Isaiah 65:24 – Your prayer could be answered immediately.
FRI: Matthew 6:5 – Do not be like the hypocrites.
SAT: Matthew 21:22 – Pray in faith.
SUN: Matthew 14:23 – Jesus is our example in prayers.

TURNING THE TIDE

MEMORY VERSE

“When the LORD turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream” **Psalms 126:1**

BIBLE PASSAGE: **Psalms 126:1-6**

INTRODUCTION

At least five possibilities exist in having a turning point in one’s life. These are:

- a) when things go from bad to good
- b) good to bad,
- c) bad to worse
- d) good to better and
- e) a combination of any two or more of the categories.

Obviously, these possibilities are determined by the decisions we make and circumstances in which we find ourselves in our abilities and limitations. The tide can have a negative or positive turn. May the Lord turn the tide in your favour as we study today, in Jesus’ name.

LESSON OUTLINES

1. It has happened before
2. It can happen again

IT HAS HAPPENED BEFORE

The tide has turned in different directions for different people from time immemorial:

1. From bad to good – the four lepers in **2Kings 7:1-8** once lived a healthy life before they were struck with leprosy. One day, however, through divine intervention, they became national heroes and wealthy.
2. From good to bad (**1Sam.15:17-19**) – Saul was chosen king when he was a ‘nobody.’ He, however, disobeyed God and his situation was reversed (**1Sam.13:13-14; 15:22-23; 15:28; 16:14**).

3. From bad to worse – It was bad enough for Judas Iscariot to have betrayed Jesus Christ but things grew worse when he committed suicide (**Matt.27:5**).
4. From good to better – Solomon was rich and through a generous offering he became the richest and the wisest king that ever lived (**1Kgs.3:4; 3:13; 10:1**).
5. Combination of turning points – King Nebuchadnezzar started well but his pride triggered off a bad turning point that turned him into a beast. He repented and God restored him (**Dan.1:1-2; 4:30-33; 4:34-37**).

IT CAN HAPPEN AGAIN

Regardless of your present situation, you can experience a turning point for the better, if you do the following:

1. Repent, turn from your sinful ways and turn to God (**2Chro.7:13-14**).
2. Return and ask for mercy if you are already backslidden (**Ezek.33:10-13**).
3. Make restitution so that God can make good the bad for you (**Joel 2:25**).
4. Redress, seek after God and His righteousness (**Matt.6:33; Heb.12:2; Ps.121:1-8**).
5. Re-fire, do not quit, and keep trying as things can be better (**Eph.3:20**).

CONCLUSION

where you are today and what you have accomplished today, are functions of the choices and decisions you have made and still making. Make up your mind to get to the positive side of life. The tide is still turning.

QUESTIONS

1. What are the possibilities that exist in having a turning point?
2. Enumerate the steps to take for the tide to turn in your favour.

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: **Hebrews 12:2**- Jesus knows how to fix your destiny.

TUE: **Jeremiah 32:27**- There is no impossibility with God.

WED: **Ecclesiastes 7:8**- The largest room in the world is the room for improvement.

THU: **Psalms 25:22**- When things go tough, cry to God.

FRI: **2Peter 1:3**- Knowledge is the only antidote for ignorance.

SAT: **Hosea 4:6**- Every man's ignorance can be a mountain.

SUN: **Psalms 126:4**- Turn again our captivity, O Lord.

DESCRIPTION OF GRACE

MEMORY VERSE

"I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain" **Galatians 2:21**

BIBLE PASSAGE: Ephesians 2:4-9

INTRODUCTION

The doctrine of Grace is the centre piece of our faith as Christians. It is by the grace of God that we are what we are, that is - Christians (**1Cor. 15:10a**). It is grace that has declared us righteous before God Almighty not our works (**Tit. 3:7; Eph. 2:8-9**). Our Lord Jesus came and fulfilled ALL the Law and enacted a new order, called - GRACE (**Jn. 1:17**). May the Holy Spirit give us understanding as we study this very important doctrine.

LESSON OUTLINES

1. Grace described
2. Types of grace

GRACE DESCRIBED

The Hebrew and Greek words for grace are 'chen' and 'charis' respectively meaning favour, mercy, kindness, etc. Divine grace is the free and undeserved love and favour of God towards man as a sinner, especially as exhibited in the plan of redemption through Jesus Christ (**Rom. 5:8**). Grace can also be described as divine enablement to please God (**Rom. 8:8; 1Thess. 4:1**). This is what the Law could not do because it was weak (**Rom. 8:3; Gal. 2:16**). Grace is also the divine power that teaches us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts but to live righteously, soberly and godly in this present world (**Tit. 2:11-12**). Grace was brought by the Lord Jesus Christ (**Jn. 1:17**). So, when we receive the Lord Jesus into our lives, we receive grace, that is divine enablement to live a holy and righteous life (**Rom. 3:24-26**). Grace works by and with the faith of the Son of God (**Eph. 2:8; Gal. 2:20**).

TYPES OF GRACE

To help us process the magnitude of God's grace, we need to point out the varying kinds of grace He pours out on us daily. This list is not comprehensive by any means, but it should help to get us thinking and appreciating God's grace.

1. Common Grace. God loves everyone. So, there is a common grace that He gives all people whether they acknowledge Him or not (**Matt. 5:45**).
2. Saving Grace. By His saving grace, God has paid the ransom for everyone who will receive His gift of salvation (**Eph. 2:8**). This alone is overwhelming.
3. Sanctifying Grace. After salvation, God's grace immediately goes to work to purify or sanctify us. You play a part in your purification through obedience, but ultimately you have to count on His sanctifying grace (**Phil. 1:6**).
4. Provisional Grace. Through His provisional grace, God provides for all our needs (**Jas 1:17**). When you get a better job or an unexpected gift, count it as grace from God.
5. Miraculous Grace. Through His grace, God still does miraculous things every day. He does not have to do this. He does it because He is full of grace (**Acts 6:8**).
6. Serving Grace. Every believer is freely given spiritual gifts to serve others and strengthen their faith (**1Pet. 4:10**).
7. Sustaining Grace. God sustains us by His grace on the journey to eternal life and through the trials and temptations in this present world (2Cor. 12:9; Heb. 4:16).

CONCLUSION

God gives us unmerited favour in so many different forms. His grace and mercy are limitless.

QUESTIONS

1. Describe grace in three different ways?
2. Mention and discuss the types of grace?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: **1Corinthians 15:10a**- I am what I am by God's grace.

TUE: **Titus 2:11**- apply the grace to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts.

WED: **John 1:17**- we have grace through Jesus alone.

THU: **James 1:17**- count your blessings as grace from God.

FRI: **1Peter 4:10**- believers are called to serve through grace.

SAT: **2Corinthians 12:9**- God's grace is sufficient for every believer.

SUN: **Ephesians 2:8**- I receive forgiveness through His grace.

MANAGING GRACE

MEMORY VERSE

“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen” 2Peter 3:18

BIBLE PASSAGE: 2Peter 1:2-7

INTRODUCTION

The grace of God is available to everyone (Eph. 4:7). Grace is not just available for salvation (Tit. 2:11), but also for the total well-being of those who receive it (2Cor. 9:8). However, what you do with the grace of God available to you will determine who and what you become in life (1Cor. 15:10). It is important for every believer to embrace the grace of God and run with it (Eph. 3:8). We shall, therefore, be considering what grace can do in the life of the recipient as well as what the recipient can do with or against grace.

LESSON OUTLINES

1. What can grace do?
2. What can one do with or against grace?

WHAT CAN GRACE DO?

Grace can do numerous things but for the purpose of this study, we shall mention a few. For instance:

1. Grace can save the world (**Gen.6:8, Tit.2:11**).
2. Grace can make one God's elect (**Rom.11:5-6**).
3. Grace gives boldness (**Rom.15:15**).
4. Grace gives endurance (**2Cor.12:9**).
5. Grace imparts riches (**Eph.2:7**).
6. Grace brings hope (**2Thess.2:16**).
7. Grace changes lives (**1Cor.15:9-10**).

WHAT CAN ONE DO WITH OR AGAINST GRACE?

Individuals can respond to grace in the following ways among others:
Receive it (**Jam. 4:6**).

1. Work with it (**2Pet. 1:5-7; Col. 1:29**).
2. Continue or discontinue in it (**Act. 13:43; 1Cor. 15:58**).
3. Minister it to others (**1Pet. 4:10**).
4. Grow in it (**2Pet. 3:18**).

There are also negative responses to grace by some individuals. Such actions against grace include:

1. Receiving it in vain (**2Cor.6:1, 3**).
2. Frustrating it in one's life (**Gal.2:21**).
3. Falling from it (**Gal.1:6**).
4. Sinning in spite of it (**Rom.6:1**).
5. Turning it into filthiness (**Jude 4**)

CONCLUSION

To manage grace is to accept and appropriate it for God's glory.

QUESTIONS

1. What can grace do for you?
2. What can you do with or against grace?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: **Eph. 4:7**- God's grace is available to you.

TUE: **2Pet. 3:18**- Grow in grace.

WED: **1Cor. 15:10**- Grace makes you what God wants you to be.

THU: **Eph.2:7**- Grace imparts riches.

FRI: **Gen.6:8**- Grace can save the world.

SAT: **2Thess.2:16**- Grace brings hope.

SUN: **Gal. 2:21**- Frustrate not the grace of God.

THE PURPOSE FOR LIVING

MEMORY VERSE

“And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again”
2Corinthians 5:15

BIBLE PASSAGE: Luke 12:13-21

INTRODUCTION

We see from the scriptures that our God is a God of purpose (**Eph. 1:11**). He has a purpose for your life right from when you were conceived in your mother's womb (**Jer. 1:4-5**). However, since the fall of Adam, survival and preservation became the strongest instincts of the natural man. At the same time, the natural man wants to make a name for himself (**Gen. 11:4**). These tendencies manifest in the desire to possess. It shows that the natural man is living for himself. However, there is the need for us to discover the purpose of living now that Christ has come.

LESSON OUTLINES

1. The purpose of living by the natural man.
2. The purpose of living for the regenerated soul.

THE PURPOSE OF LIVING BY THE NATURAL MAN

The natural man is the un-regenerated human being. He is not controlled by the Holy Spirit of God (**1 Cor. 3:3**). The natural man is living for himself. Everything is considered a possession and an achievement (**Luke 12:13-21**). This includes the spouse, the children, land, houses, education, status, power, fame, titles etc. (**Matt. 6:31-32; 19:27-30**). He can take advantage of people or even kill in order to possess these things (**Jam. 4:1-3**). The Bible calls it the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life (**1Jn. 2:15-17**). Greediness, corruption, wars and killings are all the ways of the natural man i.e. to possess. This is why our Lord Jesus admonishes believers to be careful because a man's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses (**Luke 12:15**).

THE PURPOSE OF LIVING FOR THE REGENERATED SOUL

Now that Christ has come (**Jn.8:42**), God expects that:

1. Everyone would come to Him and be saved (**Jn. 3:16; 6:37**).
2. Those who come would not live for themselves but for Him (**2Cor. 5:15; Phil. 1:21**).
3. Believers should be dead to the demands of the natural life (**Eph. 4:22; Col.3:3**).
4. Believers should be like Christ in this present world (**Rom. 8:29; Tit. 2:11, 12**) by seeking the kingdom of God and His righteousness above all things (**Matt.6:33**).
5. Believers should be filled with the word of God (**Col. 3:16; Jn. 8:31**) and with the Holy Spirit (**Eph. 5:18**).
6. Believers should abide in Christ in order to be fruitful because this is the purpose of our election (**Jn. 15:5, 8, 16**).
7. Believers should reverence, worship and glorify God in all things and at all times (**Eccl.12:13; Col 3:17**).

CONCLUSION

When a person is regenerated, his purpose of living is changed completely to living for Christ. To live for Christ, the ambitions of the natural man must die (**Gal. 2:20**).

QUESTIONS

1. Highlight some of the features of the natural man.
2. Differentiate between the purpose of living for a natural man and the regenerated soul.

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: **Gal. 2:20**- Christ lives in me.

TUE: **2Tim. 2:21**- Make me a vessel unto honour.

WED: **1Jn. 2:15-17**- All personal ungodly ambitions, I have renounced.

THU: **Tit. 3:5**- I am regenerated and renewed by the Holy Spirit.

FRI: **2Cor. 5:15**- I will no longer live for myself, but for Christ.

SAT: **Phil. 3:12**- Strive for perfection.

SUN: **Jn. 14:19b**- Because He lives, I will live also.

FULFILLING PURPOSE

MEMORY VERSE

“Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice” **John 18:37**

BIBLE PASSAGE: Philippians 3:12-14

INTRODUCTION: In the previous lesson, we discovered that the purpose of living for the natural man is for himself (**Luke 12:15**), while the purpose of living for the regenerated man is to live for Christ (**2Cor. 5:15**). It is important to note that God does not waste resources. Hence, everything He created is for a purpose. The sun gives light and never ceases to shine (**Ps. 136:7-9**), the cloud gives rain in due season and trees provide food and shade accordingly (**Lev. 26:4**). Other animals play their parts without hesitation. Amazingly, man struggles to understand and fulfil his purpose for living. The discovery, as well as fulfilment of divine purpose, is the focus of today's lesson.

LESSON OUTLINES

1. Discover your purpose in life
2. Live to fulfil it

DISCOVER YOUR PURPOSE IN LIFE

Like Apostle Paul, once you become a new creation in Christ (**2Cor. 5:17**), you must begin to crave for the understanding of your purpose for living on earth (**Phil.3:12**). That purpose has been predetermined by God before you were born (**Jer.1:5; Gal.1:15**). It is your duty to discover and fulfil it.

Here are some practical pointers to your purpose for living:

1. Potential. You need to identify your in-built ability, your talents and God-given gifts (**Eph.4:7**). Find out the things you do with less stress e.g, singing, drawing, talking to a crowd, helping others etc. The knowledge or skills you acquire in life should be to shape and sharpen your potential (**Act. 7:22**).

2. Passion. What are those things you exceptionally have flare or zeal for, and do often and often? Build your vocation or career on such things. The things that get you excited, gives you joy and satisfaction can lead you to the fulfilment of your purpose in life (**Ps. 69:9; Col.4:12-13**)
3. Prayer. After you have identified your potential(s) and the thing(s) you are passionate about, you need to pray for divine guidance and direction, so that the world and the enemy will not hijack your purpose in life (**Act. 9:1-2; 10:9-20**).

LIVE TO FULFIL IT

These seven things will help every child of God fulfil purpose in life.

1. Ask God to reveal to you His plan for your life (**Jer.1:4-5**). Then, draw a vision and mission statement (**Prov. 29:18; Hab.2:2**).
2. Set achievable goals and pursue them (**Act. 20:24; Ps. 57:7**). Take a step at a time and do not be a mediocre (**Ps.37:23; Heb. 6:1**)
3. Identify and relate with people of like passion: learn from their mistakes and build on their success (**2Kg.2:1-2, 14**).
4. Submit yourself for mentoring and counselling: do not claim to know it all (**Act. 18:24-26; Prov. 11:14; 15:22**).
5. Live as if you have just one more day on earth: do not procrastinate (**Lk 9:61**).
6. Focus your attention on God (**Heb.12:2**). Make sure all that you do is to His pleasing (**Col.1:10**).
7. Always return all the glory to God: do not ascribe anything to yourself (**Mal 2:2; Dan.4:30-34**).

CONCLUSION: So many people live and die without leaving any positive mark. Be different. You are not a nonentity.

QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the practical pointers to the discovery of one's purpose in life.
2. Mention the paths to the fulfilment of purpose in life.

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: **2Cor. 5:15**- Live for Christ.

TUE: **Jer.1:5**- God's purpose for your life was predetermined before you were born.

WED: **Eph.4:7**- You are endowed with great potentials and gifts, activate them.

THU: **Acts 9:1**- Pray so that the enemy will not hijack your purpose in life.

FRI: **Act. 20:24**- Set achievable goals and pursue them.

SAT: **Prov. 11:14**- Submit yourself for mentoring and counselling.

SUN: **Mal. 2:2**- Always return all the glory to God.

KEYS TO SIGNS AND WONDERS

MEMORY VERSE

“And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch”
Acts 5:12

BIBLE PASSAGE: **Mark 16:17-18**

INTRODUCTION: Every door has a key that unlocks it. So also signs and wonders are like doors that lead to greatness which have keys that open them (**Isa. 22:22**). Whatever God does is for a purpose and there is also time of signs and wonders, this time more than ever is that season for the manifestation of signs and wonders in all areas of your lives. (**Eccl. 3:1**). This is the essence of today's lesson. May signs and wonders be our experience even as we learn at the feet of Jesus Christ.

LESSON OUTLINES

1. Signs and wonders described
2. Keys to signs and wonders

SIGNS AND WONDERS DESCRIBED

A sign is a token, proof or indication of a remarkable event that witnesses to supernatural interventions (**Ex. 3:12; Isa. 7:14**).

A wonder is the product of a miracle which causes great astonishment (**Mk. 2:10-12; Acts 3:6-10**). The Lord Jesus Christ assures every believer in Him of power to perform signs and wonders in his name (**Jn. 14:12**). Satan, through evil spirits, torments mankind and he is responsible for all sorts of abnormal behavior (**Mk. 5:2-5**). The main purpose of our Lord Jesus Christ is to destroy, expose demonic activities and to also to give us victory over them (**1Cor. 15:57; 1Jn. 3:8b**). Some people will not believe the gospel until they see signs and wonders (**Jn. 4:48; Acts 5:12-14**). God confirms the calling of His ministers with signs and wonders (**Ps. 104:4; Mk. 16:17-18**).

KEYS TO SIGNS AND WONDERS

A believer can both enjoy and manifest signs and wonders. The first key to enjoying signs and wonders is great expectation that is established on the integrity and the will of God (**Matt. 9:20-22; Num. 23:19**). Other keys include: total obedience (**Jn. 2:5; 1Kg. 17:13-16**), lifestyle of praise and worship (**Acts 16:25-26; 2Chro. 20:21-23**), prayer of faith (**Matt. 8:8-13; Jas. 5:14-15**), humility (**2Kgs. 5:10-14**), sharing testimonies (**1Sam. 17:34-37**), giving (**2Kg. 4:10-17**), and persistence (**Matt. 15:22-28**).

To manifest signs and wonders, a believer must do the following in addition to the keys mentioned above;

1. Totally yield their body as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God (**Rom. 12:1; 2Tim. 2:20-21**). This implies a life of persistent consecration unto the Lord.
2. Serve God wholeheartedly (**1Cor. 15:10; Acts 19:11-12**).
3. Absolute compliance to divine instruction (**Ex. 17:6**).
4. Soul winning (**Mk. 16:15, 17-18**).
5. Deep fellowship with the Holy Spirit (**Acts 6:5,8**).

CONCLUSION

Keys are of no value when not used. Hence, doors remain shut. You need to apply these keys in order to enjoy and manifest signs and wonders.

QUESTIONS

1. What are signs and wonders?
2. How can you unlock the door to signs and wonders?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: **1Corinthians 15:57** – Victory is assured in the name of Jesus Christ.

TUE: **John 11:40** – Just believe and you will see the glory of God.

WED: **Acts 16:25-26** – Praise God and you will see Him at work.

THU: **2Kings 4:10-17** – Giving unlocks doors.

FRI: **Mathew 15:22-28** – Persistency works wonders.

SAT: **Matthew 8:8-13** – Faith provokes signs and wonders.

SUN: **Luke 1:8-13** – Quality service unto God opens doors.

A NEW CREATURE

MEMORY VERSE

“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light” **1Peter 2:9**

BIBLE PASSAGE: **2Corinthians 5:17-18**

INTRODUCTION: Every true child of God must be able to answer the question ‘Who are you?’ clearly, with confidence and full conviction. It is important that you are clear about your identity because knowing who you are distinguishes you in life. Every child of God must be able to declare with boldness that ‘I am a new creature’. Of course, the character of the person speaking must fit in with the declaration made (**Eph.4:24**).

OUTLINES

1. The new creature
2. The changes

THE NEW CREATION

Anyone who claims to be a child of God must be a new creature (**2Cor. 5:17**). He should, therefore, be able to confidently declare His identity thus:

- i. ‘I have been recreated in Christ’ (**Jn. 3:1-7; Eph. 5:8**). I am not what I used to be. I was dead in sin now alive in God (**Rom. 6:11**). I am no longer the same ‘creature’ that existed from birth (**Gal. 1:15-16**). I am a new being because of my association with Christ (**Gal. 2:20**). I have received the Spirit of adoption (**Rom. 8:15**).
- ii. ‘I know my sins have been forgiven’ (**1Jn. 1:7**). I know who I am (**1Cor. 15:10a**). I am born-again (**1Jn. 3:3, 5**). The blood of Jesus has cleansed me and my sinful records are forgotten (**1Jn. 1:7, 9; Jer. 50:20; Rom. 4:7-8**).
- iii. ‘I know I am not of this world’ (**Jn. 17:15-16**). I am a stranger and a pilgrim (**1Pet. 2:11; Heb. 11:13**). I do not have to conform to the system of this world (**Rom. 12:2**).

THE CHANGES

Certain changes must be evident in the life of a new creature in Christ. This must include:

- i. Change in lifestyle. If eternal life is the primary focus, then, this must reflect in his/her lifestyle (**1Cor. 9:26-27; Col. 3:8-10**).
- ii. Change of focus. He/She should have a new focus and goal; that is to live holy, please God and attain Heaven (**Heb. 12:14; Col. 3:1-3**).
- iii. Change of name. His/Her name should conform to the will and purpose of God for his life. Abram changed to Abraham (**Gen. 17:5**), Sarai changed to Sarah (**Gen. 17:15**), and Jacob changed to Israel (**Gen. 32:27-28**). Ungodly nicknames should be dropped.
- iv. Change of identity (**1Pet. 2:9; Rev. 1:6; Prov. 22:1**).
- v. Change in association (**Eph. 5:11; Ps. 1:1; 1Cor.6:14-16**).

CONCLUSION

Every Christian must be confident of who he or she is and be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks.

QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to be a new creature?
2. Mention some areas of change that reflect the new birth.

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: **Ps. 119:9**– The Word of God renews daily.

TUE: **Ez. 36:26**– A new heart and new spirit to replace a heart of stone.

WED: **Ps. 119:105**– The Word of God guides lifestyle.

THU.: **Prov. 4:25-27**– Be focused on your walk with God.

FRI: **Eph. 4:22-24**– Put off the old man.

SAT: **2Pet. 3:18**– Grow in grace.

SUN: **Prov. 22:1**– Live up to the name ‘Christian’.

FIRSTFRUITS

MEMORY VERSE

“Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase:” **Proverbs 3:9**

BIBLE PASSAGE: Exodus 13:1, 12-15

INTRODUCTION

First fruits are in various types. Our God asks us to give Him all and all we have to submit. In this lesson, we want to know what first fruits are, how to give it and benefits of giving first fruits.

LESSON OUTLINES

1. What are first fruits and how are they given?
2. Benefits of giving first fruits

WHAT ARE FIRST FRUITS AND HOW ARE THEY GIVEN?

First fruits are in three categories:

1. The first fruit of increase over your usual income or profit (**Prov.3:9-10**). For example, increase in salary; the difference between the old and new salary during annual increment or as a result of a promotion. This could be calculated as a one-off total annual increment in income and presented to God as a sacrificial offering. This could also be calculated as the extra monthly income for the first month of the financial year given to God as a sacrifice.
2. The first fruit sacrifice. This is a deeper level of sacrifice to God to show our love for God and our trust in His provisions. It often leads to the establishment of a special covenant of provision with God. (**Gen. 22: 1-19**). God told Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, his only son whom he loved dearly. In practice, this might mean the entire January salary or first series of profit from a business deal and it establishes a divine covenant that will be irreversible and will extend to your generations yet unborn (**Gen.22:15-18**).
3. Redemption of the first child (**Ex.13:13; 34:20; Num.18:15-19**). The first child belongs to God who has given them to us a gift Ps. 127: 1-5, Ja. 1:17.

You can redeem the firstborn child for instance by presenting a token unto the Lord to honour Him as the source of all the blessings of the fruit of the womb. The difference between the first fruit of increase and the first fruit sacrifice is in divine response it attracts. In the first fruit sacrifice, the response is often limited to the individual giving it while the blessing of the first fruit sacrifice extends the giver and to their generations unborn.

BENEFITS OF GIVING FIRST FRUITS

Our perfect example is Abraham (**Gen.22:15-18**). When he kept the commandment according to **Prov. 3:9**, God lifted him. So He promised to lift as many as will keep or obey His voice on the matter of first fruits as on every other commandments. Abraham honoured God and he was mightily blessed (**Gen.24:35-36**). Hannah honoured God with Samuel and she had five more children (**1Sam.2:21**). Solomon honoured the Lord with a thousand burnt offerings at the beginning of his regime as the king of Israel. For this, God visited him and blessed him with what money cannot buy (**1Kgs.3:3-14**).

CONCLUSION

A first fruit of every type is what God asks from His children and this is a way of declaring our love for Him, and to thank Him for His blessings. To pay our first fruits is to be established more firmly in His covenants with us.

QUESTIONS

1. What are first fruits?
2. What are some benefits from paying our first fruits?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: **Isaiah 1:19**- No compromise. You are either an obedient child or a disobedient one.

TUE: **Luke 6:38**- Only giving can make one to receive.

WED: **Ephesians 6:6**- Our total obedience must be from the heart.

THU: **Jeremiah 32:27**- Our God is the Lord of all flesh and no impossibility with Him.

FRI: **1Chronicles 17:20**- Our God never changes.

SAT: **2Peter 3:9**- The Lord is not slack concerning His words.

SUN: **James 1:18**- You are God's choice possession.

THE FRUITLESS TREE

MEMORY VERSE

"For there is hope of a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that the tender branch thereof will not cease." **Job 14:7**

BIBLE PASSAGE: Luke 13:6-9

INTRODUCTION

A fruitless tree can be likened to a tree that has been cut from the base to make a tree stump. It is similar to the remnant of something cut down, broken apart or worn out. Just like a tree, certain factors can turn a man to 'a stump'. There is virtually nothing pleasant about the tree stump aside the fact that it is just occupying the ground. Anyone whose life has become like a stump will live a life that is not fulfilling divine purpose and as a result will not make meaningful impacts where they are. It is dangerous to become like a stump. However, the mercy of God can revive a stump.

LESSON OUTLINES:

1. Dangers of becoming 'a stump'
2. There is hope for 'a stump'

DANGERS OF BECOMING 'A SPIRITUAL STUMP'

One should completely avoid becoming 'a spiritual stump' because of its dangers and consequences. As a stump is fruitless and barren so is anyone that refuses to fulfil the purpose of their calling or election (**Luke 13:6; Jn. 15:16**). Like the stump, many remain spiritually malnourished even in the midst of many nutrients (i.e. the word of God, gifts of the Spirit) probably due to their lack of faith (**Heb. 4:2; Ps. 68:6c**). A stump occupies the ground unnecessarily without making any meaningful contribution to the environment. So is the life of anyone that refuses to produce fruit in the kingdom of God. Anyone that is like a stump is in serious danger of being rooted up from the ground (**Matt. 21:19; Jn. 15:2**). An individual may become a vessel unto dis-honour just as a stump is dishonored in the field among other fruitful trees (**2Tim. 2:20-21**). A man may also receive regular blessings from God just like the stump among other plants but sadly chose not to manifest the goodness of God (**Heb. 5:12; Col. 2:6-7**).

THERE IS HOPE FOR 'A STUMP'

As long as the stump remains in the earth, God's mercy is available in the midst of judgment (Hab. 3:2). According to **2Pet. 3:9**, God is rich in patience, perseverance and endurance. He does not want anyone to perish otherwise the stump could have been totally plucked up from the roots (**Luke 13:7-9; Ezek. 33:11**). This act of mercy is an indication that God has not finished with the individual who exhibits the traits of a stump hoping there would be a change (**2Pet. 3:9**). The expectation of the Almighty God is that everyone, like the stump, will sprout again having contacted the Spirit of God afresh (**Job 14:7-8**).

CONCLUSION

A flourishing tree can become a stump, therefore, be careful (**1Cor. 10:12**). If you have become like a stump, submit yourself to God, humble yourself, repent and ask for mercy today (**Jonah 3:9-10; Gen. 8:21**).

QUESTIONS

1. Mention the dangers of becoming 'a stump'.
2. Discuss how hope can be restored to anyone that has become like 'a stump'

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: **Job 14:7**- There is hope for you in Christ Jesus.
TUE: **2Cor. 12:9**- God's grace is sufficient for you.
WED: **Jn. 15:16**- Bear good and enduring fruits.
THU: **Luke 13:7**- God's expectation for you has a time frame.
FRI: **3 Jn. 2**- You shall be fruitful in every area of your life.
SAT: **Jer.51:20** Determine to be God's practical instrument.
SUN: **Ps. 101:1** Sing of the mercy of the Lord always.

THE MINISTRY GIFTS OF HELPS AND ADMINISTRATION

MEMORY VERSE

“And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues” **1Corinthians 12:28**

BIBLE PASSAGE: Romans 12:5-8

INTRODUCTION

God has bestowed diverse kind of gifts upon His church through whom He manifests His awesomeness (**1Cor.12:4-10**). There are also various offices of operation which include those of the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers (**Eph.4:11**). Other gifting's are also clearly stated in the scriptures: miracles, gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues, exhortation, giving, showing mercy, etc. (**1Cor.12:28; Rom.12:5-8**). In this study we shall be dealing with the gifts of helps and administration given by the Holy Spirit to some believers for the benefit of the church.

LESSON OUTLINES:

1. Ministry gift of helps
2. Ministry gift of administration

MINISTRY GIFT OF HELPS

The word translated “helps” (**1Cor.12:28**) means supporter, succorer, assistant or protectors. Its equivalent is ‘ministering’ (**Rom.12:7**). It refers to supernatural ability to perform practical and helpful works in a gracious manner. This office include those of deacons, deaconesses, ushers, sanctuary keepers, technical crew, drivers, medical practitioners, midwives etc. (**Rom 16:3, 9; 1Cor 16:16**). These are the “Aarons” and “Hurs” needed to steady the hands of the ‘Moses’ (**Ex. 7:10-13**). Their place in the body of Christ and ministry must not be under estimated. They also care for the sick, the poor and the needy e.g. Dorcas (**Act 9:36-39**), **Phoebe (Rom. 16:1-2)**. Those endowed with the gifts of exhortation

(counselling and instructing the ignorant), giving and showing of mercy can also be grouped in the ministry of helps (**Rom. 12:7-8**). **The minstrel /choir /singer (2 Kings 3:15)**

MINISTRY GIFT OF ADMINISTRATION

The gift of 'Government' or 'Ruling' is termed 'Administration'. This is the supernatural ability to organise, administer and coordinate the various affairs **in** a local church. It refers to the divine responsibility of all means of guidance and administration in the church (**Tit. 1:4-5**). This does not necessarily connote power to rule but to the gift of extraordinary wisdom, knowledge and discernment to guide the church in its affair and problem. They are advisers and administrators specially gifted to manage people and events. A local church will not grow beyond a certain point unless it employs the service of those individuals empowered with this gift. They are persons who also direct the external order of the church. They can function as church administrators, personal/special assistants, treasurers, project managers, security/traffic officers, etc.

CONCLUSION

There is room for every believer to function in the vineyard of our Lord. Identify your gifts and function accordingly. Do not be an idle Christian.

QUESTIONS

1. What are the duties of those endowed with the gift of helps?
2. Who are the administrators in the church?

BLESSED WEEK WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

MON: **Romans12:7**- Prayerfully identify your ministry.

TUE: **Acts 9:36** – Live a life that is full of good works.

WED: **Titus 1:4-5**- Be trustworthy in all that has been committed into your hands.

THU: **1Corinthians 16:16**- Surrender your all for God's use.

FRI: **1Corinthians12:28**- Be committed to the ministry God has called you into.

SAT: **Ephesians4:12**- Your ministry is given for the perfecting of the body of Christ.

SUN: **Romans 16:3**- Lord, let my ministry helpers locate me.

WEEK 52 *Aug 20th 2017*

**WELCOME TO THE
FOURTH INTERACTIVE SESSION**

YOUR PRIVILEGE

- To Ask Questions
On Past Lessons For Clarity
- To Give Critical Appraisal
Of The Outlines
- To Give Useful Suggestions
Towards Better Performance
- To Give Useful
Spiritual Contributions
- Etc

Aug 27th 2017

**WELCOME TO THE
SUNDAY SCHOOL
DAY OF PRAYER**

NOTES

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