

The Truth about the Christ
A Seven-Week Discovery Study Course

Introduction

The idea behind this course is to present major, foundational concepts about God and Christ to the internationals: either one who has received Christ, or one who is merely willing to take a good look at the Bible. Because it is hard to predict how long a "seeker" will stay studying with you, the course is as short as possible, while still presenting the most important truths of the Gospel in seven studies with extra one called "A proper respond to God". This study are designed to help Christian leaders whether they are American or international to disciple seekers or new believer friends. Our primarily target are the internationals, but it might have other applications with rather refugees, immigrants, visitors, professionals or other cross-cultural group, and we don't want to exclude the Americans.

It seems that most discipleship courses presuppose too much Christian understanding. Certain basic principles, such as God's goodness, are taken for granted. As a result many courses begin in the New Testament. But we have felt that we must start at the beginning from Genesis as many experts and missionaries felt. First, this study considers the basic truths of the first four lessons taken from Genesis 1-3 by asking: Who is God? What is God's purpose for His creatures the basic quality of Creation? Who is man? What is man's relationship to God? Who is Satan? What are Satan's purposes and his strategies? What is the fall of man? What is sin and what are its consequences? While investigating these questions, we will explore the problem of humanity and the universe.

The latter subjects can be summed up as man's present terrible condition in contrast to his once perfect condition, an exposure of man's sin nature and the need for God to rescue him and put things right. If the international seekers has a good grasp from the Genesis account of these things, then he's gone a long way toward the Gospel making sense. Many scholars, especially from the field of Biblical Theology, agree that in non-"Christian" cultures, one must start from Genesis.

The fifth lesson concentrates on the core themes of blood sacrifice, substitution, and atonement in the Old Testament Genesis 3:15, 21-24 and Genesis 4 the account of Cain and Abel. The sixth lesson is about God's response to faith, studying Abraham's willingness to offer his son Isaac to God in Genesis 22 and the common links between the story of Isaac in the old testament and Jesus in the new testament. There is a brief look ahead at Christ as the ultimate atoning sacrifice, but the emphasis is on setting the stage from the Old Testament, so that when we get to Christ it makes sense. Thus the six weeks on these core truths (with Genesis 1-4 and 22 and John chapter one) are an indispensable start. Our preference is to make the lessons as expository as possible. Along those lines, we have found it best for the group to learn through discussion. Some of the material will simply have to be "taught", but whenever possible it is best for the teacher to ask leading questions and to allow the students to discover the truths for themselves. Not only does this keep them from getting bored, but it also helps the truths to stick in their minds, and hopefully in their hearts as well.

SUMMARY OF LESSONS

I- Who is God? 1- The basic quality of creation

2- God's purpose for His creature (Gen. 1-2:17)

II- Who is men? Two parts: 1- Men's relationship to God

2- Men's relationship with creation Gen. 2:18-25)

III- Who is Satan? Two parts: 1- temptation

2- The Fall and the Origin of Sin Gen. 3:1-7

IV- Sin and its consequences (Gen. 3: 8-24)

V- Cain and Abel Genesis 4 and Salvation in the Old Testament (blood sacrifice, substitution. atonement)

VI- Isaac and Jesus (Redemption) : 1- Abraham is willingness to offer his son Isaac (Gen. 22)

VII- Who is Jesus? (John 1:1-18)

VIII- A Proper Response to God (seven brief vignettes introducing repentance, faith and conversion).

How do we use these materials?

(Some Practical Matters)

The most effective group size is between one and seven students. A large group might cause some to become silent, or even some to gang up together against the biblical material. In many cases the studies only mention the point to be made. You will need to work out how you want to explain it, or if you think it needs further explanation. The material is not especially contextualized, but it certainly can be used, even without adaptation, in the context of a highly contextualized ministry (e.g. a "Jesus Muslim" approach). Each study is designed to be 45-60 minutes long. In addition, you may want to have singing, sharing and prayer, drills for finding verses, or whatever else you see as appropriate for your people.

As you anticipate exploring the seven lessons, you may feel excited or fearful. The teacher may assign students to study some things ahead of time, but this is not necessary and in some situations might cause an impediment for some to continue on. It may be more fruitful to have the students memorize verses that they've just studied, and then to review these memorized verses at the beginning of the next week. If possible, there should be a Bible for each student, using the same translation for all, I suggest using the NIV translation. If you are dealing with illiterate people, there should be time for slow and expressive reading of the text, and key verses should be recited many times. The design of the course is a gradual build-up for six lessons, with the seventh lesson calling for a decision. The teacher should stay focused on the passage being discussed and keep the discussion on track. When a question arises that is not related to the passage or the lesson being discussed, postpone discussing it until later. Be willing to share your

ideas, observations and questions with everyone else in the group. Keep in mind that some people speak up readily, while others prefer to be quiet and to think quietly. You have to treat everyone in the group on an equally and everyone's views are important.

The teacher should plan on spending at least 1-2 hours with the biblical texts and this material in preparation, not including the time necessary to convey it in another language. Be flexible with your start of the lesson, but make sure you end on time.

Remember that you're ministering the Word of God, not just reading through a guidebook.

Remember to combine people from various countries and put together them in one group, This is a difficult situation unless you pray, pray and pray in order to feel God's peace and presence. Everyone is bringing his or her own spiritual beliefs and ideological thinking.

Remember that every human being has common spiritual needs, but each one has diverse ideas. If we say to internationals "God is love", the Muslims don't understand God's love because their god is punitive. The Hindu might say "which god are you talking about?". A Buddhist might not understand this concept because his god is impersonal. An atheist would say that there is no god.

The proper preparation can help the student to reap a rich harvest. God who created the universe, who controls history, and who will accomplish his plan in his time has chosen to speak through his word. This study exposes a person to the word of God (Rom. 10:17). This is what God says not me! God's word is powerful, changes the heart of people, creates life and understanding. God's word doesn't change. God's revelation did not come in English language or through the western culture. The student, who is

familiar with the ancient Near Eastern culture, could understand passages in the Bible because he would be familiar with that culture and that region of the world better than someone from somewhere else. The teacher has to allow the bible to speak for itself. There are many diverse ideas about the bible, we all have presuppositions about the bible. Many any valuable things can learned from these seven biblical lessons, but not all are things that God is trying to teach. The more we help people to open to the Bible the more the Bible is going to speak to their life.

The teacher must know that Genesis is not a book of science, though scientists are right to investigate its claims. It is not a book of biography and not a book of history but it is a book of theology. God doesn't contradict Himself His purpose from the beginning is to create life. Remember that your purpose to provide students with exposure to the truth and believe it and you are there to help them understand God's purpose for them and how to build a relationship with Him and to see that without the word of God and Jesus there is no life and hope for the future. The material here is presented in English and is double-spaced. If you are teaching it in a different language, especially if that language is not your native language, then the spaces give you room to write in a few words in the target language. If that is the case, it is strongly recommended that you rehearse explaining everything in the target language.

What's next after these seven studies? We also have a course called the "Growth Group", which also contain seven lessons, and which are geared mainly for believers. It is also hoped that at this point the student has some deeper involvement with other believers.

Many debate the question of which type of teaching is most fruitful in discipleship, a biblical content, or a so-called "obedience-oriented" teaching. To us, the question is similar to "Which wing of the airplane is more important?" Clearly to major on one to the real detriment of the other can short-circuit the believer's new walk with Christ. Many verses could be given to show the urgency of balance between these two, or rather the necessity of both. The disciple who is fed only content, truths, and theology week after week is left unchallenged in his faith and he may be continuing on for a variety of unhealthy motivations. Likewise, the disciple who is merely given the commands of Christ to obey as sort of challenges, but who is not helped to grow in the "knowledge of Christ" at the same time (2 Peter 3:18) is likely to suffer from a real lack of depth in the long run, and may lack the spiritual understanding necessary to make the right choices. May God use you greatly as Christ is reproduced in those you are called to disciple!

Issues to Consider When you Think in Discipling International Friend

Examine your Motives

Our role as Christians and as brothers of this international new believer is to stand with him or her. There are few questions you need to ask yourself before start to disciple an international new believer.

Will they have Christian friends to stand by, support, and accept them? Do you know yourself, your culture and values? Do you understand your international friend's beliefs, culture, and values? Do you know his struggle and needs? Do you know how to develop friendship with them? Do you understand the cost for making him or her your friend? Do you know how to share your testimony with them? Do you have the calling and gifts to teach and disciple others? Do you love them? What are your motives?

Your Friend Should Know That Jesus Will Be with Him all the Time as He Promised

The love of Christ is greater than we think. Jesus said to us in his word (John 10:28) "No one can snatch us out of my hand". There is a story that illustrates God's faithfulness to us. It is said that Jesus once showed one of His followers in a dream two trails of footprints in wet sand explaining: "Look I have accompanied you faithfully for a long time". When the second trail of footprints disappeared over a dangerous cliff, the dreamer reproachfully asked: "Why have you left me alone in the greatest need?" Then the Lord answered him: "I carried you until the way improved".

Encourage him or her by Offering your Support

We need to encourage our international new believer friend that he or she will not be alone and make sure to encourage him to seek spiritual truth by teaching him basic Christianity. The new believers need to grow in faith and biblical knowledge before he or she moves to his or her own country because in his or her country the spiritual support and Christian fellowship may be difficult, if not impossible, to find.

Plan to Visit Them

Make an effort to correspond with them, or make an on occasion a call or even visit them. Encourage them from God's own words or promises and affirm them with the assurance that you will keep them daily in your prayers. Write and send letters, email, gifts of encouragement and love. Explain to him or her how important it will be for him to find a group of believers or a church that will be supportive to him, both spiritually and emotionally.

Find an Appropriate International Small Group That Could Help Them

The best source of fellowship is an international small group in the local church, made up of people who identify with each other, having had similar experiences. They can help a new international believer at many levels because they themselves have traveled that road. They, too, have had to struggle with issues like job hunting, corruption, tensions with their families and community relationships, and marriage.

This international group should understand the stress, tension and confusion for those new believers who come from Muslim or other religious backgrounds. They should know the persecution that they are going to face here in United States or in their country overseas when they go back to their families.

They group needs to keep the door open for their friends to come back if he or she is attacked because of a new faith in Jesus by his or her family or community. Your international friend may be in a dangerous situation.

Maybe he or she should not leave his father's house because of tensions and pressure. No-one loves him or her more than their parents! When an international becomes your brother and is accepted by a family of Christians, they should protect him.

Don't try to Act Perfect Don't Afraid of Making Mistakes.

Be yourself. We often make mistakes with new international believers. Don't worry about making mistakes, learn from your mistakes, move ahead once again and avoid making the same mistake twice. Don't give up.

There are common mistakes that we make in working with converted internationals.

One mistake is giving them too much at once and not narrowing your objectives for each time you meet him or her. Another is leading them on by asking for their opinion about your program but never giving them a chance to see it or be involved in it.

Another mistake is talking down to them instead of treating them as equals or misleading them, such as telling them we will meet for a one hour, but then staying for a half hour or telling them we will meet for short time and staying longer. This breaks down the sense.

A new international convert needs trust, understanding and love. Yet another mistake is not being sufficiently flexible with your schedule to meet with the international convert on weekends, evenings, and other times that suit his or her schedule. When working with a converted international, be sensitive to their cultural orientation. Believe the best about them. Being in the American habit of rushing can also be a problem.

To disciple an international friend not only means spiritual counseling but also caring for physical needs. We need to be sensitive to their needs. Some are ready to change their religion for the sake of money or to gain respect and protection. One of the mistakes is not preparing the community to accept the new international convert friend. Another mistake is being over excited and, in an effort to encourage a new believer to give a testimony of his faith from the pulpit in front of a large group. He could soon burst like a blown-up balloon. Instead, his testimony could be given in a small services or in front of a small group, so that he feels that he has been accepted and treated like others. Some international new converts bring along another international to be baptized, so that he or she can marry a Christian in order to stay in United States.

Some major mistakes we do is not sharing your calling and vision with new believers and not allowing them see what we are doing and let them become involve in God's kingdom. Another suggestions is to explain some sources of confusion for a new Christian why we have different denominations and Christian groups and who is the real Christians.

Questions That We Are Expected to Answer About Christianity

There is a wall, an incredible barrier between religious people and Christians and between international cultures and the American culture. For centuries, religious people and Christians have stood on separate hills and shouted across the valley at each other, never daring to come together closely enough to truly examine each other's beliefs, values, assumptions and feelings and answer each other's questions- never truly listening to each other's heart beat. The fact is, there is a wall-a deep gulf that must be bridged by love, trust, respect and understanding. International converts are asking some very

fundamental questions which he may have brought from his background, community and religion which need to be answered.

Some of These Questions Are

Who is the God of Christianity? Does God exist? Why did God create human being? Why do the innocent people have to suffer? What is sin? Why did they offer sacrifices in the Old Testament times? What is God's purpose for humanity? Has the Bible been corrupted? Why do Christians worship three Gods? Who really is Jesus Christ? Who is the Holy Spirit? Is there really a Triune God? Why do Christians insist on the Crucifixion? Why do so many Christians live an unholy lifestyle? Why do you have so many groups in Christianity? Who will be saved? Do the Qur'an and the Bible agree, and why does this matter? Why do you have four gospels?

World Culture and Religious Views

Introduction

The purpose of this cultural and religious world views comparison is to highlight those elements of the Biblical views which internationals already share and those which they are likely to misunderstand or reject. Our hope is that translators and other cross-culture communicators can understand their internationals backgrounds and beliefs and express the biblical message in ways that will penetrate the students or your audience. The objective of this comparison is to help cross-cultural communication between the teachers and international students from different backgrounds and religions to understand their friends better so they can communicate with them more appropriately and more accurately.

Points of Attraction to Your International Friend

The following truths of Christian it will probably be of great interest to your international friend:

God goodness and sovereignty; The power and wisdom of Jesus; Jesus as healer, word of God and intercessor; Jesus' stories and miracles; The love, mercy and judgment of God as revealed in the cross. Forgiveness by the atonement of Christ . Salvation by grace/ as a free gift. Inner cleansing. The assurance of salvation. Personal relationship with God. Power and authority over the devil and his Jinn (evil spirits)?. Hearing and guidance by the Holy Spirit. The logical consistency of the bible

Lesson #1

The purpose of the lesson

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- 1- TO LOOK AT THESE BASIC IDEAS OF WHO GOD IS IN THE BIBLE AND HOW HE CREATED MAN
 - 2- TO TRY ASIDE FOR A WHILE THINGS YOU MAY HAVE LEARNED BEFORE IN CHRISTIANITY OR ANY RELIGION
 - 3- THERE ARE SOME FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANYTHING ELSE IF UNDERSTOOD CORRECTLY, GOOD START. IF NOT, THEN ONE WILL ALWAYS BE OFF IN HIS UNDERSTANDING OF GOD AND HIS PURPOSE OF CREATION AND OF MAN AND HIS PURPOSE OF LIFE.
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Read: Genesis 1:1-26

Genesis 1-4 explains the origins of the earth and humankind, the nature and purpose of man created male and female, records the intrusion of sin into God's good creation, and reveals the character of God who both judges human sin and deals mercifully with fallen creation. In first verse "**In the beginning**" before man existed God acted. Before man stirs himself to seek God, God has sought man. In the first chapter we do not see man looking after God we see God reaching after man. He created everything for him.

Q1: Try to imagine what God had in mind before He started creating.

Q2: In the beginning was God, but who created God?

Q3. Describe the situation that was before God put together the universe? V.1-3

Q4. List what He created on each day. Why does God first form the world (on days 1-3) and then fill that world (on days 4-6)?

Q5. How is that these are created? Does God has a tool?

Q6. In what ways do you think God views hid creation as being good (V. 4, 10,12, 18,21, 25)?

Q7. What can you learn about God from His spoken word? What was your impression about Him?

Q8. Why does it mix the plural pronoun with the singular subject? V.26

Q9. How far can we go in our understanding of the trinity?

Q10. What does God of the bible differ from other god's of the world religions?

Q11. How would you counter the one who reads the daily horoscope, believing that the position of sun, moon and stars ordain our personality and state?

Application: for deepest thought

Q1: What gifts has God given you that enable you to create?

Q2. Parallels between the Spirit's work in Creation and in your life?

Q3. Did you encounter any personal similarities between you and God of the bible?

Memory verse: *Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth"*

Genesis 1:26 Then God said; "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that moves along the ground"

Lesson # 2/ This lesson has two parts

The purpose of the lesson:

1. GEN. 1:26-2:14 IS TO SERVES AS AN APT INTRODUCTION TO WHO GOD IS AND WHAT HE HAS MADE MAN AND WOMAN TO BE. (OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.
2. TO EXPOSE THE WRONG TEACHING ABOUT CREATOR AND HIS CREATURE IN THE LIGHT OF BIBLICAL TRUTH

Read: Genesis 1:26-2:14

Introduction: Chapter two is a detailed review of the creation story as it relates to humanity. In Genesis 2 we have a picture of just one scene in this story, we see God forming Adam out of the dust God took specific care in making man, whose name “Adam” means “man” Breath of life indicates the spiritual part of man. He was first a body, but God then gave the body life. Man is a spiritual being living in a physical body, This spiritual part we commonly call a “soul” and “spirit”. This is where our ideas, desires and attitudes are formed and how God communicates with man.

V.8 Adam was dependent upon God for survival. Likewise we are dependent upon God for survival today. V. 9,15 God prepared good things for Adam. He is the same today. He gives good things to people (represented by the trees)

God gave man responsibilities over the creation. God gave man privilege over everything. God called man to enjoy fellowship with Him. God made marriage and family. God cares for mankind. God blessed His creature. God is Holy. God is a producer and fruitful. God has personality (mind, emotion, will), God is a triune God (The Head, The Word and the Holy Spirit) (Father, Son and Holy Spirit)”

Q1: What is God’s image? Is it something physical? Gen. 1: 26

Q2: How do you feel about the idea that you are made in God’s image and likeness?

Gen1:26-27, Gen. 2:7; See: Eph. 5:23; Luke 10:27; Hebrew 4:12

Q3. Are only men in the image of God? [No. Women too. Possibly even that man needs woman in order to fully be in God's image.] **Gen.1:27 In what ways are man and woman unique among God’s creation?**

Q4: How did God distinguish between human being and other creatures? Are animals in God's image? Gen. 1: 21,22,25, 28

Q5. Why did God decide to rest on the seventh day?

Gen.2:1- 3/ Ex. 20:8-11

Q6. Why God created perfect paradise for men? 2:4-6

Q7. In V. 7 the creation of man, in what ways is human unique?

Q8. Why did God place the tree of knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the beautiful garden and tell them not to eat from it (2:9,17; see3:6)?

Q9. How many kinds of trees were there? Gen. 2:9

Q10. What were you taught about garden of Eden that God has prepared for Adam? Is it similar to what you discovered?

Q11. How would you counter the Gnostics who believes that only the soul matters, as the human body and material things are decadent or non-spiritual?

Q12. How you counter the atheist who believes that we are the product of “chance plus time plus energy”?

Application: for deepest thought

Q1. Does anything show God's love and value for man? List 3 to 4 things

Q2. As you look around at God's creation, how does it give you a greater appreciation for the Creator?

Q3. How has this passage helped you understand who you were created to be in relation to God?

Q4. In what area do you need to trust God in your life?

Lesson # 2/ Part two

The purpose of the lesson

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1. TO DISCOVER OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH EACH OTHER AND THE CREATURE AROUND US
 2. TO FIND OUT THAT IT IS NOT GOOD...TO BE ALONE V.18
 3. TO UNDERSTAND THE ROLE AND LIFE OF ADAM AND EVE AS GOD INTENDED IT
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Read: Genesis 2:15-25

Introduction

V. 21 “So the Lord God caused the man to fall into deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man”. Indicates that God is intelligence and lover. God’s will for both Adam and Eve is perfect, because God prepared a perfect world for man. It is clear that the nature of men and women are created with unique authority and responsibility, both need each other and more alike than different. Women are designed to be helpers, serve Adam, a great partner, a source of strength and work together. They were one flesh. They didn’t have a knowledge of evil and they hadn’t sinned yet. Men are more task-oriented, leader and

lover to his wife. V.24 “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh”.

Q1. If God perfectly knows everything ahead of time, why did he set Adam up with the limitation of not eating from the tree of knowledge of good and evil? V.15- 16

Q2. How do you define “helper”V.18,20? Does “helper” sound like a lesser person? An equal person? A greater person?

Women are designed to be helpers. Men are more task-oriented than women and women are more relational than men. She will serve and respect her husband and be a great partner. She will be a source of strength and both will work together.

Q3. How did Adam come up with all the names for the animals? 1:28; 2:19-20

Q4. What is significant about God creating “woman” last? V. 21-23

Q5. Why did God create Eve from Adam’s ribs if God wanted them to be equal? Why didn’t God make them at the same time? Gen. 2:21

Q6. Explain in your own words what verse 24 teaches about marriage?

Q7. What does it mean: that Adam and Eve were “naked and they felt no shame”?

And what God's Purpose for Creating Adam and Eve? V.25

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Application: for deepest thought:

Q1: Have you ever felt alone? How has this passage helped you understand who you were created to be in relation to your family, creature and other people?

Q2: What do you need from this group to feel more connected to others?

Q3: What about God's love and purpose for the family? What do you learn from this passage about your relationships with people of the opposite sex/

Verse for memory: *Genesis 2:24 “for this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh”*

Summary

• Key word for Gen. 1-2 - "**PERFECT**" Man in perfect state. Perfect body. Perfect relationship. with God. Perfect surroundings. No sin. No pain. No disease or injury. Perfect enjoyment of life. Much greater mental powers. Anything you see in life today that is bad or lacking, was not there at the beginning, in God's original work. [Elaborate on how perfect everything was for man versus how life today is corrupt. If not for sin and Fall (next week), life today would be like heaven on earth

Lesson #3 This lesson has two parts

The purpose of this lesson:

- 1. PART ONE TO EXPOSE THE DEVIL AND TO LEARN HOW CAN WE DEAL WITH TEMPTATION**
- 2. TO EXPLAIN THE ORIGIN AND EFFECTS OF PERSONAL SIN**

Read: Genesis 3:1-6

Introduction

God threw them all out of Heaven and now they roam the earth, doing all kinds of evil and bringing harm to people everywhere. Lucifer's name was changed to "Satan" (meaning enemy). He is also called the "devil" and his followers are called "demons" or "evil spirits". Together they all hate God and His message and will do anything to ruin it. Satan was watching when God created the world, Satan was listening when God gave the commandment. So, Satan devised a plan to spoil God's wonderful work. Satan planned to tempt Adam and Eve to separate them from God and brake God's heart. God knew what Satan planned, but Adam and Eve knew nothing about evil.

Q1: Who was the Serpent? What does it represent?

Gen1:24, 25; 3:1; Rev.9:19; 12:9-15; 20:2; 1Cor 11:3

Q2: From where did Satan come from?

Textual information regarding the background and demise of Lucifer/ Satan: (Isaiah 14:9-17; Ezekiel 28:13-19; Matthew 25:41, Jude 6-7).

Q3- Note five to six names for Satan?

1Tim 3:6-7; 6:9; 2Tim 2:26; 2 Cor.4:4; Matt. 17:8; Eph 4:27; 6:11; Acts 10:38; 13:10; 2 Tess 2:3-4; Jude 9; 1John 3:5-8; 1Peter 5:8; John 8:44-52; James 1:12-15; 4:7; Hebrew 2:14.

Q4. What attracted Eve to the sin? V. 2-3/ 1John 2

Q5. What statements does the serpent make about the purpose and results of the command? V.4-5

Satan directly contradicts God's word. Says God is liar.

Biggest lie: The creature can become equal to the Creator.

Disbelieve God said: "you will die..." Satan said: "you will not die..." denies God's word

You will be like God... that was a lie. They will be like Satan

You will know good and evil... That was true, they knew good, but through sin they got to know evil... Satan did not tell how bitter that knowledge would be.

Q6. How have the serpent's words distorted Eve's thinking? V.6

When the woman saw..."they ate"

Bad things? Not necessarily cf.2:9 God wants to give us good things. But in His way.

When gaining things is more important to us than obeying God, it is sin.

Q7. What was Satan's strategy? V.1,3,6

Doubt, disbelieve and disobedience: 2Cor11:14; John 8:44

"**Did God really say...?**" Introducing doubt about God. Can you really trust what God said? Satan is planting doubt and fight the word of truth.

Exaggerates the restriction. Makes God appear stricter.

Raises idea: there is something good out there for you, and God wants to keep you from it.

Eve is influenced a little: she adds "not touch it"

2:17 God promised death as the result of disobedience, and that's what happened:

1: Spiritual death. Separation from God.

2: Physical death-though not immediate.

3: Eternal death (2 Th. 1:9)

Q8. Observations of the temptation to sin? James 1:13-15 what is the difference between temptation and test?

People Have Chosen To Sin

James 1:13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.

1:14 But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.

1:15 Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death

Satan directly contradicts God's word. Says God is liar.

Biggest lie: The creature can become equal to the Creator.

Disbelieve God said: “you will die...” Satan said: “you will not die...” denies God’s word

You will be like God... that was a lie. They will be like Satan

You will know good and evil... That was true, they knew good, but through sin they got to know evil... Satan did not tell how bitter that knowledge would be.

Q 9. Why do you think Adam eats the fruits could he have resisted? What should he have done?

Application: deepest thought

Q1. Why do you think Adam eats the fruits could he have resisted? What should he have done?

Q2. What one lesson have you learned from this study that can help you recognize and resist a temptation you are facing?

Verse for memory: *Genesis 3:1-3 “Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made”*

The woman said to the serpent; “We may eat fruit from the garden. butt God did say; “you must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die”

Lesson #4

The purpose of this lesson

1. TO DEFINE SIN AND ITS CONSEQUENCES
 2. TO APPEAR GOD'S HOLINESS
 3. TO REVEAL GOD'S PROMISES
 4. TO ADDRESS THE PENALTY FOR BREAKING THE LAW OF GOD MUST BE PAID
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Read Genesis 3: 7-24

Introduction

The Traffic Light Illustration

This illustration is used when presenting the gospel to get the point across that the penalty for breaking the law of God must be paid!

Suppose you drive through a red light, and an honest police officer sees you and stops you. He must issue you a ticket because you have broken the law. Even if you say, "Officer, I'm sorry I broke the law," he will still, if he's an honest police officer, have to give you a ticket. The law is the law, and there is a penalty for breaking the law!

It is the same thing with the law of God. We all have broken God's law, for the Bible says "**All have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God.**" The Bible also says that "sin is the transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4). The wages for breaking God's law is not a traffic ticket, no, the Bible says, "**The wages of sin is death**" (Romans 6:23).

We can either pay the wages of sin and die eternal death, or we can accept Jesus' death

on Calvary's cross as payment for our sins. We paid the fine in Him if we accept the atonement He has made for us! Praise God!

Q1: After Adam and Eve disobeyed God, why did they then realize that they were naked and hid from God? V.7 a

Q2: How do you define sin and its consequences?

2 Tess.3-4, Rom 1:32, 26-27; Rom 7:11; 1 Tim 1:9; 2 Peter 2:19; 1John 3:7

Q3: Why didn't God destroy the serpent immediately?

Q4: Why didn't God destroy Adam and Eve and then begin all over again with other couple?

Q5: Who is "seed of the woman" (a very unique phrase; Jesus)?

Q6: How did Satan strike the heel of the Messiah?

Q7: How will Christ (the seed of woman) crush Satan's head? This is the beginning of "The Promise" (God's promise to reverse the effects of the Fall and to save man).

Q8. How did God respond to the devil and sin? Gen. 3:9,15, 21-24

Application: For deepest thought

Q1. If Jesus is the promised tree of life, what does that mean to us as sinners? V. 22-24

Q2. If Jesus is the promised “Seed”, what does that mean to us?

Q3. Where is this story do you find any good news?

SUMMARY

•SIN, FALL, CURSE, DEATH

•Man's problem today is not just ignorance (as taught in Islam). Rather his inner nature is inclined toward rebellion and disobedience, i.e. sin.

• Before the Fall, man had a perfect will, free to choose the right way. Now, all people would tend toward sin-toward selfishness and pride.

From the time of Adam and Eve Satan has tried to destroy what God made. Satan tempted Adam and Eve to disobey God, and they fell to his temptation. When people disobeyed God two things happened. First evil entered them. Since that time every person has had to struggle with evil or bad living inside of him. This bad nature was not part of God's original plan of his creation. Second, the good in people died when they disobeyed God. We understand what goodness is, but goodness has no life of its own. In fact, we have to put all our energy into doing good and keeping bad from coming from us. The bad in us takes over the good when we are tired or someone offends us. The good requires our effort to make it happen.

Lesson # 5

Cain and Abel (Sacrifices in the Old Testament)

The purpose of this lesson

1. THE SOLUTIONS AND REDEMPTION

2. CONTINUITY OF SIN THROUGH GENERATIONS

Read: Genesis 4:1-18

Introduction:

- From now on, Adam and Eve and all their children after them, would live in a state of sin and death. Separation from God. Guilt. Problems and tension between each other. Lying. Feelings of emptiness. Depression. Fear. Ignorance. Shame. Weariness. Pain and suffering, disease. Grief. Man's cruelty against man. Poverty. War. In God's original creation, life for man was wonderful beyond imagination. Today life is often unbearably cruel; sometimes not worth living.

Cain and Abel were the first humans born in the usual way. Their parents, Adam and Eve, were created Adam from the "dust" of the earth, Eve from a part of Adam. Cain was the older of the two, although perhaps not by much. Some students of the Bible interpret the verse which describes their birth as meaning that they were twins. A number of other children were also born to Adam and Eve later.

Q1. Read Genesis 4:1-5. Do you think Adam and Eve ever told their sons about the fig leaves and the coats of skins?

Adam and Eve saw God Himself establish this principle. They accepted God's requirement of sacrifices because they acknowledged that their own ways were not pleasing to God.

No doubt they passed this information on to their two sons who later brought their own sacrifices to the Lord.

a. What was Cain's occupation (Genesis 4:2)?

b. What was Abel's occupation (Genesis 4:2)?

c. What offering did Cain bring (Genesis 4:3)?

d. What offering did Abel bring (Genesis 4:4)?

Q2. Which Offering Pleases God?

Q3. Why did God accept Abel's but not Cain's sacrifice? Hebrew 11:4 Because

God's way of righteousness demanded **a blood sacrifice**. God judged Abel as righteous because he believed the Word of God and brought the offering that God required.

Cain attempted to approach God through his own efforts. God required a blood sacrifice to cover sin and guilt

Heb.11:4; 1John2:9-11; Amos 5:21-24 , Is. 1:10-20.

Q4. What happened after God refused Cain's sacrifices?

Q5. Why did Cain murder Abel? Gen. 5-8

The problem started with Cain disobedience and disbelief.

Q6. Why does anger exist?

Q7. Cain became depressed. What is DEPRESSION? It is the state of feeling SAD, feeling down, gloomy, low in spirits, discouraged.

Q8. What was the conversation between God and Cain?

"Then the Lord said to Cain, 'Where is your brother Abel?' 'I don't know,' he replied. 'Am I my brother's keeper?' The Lord said, 'What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground. Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth.'" (Gen. 4:9-12).

Q9. What does it show about God?

God decided to act and show his love and mercy to Cain

Q10. Who is Cain's wife?

Application: for deepest thought:

Q1. Do you see these conflicting things around you? In your own life? Today you

Q2. So what is the answer?

Good Works or Faith

Q3. What do you do to gain control of the bad behavior in your life?

Verse memory: Genesis 4:6,9 "The Lord said to Cain, "why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted?... Then the Lord said to Cain, "where is your brother Abel?"

Summary: Religion or Redemption

How does Cain's offering illustrate man's way of salvation (RELIGION)? How does Abel's offering illustrate God's way of salvation (REDEMPTION)?

Today, most of Adam's descendants resemble Cain, continuing in their own way and closing their hearts to God's voice. With their lips they say, "God is great!" but in their hearts they think, "God is far away! No one can know Him!" However, the Word of God shows us that **God is not far from any one of us**, because He is the One who gives to everyone life and breath and everything else. He is closer to us than our own heartbeat. God knows you personally, and wants you to know Him personally too! (See Acts 17:24-31; Romans 10:1-13)

Discovery Lesson #6

Abraham sacrifices his son Isaac

The purpose of this lesson

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1. TO SEE AN EXAMPLE OF SALVATION BY FAITH IN THE OLD TESTAMENT
 2. TO SHOW GOD'S FAITHFULNESS TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN HIM
 3. TO SHOW THE COVENANT WAS GIVEN TO ISAAC AND NOT TO ISHMAEL
 4. TO RECOGNIZE THE NEW COVENANT BY THE LAMB OF GOD THAT IS JESUS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT
 5. TO SEE THE CONNECTION BETWEEN BOTH TESTAMENTS
 6. TO SEE GOD'S FULFILLMENT OF HIS WORD AND PROMISES
-

Read Genesis 22:1-14 It is shocking!

Introduction: In this bible study we are going to see an event from the Old Testament which is a good picture of salvation by faith, demonstrated through the life of Abraham and his son Isaac.

Many religions in the world believe in this particular event but each interprets it in a different way!

Read verse 1 Scripture says that God was testing Abraham.

Q1. Have you ever felt tested by God? How did you respond?

God called Abraham by his name and Abraham heard God's voice! What does it tell you? God speaks! And Abraham hears! There was a conversation between God and human being/a relationship

Q2. What is the difference between tempting and testing?

The devil is tempting: (Matthew 4:1-11)

The Lord is testing: (James 1:13-18)

Q3: What is God asking of Abraham? V.2 God asked Abraham to offer his son, (kill his only son) whom he loved, as a sacrifice to God. Isaac was 17 years old, a young teenager. How then would Abraham become the father of a great nation 12:2? How then would the promised One be one of his descendants 12:3? If he killed his son?

Q4. Why Abraham has to offer “Isaac” and not Ishmael the first born? Where Ishmael had been?

Q5. Why did Abraham have to sacrifice a burnt offering, the innocent ram, on the mountaintop? If he was a righteous man, why then did he have to sacrifice his son?

Q6. How do you think Abraham responded to God’s calling? V.3-5

Q7. Do you think Abraham would actually have killed Isaac? V. 5, 8-10 Why?

(Hebrew 11:8-19) Is God capable of overcoming death?

Look at Abraham’s confidence in God! Isaac had to live! And even if Isaac died,

Abraham realized that God would have to bring him back from the dead.

Q8. Why did God wait until the last second to stop Abraham?

Abraham’s faith: Is it God’s responsibility to provide a sacrificial animal? V.8

Q9. What do you think Isaac felt as he walked with his father?

Confusion, childlike trust in his father.

Application: for deepest thought

Q1: Since God already made his covenant with Abraham, why should he test him and then offer the same covenant again?

Q2: Comparisons between Isaac in this story and Jesus' crucifixion

John 1:29-34/ Luke 3:21-22; 19:17/ Matthew 3:16-17; 26:39/ John 18:16; 19:17 Jesus is the Lamb of God without sin, innocent. Is. 53, John 1:29.

“My son”, Abraham answered, "God will provide the lamb". John 3:16.

The two fathers love their sons. Matthew 3:16-17

The two sons are related to the promised one, "the only begotten son". John 18:37.

The two sons are chosen line Gen. 17: 19/ Eph. 1:4-5

The two sons carried their wood (cross) on which to die. John 19:17

The two sons trusted their fathers and obeyed, they did their will. Matt. 26:39, John 19:30, and Luke 23:46.

The two sons faced death and experienced resurrection.

The two sons got the power and the promises.

Discovery #7

Who Is Jesus?

The purpose of this lesson:

1- CONNECT THE OLD TESTAMENT WITH THE NEW TESTAMENT

2- COMPARE BETWEEN THE SACRIFICES IN THE O.T AND N.T.

3- REMOVE THE VEIL OF THE O.T. BY COMING OF CHRIST

4- SHOWS THE WAY OF SALVATION IN JESUS AS LAMB OF GOD

Passage reading: John 1:1-18

Introduction:

- Man, by himself, cannot remove his sin and guilt (not by religion or works). Only through God's provision of atonement.
- Today just a brief introduction to Christ (cannot be comprehensive in one study).
- Don't just study about Christ. But get to know him personally. You may only know a little theology, but hopefully you have already experienced a personal relationship with Christ. [if believers]
- So who is Jesus? (Not theological invention. Real person, come to earth. Live among us. From heaven. Eternal. The Messiah. Fulfillment of all the prophecies. Not just mere human, or even mere prophet. The whole Bible revolves around the person of Christ.)

Q1. What does John 1-3 add to your perception of Genesis 1:1-3?

Q2. How "with God" and at same time "God"? V.1 (e.g. How can a person be sitting next to the bus driver, and at the same time be the bus driver?)

Q3. How does Genesis help you appreciate the nature and work of Christ? V.2-3

•Whole creation made through Him. (see-not mere prophet)

Q4. What does John 1-3 add to your perception of Genesis 1:1-3?

Q5. How did Jesus born? And who is his father?

He was born without a human father, for the virgin became pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Luke 1: 35).

Q6. How did Jesus used light to attract attention at his birth? V.4-9 Compare between life and light

- **Light is a symbol of life and hope.**
- Jesus said, "I have come into the world as a light . . ."
- Isaiah 9:2 says, "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light."
- An angel appeared to shepherds, "and the glory of the Lord shone around them."
- The whole sky was aglow with angels praising God.
- A star appeared in the east to guide the magi to Christ's birthplace.

Q7. In verses 6-9 God sent John to the Jews to preach before the ministry of Christ.

He had one main message. What?

•explain John historically (mere prophet, but the greatest)

Q8. What is the purpose of John's ministry? [To prepare the people for Jesus' coming; mainly by calling them to repentance.]

Q9. Who fails to see the light? Why? V. 5, 10-11

Q 10. How can we comprehend the light?

Read John 1:14 *“The word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the father, full of grace and truth.”*

in verses 15-18 especially 17 (Moses vs. Jesus)

Applications: For deepest thought

Q1. From the image of believing and receiving Jesus V.12 what is the result of this type of faith?

Q2. From this passage, how can a person come to know God?

Q 3. How would someone “full of grace and truth” treat others?

Verse Memory:

John 1:29 “Jesus is the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world”

John 1:14 “The word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the father, full of grace and truth.”

Summary

Genesis 22:14 “God will provide”. Abraham knew that God provided a substitute animal on that day, but also that he would some day in the future provide the Promised One (Jesus Christ) to defeat the devil, just as He had provided the ram.

The Salvation of Christ. We owe our forgiveness and reconciliation to God by Christ’s death, but it is by His Spirit that we can be set free from ourselves, and in his church that we can be united in a fellowship of love.

Death of Christ. Since sin has three principal consequences, salvation includes man's liberation from them all. Through Jesus Christ the Savior we can be reconciled to God; we can be born again; and receive a new nature and be set free from our moral bondage.

We must consider the Centrality of the cross: When Jesus came, he knew Himself to be a Son of destiny. He recognized that the Scriptures were bearing witness to Him and that it was in Him that their expectation was to be fulfilled. What Jesus taught is fully recognized by the New Testament authors, and what the Bible teaches about the centrality of the cross, the Christian church has recognized.

Discovery Study #8

A Proper Response to God

Introduction

•Imagine if God came and visited you. What would you do? say? You might ask Him, "What do you want me to do? How can I live in a way pleasing to you?"

•Fortunately you don't have to wait till God visits you, because He already gave us His word. I believe that if He did speak to you face-to-face, He wouldn't say anything different than what He already said.

Q1. Today: What is a proper response to God? What does God want me to do?

How do you take Decision?

Read, **Revelation 3: 19-20** Jesus Christ says he is standing knocking at the door of our lives. **Why does Jesus Christ want to come in?** Because he wants to be our saviour and our Lord. If we receive him, he will be able to apply to us personally all the benefits of his death. He died to be our saviour and Jesus Christ will also enter as our Lord and Master.

Next we must open the door. To open the door to Jesus Christ is a pictorial way of describing an act of faith in him as our saviour, and act of submission to him as our Lord.

It is a definite act, It is an individual act. It is a unique act. It is a deliberate act. It is an urgent act. And it is an indispensable act.

Man's Response:

How to consider the cost? Am I willing to pay the price?

Luke 14:25-35

Do really I want a right relationship with God?

- They made a decision just from emotion. No planning/evaluation of life to consider, "Do I really want to be a disciple?"

- Am I discouraging you to follow Christ? NO. Take him. Give your life to him. If you don't, there's no hope for you. But do it in an intelligent way. Jesus doesn't want flakes. He wants disciples. Are you a man (or woman) of courage and integrity? Then take Him today!

We may believe in the deity and the salvation of Christ, and acknowledge ourselves to be sinners in need of his salvation; but this does not make us Christians. We have to make personal response to Jesus Christ, committing ourselves unreservedly to him as our Savior and Lord.

(1) Confess: Recognize that I am in a trouble and sinner and God is right and Holy.

(2) How do I repent?

- Luke 18:9-14. The first thing a person must do to be right with God is to come to Him acknowledging one's sin and guilt before a Holy God. To repent. This is doubly important for the person who thinks he is a good person.

Second, there must be a renunciation of self, that is to deny ourselves and take up the cross, to lose our life.

Do you know what it means **to repent**? It means *to change your thoughts and your actions*. To repent is **to confess before God**, "I have been wrong in my thinking concerning the way of salvation that you have established!" To repent is **to agree with**

God that you have no possible way of saving yourself from His righteous judgment, and then to turn to Him and submit to His way of salvation.

Incentives: The incentives for Christian commitment are for our own sake and for the sake of others. But the greatest incentive of all is for Christ's sake, "whoever loses his life for my sake... will save it

(3) John 6:27-29.35-40 (Believe and Receive)

Illustration: Feelings Can be Unreliable

You might have expectations about how you should feel after placing your trust in Christ. While feelings are important, they are unreliable indicators of your sincerity or the trustworthiness of God's promise. Our feelings change easily, but God's Word and His character remain constant. This illustration shows the relationship between **fact** (God and His Word), **faith** (our trust in God and His Word) and our **feelings**.



Fact - this chair is strong enough to support you.



Faith - You believe this chair will support you, so you sit in it.



Feeling - You may or may not feel comfortable in this chair, but it continues to support you.

The promise of God's Word, the Bible, not our feelings, is our authority. The Christian lives by faith (trust) in the trustworthiness of God Himself and His Word.

PRAYER TO RECEIVE CHRIST

I confess that I am a sinner. I believe Jesus Christ died for my sins. I trust in Him only for my salvation. Lord Jesus I want to follow you with my whole heart.

The moment you received Christ by faith, as an act of your will, many things happened, including the following:

1. Christ came into your life ([Revelation 3:20](#) & [Colossians 1:27](#)).
2. Your sins were forgiven ([Colossians 1:14](#)).
3. You became a child of God ([John 1:12](#)).
4. You received eternal life ([John 5:24](#)).
5. You began the great adventure for which God created you ([John 10:10](#); [2 Corinthians 5:17](#); and [1 Thessalonians 5:18](#)).

Can you think of anything more wonderful that could happen to you than entering into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ? Would you like to thank God in prayer right now for what He has done for you? By thanking God, you demonstrate your faith.

- see how it's not steps, but one action
- repent, believe, obviously recognize and receive Christ as your personal Savior (not merely a personality far away)

What next?

(1) Be baptized Acts 2:37-42

Baptism is an act of faith by proclaiming before God, yourself, public and even the devil that you are now belongs to God in Christ. You are a Christian believer and a new creation in Christ.

- What is baptism? go down in water, in name of Father, Son, H.S; then person raises you up again

- *powerful symbol, commanded by Christ/God *symbolizes death + new life in Christ

- *symbolizes washing away of all sin, guilt, shame, uncleanness

- *symbolizes a man's commitment to be a child of God I disciple of Christ the rest of his life

- Practically, sometimes a person receives Christ, but there is a short delay before he is baptized. But if his decision to follow Christ is sincere, then this should not be long.

(2) Be obedience John 14:15

- He's the boss. We surrender control of our lives to Him, and commit ourselves to obey His word.

- This is obvious. The only proper relationship between God and a man is one of obedience. Anything less means the man is out of relationship with God, and under judgment.

- Suppose I tell you about a problem with my marriage. You tell me something that the Bible clearly teaches about what I must do. Can I just respond, "Well, that's your opinion"? NO! Even if I don't like something, I must be willing to obey. Even if inconvenient. Even if different from how I was brought up. Even if against my interests.

Even if it endangers my life. [Have group share practical examples of Christ's commands we must obey. E.g. not lying; being sexually pure; being in active fellowship with other believers; doing everything possible to be reconciled to those I have broken relationship (e.g. father?); being honest in all business; being a peace-maker; and many more]

(3) Be a witness: Matthew 10:28-39

- Notice again 32-33. Don't think a person can decide in his heart to receive Christ, but then keep it a secret, and for the rest of his life he pretends not to be a believer in Christ.
- Practically, in the short term, a new believer may not want to be too vocal about his new faith. No microphone. No neon sign. That's ok for awhile. He needs to learn more. Needs to grow. Especially needs to gain wisdom how to present his new life to others, in a way that might elicit attraction and not rejection. Let them see the change, the quality over time.
- But ultimately, one must be ready and able to openly stand with Christ before men-no matter what the cost (danger, risk, etc.). Is following Christ rightly more important to you than money? Than your work? Than even peaceful relationships with your family?
- Many groups in the world want to develop religious revolutionaries, extremists. This is really nothing new. But today He is calling you to become a spiritual revolutionary (not a religious or political one). Not to kill. But to be willing to give up all for Him.

(4) Be a disciple:

Summary:

Becoming a Christian is one thing; being a Christian is another. You took a simple step; you invited Christ to come as your Saviour and Lord. At that moment a miracle took place. He gave you a new life. You were born again. You became a child of God and so

entered his family.

Christian privilege: An intimate relationship. An assured relationship. The way to be sure is not just to feel sure.

First, God promises in his written word to give eternal life to those who receive Christ.

Second, God speaks to our hearts and

Third, the same Spirit who bears witness to our sonship in Scripture and experience completes his testimony in our character.

A secure relationship: When we sin, we do not forfeit our relationship to him as children, though our relationship with him is spoiled until we confess and forsake our sin. As soon as we confess our sins he is faithful and just.

Christian responsibilities: The great privilege of the child of God is relationship; his great responsibility is growth. There are two main spheres in which the Christian is meant to grow. The first is in understanding and the second in holiness.

There are three main secrets of spiritual development. They are also the chief responsibilities of the child of God. He wants his children to grow up to know him more and intimately. Generations of Christians have discovered that the principal way to do so is to wait upon him every day in a time of Bible reading and prayer. Because through scripture God speaks to us while through prayer we speak to him. God is our Father. Be natural, confident and bold. He is interested in all the details of your life.

Our duty to the church: One of the commonest names for Christians in the New Testament is 'brethren'. To be a member of the universal church is not enough; We must belong to some local branch of it. Baptism is the way of entry into the visible Christian society.

Our duty to the World: Every Christians should be deeply concerned about all his fellow men. And it is part of his Christian vocation to serve them in whatever way he can. There is another responsibility which Christians have towards the world, as the bible describes those outside Christ and his church: evangelism. To evangelize means literally to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. This is the life of discipleship to which Jesus Christ calls us. He died and rose again that we might have newness of life. He has given us his Spirit so that we can live out this life in the world.