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New Testament

Deity of Jesus



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To explain why we believe Jesus is the Messiah.
- To show that the Messiah is equal to God.



SCRIPTURE PORTIONS

Genesis 49:10; Exodus 3:14, 2 Samuel 7:12-13; Psalms 23:1, 135:6-7; Isaiah 7:14, 44:6, Jeremiah 23:5-6, Micah 5:1; Zechariah 13:7, Matthew 1:22-23, Mark 2:8-12; 4:39, 6:5-7, John 1:1-3, 8:58, 10:11, 30-33; Colossians 1:16-17; Revelation 1:17-18, 19:16



MEMORY VERSE

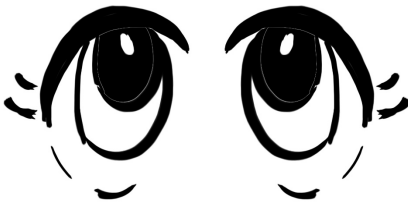
John 1:1-3: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.”

Please Note: All the Bible verses given below are in Contemporary English Version (CEV).



INTRODUCTION

The New Testament Gospels describe Jesus and His teachings in great detail. They help us gain an accurate picture of the Lord. This is important for us because Jesus said, "... Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father ..." (John 14:9).



Nobody has ever seen God with their human eyes. So the only way we can understand God is by studying Jesus. Over the following weeks, we will do a brief study of the different aspects of Jesus' life and teachings.

Video Presentation 1

Video: False Messiah

What claim is the man in the video making about himself?

John 10:30-33: "... and I am one with the Father. Once again the Jewish leaders picked up stones in order to kill Jesus. But he said, 'I have shown you many good things that my Father sent me to do. Which one are you going to stone me for?' They answered, 'We are not stoning you because of any good thing you did. We are stoning you because you did a terrible thing. You are just a man, and here you are claiming to be God!'"

The Old Testament prophets prophesied that God would send a Messiah one day to save the world.

- Jesus claimed to be this promised Messiah.
- The man in the video also claims to be this promised Messiah.

Why do we believe Jesus' claims about Himself, but refuse to believe this other man's claims?

Video Presentation 2

Video: Evidence that Jesus is True Messiah

This video mentions four pieces of evidence that prove Jesus alone (and not some other man) is the true Messiah. What are the four?

1.

2.

3.

4.

Micah 5:2: “But you, Bethlehem Ephrath, you are one of the smallest towns in the nation of Judah. But the LORD will choose one of your

people to rule the nation—someone whose family goes back to ancient times.”

Genesis 49:10: “You will have power and rule until nations obey you and come bringing gifts.”

2 Samuel 7:12-13: “I will choose one of your sons to be king when you reach the end of your life and are buried in the tomb of your ancestors. I will make him a strong ruler, and no one will be able to take his kingdom away from him. He will be the one to build a temple for me.”

Isaiah 7:14: “But the LORD will still give you proof. A virgin is pregnant; she will have a son and will name him Immanuel.”

Matthew 1:22-23: “So the Lord’s promise came true, just as the prophet had said, ‘A virgin will have a baby boy, and he will be called Immanuel,’ which means ‘God is with us.’”

Immanuel - God with us



Jesus fulfilled these four, and many other Old Testament prophecies. (Over 300 Messianic prophecies made in the Old Testament, match the life of Jesus).

Therefore, we believe the words of Jesus rather than the claims of others who say that they are the promised Messiah.

Why We Believe Jesus Is Equal to God

Reason 1: God Said the Messiah Would be Equal to Him

In the Old Testament, God indicated that the Messiah He would send, would be equal to Him.

Zechariah 13:7: “The LORD All-Powerful said: My sword, wake up! Attack my shepherd and friend. Strike down the shepherd! Scatter the little sheep ...”

God used the word ‘amiti’ to describe this shepherd. This word literally means ‘companion’ or ‘partner.’ In other words, God promised to send His own companion as a shepherd to the earth.



Over 300 Old Testament Messianic prophecies seem to point towards Jesus specifically. So we must conclude that Jesus is the promised Messiah and that He is equal to God.

Reason 2: The Bible Shows That Jesus and Jehovah are Equal

There are many Bible verses which reveal that the ‘Lord’ of the Old Testament and ‘Jesus’ of the New Testament enjoy equal status.

Example 1

Isaiah 44:6: “I am the LORD (YHWH) All-Powerful, the first and the last, the one and only God. Israel, I have rescued you! I am your King.”

Revelation 1:17-18: “When I saw him, I fell at his feet like a dead person. But he put his right hand on me and said: Don’t be afraid! I am the first, the last, and the living one. I died, but now I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys to death and the world of the dead.”

In our Bibles, we see some verses using ‘Lord’ in capitals. Wherever this is used, the original Hebrew Bible contains the word YHWH (‘Jehovah’).

We notice in the two verses above that both Jehovah and Jesus are said to be “the First and the Last.” They are given equal status.

Example 2

Psalms 23:1: The Lord (YHWH) is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

John 10:11: I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

The Bible refers to both YHWH and Jesus as the Shepherd. They are given equal status.

Example 3

Jeremiah 23:5-6: “Someday I will appoint an honest king from the family of David, a king who will be wise and rule with justice. As long as he is king, Israel will have peace, and Judah will be safe. The name of this king will be “The Lord Gives Justice.”

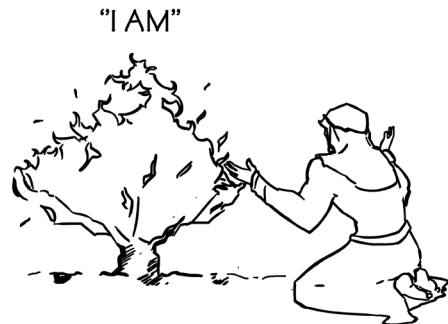
Revelation 19:16: “On the part of the robe that covered his thigh was written, ‘KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.’”

In the first verse, YHWH (Jehovah) Himself declares that He will give His King the title “Jehovah our Saviour.” In Revelation, we see Jesus bearing this title of Jehovah when He takes over as King. They have equal status.

Example 4

Exodus 3:14: “God said to Moses: I am the eternal God. So tell them that the LORD, whose name is ‘I Am,’ has sent you. This is my name forever, and it is the name that people must use from now on.”

John 8:58: “Jesus answered, ‘I tell you for certain that even before Abraham was, I was, and I am.’”



In these verses, both YHWH and Jesus refer to themselves as the “I AM.” They have equal status.

Reason 3: Jesus ‘Created’ the Universe

John 1:1-4: “In the beginning was the one who is called the Word. The Word was with God and was truly God. From the very beginning the Word was with God. And with this Word, God created all things. Nothing was made without the Word. Everything that was created received its life from him, and his life gave light to everyone.”

Colossians 1:16-17: “Everything was created by him, everything in heaven and on earth, everything seen and unseen, including all forces and powers, and all rulers and authorities. All things were created by God’s Son, and everything was made for him. God’s Son was before all else, and by him everything is held together.”

These verses show that Jesus is the Creator-God, and therefore He must be worshipped by all Creation. He is not inferior to the Father in any way.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Mark 2:5-7: “When Jesus saw how much faith they had, he said to the crippled man, ‘My friend, your sins are forgiven.’ Some of the teachers of the Law of Moses were sitting there. They started wondering, ‘Why would he say such a thing? He must think he is God! Only God can forgive sins.’”

According to these verses, who alone has the authority to forgive sins?



In the incident above, what did Jesus do to prove that He has the authority to forgive sins—just like the Father?

Mark 2:10-12: “I will show you that the Son of Man has the right to forgive sins here on earth. So Jesus said to the man, ‘Get up! Pick up your mat and go on home.’ The man got right up. He picked up his mat and went out while everyone watched in amazement. They praised God and said, ‘We have never seen anything like this!’”



Psalms 135:6-7: “He does as he chooses in heaven and on earth and deep in the sea. The LORD makes the clouds rise from far across the earth, and he makes lightning to go with the rain. Then from his secret place he sends out the wind.”

According to these verses, God has complete control over nature. Did Jesus have this power as well?

Mark 4:39: “Jesus got up and ordered the wind and the waves to be quiet. The wind stopped, and everything was calm.”



APPLICATION

As we can see, Jesus has the same abilities and powers that the Father does. He is equal to the Father in status. Therefore Jesus commanded us to honour Him the same way that we honour the Father.

John 5:22-23: “The Father doesn’t judge anyone, but he has made his Son the judge of everyone. The Father wants all people to honour the Son as much as they honour him. When anyone refuses to honour the Son, that is the same as refusing to honour the Father who sent him.”

*We honour Jesus only when we
choose to please and worship Him in
all that we think, speak and do.*

Some practical ways I can express Supreme Love to the Lord this week:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

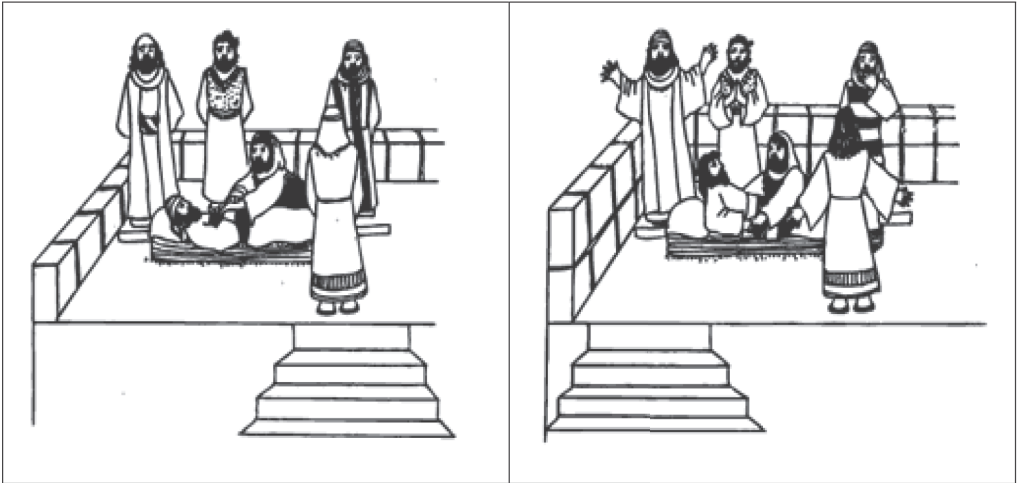


TAKE HOME ACTIVITY

Jesus Forgave the Paralytic

(Taken from Kids Korner)

There are at least 19 differences between the two pictures.
Can you spot all of them?



FOLLOW UP

(To be filled up before the next class.)

How I practiced the Scripture Lesson during this week:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



New Testament

Humanity of Jesus



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To show how Jesus humbled Himself when He chose to become human.
- To demonstrate how Jesus related to His parents as a human.
- To motivate teenagers to imitate the Man Jesus Christ.



SCRIPTURE PORTIONS

John 1:1,14, 2:4, 5:30; Philippians 2:5-8; Galatians 4:4; Hebrews 2:9, 5:8-10; Matthew 12:28; Luke 2:41-52



MEMORY VERSE

Philippians 2:7: He made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.



INTRODUCTION

The New Testament Gospels describe Jesus and His teachings in great detail. They help us gain an accurate picture of the Lord. This is important for us because Jesus said, "... Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father ..." (John 14:9).

Nobody has ever seen God with their human eyes. So the only way we can understand God is by studying Jesus. Over the following weeks, we will do a brief study of the different aspects of Jesus' life and teachings.

JESUS

ONE PERSON with TWO NATURES—DIVINE and HUMAN

Jesus as GOD	Jesus as MAN	Bible References
He is worshiped (Matthew 2:2,11; 14:33)	He worshiped the Father	
He was called God (John 20:28; Hebrews 1:8)	He was called man (2 references)	
He was called Son of God (Mark 1:1)	He was called Son of Man	
He is prayed to (Acts 7:59)	He prayed to the Father	
He is sinless (1 Peter 2:22; Hebrews 4:15).	He was tempted	
He knows all things (John 21:17).	He grew in wisdom	
He gives eternal life (John 10:28)	He died	
All the fullness of deity dwells in Him (Colossians 2:9)	He has a body of flesh and bones	

Bible References:

John 17

John 17

Mark 15:39

John 19:5

Luke 2:52

Matthew 4:1

John 9:35-37

Luke 24:39

Romans 5:8

Jesus' Humbled State

Incarnation of Jesus means that the Word became flesh, became a man

John 1:1,14: “In the beginning was the one who is called the Word. The Word was with God and was truly God. The Word became a human being and lived here with us. We saw his true glory, the glory of the only Son of the Father ...”

Jesus emptied Himself

Philippians 2:5-8: “Christ was truly God. But he did not try to remain equal with God. Instead he gave up everything and became a slave, when he became like one of us. Christ was humble. He obeyed God and even died on a cross.”

As a man, Jesus was under the Law

Galatians 4:4: “But when the time was right, God sent his Son, and a woman gave birth to him. His Son obeyed the Law.”

As a man, Jesus was made for a while lower than the angels

Hebrews 2:9: “What we do see is Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels ...”

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS****Video Presentation 1**

Video: Baptism of Jesus

John the Baptist preached a Baptism of Repentance (Acts 19:4). Do you think Jesus got baptised to repent of His sins? Explain.



Hebrews 5:10: “This is because God chose him to be a high priest like Melchizedek.”

Leviticus 8:6: “After Moses told Aaron and his sons to step forward, he had them wash themselves.”

Leviticus 8:12: “He also poured some of the oil on Aaron’s head to dedicate him to the LORD.”

Why do you think Jesus was reluctant to change the water into wine, when His mother requested help at the Cana Wedding?



Numbers 4:2-3: "Find out how many men between the ages of thirty and fifty are in the four Levite clans of Kohath. Count only those who are able to work at the sacred tent."

John 2:4: "Jesus replied, 'Mother, my time hasn't yet come ...'"

1 Samuel 2:18: "The boy Samuel served the Lord and wore a special linen garment and the clothes his mother made for him ..."

In the desert why did Jesus refuse to turn stones into bread, even though His 40 day fasting-period was completed?

Satan:
If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread



Philippians 2:7: "Instead he gave up everything and became a slave, when he became like one of us."

If Jesus was fully human, how could He perform such mighty miracles?

1 Corinthians 12:9: “To others the Spirit has given great faith or the power to heal the sick.”

Matthew 12:28: “But when I force out demons by the power of God’s Spirit, it proves that God’s kingdom has already come to you.”

John 5:30: “I cannot do anything on my own ... I obey him, and I don’t just try to please myself.”



APPLICATION

Video Presentation 2

Video: The Boy Jesus at the Temple

Discuss

Please refer to Luke 2:41-52 while answering the questions:

Why do you think Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem? Do you think He was deliberately disobeying His parents?



Hebrews 4:15: “Jesus ... was tempted in every way that we are. But he did not sin!”

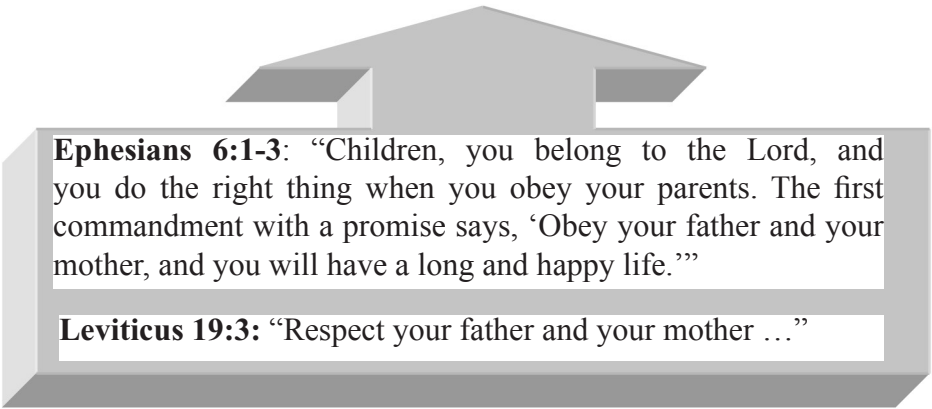
Luke 2:42: “When he was twelve years old, they went up to the Feast, according to the custom.”

Luke 2:51-52: “Jesus went back to Nazareth with his parents and obeyed them ... Jesus became wise, and he grew strong. God was pleased with him and so were the people.”

I usually have disagreements with Parents regarding these issues:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

How I can 'Show Respect' while discussing these issues with Parents:



Ephesians 6:1-3: “Children, you belong to the Lord, and you do the right thing when you obey your parents. The first commandment with a promise says, ‘Obey your father and your mother, and you will have a long and happy life.’”

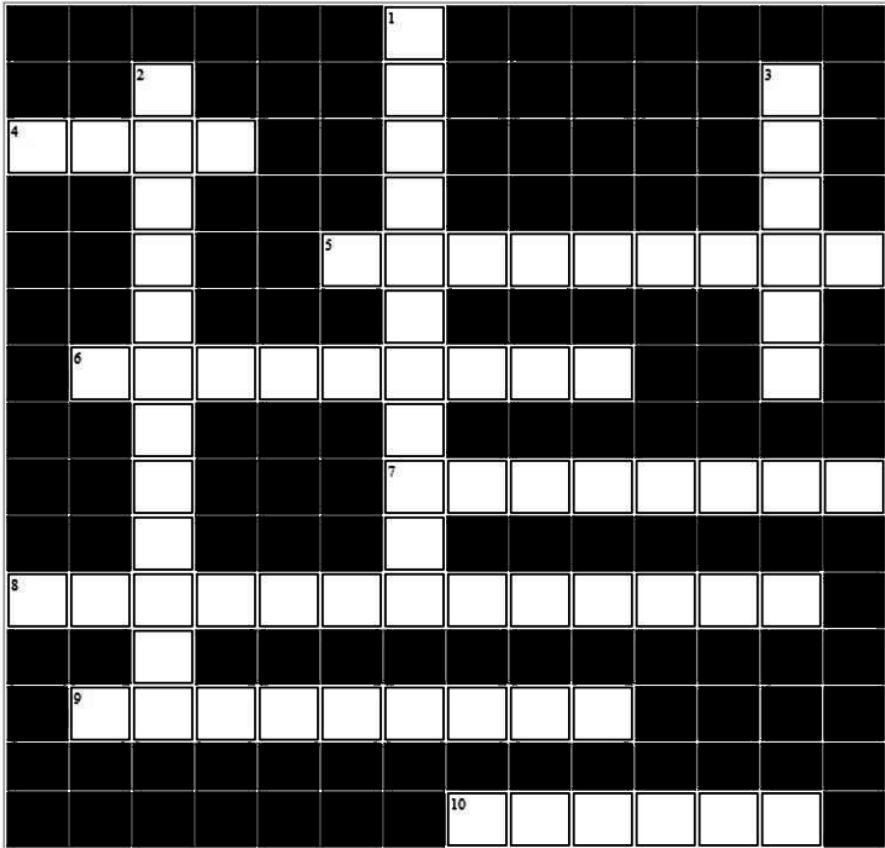
Leviticus 19:3: “Respect your father and your mother ...”



TAKE HOME ACTIVITY

Jesus at the Temple

(Taken from Calvary Kids Pages)



Across

4. mother of Jesus
5. where the wise men saw the king
6. the king at that time
7. the feast Jesus attended with his parents
8. what the angels told the shepherds
9. the town where Jesus was born
10. the age of Jesus when he went to the feast

2. The wise men brought gifts of gold, _____ and myrrh.

3. A carpenter, husband of Mary.

Down

1. They found Jesus _____ talking to the doctors of the law.

WORD BANK: JOSEPH, DO NOT BE AFRAID, MARY, JERUSALEM, KING HEROD, FRANKINCENSE, PASSOVER, TWELVE, IN THE TEMPLE



FOLLOW UP

(To be filled up before the next class.)

How I practiced the Scripture Lesson during this week:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



New Testament

Jesus Said 'I Am'



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To reflect on what Jesus meant by “I am the Way, Truth and Life.”
- To teach how to abide in the Vine.
- To explain the concept of fruit bearing.



SCRIPTURE PORTIONS

Acts 10:4; John 15:5-13; Galatians 5:22-23; Hebrews 13:15; Romans 15:28; Colossians 1:10; 1 Corinthians 16:15; 2 Corinthians 8:2-4



MEMORY VERSE

John 15:5: “... If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”



INTRODUCTION

The New Testament Gospels describe Jesus and His teachings in great detail. They help us gain an accurate picture of the Lord. This is important for us because Jesus said, "... Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father ..." (John 14:9).

Nobody has ever seen God with their human eyes. So the only way we can understand God is by studying Jesus. Today, we'll take a look at what Jesus said about Himself.

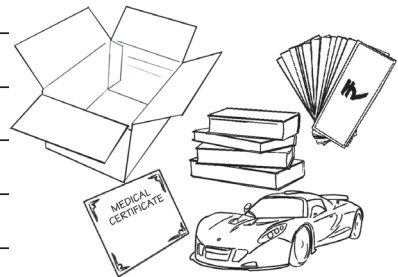
Video Presentation 1

Video: Jesus: The Way, the Truth, and the Life

How does Franklin describe the long road? What does he say about it?



What explanation does Franklin give for the empty box?



What explanation does Franklin give for the “minus sign”?

According to Franklin, how does Jesus change the road?

According to Franklin, how does Jesus change the emptiness of life?

According to Franklin, how does Jesus change the ‘minus’ into a ‘plus’?

“I am the way and the truth and the life!” Jesus answered. Without me, no one can go to the Father” (John 14:6).

1. Jesus is the **only** way to heaven.
2. **Jesus is not just *some* truth but the *entire* truth. He is God’s definitive and perfect Word expressing who God is, what He is like, who we are, and what we need to do to be saved from misery and futility.**
3. **Jesus is the life. He gives us not only commandments and noble ideals, but also the *power to live them out*, the power**

Jesus Said 'I Am'

to become new people. That Power is the Lord and Giver of Life Himself, the Holy Spirit, who Jesus pours out on those who accept Him.

Video Presentation 2

Video: Vine and the Branches

According to the video, why did the dead branch die?

What must we do to “remain connected” to Jesus, so that we don’t become like the dead branch? Read the references and give your answer.

John 15:9-10: “I have loved you, just as my Father has loved me. So remain faithful to my love for you. If you obey me, I will keep loving you, just as my Father keeps loving me, because I have obeyed him.”

John 15:12-13: “Now I tell you to love each other, as I have loved you. The greatest way to show love for friends is to die for them.”

Remaining / Abiding in Jesus involves four things:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

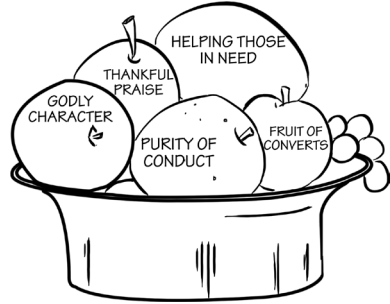


DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Video Presentation 3

Video Link: Fruit Bear—Humorous Video

What did Jesus mean when He said we will “bear fruit”? Was He talking about a Fruit-Bear? If not, what kind of ‘fruit’ was He talking about?



Galatians 5:22-23 - Fruit of _____:

Hebrews 13:15 - Fruit of _____:

Romans 15:28: Fruit of _____:

Colossians 1:10: Fruit of _____:

1 Corinthians 16:15: Fruit of _____:

How do we bear all the fruit described above? Isn't it impossibly difficult? For instance how do I bear the fruit of gentleness if

Jesus Said 'I Am'

I'm a bad-tempered person? How do I get rid of all the anger inside me, and become gentle overnight?

John 15:5: "... If you stay joined to me, and I stay joined to you, then you will produce lots of fruit. But you cannot do anything without me."

Is this verse an exaggeration? Aren't non-Christians fruitful too—even though they are apart from Christ?

I know it's wrong to copy. I try my best but I can't. How come you don't copy when the rest of us do?

The Holy Spirit helps me



APPLICATION

Edward Skidmore narrates an incident about a girl who used to be actively involved in their Church Youth Fellowship. She was close to them and spent much time with them. Then she met a guy who had drinking issues, and wanted to marry him. Because they constantly advised her to stop seeing him, she stopped visiting them. Finally she married the man and had a terrible life.

Skidmore uses this incident to explain the concept of 'abiding.'

- Because the girl did not want to obey what they were advising, she stopped 'abiding' with them. She stopped spending time with them.

- Then, when she stopped visiting (stopped abiding), there was no longer anybody left to hold her back. So she ended up getting deeper and deeper into disobedience.

Some Christians tend to do the same thing:

- When the Lord asks us to do something (or not do something), we start avoiding Him if we don't wish to obey. We spend less time with Him, because we feel guilty.
- The less time we spend with Him, the less He is able to check us and correct us. So we end up getting deeper and deeper into disobedience.

The key to 'abiding' is therefore "spending time" and "quick obedience."

- First, the more time we spend with God, the more we start thinking like Him. We will find our priorities changing when our friendship with God grows, and people will start noticing the fruit of the Spirit in our talk and walk.
- Second, the sooner we correct whatever God has pointed out, and get back close to Him, the safer we will be. The longer we delay, the greater the gap that grows between God and us, leading us deeper into all kinds of sin.

Issues in my life that the Holy Spirit is convicting me of:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

This week I will spend _____ minutes on Bible Study, every day.

This week I will spend _____ minutes on Prayer, every day.



Jesus Said 'I Am'



TAKE HOME ACTIVITY

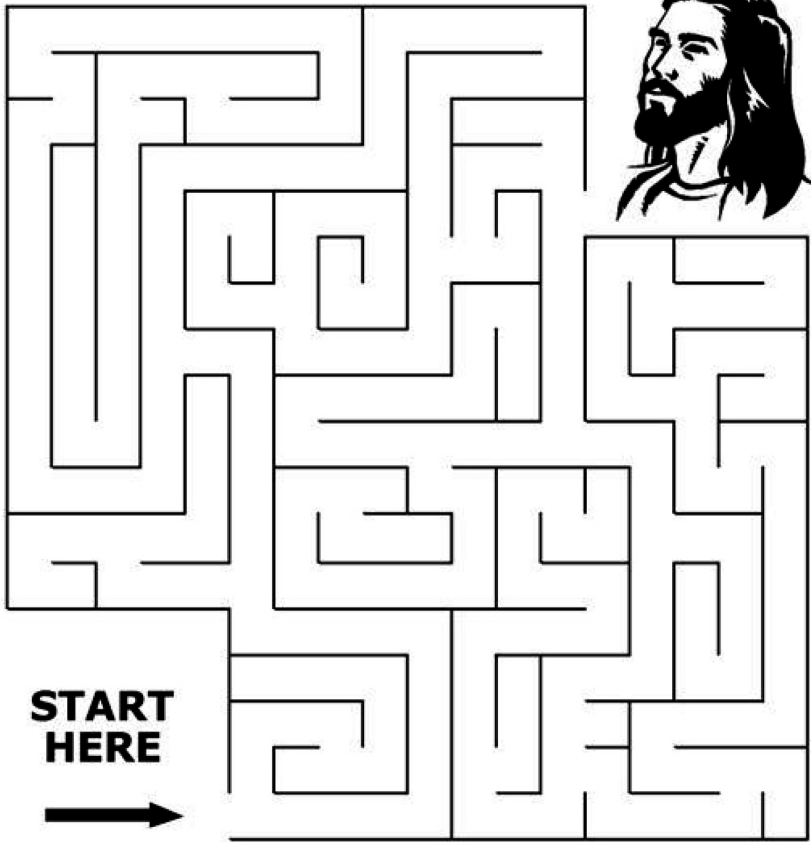
Jesus – The Only Way

(Taken from Sermons 4 Kids)

FINDING THE WAY THROUGH THE MAZE

"I am the way, the truth, and the life."

John 14:6



Can you find the way to Jesus?



FOLLOW UP

(To be filled up before the next class.)

How I practiced the Scripture Lesson during this week:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



New Testament

Character of Jesus



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To demonstrate the 'zeal' Jesus had for God and for people.
- To explain 'why' He felt so much zeal.
- To motivate children to have the same kind of zeal.



SCRIPTURE PORTIONS

Malachi 3:1-4; Matthew 26:39; Mark 1:24, 11:17-18, 13:1-2; Luke 4:34; John 2:16-17; Galatians 5:16; Philippians 2:3-4, 20-22; Hebrews 5:8



MEMORY VERSE

Philippians 2:3-4: "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of the others."



INTRODUCTION

The New Testament Gospels describe Jesus and His teachings in great detail. They help us gain an accurate picture of the Lord. This is important for us because Jesus said, "... Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father ..." (John 14:9).

Nobody has ever seen God with their human eyes. So the only way we can understand God is by studying Jesus. Today we will take a brief look at some key aspects of Christ's character, and see how we can emulate Him in our own lives.

Video Presentation 1

Video: Jesus Cleanses the Temple



**Why do you think Jesus reacted so violently at the Temple?
Was He overreacting? Why or why not?**

What explanation does John 2:16-17 offer for Jesus' anger and violence?

If Jesus felt very zealous about His Father's house, why didn't He join His disciples in praising the beautiful temple buildings? Why did He calmly talk about the temple's utter destruction in the near future? (Please refer to Mark 13:1-2).

What explanation does Mark 11:17 offer?



Jesus Had Zeal for the Fathers' House and for People

Jesus knew what would happen if He drove out the merchants.

Mark 11:18: “The chief priests and the teachers of the Law of Moses heard what Jesus said, and they started looking for a way to kill him. They were afraid of him, because the crowds were completely amazed at his teaching.”

Even though Jesus knew this incident would lead to His crucifixion, He chose to fight for His Father's House, and for the people.

Jesus Had a Zeal for Purity and Holiness

Malachi 3:1- 2 briefly points towards the incident in the Temple:

“I, the Lord All-Powerful, will send my messenger to prepare the way for me. Then suddenly the Lord you are looking for will appear in his temple. The messenger you desire is coming with my promise, and he is on his way. On the day the Lord comes, he will be like a furnace that purifies silver or like strong soap in a washbasin. No one will be able to stand up to him.”

Jesus is zealous about purity and holiness. So, He went to the temple as a “refiner’s fire” and cleaned up the temple courts.

Whenever demons encountered Jesus, though they could have described Him in many ways, they usually described Him as ‘holy.’

- **Mark 1:24:** “Jesus from Nazareth, what do you want with us? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are! You are God’s Holy One.”
- **Luke 4:34:** “Hey, Jesus of Nazareth, what do you want with us? Are you here to get rid of us? I know who you are! You are God’s Holy One.”

Self Assessment

If I had to assess my Zeal for God (zeal for things that matter to Him such as fellowship with Him, witnessing, serving, etc.), what would be my zeal-measurement, on a scale of 1 to 5? Mark your position on the Scale below:

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____

No Zeal

Some Zeal

Full of Zeal

If I had to assess my Zeal for People (how often do I make personal sacrifices to bring joy or satisfaction to others), what would be my zeal-measurement? Mark your position on the Scale below:

Philippians 2:20-22: “I don’t have anyone else who cares about you as much as he does. The others think only about what interests them and not about what concerns Christ Jesus. But you know what kind of person Timothy is. He has worked with me like a son in spreading the good news.”

Philippians 2:3-4: “Don’t be jealous or proud, but be humble and consider others more important than yourselves. Care about them as much as you care about yourselves.”

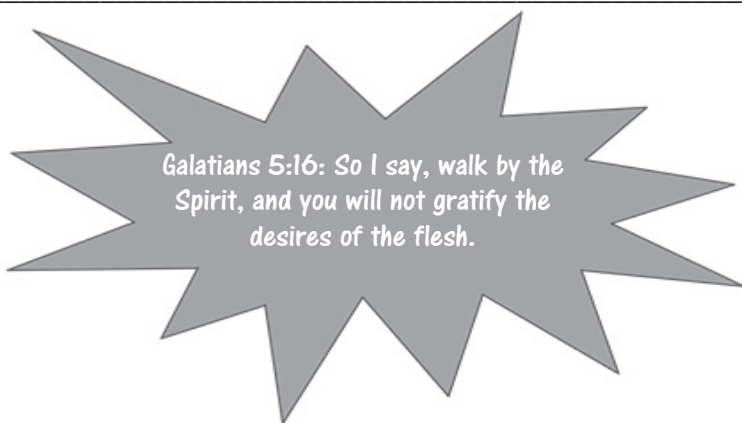
Why did Jesus have such a great zeal for God, for people, and for holiness? Do you think the video provides an answer to this question?



Matthew 26:39: “Jesus walked on a little way. Then he knelt with his face to the ground and prayed, ‘My Father, if it is possible, don’t make me suffer by having me drink from this cup. But do what you want, and not what I want.’”

Hebrews 5:8: “Jesus is God’s own Son, but still he had to suffer before he could learn what it really means to obey God.”

**What do I do if I don't have a deep love for God and people?
How can I get over my selfishness?**



The process to overcome selfishness:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____



APPLICATION

Selfishness is the root of all sin. The only way to kill selfishness is by deliberately choosing to place the interests of others before our own interests.

If we choose to do this on a daily basis, the fruit of the Spirit will begin to show up more and more in our lives. Love, joy, peace and forbearance towards others, will begin to overflow out of us, and we will be filled with zeal for God—just like Jesus.

Things I can do this week, to put God first:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Things I can do this week, to put others first:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Things I'm willing to give up permanently, so that I can be more pure and holy:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____





TAKE HOME ACTIVITY

Jesus Clears the Temple

(Taken from missionarlington.org)

k	r	o	t	u	r	n	e	d	n	c	b
g	y	v	w	e	z	t	n	o	m	e	r
o	b	u	y	k	d	s	r	j	e	a	y
q	u	a	t	s	e	r	h	u	r	v	g
s	r	u	e	l	l	b	o	x	c	y	i
p	f	n	l	o	p	r	u	d	h	o	s
r	a	i	g	a	m	k	s	n	a	p	l
s	n	o	w	o	e	g	e	o	n	d	a
g	h	s	n	r	t	x	l	c	t	e	m
a	p	e	l	t	a	b	l	e	s	t	i
b	y	t	b	u	y	i	n	g	c	w	n
y	a	m	e	r	c	h	d	t	k	t	a

Temple
Turned
Animals
tables

merchants
Selling
buying

house
money
prayer



FOLLOW UP

(To be filled up before the next class.)

How I practiced the Scripture Lesson during this week:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



New Testament

God Prunes Us



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To explain why pruning is necessary.
- To give examples of Bible characters who were pruned.
- To correct wrong beliefs about pruning.



SCRIPTURE PORTIONS

2 Kings 21; 2 Chronicles 31-33; Matthew 19:16-22; Deuteronomy 28:21; Galatians 3:13; Romans 3:24-26, 5:3-5; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 12:5, 11; James 1:4



MEMORY VERSE

Hebrews 12:11: “No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.”



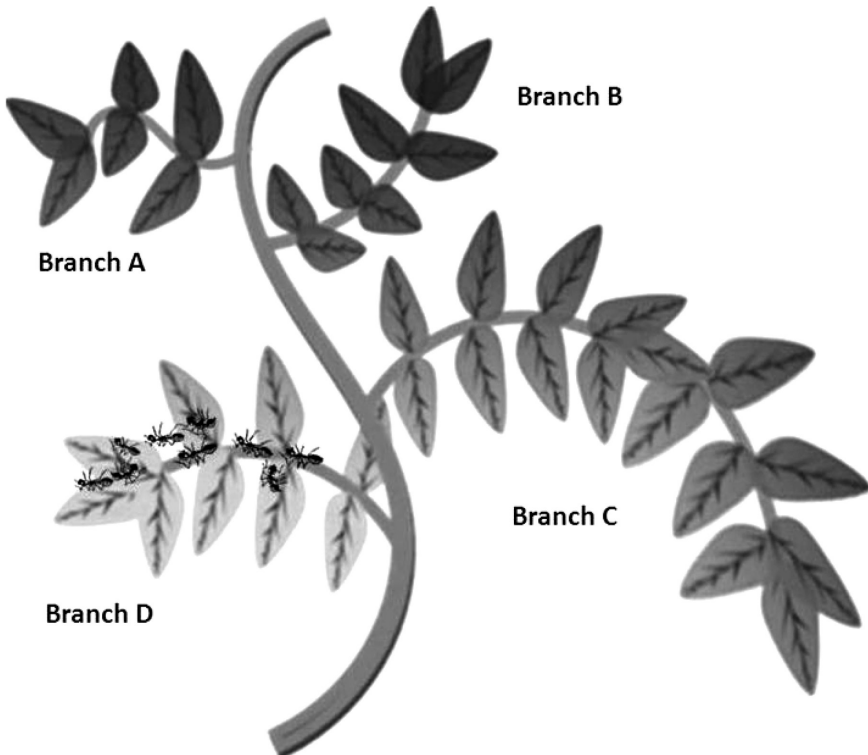
INTRODUCTION

Over the last four weeks, we studied different aspects of who Jesus is. We saw His deity and His humanity. We studied the different symbols He used to describe Himself (His I Am Sayings). And we looked at His character. Over the remaining weeks, we will look at some important teachings of Jesus on key themes. This week we will cover New Testament teaching on Fruit Bearing.

Why Prune?

Take a look at this plant

- Which branches need pruning? Explain why?



Branch A: _____

Branch B: _____

Branch C: _____

Branch D: _____

How God Prunes us

Jesus said, “[My Father] cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful” (John 15:2 NIV).

Jesus used the example of plant pruning to explain how God makes us more fruitful in our lives.

- God prunes us to get rid of sinful behaviors and attitudes that we may have.
- He prunes us in areas where we have grown weak (due to over-dependence or over-attachment to the wrong things).
- He also prunes us to make us more fruitful in areas where we are already fruitful—so that we become even more fruitful.

Let’s look at some Bible Characters who underwent a pruning process.

King Manasseh of Judah (2 Kings 21 / 2 Chronicles 33)

2 Chronicles 33:10-11: “The Lord tried to warn Manasseh and the people about their sins, but they ignored the warning. So he let Assyrian army commanders invade Judah and capture Manasseh. They put a hook in his nose and tied him up in chains, and they took him to Babylon.”



Sometimes, like Manasseh, we too choose to live in deliberate sin against the Lord. The same way a bug-infested branch cannot bear fruit, a sin-infested person cannot bear fruit either.

When God see us in this ‘unfruitful’ condition, He begins to rebuke and correct us. If we choose to ignore this pruning, God steps back and allows us to suffer the consequences of our actions.

The Rich Young Ruler (Matthew 19:16-22)

The second example is of a man who wasn’t evil like Manasseh. He was a rich young ruler who had faithfully kept God’s commandments from a young age.

Sometimes, like the rich ruler, we too are weak in certain areas of life. We tend to love something or someone more than we love God.

This weakness will cause us to break one day—the same way an over-extended branch breaks off after a while. Therefore the Lord chooses to cut short all the extras that we have grown dependent upon, such as over-attachment to a hobby, over-dependence on money, etc.



King Hezekiah (2 Chronicles 31-32)

The third example is of a man who was neither evil like Manasseh, nor over-attached to money like the rich young ruler. King Hezekiah was a wonderful God-fearing king.

Sometimes, as in the case of Hezekiah, negative things happen to us even when we are sincerely serving God. The Lord doesn’t explain why He allows these things to happen to us, but He does help us to overcome them.



Hezekiah's faith was strengthened as a result of what happened. He got pruned in the process of facing this experience. In this way, God uses both the positive and negative experiences that enter our lives to prune us, so that we can become even more fruitful.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Video Presentation

Video: Why we Don't have to be Afraid of God's Pruning

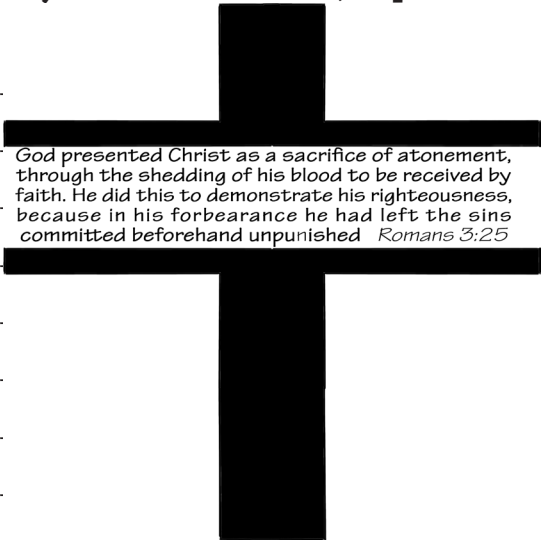
According to this video, God never uses sickness to prune and discipline us. Do you think this is biblically correct?

Most Christians believe that God puts diseases like cancer upon us to prune us and make us more holy. Do you think this is true?

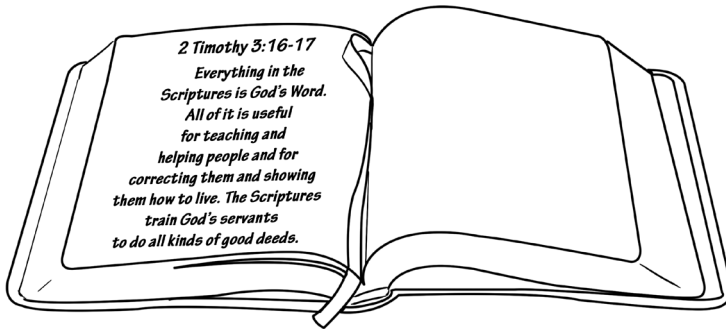
Deuteronomy 28:21: "The LORD will send terrible diseases to attack you, and you will never be well again."

Galatians 3:13: "But Christ rescued us from the Law's curse, when he became a curse in our place. This is because the Scriptures say that anyone who is nailed to a tree is under a curse."

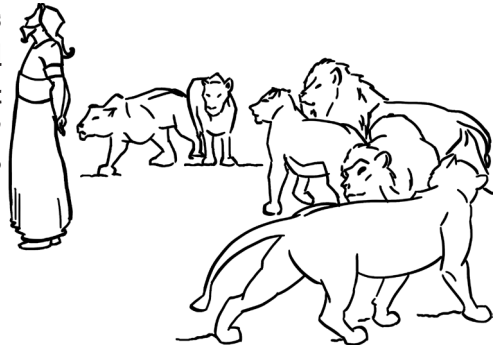
Let's assume that I have been regularly cheating and copying at school. Will God cause my house to be robbed, to prune and discipline me?



If God does not use sickness and hardships to prune and discipline us, then how does He do it?



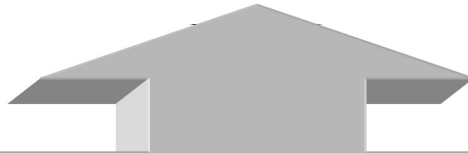
If God does not use sickness and hardship to prune and discipline us, then what is the 'painful discipline' mentioned in Hebrews 12:11?





Hebrews 12:5, 7, 11: “But you have forgotten that the Scriptures say to God’s children, ‘When the Lord punishes you, don’t make light of it, and when he corrects you, don’t be discouraged.’ Be patient when you are being corrected! This is how God treats his children. Don’t all parents correct their children? It is never fun to be corrected. In fact, at the time it is always painful. But if we learn to obey by being corrected, we will do right and live at peace.

If God does not use sickness and hardship to prune and discipline us, then why does James 1:4 and Romans 5:3-5 say that suffering produces patience?



James 1:2-4: “My friends, be glad, even if you have a lot of trouble. You know that you learn to endure by having your faith tested. But you must learn to endure everything, so that you will be completely mature and not lacking in anything.”

Romans 5:3-5: “... We gladly suffer, because we know that suffering helps us to endure. And endurance builds character, which gives us a hope that will never disappoint us ...”



APPLICATION

Is God pruning you? Choose to Respond!

Sins that the Lord is convicting me about:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Respond to God's pruning. Spare yourself the painful consequences of your sins.

Things/People towards whom I have grown over-attached/over-dependent:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Do not be like the Rich Young Ruler who failed to respond to God's pruning.

Problems that I'm facing currently:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Rejoice! God wants to help you Fully Overcome these Problems.

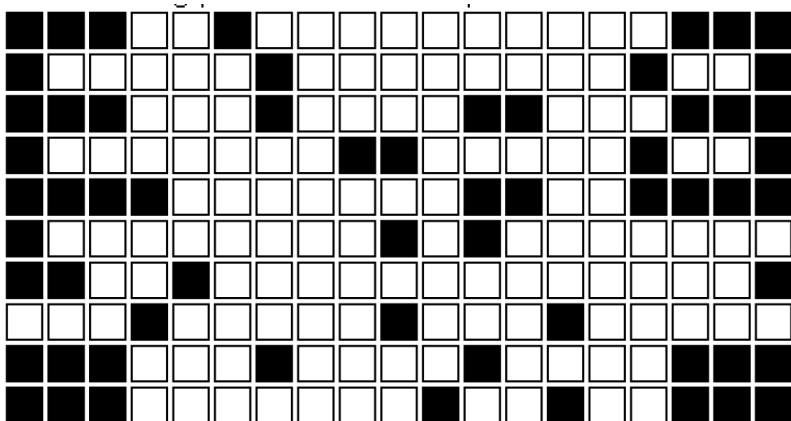


TAKE HOME ACTIVITY

God Prunes Us

(Created at gospelhall.org)

Directions—Put the letters in the empty squares directly above them.



I S N
 O S P L I T
 N M E T I A P L I U
 E H F D L C E S A N R E
 T N O U E V E L T B T T
 E I H U W E S M R A H E R V A T
 S A O D R C G H E A U I N E O N
 P R F P E I C E T E O R A T H E S
 P O W H O A H A V F O B S E N S S T
 A N D T R A I N E D E B Y E I T O S E

Write down the Memory Verse:

Hebrews 12:11: _____

(Don't forget to memorise the Memory Verse!)



FOLLOW UP

(To be filled up before the next class.)

How I practiced the Scripture Lesson during this week:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



New Testament

Beatitudes



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To explain the last three Beatitudes.
- To teach the right way to respond when we are ill-treated.
- To show how a person can stay pure and holy.



SCRIPTURE PORTIONS

Matthew 5:3-12; Luke 6:22-24; Romans 12:18; Hebrews 12:14; Titus 3:9-11; Psalms 119:9,11



MEMORY VERSE

Matthew 5:8-10: “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”



INTRODUCTION

Over the last four weeks, we studied different aspects of who Jesus is. We saw His deity and His humanity. We studied the different symbols He used to describe Himself (His I Am Sayings). And we looked at His character. Over the remaining weeks, we'll look at some important teachings of Jesus on key themes. This week we will take a closer look at the Beatitudes that Jesus taught during His Sermon on the Mount.

The Beatitudes

On the mountain near Galilee when Jesus said, "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God," what exactly did Jesus mean?



- Was Jesus saying, "I'll bless you with good things only if you become poor."
- Or was he saying, "Poverty is a blessing. So you shouldn't try to get rid of your poverty."
- Or was he saying, "Even if you're poor and suffering a lot, I'll still bless you."

What did Jesus mean when He called poor people 'blessed'?

Video Presentation 1

Video: Beatitudes

According to Bible scholar, Aaron Eby, the word ‘blessed’ is NOT referring to the blessings that we normally think about.

- Rather Jesus was saying, “Things might seem difficult for you poor people right now; but don’t worry. It’s going to be worth it in the long run.”
- Jesus said (according to the scholar), “Good for you if you’re poor, for I’ll give you the kingdom; Good for you if you’re mourning, for I’ll comfort you.”

Taken in this sense, the Beatitudes can be read this way:

- Even if you are spiritually bankrupt (*poor in spirit*),
- Even if you are overwhelmed by the sadness of life in this world (*those who mourn*),
- Even if you are the kind of person who doesn’t stand up for yourself or assert your rights (*meek*),
- Even if you are fed up with and broken by injustice (*those who hunger and thirst for righteousness*),
- Even if your heart is soft, you are always giving to others, and easily taken advantage of by needy people (*merciful*) [Source: The Beatitudes: Virtues or Proclamations? by Chaplain Mike]

I don't know why my life is filled with pain and so much difficulty



... even if this is your condition, Good For You! Why? Because it’s going to be worth it in the long run!

Good for You If You Are a Peacemaker!

Who is a peacemaker?

Romans 12:18: _____

Hebrews 12:14: _____

Titus 3 9-11: _____

Good for You If You Are Persecuted!

Have you personally faced any persecution for righteousness' sake? Explain.

Examples:

- Friends who are offended when you refuse to let them copy from your exam sheet.
- Classmates who look down on you because you don't use the popular 'cuss words' that stream from their mouths.
- The anger you face when you insist that salvation is through Jesus alone.
- Sacrificing time with your friends, so that you can make friends with a lonely person and be a blessing to them.
- Being excluded by your friends because you refused to join in, when they were skimming through a cheap magazine.



Please Note: If you have never been persecuted for righteousness' sake, you probably have never made any effort to be righteous. Please check and make sure whether or not you were ever "born again" into a new creation. New creations tend to behave like new creations at least some of the time!



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

In Matthew 5:8 Jesus said, “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.” What do you think we must do to become pure?

Video Presentation 2

Video: Maintaining Purity after Salvation

According to this video, how can young people keep themselves pure?

Step 1: _____

Step 2: _____

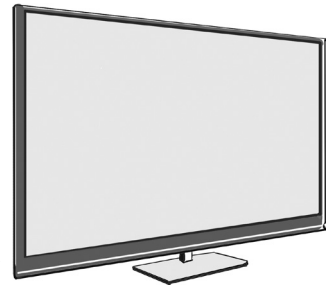
Step 3: _____



If I'm not able to stay pure every day, then will I fail to see God?



**Do you think it's really possible to stay pure on a daily basis?
Is God expecting something impossible of us?**



APPLICATION

We have covered some very important things today. Take time to reflect on these truths and apply them to your personal life.

- How do you usually respond when someone insults or mistreats you? Do you make war or peace? _____

- Are you a peacemaker who talks positively about people behind their back? _____
- Or are you a warmonger who enjoys spreading gossip and creating rifts? _____

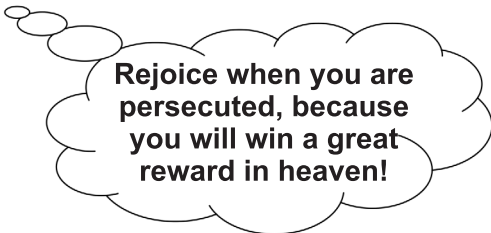
**Choose to be a
Peacemaker so that the
Lord can boast you are
His child!**

What is your response when people persecute you for righteousness' sake?

- Do you take a stand for righteousness? Or do you drift along with the crowd? _____
- How do you treat the people who hate you and exclude you from their friend-circles?

- What do you do when people make false allegations against you? Do you usually speak badly about them in return? _____

- Do you rejoice when you suffer for the sake of righteousness? Do you feel glad? _____
- Do you leap for joy when someone mocks you for following Christ? _____



Areas of my life where I've veered away from righteousness:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

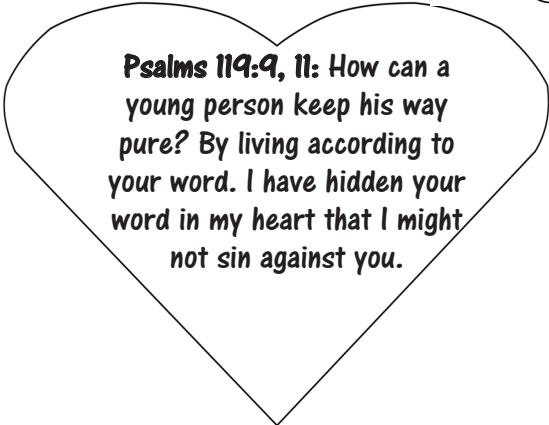
Changes I need to make, to get back on the right track:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

'Hiding' God's Word in my heart involves three steps:

- Step 1: _____
- Step 2: _____
- Step 3: _____

Commit to practice these three steps this week.



FOLLOW UP

(To be filled up before the next class.)

How I practiced the Scripture Lesson during the week:

- 1. _____

- 2. _____

- 3. _____



TAKE HOME ACTIVITY

Beatitude Reflections

(Taken from Biblewise.com)

Match the Beginnings and the Endings using a pocket mirror.

Verse	Beginnings	Endings
5:3	Blessed are the poor in spirit,	A. for they will be comforted.
5:4	Blessed are those who mourn,	B. for they will inherit the earth.
5:5	Blessed are the meek,	C. for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
5:6	Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,	D. because great is your reward in heaven.
5:7	Blessed are the merciful,	E. for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
5:8	Blessed are the pure in heart,	F. for they will be called sons of God.
5:9	Blessed are the peacemakers,	G. for they will be filled.
5:10	Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,	H. for they will see God.
5:11,	Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and	I. for they will be shown mercy.
12	falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad.	



New Testament

Kingdom of God



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To explain what the Bible says about God's Kingdom.
- To warn that fake Christians closely resemble genuine Christians.
- To teach that only genuine Christians will enter God's Kingdom.



SCRIPTURE PORTIONS

Genesis 1:28, 12:2-3; 1 Samuel 8:6-18; 2 Samuel 7:12-17; Psalms 47:7; Isaiah 11:4-5; Matthew 13:24-43, 26:29; Luke 17:20; John 12:31; James 1:14-15; Revelation 20:1-4



MEMORY VERSE

Matthew 7:21: "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven."



INTRODUCTION

In the first four weeks, we studied different aspects of who Jesus is. We saw His deity and His humanity. We studied the different symbols He used to describe Himself (His I Am Sayings). And we looked at His character. Then we began to study some of Jesus' teachings, starting with His teaching on fruit-bearing. This week we will take a closer look at Jesus' teachings on the Kingdom of God.

Kingdom of God

Which kingdom is 2 Samuel 7:16-17 talking about? Whom does this kingdom belong to? Name him.

In Luke 17:20 which kingdom did the Pharisees ask Jesus about?

What was Jesus' answer in Luke 17:21? What kind of kingdom did Jesus talk about?

In Matthew 26:29 which kingdom does Jesus refer to? Is He talking about an earthly political kingdom or a symbolic spiritual kingdom?

What is the Kingdom of God?

Who is King of all the earth? (Psalms 47:7)

To whom did God delegate the authority to rule? (Genesis 1:28)

Why did Jesus refer to Satan as the “prince of this world”? Do you think God appointed Satan as a prince? Explain (John 12:31).



Why do you think God established the earthly kingdom of Israel? (Genesis 12:2-3)

Who was the king of the earthly kingdom of Israel? (1 Samuel 8:6-7)

Why were the Israelites not happy with their king? What did they want and why? (1 Samuel 8:6-7)

What did God warn the Israelites about the kings of Israel? (1 Samuel 8:10-18)

What did God promise King David? (2 Samuel 7:12-13)



What kind of a Kingdom will the Messiah King establish? (Isaiah 11:4-5)

Who will be the citizens of this kingdom? (Matthew 13:41-43)

Why did Jesus not establish a political kingdom after he came to the earth? (James 1:14-15)

**When will Jesus' political kingdom be established on earth?
(Revelation 20:1-4)**



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Who is part of the Kingdom of God?

In the Parable of the Wheat and Tares (Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43) what is the Kingdom of God being compared to?

According to verse 38 and 41 what kind of people are there in God's earthly kingdom?

According to verse 26 when did the servants realise that there were tares among the weeds?

Why do you think the servants were able to differentiate between the wheat and the tares when they started sprouting?

Video Presentation

Video: Wheat and Tares

Based on this video, what do you think is the key difference between genuine citizens of the Kingdom and fake Christians?

According to Matthew 7:21-23 what will happen to fake Christians?

How can we know whether we are genuine Christians or fake Christians?

What does 2 Corinthians 5:17 say about genuine Christians?

What does 1 John 3:9-10 say about genuine Christians?

Does this mean we gain salvation and enter God's kingdom through good deeds? What does Ephesians 2:8-9 teach on this?

According to James 2:14-20, do we enter God's kingdom through good deeds? Are deeds important or not?



APPLICATION

Everybody wants to be part of God's future Kingdom. Nobody wants to end up in hell with Satan. However the privilege of being a citizen in God's Kingdom will be accorded only to those who are new creations.

Examine Yourself—Are you Wheat or a Tare?

Is my thought-life Christ-like or sinful/worldly?

Are my words wholesome and edifying or are they filled with pride, hatred, unbelief, fear, selfishness, etc.?

Are my attitudes and priorities godly or worldly? Are they God-centered or self-centered?

Are my behavior and actions like those of a true disciple of Christ?

If you don't see yourself gradually moving in the direction of becoming more Christ-like, then maybe you are not a new creation yet! Those who do not have God's DNA inside them, those that haven't become a new creation will NOT enter into God's kingdom! Jesus will personally reject them – even if they have cast out demons using Jesus Name!

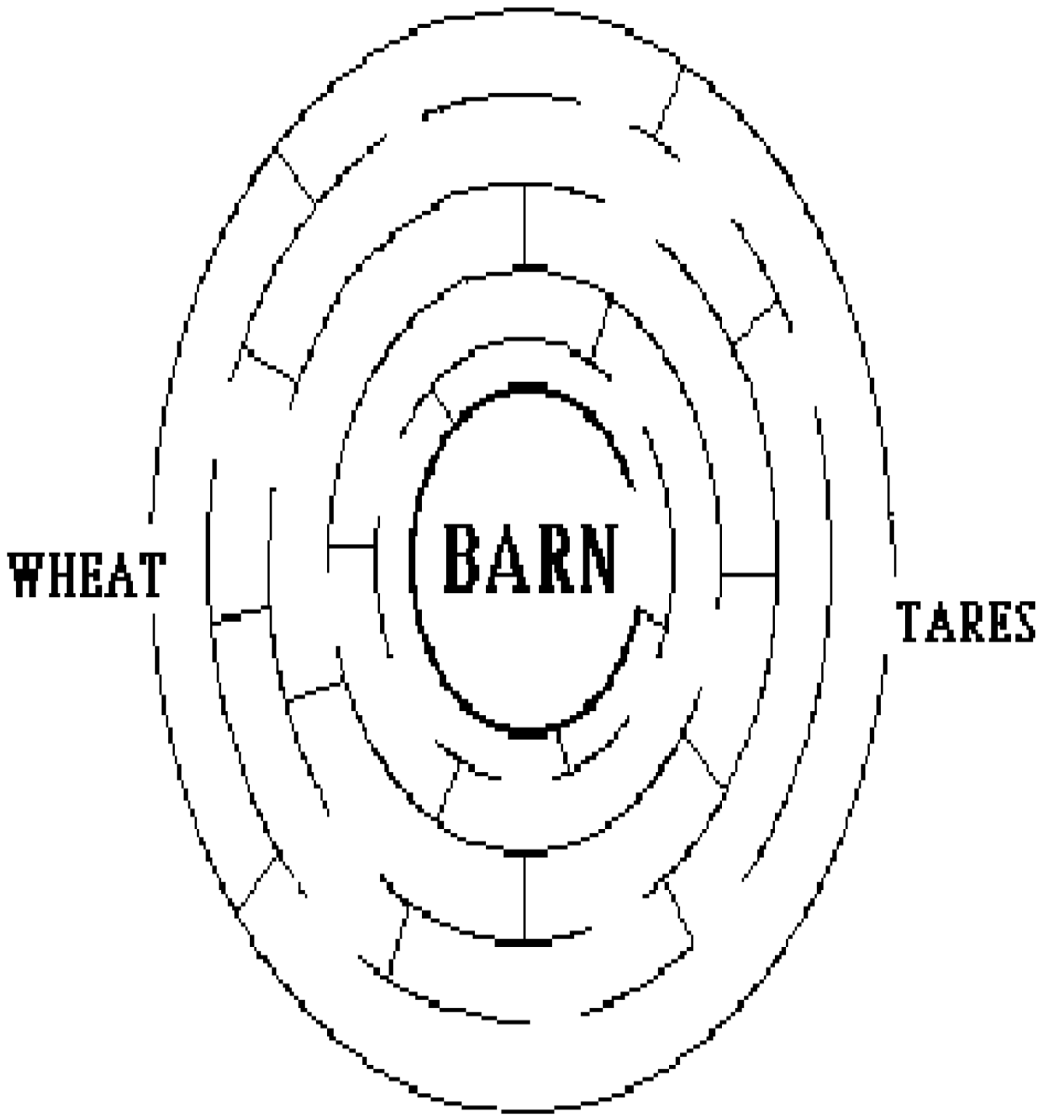
Please make sure that you're not a tare who only resembles the wheat!



TAKE HOME ACTIVITY

Parable of the Wheat and Tares

(Taken from Higherpraise.com)





FOLLOW UP

(To be filled up before the next class.)

How I practiced the Scripture Lesson during the week:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

