

Basic Christianity Lesson One

Genesis 1

Introduction: As we begin to learn about God. Let's first use an illustration: If you came into my home just I pulling out some cookies from the oven, and on the table you saw freshly baked bread, a pie, and other things prepared:

What could you determine was probably true about me, even though you didn't see me make these things? A- I could cook/bake. B- I could read baking instruction c- I could do things in order d- I could make a variety of things e- I am creative and I could be careful etc...

Now when we learn about God, we can learn things about Him in the same manner.

Let's Read Chapter One from Genesis and ask these questions:

- 1- Try to imagine what God imagined before He started creating. List what He created on each day
- 2- If God could create the entire world with everything in it, what must be true of Him?
- 3- What is first impression of God? How do we know that God Himself is good?
- 4- How God created the world? Does God has a tools?
- 5- Why does God say "let us make man in our image" in verse 26?
- 6- Why does it mix the plural pronoun with the singular subject?
- 7- What is God's image? Is it something physical?
- 8- What does it mean that man and woman are created in the image of God?
- 9- What gifts has God given you that enable you to create?

Basic Christianity Lesson 2

Before we move to the next chapter let me give you some of the answers from last two weeks: One of these questions: Who is God? Why did He create the universe?.

Here are some of these answers:

In the beginning, the bible speaks of a perfect God creating everything. He created man, and man was created in god's image (Gen.1:27). Man was like God in that he was created free from defect. Thus, man and God enjoyed perfect relationship.

We found out that God revealed Himself through the creation and the creation of the universe tells us things about Himself in Genesis one like:

"He is a creator, eternal, perfectly intelligent, wise, powerful, relational, communicator, good, love, the final authority over His creation, He created man (male and female) in His image. God gave man responsibilities over the creation. God gave man a privilege over everything. God call man to enjoy the 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)”

God is One and only One, but he eternally exists in tri-unity. This is a mystery, but to those who will, by faith, accept God in His great revelation to man, the Holy Bible declares that the mystery become a reality.

We cannot know God fully, but He has shown us something of Himself and this something can be describes in His Word. Most people and religions are often confused by what they think Christians believe. In the Bible the one and true God reveals Himself. We recognize that we are creatures and must depend on what He shows and tells us about Himself. He revealed Himself through the creation, His word and Holy Spirit.

How far can we go in our understanding of the trinity? We can understand that God is a personal triune being but we cannot fully comprehend how he is a triune being. We have enough to relate to Him that is not mean we have understand everything about Him. We know enough to respond in faith and worship Him. The same question we could ask how far can we go and explaining love between a man and woman? Between parents and children? We understand partially but not exhaustively and sufficiently to accept the reality.

Lesson 3

Read: Genesis 2:1-25

We will divide the teaching into 2 sessions:

This week Genesis 2:1- 14 and the next week Genesis 2:15-25

Introduction: Many scholars suggest that verse 4a a summarizes the creation account in 1:1-2:3 The creation account in 2:4b-25 is a detailed review of the creation story as it relates to humanity

1- Why did God decide to rest on the seventh day? V.1-3

2- When you complete a job or project, what do you usually do?

3- Why God prepared perfect world for man V.4-6? Or Why does God provide the first man with a paradise on earth?

4- What do this chapter Gen. 2:7- 14 teach about our original nature and character? Our purpose and tasks? Our likeness to God?

5- 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

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

7- What is the significant about the tree of life? what it is symbolized?

8- How many types of trees were there? What did this show about God?

Basic Christianity

Lesson 4

Introduction: In Genesis 1 we see that God revealed Himself through creation and the creation of the world tells us things about Him. In Hebrew 11:6 “And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him”

In Genesis 2 If we have a picture of just one scene in this story, we would 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 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 communicate with man.

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

“It is not good...to be alone.” V18

V. 21 “So the Lord God caused the man to fall into deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took on 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”.

- 1- If God perfectly intelligent and 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**
- 2- Why did God only start with one man? Why didn't He make a group of them in the beginning?**
- 3- Why did God place the tree of knowledge of good and evil into beautiful garden and tell them not to eat from it (2:9,17; see3:6)?**
- 4- How do you define "helper"V.18? Does "helper" sound like a lesser person? An equal person? A greater person?**
- 5- How did Adam come up with all the names for the animals? 1:28; 2:19-20**
- 6- What is significant about God creating "woman" last? V. 21-23**
- 7- Why didn't God make and Eve at the same time?**
- 8- What does it means: that Adam and Eve were "naked and they felt no shame"? V.25**
- 9- Does anything shows the value of the human being?**
- 10- What about God's love and purpose for the family?**

What did the bible says about marriage?

Gen. 2:18-24 Marriage God's idea

Gen.24:58-60 Commitment is necessary to succeed in your marriage

Gen. 29:18/ Eph. 5:22-33 Love is important/ example Christ and his church

Mat. 5:32 trust combine/ unfaithfulness destroy marriage

Mat. 19:6 Marriage design to be fruitful

Rom. 7:2-3 only death can separate marriage

Heb. 13:4 Marriage should be good and honored

Eph. 5:23-24, 32 marriage must established on Christ in order to continue and succeed

Lesson 5

The purpose of the next two lessons is to explain the origin and effects of personal sin, before we talk about Christmas, Jesus's coming to our world.

First must we realize the holiness of God, that in Him is no sin at all. We must also recognize that as a fallen human being, we ourselves (individuals or group) can do absolutely nothing to make ourselves acceptable to or gain acceptance of God. In our study we want to make it clear distinction of what sin is and what it had done to us.

In Genesis three, I will present you with a number of challenges: The fall of man, a talking serpent, strange fruit trees, naked (yet unashamed) people, the concept of sacrifice, the first of God's many wonderful prophecies, and the first record of death (both animal and human).

Introduction: We learned many things from the last three sessions:

1- Some things about God-He is:

Eternal and Supreme (sovereign), Perfectly powerful, intelligent, and present everywhere. Personal Creator and Communicator. Completely independent of His creation. Loving and caring and good. He is Holy.

2- Some things about the World-It is:

Orderly in design and purpose (by God creating it), Originally made very good, Like we observe today: "according to its kinds"

3- Something about Man-He is:

Made in God's image (likeness). He has personality which includes mind, emotions, will. Made male and female. Made to live in harmony within marriage. Given perfect freedom with only one prohibition-not eat from the Tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil (if they disobeyed, death would result and evil will entered them).

Now Genesis three is the beginning of evil:

first, We will start this lesson with a little inserted information summarizing the presence of spiritual realities, including angels and demons, Satan and Hell or the lake of Fire, and how they are involved in the events of this lesson.

Read Genesis 3: 1-7

Taken at face value, a talking serpent sounds quite unbelievable. But when you realize who actually was doing the talking (Satan), it doesn't seem so strange. In other places in the Bible (it is not recorded here) God says the He created angels (spiritual servant beings). One particular angel had authority over the others and his name was Lucifer. Lucifer wanted to be like God so he rebelled against Him. Many of God's angels joined in the rebellion. Since they rebelled against God they were no longer fit to stay in heaven with God. God is perfect and will not tolerate evil in his home. Since God is all wise and knowing, He prepare a place of eternal punishment called the Lake of Fire (sometimes called "Hell") for Lucifer and his followers. Therefore 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.

1- Who is the Serpent? What does it represent?

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

2- 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).

3- 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.

4- Why did God test Adam in this way? Gen. 2:16-17 And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die”.

5- 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 break God’s heart. God knew what Satan planned, but Adam and Eve knew nothing about evil.

What was Satan’s strategy? V.1,3,6

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

6- What attracted Eve to the sin? V.6

1John 2:15

7- Why do you think Adam eats the fruit? Could he have resisted? What should he have done?

Lesson 6

Introduction:

Why do we need Jesus? Jesus said, *I have come that they might have life and might have it more abundantly John 10:10*

As it is written “*there is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God*” Rom. 3:9-10

In the beginning, the Bible speaks of a perfect God creating everything good. He created man and man was created in God’s own image Gen 1:27. Man was like God in that he was created free from defect. Man and God enjoy perfect relationship in the Garden of Eden.

Because man was in the image of God, he had a will, and the freedom to choose. God planted millions of trees for Adam and Eve but he forbade them to eat from one tree” the tree of knowledge and of good and evil”.

Gen. 2:16-17 And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die”

Adam and Eve disobeyed this command and in their free will have chosen to do their way as opposed to God’s way. Now not only Adam and Eve sinned against God’s will.

The Bible says that every person has done this, *We all like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way. Isaiah. 53:6*

The term the Bible uses for choosing one's own way over God's is "sin" (disobedient). This is what separate man from God.

Your sins have hidden his face from you so that he will not hear Is. 59:2. Romans 6:23 says "the wages of sin death".

The result of our sin are death, destroy relationships with God, to with another and with nature. Fear and curse entered, pain and suffering we experience. Hate and killing spread all over the world etc.

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

Read Genesis 3:7-24

1- Why didn't God destroy the serpent immediately?

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

3- After Adam and Eve disobeyed God, why did they then realize that they were naked and his from God? V.7 a

4- it seems to me that God killed the wrong animal (the lamp instead of the serpent). Why do you think, God covered them with skin? V.21 wasn't the fig leaves enough? 2:25; 3:7b; Mark 11:12-25

In verses 21 and 24 we can see threads of God's plan to repair the breaks in community so God closes Adam and Eve with sacrifices.

5- How do you define sin and its consequences?

6- Why did God deliver his judgments?

7- If Jesus is the promised tree of life, what does that mean to us as sinners? V. 22-24 and where in this story do you find any good news? V.15

A- Rev. 2:7; John 3:16,36; 10:10, 1John 5:12

b- Enmity between woman's offspring and Satan Galatians4:4; Heb. 2:14

the seed of the serpent is the devil

the seed of the woman is a coming future person who save from sin, we will call him the promise one, savior promise.

What did Jesus come to do? *Let's discover that in the second lesson!*

Lesson 7

Salvation in the Old Testament

Introduction

The Problem:

There are many serious problems in life, and men search diligently for solutions. Cancer/research. AIDS. Poverty. War.

We know that biggest problem or disease is sin. It destroy life. It separates us from one another. From God. If there is no solution, sin will lead us into Hell for eternity. Most urgent: find solution to problem of sin.

Man's solutions: religions, self-abuse, charity, cleaning, meditation. none of these work. So what is the answer?

Work verses Faith

Read and comment: Ps. 14:3; 143:2; Ecc. 7:20. All have sinned and are guilty before God

Read and comment: Is. 59:2; Ez. 18:20a. Sin is serious; separates man from God.
Q: So where does justification or forgiveness come from? Is religion or works or law-keeping the solution? (Gal.2:1 6). We may want to do good. But that does not take away our guilt in the eyes of God.

So how can man be justified, reconciled to God? The answer to this question is the most precious truth in the whole life of man.
In OT, answer has two parts: sin offering in the O.T & the promise One (coming).

A. This week will talk about Sin Offering Genesis 4:1-16 **Read Gen. 3:9,15, 21-24 Genesis 4:1-16**

What is God's response to devil and sin? Gen. 3:9,15, 21-24

We can see four things of God's plan to repair the breaks in community.

- 1- Divine initiative to seek them out. Where are you? Gen. 3:9
- 2- God's response to devil: The promise One (the seed) will come and destroy you. Gen. 3:15, Gal.4:4, Heb. 2:14
- 3- God's response to sin: God closes Adam and Eve with garments of skin, cover their nakedness death of an animals (Is. 61:10) Gen. 3:21
- 4- God putting them out of the garden and keeping them from the tree of life Gen. 3:22-24

I- Why do you think God rejects Cain's sacrifice and accept Abel sacrifice?

II- How do we know that offerings of Cain were sin offering? Gen. 4:3-5

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

IV- What was the conversation between God and Cain? What does it show about God?

What was God's commandments to his people in the Old Testaments regarding the offerings (Sacrifices)?

Lev.1-16:1 1,15-19,29-34; 17:11; Heb.9:22

0 Key Points: guilt of all; mercy of God; sacrifice / blood I substitution=atonement.

Atonement by blood of special lamb: Ex.12:5-7, 21-24

If a person doesn't believe these things, but rather depends on religion/works, it is the most dangerous mistake in life.

Personal Offerings:

- 1- The burnt offering Lev. 1:1-14 (Offering made by fire, an aroma pleasing to the Lord, special for priest)
- 2- The grain offering: Lev. 2 (burn it as a memorial portion on the altar, an aroma pleasing to the Lord)
- 3- The fellowship offering 3: 1-5; 7:11-21 (an expression of thankfulness)
- 4- The sin offering lev. 4-5 (un-intentionally sin. In this way the priest will make atonement for him and he will be forgiven)
- 5- Purification after childbirth Lev. 12:1-8
- 6- Punishment for sin Lev. 20:10; Num. 15:35 (must be put to death)

General offerings: Numbers 28-29, 19

- 1- Daily offerings Num. 28:1-3 (two lamb a year old without defect, as a regular burnt offering each day.)
- 2- Sabbath offerings V. 9-10
- 3- Monthly offerings V. 11-15 (on the first of every month)
- 4- The passover offerings V. 16-25 (on the 14 day of the first month the Lord's passover is to be held)
- 5- Feast of weeks offerings V. 26-29 (on the day of first fruits, when you present to the Lord an offering of new grain during the feast of weeks, hold a sacred assembly and do no regular work)
- 6- Feast of trumpets offerings Num. 29:1-6 (on the first day of the seventh month)
- 7- Day of atonement offerings Num. 29:7-11
- 8- Feast of tabernacles offerings Num. 12-40
- 9- Red heifer offering Num. 19:1-10 (This is a requirement of the law, it is for purification from sin)

Summary

Every human being sins, and is therefore guilty before God.

Man's own efforts, inc. religious works, aren't enough (e.g. mosque prayer, fasting, zakat, etc.)

The only solution is God's solution: sacrifice, blood, substitution (these three things are the channel for the mercy of God). One word sums up these three things: ATONEMENT.

Centuries before Christ came, the prophets foretold of the Messiah who would come, and who would accomplish perfect atonement by his own suffering and death on our behalf.

Lesson 8

This lesson has two parts:

1- Jesus and Isaac

2- who is Jesus? Chapter one of John

Introduction:

In this bible study we are going to see an event and a good picture about salvation by faith in the Old Testament through the life of Abraham and his son Isaac.

Also we are going to see another important issue in how God was going to begin spreading the good news about the promise one to the nations who rejected to believe.

Read Genesis 6:1-12

Q- observation: what God' attitude about the situation and who was the son of God?

Verses 1 and 2 marriage was being beautiful and dishonored; sin became a common thing. God was faithfully reminding of His mercy through the promise one and judgment if they rejected him like Cain (for their obedience). Men's mind were completely wicked.

People's sin caused God grief and pain. God's judgment is always correct. He makes no mistakes

Violence filled the earth. Sin was completely wide spread. Devil was behind this evil

Abraham's story: This story happens around 2000 B.C., after God created the many culture groups by giving them different languages to speak. The man his name was Abram, it was later changed to Abraham. He lived by faith, God chose Abram because He knew he would listen to Him and obey. Abraham was important ancestor of the promised One, and is highly regarded by jews, Christians and Muslims throughout the world today.

In Genesis 11, 12 God's plan to Abram was to have him leave his country and family who worshiped idols and become a blessing to whole nations because God is going to bless him. He called him to other land, and gave him promises. Abram trusted God and came to the place that God wants him to be. *So he became an international just like you!*

Genesis 17 God made a promise to Abram, He will give him a son "promise seed" not by adoption but by faith and not by means or by Hagar but by Sara. Abraham's name change to Abraham. From "exalted father" to "father of a multitude" or "father of nations".

By the time we reach Genesis 21, 25 more years have passed. Abraham 75 years old when he received the first promise from God. Abraham waited 25 years before God gave him Isaac. That makes Abraham 100 years old and Sarah his wife is 90! And they are still childless.

Chapter 21 Isaac born: Verse 1-2 but God is faithful and completely powerful. See what He does? It was completely impossible for them to have children naturally. But He always makes good on His promises. Nothing is too hard for Him. God tested Abraham's faith when He told him to sacrifice. He was blessed accordingly when he passed the test.

V. 3 Abraham names his son "Isaac" which means laughter. They were happy to have a son of their own. He brought them great joy. It was impossible for them to have children naturally. But God always makes good on His promises. Nothing is too hard for God. God named him "Isaac" means "laughter". Isaac was the pride and joy for his father Abraham.

Read: Genesis 22:1-14 is shocking!

Q- What is God asking of Abraham? Have you ever felt tested by God? How did you respond?

God asked Abraham to offer his son who loved sacrifice to God. 17 years old, was a young teenager. Sacrifice his son, kill his only son! How then would Abraham become the father of a great nation 12:2? How then would the promises One be one of his descendants 12:3? God was tested Abraham.

Q- Why did Abraham have to sacrifice the innocent ram on the mountaintop?

God first told Abraham to sacrifice Isaac on top of the mountain, but the fact that it was Isaac was simply a test V.1 God did, however, want Abraham to make a sacrifice. That is why He provided the ram. Remember the divine pattern which began in the garden of Eden? The first innocent animal(s) died to cover/ clothe Adam and Eve. Then we saw Abel making the same kind of sacrifice, offering the firstborn of his flocks. Next we see Noah doing the same thing after the flood when he thanked God for protection. And now we see Abraham following the same tradition, which began with God Himself in Chapter 15,17 and 22. God must be approached with a sacrifice which pictures two things: The man's sinfulness brings death, and that God would send an innocent substitute (like the animal) to defeat death and evil, even though accomplishing this victory would be a painful ordeal, like the death of the animal.

Q- How do you think Abraham was responded for God's calling?

V.3-5 Obey, He got up the next morning to obey. He did not question God.

Prepare everything for sacrifice. Abraham really believed God! He really trusted that God would work this thing out.

Q- Do you think Abraham would actually have killed Isaac? V. 5, 8-10 and why Hebrew 11:8-19

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.

Q- Why does God wait until the last second to stop Abraham.

To test his faith

Abraham faith: Is it God ability to provide a sacrificial animal? V.8

Is it in God's ability to overcome death? V.5

Q- What do you think did Isaac felt as he walked with his father?

A confusion, childlike trust his father

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

Q- What do you think are the common things 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 the son Matthew 3:16-17

The two sons are related to the promise 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) to die on John 19:17

The two sons trusted their father obeyed did their will Matt. 26:39/ John 19:30/ Luke 23:46

The two sons face death

The two sons experienced resurrection

The two sons got the power and the promises

Summary:

Ge. 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 provided the ram.

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

The Salvation of Christ We owe our forgiveness and reconciliation chiefly to the death of Christ, 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 brought out of exile and reconciled to God; we can be born again; receive a new nature and be set free from our moral bondage; and we can have the old discords replaced by a fellowship of love. 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. The supreme importance of the cross which the Old Testament foretold and through the story of Isaac.

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.

Q- What is the meaning of the cross?

Jesus offered himself a sacrifice to all human being. 1Cor 5:7,8 Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast-as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Therefore let us keep the festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with bread of sincerity and truth.

1-Christ died as our example. The cross bids us accept injury, love our enemies and leave the outcome to God. We need more than an example . We need a savior. An example can stir our imagination, kindle our idealism and strengthen our resolve, but it cannot cleanse the defilement of our past sins, bring peace to our troubled conscience or reconcile us to God.

2-Christ died as our sin bearer. He suffered for our sins and He did it 'once for all', decisively, so that what He did cannot be repeated or improved upon or even supplemented.

1Peter1:19-21 With the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

Lesson 9

Who Is Jesus?

Read: Gospel John chapter one verses 1- 34

Introduction:

Through the latest study we discovered that; man is sinful and guilty. No solution to this except one: atonement. sacrifice, blood and substitution.

The animal sacrifices in O.T. among Sons of Israel were temporary; merely a picture or symbol of something better: the coming Messiah, to be ultimate sacrifice (sacrifice, blood, and substitution). Prophesied centuries before.

Heb.9:11-14, 27-28

Man, by himself, cannot remove his sin and guilt (not by religion or works). Only through God's provision of atonement.

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.)

Today just a brief introduction to Christ (cannot be comprehensive in one study). That is why?

We need to spend more than one lesson to study and discover who is Jesus?

My prayer to you that by God's help and revelation know him!

We don't just study about Christ. But know him personally. You may only know a little

Theology". But hopefully you have already experienced the personal relationship with Christ. [if believers]

God has acted. Christianity is a religion of salvation, and relationships, and there is nothing in the non-Christian religions to compare with this message of a God who loved, and came after, and died for, a world of lost sinners. In order to understand Jesus. My prayer while we are studying these lessons to be opened to the Holy Spirit and ask God's help and grace to come to your heart and reveal Jesus to you. As Peter did in **Matthew 16:13-17** *when Jesus asked his disciples who do you say I am? Simon Peter answered, "you are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "blessed are you Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but my Father in heaven.*

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

Observations?

Q2- What facts about the Word can you find in verses 1-2 and 14?

- Word (essential communication from God to man; all logic; all knowledge and wisdom)
- From beginning (without beginning; from eternity past; Alpha and Omega)
- God (don't try to fully understand deity of Christ now. Too hard. Fully man and fully God). Bible teaches one God, not three.
- How "with God" and at same time "God"? (e.g. How can a person be sitting next to the bus driver, and at the same time be the bus driver?)
- Whole creation made through Him.

Q3: Read Colossians 1:15-20 What is Christ's role creation? And how does genesis help you appreciate the nature and work of Christ?

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

He lived sinless by his own power. Even though he had all the natural human feelings, thirst, hunger, pain, tired, the need to sleep (Matt.4:2 , John 4:7, 8:23, Luke 8:23).

His soul was equal to the souls of the entire people because he is the perfect one.

Despite that, he was a real human just like us. (Hebrew 2:14) and (Luke 24: 36-39).

But even though he was a real human, His soul belonged to himself. (John 10:18)

He had the ability to put real spiritual life in humans, for he said about His flock: I will give it eternal life and it will never perish (John 10: 28).

In addition to all the above, He was God Himself, and he was an atonement to the sins of all human beings: He had to die, was crucified on the cross to fulfill God's justice and became the great sacrifice, for an innocent blood had to be shed. (John 1:29), (Romans 5:12-21), and (Acts 4:2).

Jesus said: I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except through me (John 6:4).

Verses 6-8

Q4: What was John the Baptist's role? His purpose in life? V.22-23; 26-27?

[To prepare the people for Jesus's coming; mainly by calling them to repentance. Guiding them to the real light]

Q5: What fails to comprehend the light?

Light is a symbol of hope.

-Illustration: Russell tells of a neighbor who kept the Christmas lights on past the holidays, well into February. He was annoyed and thought them lazy, but he later found out they'd left the lights in anticipation of their son's return from Vietnam.

People in darkness—a dark cave, a life raft on the ocean, are delighted to see a light.

Jesus said, "I have come into the world as a light . . ."

Isaiah 9:2 says, "The people walking in darkness have seen a light."

Jesus attracted attention at his birth through the use of 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.

Jesus attracted attention, as an adult, like a light does.

Jesus said, "If I be lifted up, I will draw all men to me."

Jesus gives direction, just as an airport beacon, lighthouse, or highway reflective marker does; his Holy Spirit and His Word serve as a light to guide us.

Light is always more powerful than darkness.

Jesus came into a spiritually dark world.

Once we walk in light, we're never content to walk in darkness again.

Darkness conceals reality, but light exposes it.

If you're trying to conceal secret sin, you don't want the light of Christ.

Reality is there's no hope in this dark world apart from the light of Jesus Christ.

Illustration: Christ is the Greater Light: *"I heard about a man sitting before a fireplace lost in thought. The drapes had been closed and the room was dark except for the flickering light of the dying fire. Finally the flames themselves disappeared, leaving nothing but a heap of gray ashes topped with glowing embers. One burning coal stood out brilliantly from all the rest because it was white hot. The man's gaze was transfixed upon it. Suddenly that brilliant white-hot coal turned completely black. The man was startled. What had caused the instant change? As he looked around, he noticed that the drapes had parted slightly and a shaft of brilliant sunlight had*

shot into the study and landed directly on the burning coal. The greater light had made the lesser light look black by comparison”.

That is what Christ demands of us. Our love and devotion for Him must be so complete that the deepest love we have for our dearest loved one fades in comparison.

Verses 9-13 (read)

Q6: How would you explain what faith is about?

whole world made through him

11-12 most didn't/don't receive Christ. But those who do become children of God (not physically, but spiritually).

Receive/believe. That's what God wants you to do. [Two sides of the same coin.]

Q7: From this passage, how can a person come to know God?

Verses 15-18 (read)

•Compare V.17 (Moses vs. Jesus)

Q8: How one full of grace and truth treat others?

Q9: Are you keeping Jesus at the door of your heart? Incertain rooms? Why? Or have you received him as savior and Lord?

Jesus as Lord (CONCLUSION)

•Jn.9:35-38 (First explain Jesus healed blind man. Jews found out, and kicked man out of synagogue. Read)

•Jesus worthy of worship (not merely man, but God)

•Jesus worthy of obedience ("Lord")

•When we receive Christ, we are taking him as savior, and also Lord. Means intending to obey him as best we can (means we don't necessarily act as we think, but as He taught. Examples? moral things, love, honesty, being right with others)

•Pray prayer of belief and acceptance of Christ as Savior and Lord (with students repeating).

Through Jesus Christ the savior we can be brought out of exile and reconciled to God; we can be born again; receive a new nature and be set free from our moral bondage; and we can have the old discords replaced by a fellowship of love. We must consider the Centrality of the cross: When Jesus came, he knew himself to be a son of destiny. He recognized that the Word of God were bearing witness to Him and that it was in Him that their expectation was to be fulfilled.

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

Lesson 10

Jesus' birth and names

Introduction: 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.)

Today just a brief introduction to Christ (cannot be comprehensive in one study). That is why? We need to spend more than one lesson to study as I told you before and discover who is Jesus?

My prayer to you that by God's help and revelation you might know Him! We don't just study about Christ. But know him personally. You may only know a little "Theology". But hopefully you have already experienced the personal relationship with Christ. [if believers]

Christology is the theological interpretation of the person and work of Jesus Christ. In this study lesson, we will be looking primarily at the person of Christ. His birth and his names, Jesus, and at his being Lord, Messiah (Christ), and God's eternal and only true Son.

Birth day of Jesus is a great occasion to all Christians and non Christians. The birth of Jesus means "Christmas".

Christmas is a world holiday celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. Although it is a religious holiday, many modern customs and practices are associated with it.

In whole world we know it is a time of family togetherness and gift sharing/ exchanging that is stimulated by love. Good food and fancy clothes dress for Christmas, Christmas trees

Q1. What are the traditions and memories of Christmas in your country, if you have any?

Q2. What have you observed about Christmas in America?

Q3. When you hear the word Christmas what are the first three things come to your mind?

Q4. Where is Jesus in all that?

Some explanation:

Christmas: Comes from the early English Phrase, Christes Masse, meaning “Christ mass,” Christ celebration or feast. Another name for the season used by other churches and Christians is “Advent” meaning “coming” or “arrival.”

Xmas: The abbreviation “Xmas” comes from the Greek letter chi (X) which begins Christ’s name in Greek Christos. Mas, means celebration or festival

So we are celebrating “Christ” the birth of Christ.

The background and birth of Jesus can be found in the Bible, in the New Testament books of Matthew (Chapters 1-2) and Luke (chapter 2). These two books, along with Mark and John, are called Gospels, meaning “good news”.

So we are also celebrating the good news of Jesus Christ!

Q5. How did you (or would you) prepare and celebrate the birth of your first child? Compare it with God’s preparation and celebration for his child? Read: Matthew 1:26-38; Luke 2:1-20

God was excited about Jesus birth. And thus, he prepared the way for him to be born.

1- God prepared the way for Jesus birth “Political, Economical and Military”

Unity in the kingdom, They opened the roads. It was easy to travel with the message to whole nations at that time.

“Magi came from Iran and entered Israel without visas”

2-God prepared the way for Jesus’ birth “intellectual, linguistic, mentally , Ideological and religious”

The people were ready at that time to understand the truth and prophecies. This does not mean that they were ready to receive the truth. They were prepared to receive the revelations about the birth of Jesus, and who ever believed in the Messiah will be saved.

3- God prepared the nations for Jesus’ birth “the nation of Israel and the gentiles”

God prepared priest Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth

God prepared John the Baptist (Luke 1:8,67) to prepare the way for Jesus ministry.

God prepared Joseph and Mary (Luke 1:26)

God prepared the Shepherds (2:8-20)

God prepared the Magi that come from the East-they were studying the stars, and wise.

God prepared Simeon, he was waiting for the consolation of Israel (Luke 2:25)

God prepared prophetess Anna (Luke 2:36)

God prepared the angels- They were singing and rejoicing

Q6. What biblical characters make up Christmas?

Lesson 11

I. How many names for Jesus do you find in this story?

First, the name “Jesus” *V.21 She will give him name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.*

Do not be afraid Mary you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. Luke 1:30-31

salvation come to humanity by the birth of Jesus

Jesus is not basically a title but a name!

Mary's child would be called Jesus, a name that meant He would be the Savior. The title “Savior”? was one that belonged to God alone. Given from heaven, Great in history. The Hebrew name “Joshua” or “Yeshua” which is translated as Jesus means the “Lord saves,” His name shall be Jesus because he will save his people from their sins.

Jesus revealed the meaning of his own title. The literal meaning of Jesus is “he helps” or he saves” the whole plan of salvation is hidden in the name of Jesus, at which Satan trembles.

Some times we put in our church with a large signs at the top of the building. Travelers can see the sign from miles around. The sign reads, “Jesus Saves.” Sometimes people who have seen this sign shining brightly over our churches or cities have asked, “?Jesus saves from what?”

The answer is a simple one. Jesus saves from sin. Jesus didn't come to leave us hopelessly bound in our sins. Jesus came to cleanse us from sin, forgive us, and to deliver us from its power in our lives. Jesus truly is a WONDERFUL Savior. If you don't believe that you are sinner so you don't need Jesus. May be you can save yourself. And you have power to help yourself out.

Second, his name “Emmanuel”

God called Him Emmanuel Which means “God is with us” (Matthew 1:23).**by the birth of Jesus, God has dwelled among humanity**

Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign, the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel.

In Matthew 1:23. The virgin will be with child, and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Emmanuel which mean God is with us.

Emmanuel is a title, a description of who Jesus is. There are two very wonderful truths that are wrapped up in this title:

1- Jesus is God. Jesus Christ claimed to be God,

He called God (John 1:1,18). He was flesh and blood but He was God

V. 1 In the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the word was God.

V.18 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.

Jesus claimed in his ministry, *I and the father are oneJn 10:30*

2- Jesus is God with us in salvation, in trial, in our service, in sorrow and in eternity.

Love has been/is being demonstrated by the birth of Immanuel

John 3:16 God so loved the world so much that He gave His One and Only Son. Anyone who believes in Him will not die but will have eternal life.....

Also his name Son of the “Most High”/ “Son of God”: (Luke 1:35) Jesus is the Son of God from a spiritual point of view not a physical one. We call him Son of God simply because he came from God.

Luke 1: 35 The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the “Son of God”. He is not a Son of God but we call him the Son of God because he came from the Spirit of God.

There is one logic illustration you might know: In Arabic, the Phrase “Son of...” is used to signify where one is from. For instance I am from Lebanon, and am often called “ Son of Lebanon. One could also be called “Son of Education”, meaning that he is a very, very well-educated person. In the same way, Christ is called “Son of God” because He came from the Spirit of God.

Third, his name “Christ”

By the birth of Jesus, God fulfilled the old testament.

Today in the town of David a savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11

Messiah comes from the Hebrew word that mean the “chosen one” or “anointed one.” Anointing was done by putting oil on someone’s head to show that person was chosen for a special duty. Anointing was also considered to be a sign that God’s power had come upon the person. Jesus introduced himself as the “Anointed One” when he read aloud in the synagogue in Nazareth. (*Luke 4:18,19 and Isaiah 61:1-2*). *The Spirit of God is on me, because he has anointed me to preach the good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners, and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.*

Deepest thought:

1- When, have (like ancient people) you felt threatened by the name of Jesus? How did you react?

2- What do you think of Jesus and his birth now?

3- How would you describe your relationship with Jesus Christ now?

4- Personally, Which of these name of Jesus are you comfortable with? Or close to?

5- If you were to share Jesus' name with someone, which name would you chose?

Verses to memorize:

Philippians 2:9-11

Wherefore God exalted him, to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name:

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth; And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ [is] Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Summary:

Jesus is naturally known under many names and titles, including the following:

JESUS. The Hebrew yeshua' or yehoshua', meaning "Jehovah saves," is transliterated into English as the name Joshua. In Greek, it became Iesous, thence Iesus in Latin and Jesus in English. Since Jesus was actually Jehovah performing saving work, his name yeshua', "Jehovah saves."

MESSIAH. This title comes from the Hebrew meshiach, "anointed one." Among the Israelites, prophets, priests and kings were anointed, designating them as rightful successors. Commonly, "messiah" referred to a figure awaited by Israel to be her king. Applied to Jesus, the title retains its full sense of "anointed" prophet, priest, and king.

CHRIST. Greek for Messiah (anointed one) is Christos, Christ in English. Thus, "Jesus Christ" joins a name and a title, and means Jesus the Messiah.

SON OF GOD. Jesus was not the son of any mortal man. His biological father was God, the Father. As Son of God, Jesus represents the Father and acts as his agent in all things.

SON OF MAN. From his mother Jesus inherited mortality. Hebrew ben 'adam denotes "a son of Adam," that is, any mortal man (Dan. 8:17). Thus, as a son of Adam, Jesus represents Adam's children, acting as their agent with the Father. As both Son of God and Son of Man, Jesus stands between God and man as mediator.

SON OF DAVID. Jews expected the Messiah to belong to David's lineage. Prophets had foretold that a son (descendant) of David would restore Israel's kingdom to its former zenith (see Isa. 11:1-9; Jer. 23:5-6). According to Matthew 1:1-16, Jesus was descended from David. "Son of David" refers particularly to Jesus' messiahship in its political aspect as Davidic king.

JEHOVAH. Latter-day Saints believe that Jesus was Jehovah himself, God of Israel, not son of Jehovah (Isa. 41:14; 43:11, 14; Mosiah 3:5; 3 Ne. 11:14; 15:5). The name Jehovah vocalized thus is not found in ancient texts, but is a modern convention. In ancient times, the Hebrew text had no vowels; thus the consonants in God's name were yhw. Jews avoided pronouncing these

consonants when reading aloud, substituting 'adonai, a word meaning "the Lord." Following this practice, King James translators usually rendered yhwh as "the Lord." In medieval Hebrew texts, the vowels from 'adonai were added to the consonants yhwh to remind Jewish readers to say "'adonai." English translators adopted this convention, creating the artificial form "Jehovah." Latter-day Saints accept Jehovah as a name for the premortal Christ because this is the common English form for yhwh.

EMMANUEL. Since Jesus was the ancient El, the angel (Matt. 1:23) correctly called his name Emmanuel (Hebrew, 'immanu'el), meaning El (god) with us.

THE LORD. Since Jews uttered 'adonai (Lord) instead of the divine name, the Greek Bible (c. 200 B.C.) usually translated yhwh as ho kurios, "the Lord." Thus, "the Lord," whether 'adonai or kurios, equaled "Jehovah." Not surprisingly, "the Lord" is Jesus' most common title in the New Testament. The confession of the early Church, "Jesus is Lord" could only mean Jesus is Jehovah.

I AM. In Exodus 3:14, Jehovah (Jesus Christ) identified himself as "I AM," perhaps affirming Jesus as the creator who exists independently of his creation. Scholars see connections between this Old Testament title and Jesus' many "I Am" statements in the New Testament, for example, "I Am the good Shepherd" (John 10:11, 14), or "Before Abraham was I Am" (John 8:58).

SAVIOR. The most sublime of titles, Savior underscores Jesus' role in the divine plan. Both Old and New Testaments specify that the Savior is God (Isa. 45:21-23; Luke 1:47; etc.). Through agony and death suffered for others, Jesus is able to erase imperfections and bestow worthiness, on condition of repentance. Since imperfect beings cannot reside in God's presence (D&C 1:31), Jesus saves believers from their imperfection, their sins, and their worst selves. (See also, above, the definition of his name, "Jesus.")

THE WORD. As words carry the thoughts of one mind to the minds of others, so Jesus communicates the mind and will of the Father to mortals. Moreover, as words are agents for expression, so from the beginning (John 1:1-3) Jesus is the agent for expressing and accomplishing the Father's will. Christ is both the messenger and the message.

ALPHA AND OMEGA. Equivalent to the Old Testament term "the first and the last" (e.g., Isa. 44:6), alpha and omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. Just as no letters stand before alpha or after omega, so there are no other gods in this creation other than that represented in Jesus Christ. He encompasses all, from beginning to end; he extends beyond all extremities and categories.

ONLY BEGOTTEN. Jesus Christ is the only being begotten by the Father in mortality. His full title is "the Only Begotten of the Father in the flesh." Since Mormons believe all humans were spiritually begotten by the Father before creation, "Only Begotten" is understood as being limited to mortality.

LAMB OF GOD. In the first Passover, a slain lamb's blood was daubed on Israelites' houses to avert the destroyer. In the New Testament, Jesus is understood as a Passover lamb supplied by God, and Passover stands as a type for the death of Jesus, the Lamb of God, whose blood,

through baptism and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, protects Christians from the destroyer, Satan. According to Moses 5:6-8, animal sacrifices were to be "a similitude of the sacrifice of the Only Begotten of the Father."

Lesson 12

Jesus and his authority

Purpose of this session #10

To show from incidents in Mark's Gospel that Jesus is a figure of authority.

To challenge believers to trust Jesus and to have authority over their lives

To challenge believers in Jesus to exercise their authority over evil and sin

Introduction: Read Mark chapter 1.

Last week the study was Jesus' incarnation and his names. At the Incarnation the eternal Son of God became man. After identifying the Word of God, John says: "*The Word became flesh, and lived for a while among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth*". Incarnation as an ordinary dictionary says, is "the union of divinity with humanity in Christ". The word is used to indicate the birth of Christ in a manger. But instead we saying "birth" we often say "Incarnation", because Incarnation means more than the birth of a baby. Of the birth of Jesus Christ, Paul tells us, "*But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law. The eternal Son of God became like us*".

If we want to meet Jesus that Mark speaks of, then we have to understand that he is the Lord. This is very unpopular in our kind of society. Advertisements show us people driving onwards and upwards.

For examples: People are saying, "I am God and I'll run my life my way."

In this lesson we are going to learn more about Jesus' authority as Lord.

JESUS HAS AUTHORITY ...

... as a teacher

... over sickness

... over nature

... over death

... to forgive sins

Read out Mark 1:1.

Q1. What does Mark mean when he calls Jesus the 'Son of God?' He uses the term to show that Jesus is a figure with authority. This was an outrageous statement when written in AD 67 because you were meant to worship the Roman emperor. Virgil wrote about the Roman emperors, "They are a new breed of men, come down from heaven." You were meant to prostrate

yourself before the emperor but Mark says that there is another, higher authority that each of us must encounter - the Son of God.

Q2. What was the nature and source of Jesus authority? “Father and Holy Spirit”

Read out verse 2 and 3: "*Prepare the way for the Lord.*" John the Baptist claims that Jesus is Lord and his job was to prepare the way for him.

Q3. What do the context of the quotes (Mal. 3:1; Isa. 40:3) teach about the coming one”?

Q4. V. 10-11 As Jesus came out of the water as he was being baptized, what did the voice from heaven say?

Now we want to look at how Mark portrays Jesus as a man with authority, in numerous ways.

Q5. What two things about Jesus amazed the people?

Q6. What does it mean to teach with authority?

The teachers of the law did not come up with their own material. They quoted from other people, such as the rabbis. But Jesus walks in without a theological education and effectively says, "I say to you on my authority - take it from me." (See Mark 1:21-22).

We then have to ask if he has the power to authenticate his teaching by his own life. And he does. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" (Matthew 5:44) and as he is being crucified he says, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." (Luke 23:34). So there is this correlation between life and lip that is so compelling.

God's laws in the Scripture are wonderful because they are foundations for life - not fences that hem us in.

Q7. Jesus' authority over sickness

Read Mark 2:1-12.

Imagine in your mind: the determination of the man's friends; the difficulty of getting near Jesus because he is always surrounded by people; the ripping of the roof and the lowering of the man down to Jesus. What does Jesus say?: "Get up, take your mat and walk."

That is not something that modern doctors can say. But Jesus, with remarkable authority, speaks a word to a paralyzed man and his bones and muscles are mended and is healed. There are thirty such healings in this Gospel. That is why the crowd is so large. Every ill person in the region knows that this is their one chance. The sick are cured, the deaf hear, the blind see, the lame walk and lepers are cleansed. Furthermore, Jesus' enemies and non-Christian sources such as the historian, Josephus, all acknowledge that he was the doer of wonderful deeds. (*Jewish Antiquities* 18.3.3, para. 63)

Before Jesus entering his ministry. He opened the book of Isaiah 61:1-2 and read: "*The spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach the good news to the poor, He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners, to recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed...*" Luke 4:18

Q8. Why are the teachers so upset? In their minds, how are sin and the authority of God linked (See John9:1-3)

Jesus doesn't have only authority in teaching and over sickness but Jesus has authority to forgive sins

Turn back to Mark 2:8-12 the story of the paralyzed man whom Jesus healed.

Look at what Jesus says to the man before he heals him. "*Son, your sins are forgiven*". The issue here is what does this word 'sin' mean?

It is a religious jargon word. Some time ago the *Independent* newspaper said in an article, "In this day and age sin has lost its sting. A bit of sinning is more likely to be seen as a spot of grown-up naughtiness. The kind of thing that sends a delicious shock through the system."

That's what people think of sin these days. It's not very serious. It's a bit of fun on the side.

We see here that the bible does not view it like that at all. According to the bible, sin is ignoring God in his world and saying, "I will make up the rules about how I live and I will be God." That is what sin is and all of us have done it.

It is very relational and it is saying to the God who made me, "God, get to the fringe of my life and I will decide what I do." Like Frank Sinatra: "I did it my way." It is selfish, pride, disobedient, ugly and ignorance. Every human being sins, and is therefore guilty before God.

Man's own efforts, inc. religious works, aren't enough.

Centuries before Christ came, the prophets foretold of the Messiah who would come, and who would accomplish perfect atonement by his own suffering and death on our behalf.

Look back at Mark 2:6-7.

The teachers of the law don't mind the paralytic being called a sinner but their problem is in verse 7. They are saying, "What right does Jesus have to forgive sin?" To which Mark emphatically answers, "It is the right of God." Jesus has the authority of God, for he is the Son of God (Mark 1:1)

He is not only has authority over teaching, sickness and sin but also the nature.

Jesus wants to show his disciples that he has authority over nature because he is the creator.

Read aloud Mark 4:35-41.

Q9. What was Jesus showing his disciples about himself in all this?

Jesus and his followers are on the Lake of Galilee when a violent storm blows and these hardened fishermen say that they are going to die. In their terror they wake Jesus who is asleep on a cushion and what does Jesus do? He gets up and he says, "Quiet! be still!", and the wind dies down and it is completely calm. Try doing that on a cross-Channel ferry! Who is this man who has authority over nature?

Q10. What is the worst personal "storm" you have faced? How did Jesus help?

Now more further, Jesus' authority over death Read Mark 5:21-24 and 35-43.

Q11. What is Jesus' reaction to the news that the child is dead? Why did Jesus say the child was asleep?

Many people in our culture block death out of their minds because it is such a difficult thing. Death is painful because it severs relationships and loving relationships are hard to come by. In the passage we look at now, we see Jesus confronting death as its master, with total authority over it.

In the passage in Mark 5 which we are about to look at. Now, imagine your feeling of powerlessness as you see a godchild, a nephew or niece, or perhaps your own child, dying.

You have to be pretty sure of your guns to say to a man that has just heard that his little daughter is dead, "Don't be afraid; just believe."!

And later Jesus says, "The child is not dead but asleep." The message is clear. It is as easy for him to raise people from the dead as it is for us to wake people from sleep.

Will you trust Christ with your death? Most of us find death incredibly scary. It's very uncertain. What Jesus is saying here and what he proves by his resurrection is that I can put my hand into his and he can get me through death.

For deepest thought:

1- Is Jesus trustworthy? Is this true about Jesus? Is Mark telling the truth?

2- Can I trust Jesus to have authority over my life? On a scale of 1 to 10, how much authority does Jesus have in your life? What would you have to cast out to rate a 10?

3- Where do you need Jesus special touch this week?

4- How do you react to your faith in Christ?

In the end: For further study about believers authority in Jesus

God's authority committed to those who believe in Jesus Christ.

Moses - Exodus 14:15ff - parting the Red Sea

Elijah - 2 Kings 2:7-8 - parting the water in the Jordan River

Elisha - 2 Kings 6:17,18 - praying blindness upon the enemy

Paul - Acts 13:11 - pronounced blindness upon Elymas, the sorcerer Peter - Acts 5 - pronounced the death of Ananias & Saphirra

The Promise - Acts 1:8 - power from the Holy Spirit

The Testimony - Romans 15:18,19 -

In order to exercise any kind of authority, one must represent a source that is ready and able to back up the represented authority with an adequate reserve of power.

Jesus called his disciples to exercise authority:

Luke 9:1,2,6 - the disciples

Luke 10:19 - the seventy-two

Matthew 28:18-20 & Mark 16:17-20 - all believers

Romans 16:20 - all believers

James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8,9; & Ephesians 6:10-18 - all believers

The condition to exercise authority:

FAITH - rooted in Jesus Christ Authority (Mt 16:16,18,19)

UNITY - of belief and purpose (Mt 18:19)

The condition that resist spiritual authority

Lack of Faith - Mt 17:19-21

A Community of Unbelief - (Prayer group, congregation etc) - Mk 6:4-6

The Practice of Sin - Gal 4:9; Jn 8:34,35

The Tricks of Satan - (Hindered through deception, attacks etc.) - 2 Cor 2:11

Lesson 13

Jesus's final week on earth

Monday:

The Triumph Entry to Jerusalem

Introduction: *"Read John 12:12-19"*

The triumphant entry (into Jerusalem) is the reason for our **Palm Sunday** celebration today. This event stirred up the whole city! ***Matt 21:10** "Who is this?" The crowds answered "this is Jesus, the Prophet from Nazareth in Galilee"*

***Matt.16:13-20** Jesus asked his disciples: Who do people say the Son of Man is? They replied, some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others Jeremiah or one of the Prophets. But about you? He asked who do you say I am? Simon Peter answered you are the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus replied blessed are you Simon son of Jonah for this was not revealed to you by man but by my Father in heaven...*

I will ask you this evening who is Jesus to you?

They were around 2 Millions people in the city from all nations at that time. Most of them want to know who is Jesus?

V. 20-22 There were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the Feast. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee with a request. Sir, they said we would like to see Jesus. Philip went to Andrew. Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus...The gentiles were looking for the Messiah, a savior. How many people today are looking for the Messiah.

In my country, most the people don't understand the meaning of this events "Palm Sunday": people go to church with their children, wear new brightly colored clothes, carry decorated candles and palm and olive branches, that symbolize peace. When we think about Palm Sunday. We think about Jesus' peace.

After returning back home; the people keep these branches after the priest's blessing in order to protect them from the evil eye. Some will burn these branches and use the ashes as incense. Also, they make special cookies and deserts and share them with others. So it turn up to tradition and useless meaning.

Jesus at this time in his life, was 33 years old. He had finished His three year ministry of teaching and healing. The events in this last week of Jesus' life on earth before Jesus died fulfilled 3 important purposes:

First: In this event the triumph entry to Jerusalem: There were Fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies: The Messiah is revealed. He came to save us from our sins.

The crowds praised Jesus, shouting, "**Hosanna! To the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!**" which means **Save us!**"

As the one that the prophets said would come and be their king and Messiah **Zechariah 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey. Ps 24:7-10; 118:26; 2Sam 7:12-14/**

What is the Passover mean?

- The Passover feast, the Jewish holiday remembering their freedom and salvation from the bondage from Egypt at the time of Moses, when God freed His people from slavery in Egypt. **Exodus 12 The animals you choose must be year old males without defect... When all the people of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs.** Sending a plague on the homes where the blood of a spotless lamb was sprinkled on each doorframe.
- On this day Jesus focus their attention to himself that he is the Passover. He is the lamp of God that is going to die and raise up from death to save the nations from their sins. He is the one that brings salvation. He tried to explain to them new covenant. Jesus explained to his disciples that he came to be destroyed for the nations not to destroy the nation. **V. 16 At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that they had done these things to him.**
- Just as Israel was saved from judgment and received its freedom from Egypt in the first Passover by the death of the Lamb, Jesus now says he will save people from God's judgement and they will receive freedom from sin.
- Jesus in the same way, was crucified as the lamb of God, to free the people who believe in Him, from the sin and its consequences which separation from God and eternal death. He is dying there for me in my place for my wrong doing I am free to begin a relationship with Him. Celebrating freedom because he took my sins away
- In the last week Jesus entered Jerusalem knowing exactly why He was there- to fulfill the Old testament. And give opportunity today to make a good choice and accept him as a savior in my life and celebrate the Passover or palm Sunday.

Second Jesus came as an assurance that He is a humble God and king.

God came as a King, but as a gentle, kind and humble one. He came to call people to faith and repentance. He came riding a donkey and not a horse as a sign of peace. **V. 14,15 Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it...**

Most people thought of Him as merely a political or social leader who would deliver them from the Romans who ruled their country at this time. They did not think of Him as God's chosen One who would defeat Satan and free them from sin and eternal separation from God.

Philippians 2:6-8 Who being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped.

but made himself nothing= He emptied self

taking the very nature of a servant

being made in human likeness and being found in appearance as a man he humbled himself and became obedient to death-even death on the cross...

Illustration "an ant": Imagine you created an ant and you love her very much suddenly you saw this ant headed to the fire and you that she is going to die.

You tried to speak to her and communicate you shouted: change your direction because fire in front of you and your gonna die please do it.

To an ant the voice like a thunder storm, lighting. The ant doesn't understand what do you say?

you know for sure your ant is going to die. What do you do? You put your hand in front of her but she climbed and continue her way to death.

This is our situation with God. He sent Prophets, gave us law and told us about himself and our problem etc. but we didn't listen and no solution for us. But

God always has a solution from the beginning my brother and sister. He did a miracle. He became a human being a servant like us speak our language and live the same life tempted in every way just as we are yet was without sin. to tell us that we are going to hell because our sins. We have to change our direction in order to go to heaven.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son that who ever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

What is the point of this? This is how we are to live as Christian, this is marks out as believers. Lay our life and die for others...

Jesus' battle is spiritual not physical: He did not come by the sword:

When they arrested Jesus: **Matt. 26:47- 54**

V.52 put your sword back in its place for all who draw the sword will die by the sword.

Jesus' sword is spiritual/ **take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit which is the word of God. Eph 6:17**

Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword...Mtt10:34. the word of God that will bring division into family

The crowds: These people who like to do pilgrimage trips every year. Who like to see miracles and follow the messenger more than the Holy Spirit. Because at that time many Rabi were doing miracles. The miracles that Jesus did was more powerful than theirs. Jesus raised many from the dead! One of them in the end Lazarus: **John12:17-19 Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. Many people, because they had sign, went out to meet him.**

People of today, who are attending churches, Synagogues, Mosques, and temples go for these reasons: To watch the speakers speaking: to break down the guilt feeling and to feel that they are part of the society. Making business contacts. Making the spouse happy and social reasons or someone invited them individual or public invitation.

The Bible said these people are blind **In Matthew 13:1-17 Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand...** They don't understand the secret of the kingdom of God. They are not able to hear the voice of God and the Holy Spirit.

They are attending church activities and meetings, but always say to you, "It is not the time yet to receive Christ as a savior". They hesitate to make a commitment and the decision to follow Christ.

Most of them were enslaved and they were very troubled from the situation they were living and now they found Jesus and though he could become their earthly king and save them from their troubles. That's why many times they wanted to make him their king but he went away. These are the same people who later when Pilate **Luke 23: 20-21** asked them what to do with Jesus, **they all shouted with one voice Crucify him! Crucify him! And they kept shouting.** They cannot change their direction to face the truth. They like to build relationships with the church community and are open to the servants. When you need them, you cannot find them.

The children were involve also Matt 21:15-16 We should allow our children to meet Jesus in person. **The children shouting in the temple area, Hosanna to the son of David, Do you hear what these children are saying? They asked him yes, replied Jesus have you never read from the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise.**

The religious leaders: **Matthew 27:1,41** (priests, Sadducees and pharisees) **John 12:10-11,19 So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well, for on account of him many of the Jews were going to Jesus and putting their faith in him. V.19 So the Pharisees said to one another, see this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!**

They were looking for praise from people around them. when they saw many people followed Jesus they were jealous. Especially when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, because the Sadducees believed that there is no resurrection after death.

Jesus wants to change their perspective. If you want to be a servant you have to be a humble. **1Peter5:5-7 Young men, in the same way be submissive top those who are older. All of you clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he care for you**

Third He prophesied over Jerusalem and the physical temple: Jerusalem will be destroyed and there will be no peace for her anymore.

Example: There is still fighting over Jerusalem even now. “No peace for the wicked people” said the Lord.

As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, If you, even you had only known on this day what would bring you peace-but now it is hidden from your eyes Luke 19:41-44. Because he was angry at the people’s hardness of heart and grieved by their rejection. He was sad that God’s people failed to recognize God’s coming. Failed to recognize Jesus as their king and Messiah.

Jesus describing the coming and destruction of the city and the temple because did not recognize him as king of Jerusalem and savior. Jesus said about the temple that no one stone will be left standing on one another. In history 70 A.D. Jewish revolt against Romans. Jerusalem and the temple had destroyed by the Roman Empire. See today, some of the stones that left from the physical temple, everyone will be overturned. And those Jews and Christians who were not murdered were scattered to all part of the empire, including Alexandria, Carthage, and Rome. Antioch became the center of Christianity.

What this story could tell us today?

- Every word Jesus said to us would accomplish. Every word had written in the Old and New Testament will be fulfilled.
- This is mark of the end of animal sacrifices because Jesus was the Lamb of God who shed his blood on the cross for the whole world.
- This is mark that Jesus will build another temple. This time a spiritual temple not a physical temple. This temple will be eternal. This will be our life. **1Cor 6:14-18 For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people...**

Conclusion: How did Jesus enter your life?

- He will enter not a knight on a white horse and as a warrior on a chariot and as an authoritative king with a penetrating gaze but he will enter as a humble servant on a colt.
- As he entered the Physical temple and cleans the temple of God and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. He will do that in your life now. He will free you from your sin and guilt and return your life to God. And make your life clean and make you life a house for prayer and holiness for himself.
- **He said my house will be called a house of prayer, but you are making it a “den of robbers”. Matt 21:12-13, Mark 11:15-17; Luke 19:45-46**
- As Jesus entered Jerusalem in a triumphal way humble, savior and king he will enter our life in the same way then you can praise him and shout Hosanna in the highest! **Matthew 11: 28-30 Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.**

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

- Today the message is for the nations, the salvation not only for the Jews only. He entered Jerusalem to open their eyes that his kingdom not a physical but a spiritual. He came for one purpose to give life and eternal life to each one of us. Jesus came to save the nations from their sins

Lesson 14

Tuesday

- 1- Jesus Teaches with Parables and performed miracles
- 2- Face the religious leaders Matthew 21:23-28:36/ Mark 12:1-40
- 3- Internationals Greeks want to see Jesus Matthew 24; Luke 21:5-38

Wednesday:

- 1- Jesus spend time with Lazarus, Mary and Martha
- 2- Prepared for his Passover meal

Thursday during the day

- 1- The Betrayal of Judah
- 2- The Lord's supper/ celebrating the Passover

Thursday at night:

Jesus in Garden of Gethsemane praying and facing the devil Matthew 26:36-46

1- Why does Jesus go with His disciples to Gethsemane ?

He wanted to pray. He knew how powerful is the temptation this time V35

2- Whom does He take with Him farther into the garden?

Peter, James and John

3- What does He tell them about Himself, and what does he ask them to do? V. 37-38

My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death

Stay here and keep watch with me.

4- While Jesus praying, what are the disciples doing? What reason does Luke give for their behavior? (See Luke 22:45)

They were sleeping V.40

They were exhausted from sorrow Luke 22:45

5- What might Jesus mean when he asks that “*This cup be taken from me*”?

The cup was “the cup of suffering and death

Separation from the Father

6- What can you and I learn from Jesus’ prayer in the garden that night?

That we need to submit to God’s will in our life even if it turns out to be uncomfortable

It is not the death that Jesus was obedient to submit to

Submit our flesh to the Holy Spirit

Jesus Betrayal and Arrest: Matthew 26:47-56

1- Describe the betrayal and Arrest recorded in verse 47-50

Jesus was in the garden with his disciples

Judas came to the garden leading a large crowd armed with swords and

Judas greeted Jesus with a kiss to signal which man was Jesus

Jesus was arrested

2- How do Jesus’ disciples react initially? (See also Luke 22:49-50; John 18:10)

V. 51 and John 18:10 One of them took a sword and cut off the ear of the high priest servant

Luke 22:49-50 They ask Jesus if they should strike with their swords

V. 56 Then all the disciples deserted him and fled. They knew the Son of Man, They knew the promises; but they couldn’t get past their own fears when His plan did not match theirs.

3- How does Jesus respond to His betrayer, to His disciples and to those who arrest Him?

V. 56 All this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled

Jesus called Judah a friend V. 50

Luke 22:51 no more of this and he touched the man’s ear and healed it

John 18:8 He told them who he was and told them to let the others go

He told them that God will send 12 army to help him if He wants. But He came for this purpose not to destroy people but to destroy the Devil.

4- What can we learn about Jesus from His words and actions at His arrest in the garden?

He told the truth despite the cost

He healed the man who needed healing in spite of the fact the man was there to arrest him

He kept his character of love throughout everything

Jesus was control of the scene and was obedient to the Father’s wishes

He fulfilled his own prophecy in Matthew 5:1-12 Help us deal with injustice and unfairness in our own life: *“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake...”*

Lesson 15

Friday morning:

Jesus’ trial before the “Sanhedrin” was the name of the group of ruling religious leaders in Israel V.55. They found no evidence for conviction; even His enemies could not find satisfactory charges to bring against Him. That really says something: He is innocent of all charges! He is sinless!

False witnesses V.56-59

The first beating by the Jews V.65-59

Peter’s denial, John 18:13-19:16

The interview with Pilate: Mark 1-14

a- Pilate was the Roman governor; all Jewish matters had to be judged by him V.1

B- Jesus behavior’s: Silent V.2-5

c- About Barabbas V.6-14:

They accused Jesus by saying:

1- He leads a revolution against Rome, he proclaim himself a king Luke 23:1-12

2- Envy was the motives of his accusers

3- there no reason for their hatred of Him; they don’t answer!

4- He said, he is the son of God

The Roman Beating of Jesus: Mark 15:15-20

Friday evening and night

Friday evening and night/

God was hurt when he saw His Son suffering.

The time of God’s distress (Crucifixion) mentioned in four gospels Mark 15: 22-34, 37 and Matt. 27-27-50

Experience with my first son David: My oldest son David he had severe diarrhea, so we took him to the hospital. Since he was losing too many fluids, they wanted to put him on an IV fluid. As he was only a 6 months, they had a difficult time finding a vein. The nurses kept poking the skin on both arms and other parts of his little body for more an half hour. He was looking at me and crying and crying from the pain. I was watching my son suffering and could not do anything about it I became angry, frustrated and distress. I was terrified. Finally, I lost my temper, I

reacted quickly and yelled at everyone to get out of the room and did not allow anyone to touch him anymore. The doctor came and cooled me down. I agreed that my son needed the IV. Eventually he did get it, but it was so difficult to watch.

I- Why did God allow His Son Jesus Christ to suffer?

The God Father allows His Son to suffer because he loves us. **John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the World to condemn the World, but to save the world through Him, Whoever believe in him is not condemn, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.**

Many people today feel that God left them, God far away, Her passed away and forget about them.

We see that the people of the earth struggle daily against a world full of pain, a world full of hurt that seem to serve no purpose beyond inflicting misery. Also we thought of people who must struggle merely to feed and shelter their families, of others trying to cope with the loss of a loved one, of some seeking the strength to keep standing under the weight of a terrible illness. We lift our eyes to heaven and demand an answer. “Why, God, why?”

We also began to see that in our world, people have an image and certain ideas about God that we are exposed to over and over. Some feel that God is very distant from us; that he is at heart cruel. He punishes sinners and people who refuse him. He keeps watching people, and when they do something wrong, he hurts them. I grew up hearing these ideas and teachings about God, even from my own parents. God was always used as a way to scare children from doing wrong or bad things.

I knew of people who tried to please God by torturing their own souls and bodies in order to show their love for God. They even did good deeds and served in many ministries to avoid the guilt feelings from bad things they had done in their past or even in their present lives. Sometimes they blamed others and even God himself to justify their own actions.

I came to see that it is not God himself who brings pain to people. Rather, pain comes from Satan, sin, and wrong choices.

Questions had been raised about suffering:

Why is there war?

Why do we have to kill each other?

Why are innocent people dying?

It makes sense a terrorist would be killed by his own bomb but what about the innocent men, women, and children who are killed by a terrorist's bomb.

It makes sense that a person who plays with fire would get burned but what about a person whose home burned down due to no fault of his own?

What about people who have suffer because of a drunk driver who hit someone and killed him?

What about children who died because of others who shot them by mistake?

Why should millions run away from their own countries and become refugees?

Why millions has become disabled because of the war?"

I understood our father Adam and mother Eve made a big decision and bad choice in Garden of Eden when tempted toward the tree of good and evil. The tragic consequences destroyed the tranquility of Adam and Eve's existence. This bad decision often affect us as human beings. Individual, communities or as nations. Graves, hospitals, army, Jail, United Nations that gather all leaders in this world to discuss how to solve problems in this world are the result of wrong choices.

II- How did Jesus suffer?

Jesus suffered in both body, soul and spirit throughout his life: For example, Jesus endured tremendous suffering during the temptation in the wilderness **Matt 4:1-11**. He also suffered ingrowing in maturity **Hebrew 5:8 Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered**. Suffering from intense opposition he faced from the Jewish leaders throughout his earthly ministry Heb 12:3-4. He experienced suffering and grief at the death of his earthly father and his friend Lazarus. Isaiah 53:3 in predicting the coming of Messiah, **said he would be a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief**. Jesus endured the psychological pain of bearing the guilt for our sin. Jesus was perfectly holy. He hated sin with his entire being. Scripture says that our sins were put on Christ: **The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all Isaiah 53:6**.

1- Jesus has Psychological pain:

He suffered emotional, He did not anything wrong. He was innocent without sin. Helping and healing people The bible said he love. He thought them how to love and how to forgive. **Matthew 27:11-26 He was accused by the chief priests and the elders... because He said; "I am the king of the Jews!"V. 11**

When he was praying in Gethsemane: **In Matt26: 38 He said to his disciples "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death..."**

2- Jesus has Physical pain:

Matt 27:27-31 They stripped him, and put a scarlet robe on him, and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They mocked him, "Hail, king of the Jews!" They said. They spit on him and struck him on the head again and again etc. Put the nails in his hands and legs.

3- Jesus has Spiritual pain:

When Jesus felt alone and God seemed absent and silent **Jesus shouted “My Father, why have you forsaken me?” V. 46.** He speaks of being forsaken by God. How do we interpret this? He was abandoned, deserted and separated from God. This is Jesus who is the light of the world. Something supernatural was going on. Nature is brought in **Mark 15:33 At the sixth hour darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour.**

Also **Matthew 27:50-53 And when Jesus had cried out again in loud voice, he gave up his spirit. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life...** curtain symbolizes something. This huge, thirty foot high curtain blocked off the holy of holies, where God dwelt, from his people. Why, because they were sinful. Only one man could go into the Holy of Holies once a year and that was the high priest. Suddenly, this curtain is ripped in two which is saying that access to God is now granted. The way back to God is now open. I am the way, The truth, the

III- How do God’s distress becomes our Good Friday:

Why we are celebrating good Friday? What was the benefit of the Cross?

- Jesus reconciled us with God: Remove the veil between humanity and God. (*Luke 23:44-45; Mark 15:38; Matt. 27:51*) *2Cor5:17-18 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is anew creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God , who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: That God was reconciling men’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation...* As I look at the cross I think, “He’s dying there, for me, in my place, for my wrongdoing” I am free to begin a relationship with him. The heart of the Christian experience is knowing the joy of being able to take my wrongdoing and place it at the foot of the cross.
- We are free from our sins: Remove the authority of the sin and its result like death and curse (*Luke 23:44-45; Mark 15:38; Matthew 27:51*) Christ also took on himself the sufferings necessary to pay the penalty for our sins. Open the way for us to enter the heaven by faith without doing anymore sacrifices. When evil seemed to triumph, Jesus took my sin on Him. He also put my pain and suffering to death and gave me a better life on earth and heaven. Jesus was the Passover lamb who was slain on Friday we call it today Good Friday. Jesus gave me an opportunity today to make a good choice and accept him as a savior in my life and celebrate Good Friday - celebrate freedom ... because he took my sins away. He gave opportunity today to be with him rejoicing. *John the Baptist calls Jesus the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world John1:29*
- We are free from the law and the regulations: Remove the regulation and the authority of the law (*Gal. 2:13-15*). Christ’s obedience for us, in which he obeyed the requirements of the law in our place and was perfectly obedient to the will of

God the Father as our representative. *Philippians 2:5-11* Who, being in very nature God did not consider equality with God...And being found in appearance as a man he humbled himself and became obedient to death even death on the cross! Christ had to live a life of perfect obedience to God in order to earn righteousness for us. He had to obey the law for his whole life on our behalf so that the positive merits of his perfect obedience would be counted for us. *Colossians 2:14* having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross...

- We are free from the authority of devil: (Remove the devil's authority) *Eph. 1:19-23; Col 1:13-21; Col. 2:15; Col 2:15* And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.
- Freedom from the world's authority: (Remove the creation authority) *Gal 6:14-17, Col. 1:19-20; Gal 2:20-21* I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
- The cross bring unity and reconciliation between the nations: (Remove the enmity between the nations) *Ephesians 2:14-18* For he himself is our peace, who has made two one and has destroyed the barrier the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of two...and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility...for through him (Jesus) we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.
- Remove the darkness from our life. (*1Peter 2:9*) *2Cor5:17-18*

IV- How many times did Jesus speak on the cross?

1- Release forgiveness *Luke 23:34* "Jesus said Father, forgive these people! They don't know what they are doing."

2- Promise the heaven to the sinners *Luke 23:46* "The criminal said to Jesus; Remember me when you come into heaven. Jesus replied I promise that today you will be with me in Paradise"

3- This man is now your son: *John 19:26-27* "When Jesus saw his mother and his favorite disciple with her, He said to ..."

4- I am thirsty *John 19:28*

5- My God My God, why have you deserted me? *Mark 15:33-34*

6- Everything is done! *John 19:28-30* (Human life, mission on earth, prophecies, God's will and the work of redemption)

7- I put myself in your hand! Then he died *Luke 23:46*

In the end: Jesus death is sufficient for the sins of anyone, but God's forgiveness is not automatically given to everybody. Each of us must individually accept by faith the Jesus of the cross.

He who was the life, the creator, the giver of life became subject to death in order to give us life and eternal life. **1Cor 1:18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.**

My Friends, We have a choice. Either we go through life saying, "I'll pay for my wrongdoing" or we come to the cross and say Lord Jesus, as you died there, "I'll allow you to pay for me". And then you can know the joy of forgiveness and of a relationship with the God who made you.

We long for you to know that forgiveness and that love. That is why the cross is so precious to Christians.

Jesus said to Nicodimus, I tell you the truth, no-one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.+physical life begins with physical birth Likewise with spiritual birth...spiritual life begins with spiritual birth. You don't have to go back into your mother's womb to explain this... it's an event that can happen to you at any time in your life and could happen now. It is when you suddenly become aware of God and how amazing He is. It is when you allow that amazing God to transform your life in a way that only He can.

John 14:12-13 I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

Lesson 16

A new beginning

"The way of hope"

Read: John 20

Introduction: It is good to preach about Jesus' resurrection because it brings life, joy and hope to believers.

The resurrection occurred very early on Sunday, and Jesus appeared to his disciples a number of times during forty days of post-resurrection ministry. Finally, he ascended to heaven a little more than a week before the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. The church was established.

After Jesus gave up his spirit, At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus resurrection they went to the holy city and appear to many people. Matt27: 50-53.

This is our hope today, that Jesus is alive and in his life he also gave others life. Praise God we will be alive with him if we believe. The Apostle Paul said: **“If the dead are not raised, let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die. But someone may ask, how are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come? Paul said: how foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies.” 1Cor 15:32, 35,36**

The good of this new Sunday evening meeting is not only to add another meeting, but to capture God’s vision for the nations. We want to share Jesus’s resurrection and truth, and tell them the good news about what Jesus has done for us as human beings.

I believe that, as Jesus was raised from the dead and started his church among all nations, He will do the same in Milwaukee. Jesus gave his disciples a mission, **“Go into all world (nations) and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is Baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned...” Mark16:15-16.**

“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.” Matt 28:19

The mission started from Jerusalem after the power of the Holy Spirit come upon them. We want to start from our home, Eastbrook. The disciples of Christ did not go off to Athens or Rome to preach that Christ was raised from the dead. Rather, they went right back to the city of Jerusalem, where the people were receiving false teaching and needed the truth.

After Jesus’ resurrection he established his church (see the book of Acts).So we believe Jesus will establish a new meeting for all nations. Today the first week after the celebration of Resurrection day we will begin this new service for the nations called “World Christian Fellowship”.

After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the lamb Revelation 7:9

The main goal in writing the gospel of John lies in V.31 **“But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”**

According to John, the resurrection is a sign performed by God and written up by John to induce people to equate the human Jesus with the divine Christ, and by this kind of believing to have life in his name, that is, eternal life through believing that Jesus is who his name “the Christ, the son of God” (for John they are one and the same name) says he is (compare John 1:12) **To all who receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God...**

I- What are some of the facts relevant to the resurrection? “Proof of his resurrection” John 20:1-10

1- Large stone moved: V.1 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. After the body was placed in a solid rock tomb, an extremely large stone was rolled against the entrance of the tomb. Large stones weighing approximately two tons were normally rolled against the tomb entrance.

On that Sunday morning the first thing that impressed his disciples who approached the tomb was the unusual position of the one and a half to two-ton stone that had been lodged in front of the doorway. All the gospel writers mention it. Those who observed the stone after the resurrection describe its position as having been rolled up a slope away not just from entrance of the tomb, but away from the entire massive sepulcher. It was in such a position that it looked as if it had been picked up and carried away.

2- Empty tomb: V.2 So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “they have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”

What would you have thought if you were Mary or one of the disciples and saw the tomb was empty? Someone had taken Jesus’ body.

The resurrection could have not been maintained in Jerusalem for a single day, for a single hour, if the emptiness of the tomb had not been established as a fact for all concerned.

Both Jewish and Roman sources and traditions admit an empty tomb.

3- Grave clothes tell a tale: V.4-8 Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus’ head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed.

In a literal sense, against all statements to the contrary, the tomb was not totally empty because of an amazing phenomenon. John, a disciple of Jesus, looked over to the place where the body of Jesus had lain, and there were the grave clothes, in the form of the body, slightly caved in and empty-like the empty’s cocoon. That’s enough to make a believer out of anybody. John never did get over it. The first thing that stuck in the minds of the disciples was not the empty tomb, but rather the empty grave clothes- undisturbed in form and position

4- The fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies: V.9 they still did not understand from scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.

That is means everything Jesus said is true! He predicted around 7 times his death and resurrection to his disciples before his death. What he had promised after resurrection has done.

II- How did Jesus deal with his disciples? John 20: 2-4,11-18, 24-28 “Proof of His appearance”

Jesus had appeared to his disciples around 11 times during the 40 days, and he is still appearing to people today. So his resurrection is a proof for his death.

- Jesus appeared alive on several occasions: that is why it is very important to know whether enough people who were participants or eyewitnesses to the event were alive when the facts about the event were published. For instance, if we all witness a murder, and a later police report turns out to be a fabrication of lies, we as eyewitnesses can refute it.
- Someone who hears of the resurrection for the first time is usually amazed and it takes a while before he can understand this strange story and believe in it. There are different stages, similar to what the disciples went through, to believe and some might even need special manifestations or special revelation from Him. Who stole the body? is it lie?
- People might think Jesus’ resurrection is a made up story and would never believe it. Like the Gnostics and other religions they denied the divine God. What some of the religion believe?
- Some people might investigate its truth, like Peter, but would remain astonished by what happened V.6. Peter: represented the respected leaders and had high position among the disciples and in society. The other disciples respected him and his words. Peter denied Jesus before the cross, and was astonished after the resurrection. So he wanted to see and think and investigate the whole situation, whether it was true or not. John 21:15-23. When Jesus appeared to his disciples the third time he commanded Peter to take care of his sheep, because he was the leader and he should take responsibility but this responsibility should be in love. He wanted Peter to react with the motive of love. He asked him 3 times, “Peter do you love me?” Anyone who wants to be responsible for the sheep should be certain that he loves Christ first. So, Jesus wanted to confirm to Peter that without loving Him first, peter cannot accomplish anything in the ministry.
- Some people will fully realize the reality of Jesus being alive like, John. The young John represents the group of people who does not need proof in order to belief in the resurrection. This group usually believe faster than others. It was sufficient for them just to see the empty tomb and hear the witnesses of some who saw it, to believe. V.8 John was leaning close to Jesus while eating the Passover meal. John recognized Jesus before Peter did when he appeared to them by the sea of Galilee 21:7. John followed Jesus even to the cross, where Jesus asked him to take care of his mother because he knew how much he loved Jesus, and he was the best person to take care of his mother. John understood easily the deity of

Christ. He was called the “Apostle of love” because he understood the love of Christ. It is said that in his old days, John repeated this phrase, love one another, as he was serving in Ephesians church 1John 4:7-8.

- Some people will never accept the truth of the resurrection until Jesus personally meets them, like, Thomas V.24-28 he represents the people who depend on reason more than faith. They are educated and always need scientific proof. They will not believe by hearing others witness; they want to see and touch. When he saw Jesus, he bowed before him. **V. 27-29 Jesus said to Thomas, put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe. Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God”. Then Jesus told him, because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.**
- Some like, Mary Magdalene V.11-18 What do you think motivated Mary Magdalene to come to the tomb? Could be loneliness, curiosity, grief or loss but what really brought her to the tomb was loyalty and love of her master. Mary represents the people who are thirsty to see the Lord. She searches for truth and for the living God. When Jesus was at her home she sat down under his feet, she was listening to his teaching. Mary represents the thirsty souls who want to know Jesus and serve him. She was broken and sad from the loss of Jesus. She was blind because of the sadness. The Lord opened her eyes to see him as Lord. God open her eyes when Jesus called her name. Paul praying to the Ephesians; **“I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints...” Eph 1:18-19** The first one who shared the good news was Mary. Also it is obvious that Jesus treated women with respect and as being in the image of God and as being important, and having great influence on the society. Mary thought Jesus was the gardener, and called him “Lord” in the sense, “Sir” though he is “Lord” in the sense of “God” compare (20:28). She supposed that the gardener had carried Jesus off and laid him somewhere, and said that he will take him up, whereas Jesus has taken himself up and left the tomb. As the good shepherd, he calls her by name: “Mary” As one of his sheep, she then recognized his voice (**Compare 10:3-4, 14, 16,27**). **The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me-Just as the Father knows me and my sheep know me... My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.** “Stop clutching me”, implies that Mary has grabbed Jesus and means that she must now release him for his ascension, for only after the ascension completed his glorification can he give the Holy Spirit to his disciples, as he does on the evening of this first Easter Sunday. In 20:19 indicates that the Ascension has taken place by evening (compare 7:39 with 20:17, 19-22)

- Jesus Christ had been seen by more than 500 people at one time.
1Corinthians 15:3- 8 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: That Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the twelve. After that he, appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me... Paul says in effect, “if you do not believe me you can ask them”. Let’s take the more than 500 witnesses who saw Jesus after His death and burial, and place them in a courtroom. Do you realize that if each of those 500 people were to testify for only six minutes, including cross-examination, you would have an amazing 50 hours of firsthand testimony? Each one of those persons represented different groups of people. Each one had faith different from the other. Each one had a different experience with Jesus. Each one came to faith in different situation and circumstance, but they had one thing in common and it is their faith in Jesus as the Son of God and that they have life because of their faith in the resurrection.
- Jesus also appeared to those who were hostile or unconvinced. Over and over again, I have read or heard people comment that Jesus was seen alive after His death and burial not only by his friends and followers, but also to those who were hostile: Saul despised Christ and persecuted Christ’s followers. It was a life shattering experience when Christ appeared to him. Although he was at the time not a disciple, he later became the apostle Paul, one of the greatest witnesses to the truth of the resurrection. He represents the religious people. They usually are the toughest and hardest to believe. They need a miracle, or to be hit over the head, in order to come to the Lord. or a big strike to come to Lord.

Lesson 17

How were Jesus’ appearances confirmed? “Proof that He is in our midst today”

Disciples all together: (Community or church)

V.19-23 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said “Peace be with you...”Jesus standing in the midst of his disciples:

Matt. 18:15-20 I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about any thing you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.

- **A- Peace be with you:**

The hope for peace is a desire of every human being, ethnic group and nation, especially in the Middle East between the Arabs and Jewish people.

Biblical meaning of peace

Peace carries a wide range of meaning like “to have peace” or “to be at peace”, “to be at rest, peace”, “to be faultless”, “to be healthy”, “completeness”, “wholeness”, “softness”, “well-being”, “harmony”, “safety”, “health”, “soundness”, “security” as well as “salvation”.

In the Arabic language there is a rich variety of proper and family names that are derived from the root verb for peace. Names like **Salam, Salee, Salman, Salameh, Salem, Sallum, Musallam, Musalem etc.**

The major expression for greeting in both Arabic and Hebrew, the two mainly used Semitic languages today are **Assalam Alaikum** (peace be upon you) and **Shalom** (peace). What people need and hope for has become a constant wish pronounced repeatedly on their lips.

The word “Salam” “Shalom” “eirene” links with the prophecies of the Messiah in the Old Testament and with the birth and life of Jesus Christ the Messiah in the New Testament.

Peace is linked with the person of Jesus Christ the Messiah.

In the Old Testament:

peace has been connected with a variety of themes such as the covenant, sacrifices, economy, prosperity and war. Also peace is linked with the Messiah’s name (Christ).

Ezekiel 34:20-31 ...V.25 I will make a covenant of peace with them...

Micah 5:1-5 ...V.4 He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord...and he will be their peace.

Zechariah 9:9-13 ...He will proclaim peace to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth. As for you, because of the blood of my covenant with you...

Isaiah 9:6-7 a prophecy that the peace will be achieved with the coming of a unique leader. “For a child has been born to us , a son given to us , authority rests upon his shoulders, and his name is wonderful, counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from the time onward and forevermore.

In the New Testament: we recognize the fulfillment of this prophecy in the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus

1- Inner peace

Isaiah26:3 You, Lord give perfect peace to those who keep their purpose firm and put their trust in you.

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you my peace I give unto you: I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your heart troubled and do not be afraid.

John 16:33 I have told you this so that you will have peace by being united to me...

God will give us inner and individual peace, the peace of the Messiah which rests on believers, a spiritual peace of mind and heart to be experienced when we confess that Jesus Christ is Lord and repent of our sins.

Philippians 4:7 And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Peace will be accomplished by Jesus who takes upon himself the sins of others. The peace that Jesus gives is not cheap, it is more expensive than war. It demands greater courage and sacrifice. It cost the life of the peacemaker for the sake of human beings. The crucifixion and death of Jesus brings peace to human beings and the world. God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

2- Peace Links with faith/ salvation

Romans 5:1 Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:8. Through faith in what God has done in the death and resurrection of Christ it is possible to achieve peace.

Sick woman Mark 5:21-43/ Luke 8:48

V.34 Jesus said to her Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering...

The sinful woman Luke 7:50 Jesus said to the woman Your faith has saved you; go in peace.

3- Peace is a gift from the Holy Spirit

Romans 14:17,19 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit...let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.

Galatians 5:22 Peace is one of the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

Peace has been given to the church as blessing

1- Peace as blessing

Isaiah 54:13; 66:12 All your sons will be taught by the Lord, and great will be your children's peace...I will extend peace to her like a river, and the wealth of nations like a flooding stream...

Luke 24:36

Mtt 10:11-12 Whatever town or village you enter, search for some worthy person there and stay at his house until you leave. As you enter the home give it your greeting. If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not let your peace return to you.

2- The mission of the church is to bring peace and reconciliation

Romans 16:20 The God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly

- **B- Look at my hands and my feet:**
The signs of his crucifixion showed on his body redemption, forgiveness and freedom from our sin; **Luke 24:37-39 They were all together hiding and afraid to death in Luke said: They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He said to them why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have...** Jesus' hands and feet were a sign for our redemption. We are free now. His suffering become our pain.
- **Jesus reconciled us with God: 2Cor5:17-18 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is anew creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God , who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: That God was reconciling men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation...**
As I look at the cross I think, "He's dying there, for me, in my place, for my wrongdoing" I am free to begin a relationship with him. The heart of the Christian experience is knowing the joy of being able to take my wrongdoing and place it at the foot of the cross.
- **We are free from our sins/** Christ also took on himself the sufferings necessary to pay the penalty for our sins. When evil seemed to triumph, Jesus took my sin on Him. He also put my pain and suffering to death and gave me a better life on earth and heaven. Jesus was the Passover lamb who was slain on Friday we call it today Good Friday. Jesus gave me an opportunity today to make a good choice and accept him as a savior in my life and celebrate Good Friday - celebrate freedom ... because he took my sins away. He gave opportunity today to be with him rejoicing. **John the Baptist calls Jesus the Lamb of god, who takes away the sin of the world John1:29**
- **We are free from the law and the regulations:** Christ's obedience for us, in which he obeyed the requirements of the law in our place and was perfectly obedient to the will of God the Father as our representative. **Philippians 2:5-11 Who, being in very nature God did not consider equality with God...And being found in appearance as a man he humbled himself and became obedient to death even death on the cross!** Christ had to live a life of perfect obedience to God in order to earn righteousness for us. He had to obey the law for his whole life on our behalf so that the positive merits of his perfect obedience would be counted for us. **Colossians 2:14 having canceled the written code, with its regulations,**

that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross...

- We are free from the authority of devil and this world Col 2:15 **And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.**
- Freedom from the world's authority: Gal 2:20-21 **I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.**
- The cross bring unity and reconciliation between the nations: Ephesians 2:14-18 **For he himself is our peace, who has made two one and has destroyed the barrier the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of two...and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility...for through him (Jesus) we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.** Jesus suffering and death is sufficient for the sins of anyone, but God's forgiveness is not automatically given to everybody. Each of us must individually accept by faith the Jesus of the cross.
- C- The Holy Spirit: "With that he breathed on them and said, Receive the Holy Spirit." V.22

I tell you the truth; It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the counselor will not come to you but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin righteousness and judgment..

The Holy Spirit will teach us all things and will remind us of everything Jesus said...

As the Father has sent me I am sending you. And with that he breathed on them and said, Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.

1- forgiveness: **Matt. 18:15-20** I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about any thing you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them

2- Joy: **After he said this he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. V.20 In John 16: 24** Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete. The joy of the Holy Spirit is your strength.

Conclusion:

Jesus planted hope in the heart of His followers after His resurrection. The hope that we need and are longing for today. Jesus comes to change our heart and give us peace, love and joy instead of hate, emptiness and distress. Will you believe in Him and receive His hope and new life?

Illustration: A story is told of a man whose little boy had died, and so the man buried his son with a special and unusual marker on the tombstone. He put two pictures there, one of a caterpillar in its cocoon and the other a butterfly. The man knew that inside the cocoon, the caterpillar was undergoing death in order to emerge in the fullness and beauty of life as a butterfly. In the same way, the man continually reminded of the fact that, though his son had died, because he had believed in Jesus death and resurrection. When people ask him, why have you put these pictures on your sin's grave? He was able to tell them of his hope of life in Christ and his knowledge that he would be reunited with his precious child again in heaven. Because always need to remind himself and the world that there is a resurrection. And also his end life not only here but with Jesus. not stay in the tomb but will raise up. Because Jesus is the resurrection and life. Apostle Paul said: **"If the dead are not raised, let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die. But someone may ask, how are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come? Paul said: how foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies."** 1Cor 15:32, 35,36

In John 11:21-25 Lord, Martha said to Jesus, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask". Jesus said to her, " Your brother will rise again" Martha answered, I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day".

Jesus said to her "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies: and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

Yes Lord, she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world"

