

Our Relationship with God

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The majesty of God

Lesson 1

A. Introduction

Before we talk about getting to know God we want to consider who God is. In this lesson we will try to comprehend something of the glory and majesty of our great God.

The Bible tells us that there are three ways that God has used to help us understand how wonderful He is:

1. God has revealed Himself to us in all of His creation around us. Romans 1:20.
2. God has revealed Himself to us in His Word. John 1:1.
3. The most glorious way He has revealed Himself is through His Son Jesus Christ. Hebrews 1:1-2; John 1:18.

B. A glorious vision of God

Read Isaiah 6:1-7

God gave Isaiah this magnificent vision of Himself that has been recorded in the Bible for you and me.

1. Verse 3. The seraphim have been crying, "Holy, holy, holy", praising God for all eternity and still they are not tired of praising and bowing down before Him.

When we are in His presence that is our only desire – to praise Him – for He is so holy and majestic.

2. Verse 5. The effect of standing before God made Isaiah say, "Woe is me". He realised he was unclean and unworthy to stand before Almighty God.
3. Verse 8. Finally Isaiah cries out, "Here am I send me". A revelation of God gave Isaiah a desire to serve God.

We need a revelation of who our God is. Our revelation of Him will inspire us to worship Him, to walk separate unto Him and to serve Him.

C. God is complete in Himself

Read Psalm 90:1-2

God has always existed and no one created Him. There was a time in eternity past that God the Father, His Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit dwelt completely alone.

1. There were no angels to sing His praises.

2. There were no stars, sun or moon in the heavens to show His glory. It was completely empty.
3. There was no earth with its mountains and great seas.

This was not just for a day, month, or year but from everlasting.

The wonderful truth is that God did not need His creation to make Him happy.

He was full of **joy** just as He is today.
He was full of **peace** just as He is today.
He was total **love** just as He is today.
He was perfectly **holy** just as He is today.

God in His Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – rejoiced completely in Himself. He needed nothing else for His happiness.

D. The great attributes of God

There are four characteristics of God that no one else can possess.

1. Omniscience.

Read Romans 11:33-34

- a) To say that God is omniscient means that He knows all things – past, present and future.
- b) God is all-wise. There is nothing that He does not know. This includes all things that are actual and all things that are possible. Both Paul and Isaiah had this revelation of God.
- c) Verse 33. The riches of God's wisdom and knowledge are so deep that they are immeasurable. For this reason God's judgements are perfect and unsearchable.
- d) Verse 34. We, as mere mortals, cannot fathom His ways.

Who has God been to for counselling? No one can counsel God. He knows all things.

2. Omnipresent.

Read Psalm 139:7-13

- a) Omnipresent means that God is everywhere at the same time. God is free from the laws of the limitation of time and space.
- b) David was astounded by God's presence being everywhere. If he ascends into the highest heavens or descends to the lowest depths God is there. If he goes to any place in this universe God is there.

What a marvellous comfort for us to know that wherever we go or whatever happens to us God is there for us.

3. Omnipotent.

Read Proverbs 30:4

- a) Omnipotent means that God is all-powerful.
- b) When God created the heavens and the earth He just spoke and the heavens and earth were created. Hebrews 11:3.
- c) What can compare to His power?
- d) It is great to know that God can speak and release that same power into our lives today as we look to Him.

Like Jeremiah we need to declare, "Ah, Sovereign Lord ... Nothing is too hard for you". Jeremiah 32:17.

4. Immutable.

Read Hebrews 13:8

- a) Immutable means that God does not change.
- b) God is the same God who was before creation, He is the God of the Old Testament and the New Testament, and He will remain the same forever.

Everything in this world can fade away but God remains the same. Hebrews 1:10-12.

- c) Others may let us down but God will never fail us. We can always trust in God's promises. Numbers 23:19.

E. God is above all His creation

Read 1 Chronicles 29:11

- 1. In the last line of the Lord's Prayer Jesus told us to pray this same prayer. Matthew 6:13b.
- 2. We need to be reminded daily of the greatness of our God. How glorious and majestic is our God! He is far greater than anything in all His creation. Truly, all of the glory belongs to Him.

Memory Verse

Exodus 15:11, *“Who among the gods is like you, o Lord? Who is like you – majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?”*

Teacher’s Notes

1. Read Job 42:2, Psalm 115:3 and see how the God of Scripture is and always will be the King of kings and the Lord of lords.
2. Consider the following great Hebrew titles of our God and share them with your congregation. You might also like to use them as titles for sermons to explain the greatness of God.

Jehovah	–	means Eternal One; He who was and is and is to come.	
Jehovah Elohim	–	Eternal Creator; self-existent one.	Genesis 2:4-25.
Jehovah Adonai	–	the Lord our sovereign master.	Genesis 15:2, 8.
Jehovah Jireh	–	the Lord our provider.	Genesis 22:8, 14.
Jehovah Nissi	–	the Lord our banner.	Exodus 17:15.
Jehovah Ropheka	–	the Lord our healer.	Exodus 15:26.
Jehovah Shalom	–	the Lord our peace.	Judges 6:24.
Jehovah Tsidkeenu	–	the Lord our righteousness.	Jeremiah 23:6.
Jehovah Mekaddishkem	–	the Lord our sanctifier.	Exodus 31:13.
Jehovah Sabaoth	–	the Lord of hosts.	1 Samuel 1:3.
Jehovah Shammah	–	the Lord is present.	Ezekiel 48:35.
Jehovah Elyon	–	the Lord most high.	Psalms 7:17.
Jehovah Rohi	–	the Lord my shepherd.	Psalms 23:1.
Jehovah Hoseenu	–	the Lord our maker.	Psalms 95:6.
Jehovah Eloheenu	–	the Lord our God.	Psalms 99:5.

God created man in His image

Lesson 2

A. Introduction

Read Isaiah 43:7

In our previous study we saw how glorious God is in all His holiness and power. In this study we will see how Almighty God created mankind in His own image, and how wonderfully we are made.

1. God says through Isaiah 43 that we have been created for His glory.
2. If we look at ourselves through God's eyes, we will see how much we are worth to God and to people.

B. Creation

Read Genesis 1:26-27, 2:7

1. God in His Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – counselled together to make man.
2. God made us; we did not make ourselves. Psalm 100:3.
3. He did not speak us into being like the sun, moon, stars and earth, but He lovingly made man with His own hands. Psalm 119:73.
4. Then He breathed His life into Adam and he became a living soul.

C. Made in the image of God

1. When we look around us at the world today and see how deeply men have fallen into the miry clay, then it is difficult to see how we could have been created in God's image. But this is not what God intends.
2. When we read the Bible we see how we, in many ways, are similar to God.
 - a) **Spirituality** God has breathed His spiritual nature into us that exalts us above animals. We alone of all earth's creatures are capable of communing with God. Job 32:8.
 - b) **Personality** God is a person. He is the Supreme Being and has a free will. Man is also a person and has been given a free will to choose between right and wrong.
 - c) **Holiness** God is the Holy One and man was created to be pure and holy after the image of God.

- d) **Love** God is love. Man was created to love God and his fellow beings.
- e) **Dominion** God is Sovereign (He is Lord of all) and He created man to rule over all creation.
- f) **Divine image** Man as a child of God, made in His image, reflects the divine likeness among the inhabitants of the earth.

3. Because we are made in His image we can know Him.

D. Wonderfully made

Read Psalm 139:13-16

Let us consider some things about the amazing human body to see how wonderfully we are made.

1. If we look at our body we will see that there are no two people in the world exactly the same. God has made everyone an individual. For example, each person's thumb prints are different to everyone else's.
2. Our heart, which is a pump beating in our chest, never has to be told to pump or to be switched on. Yet it pumps 4,200 times an hour – that is 12,000 litres of blood every day.
3. In our body we have 600 muscles and 1500 kilometres of blood vessels. There are 20,000 fine hairs inside our ears to tune into all the sounds around us.
4. There is no computer in the world that even comes near to the ability of the human brain.

These are just some of the wonderful things about our body.

God has not made any one person greater than another. Acts 10:34. We all have the same Father God, come from the same human father, Adam, and God is no respecter of persons.

E. The worth of man

Many people in the world have not understood how important man is to God and how much worth God places on mankind. Because they do not understand this they kill each other and treat each other worse than animals. But see how important God finds us to be:

1. **Authority.**

Read Psalm 8:3-8

When God made Adam and Eve He put them in charge of all creation. Genesis 1:27-28.

2. **Great worth.**

Read Mark 8:36

In the eyes of God a human being is worth more than the entire world.

3. **Costly salvation.**

Read 1 Peter 1:18-19

The highest price of all was paid for our salvation – the life of the Son of God.

4. **Eternal importance.**

Read John 11:26

Because God has breathed His eternal life into us, we cannot die, but will live forever and ever. Therefore we are very, very important.

5. **Likeness of the Creator.**

Read Genesis 9:6

Because we are made in the wonderful likeness of the Creator and we have been exalted above all other creatures, our human life is very sacred.

F. Fellowship with God

Read 1 John 1:3

1. It was God's delight right from the creation of the first man to have wonderful fellowship with him. He walked in the cool of the evening in the Garden of Eden to fellowship with Adam and Eve.
2. He has plans for us even before we are formed by Him in our mother's womb. Jeremiah 1:5; Job 31:15.
3. God holds us by the hand and tells us not to fear, just as we would hold our child's hand to comfort him in times of danger. Isaiah 41:13.
4. We will have eternal fellowship with God and rule eternally with Him. We will work with God in administering the affairs of eternity. Revelation 5:10, 22:4-5.

G. The great and tragic fall

1. It was God's plan for us to rule and reign over His creation, to multiply and to be blessed by Him.
2. He created Adam sinless, but of course Adam had his free will and was capable of

sinning. God entered into a covenant, or agreement, with Adam that he would never die as long as he did not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

3. Satan came in the form of a serpent and tempted Adam. Adam purposefully sinned and so destroyed his relationship with God.
4. Because of this great sin, mankind and all creation was cursed by God and could no longer fellowship with God.

But God has made us in His image and for His glory and wants to fellowship with each one of us.

In the next lessons we will see what sin really is and God's remedy for it.

Memory Verse

Genesis 1:27, *“So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him, male and female He created them”*.

Teacher's Notes

1. Man is made like God in that he is **tripartite**. 1 Thessalonians 5:23.
Man has a **body** – physical flesh and bone with the five senses of touching, smelling, tasting, seeing and hearing.
He has a **soul** – this is intellect (or mind), emotions (feelings) and will (decision-making).
He has a **spirit** – which communes with God, man's conscience shows him right from wrong, his intuition shows him the will of God.
2. The physical and spiritual natures of man are clearly distinguished in Scripture:
 - a) The body (not the spirit or soul) was made from dust. Genesis 2:7
 - b) The spirit leaves the body at death. James 2:26, Luke 16:22
 - c) The body (but not the soul) can be killed. Matthew 10:28
 - d) The spirit can be willing, but the flesh weak. Matthew 26:38-41
 - e) Both body and spirit must glorify God. 1 Corinthians 6:20
 - f) The inner man is eternal, while the body is mortal. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18
 - g) Man's spirit can be dead, while his body is alive. Ephesians 2:1
 - h) Souls and spirits of the righteous go to heaven at death (2 Corinthians 5:8), and their bodies to the grave (John 5:28-29)
 - i) Soul and spirits of the wicked go to hell, while their bodies go to the grave. Luke 16:19-26

What is sin?

Lesson 3

A. Introduction

Read 1 Samuel 12:15

The Bible tells us that God is not pleased with sin and that we need to turn from our sins. In this lesson we will therefore take a closer look at what sin is.

B. What does the Bible call sin?

1. Sin is rebellion against God.

Read 1 Samuel 15:23

- a) Satan was once the angel Lucifer, one of God's chief angels created to bring glory to God. Lucifer lifted himself up in pride, rebelled against God's authority and so he was cast out of heaven to earth.
- b) God considers rebellion to be very serious. God says it is like witchcraft and bowing down to idols.
- c) Satan's spirit of rebellion against God is working on the earth today, inspiring mankind to reject God's authority and inspiring man to go his own way.
- d) Many people say that they are not sinners. They live good lives. They do not steal or kill and yet they are not surrendering their lives to God, seeking Him with their whole heart.

God created us to have a relationship with Him. God has to be first in our hearts. Our whole life must be surrendered to Him as we seek to please Him by faith.

2. Sin is in our actions.

Read 1 John 3:4

- a) Sin first entered this world in the Garden of Eden when man wilfully disobeyed God.

God had given man clear instructions, but Satan led Adam and Eve to doubt God's Word and eat from the fruit that God had said not to eat from.

- b) Man is given clear instructions in the Bible of the things that please God.

We sin every time we choose to disobey His instructions. Sin is doing anything that is not pleasing to God.

3. **Sin is in our thoughts.**

Read Matthew 5:27-28

Illustration: Two brothers were fighting. Their father punished them by making them sit in two different corners of a room. The father stopped the boys from fighting, but the boys were still planning how they could hurt each other. The boys had stopped fighting, but there was still resentment and unforgiveness – they were still fighting in their hearts.

- a) Many people say that they are not sinners because they do not do bad things. Yet in their thoughts there is resentment, bitterness, lust, etc.
- b) Sin is not just outward disobedience to God, but also inward disobedience to the Word of God.

4. **Sin is in our mouths.**

Read Proverbs 10:19

The Bible speaks a lot about the power of the tongue. God tells us not only what He wants us to do and to think, but also how to please Him with our lips.

Gossip, lying, backbiting, slander, cursing, etc., are not pleasing to God. James 4:11.

5. **Sin is in man's nature.**

Read Romans 5:12, 19

Illustration: A mother was disappointed when she found her young child trying to steal something from the kitchen. The mother wondered where her child had learned to steal.

- a) We have all inherited a sinful nature from Adam and therefore sin is in our seed.
- b) A child does not have to be taught to sin – that comes naturally. Our children have inherited a sinful nature from us. The Bible says that we not only sin, but that we are sinners.

C. All are sinners

Read 1 John 1:8

- 1. When we consider what sin is we must admit that all are sinners. No one is excluded.
- 2. We are all in need of God's help to deal with sin.

Memory Verse

Romans 3:10-11, 23, *“There is no one righteous, not even one... there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”.*

Teacher’s Notes

1. Read Ezekiel 28:12-17 and Isaiah 14:12-17.

These are prophecies concerning Satan. Notice the number of times (in Isaiah) Satan says in his pride “I will”.

2. Read Genesis 3:1-6.

Notice verse 1 “Did God really say?”

3. Read Matthew 4:1-11.

Notice that Satan is still trying to twist what God’s Word says.

Our answer for Satan’s deceit is the same as that of Jesus: It is to know God’s truth. See verses 4, 7 and 10 – Jesus said, “It is written”.

The result of sin

Lesson 4

A. Introduction

Read Romans 3:10, 23

In our last lesson we learned that all people are sinners.

Romans 3:23 tells us that we have fallen short of God's glory. Let us consider together in this lesson what that means.

B. Man's relationship with God

Read 1 John 4:8

1. In this verse we see something of God's character. God is love. God does not just love; He is love itself.
2. Because God is love, He desired someone to express that love to. Adam and Eve fulfilled that desire of God's heart in the Garden of Eden. They enjoyed God's fellowship and blessing in the garden.

C. God is a holy God

Read Habakkuk 1:13a

This verse tells us something more about God's character. He is a Holy God who will not dwell with sin.

D. Sin separates man from God

Read Isaiah 59:2

1. The fellowship that man enjoyed in the garden was broken when man sinned.
2. "If God is a loving God, why was this relationship broken?" we might ask. The answer is that God is also a Holy God and will not tolerate sin.

Illustration: To better understand sinful man's position with God, think of a picture of a large canyon. On one side stands the glory of God and on the other side stands sinful man. Between the two is a large gulf (sin) that is separating man from God. So man is unable to enjoy all the blessings that come from a relationship with Almighty God.

E. The results of this separation

1. **Death.**

Read Genesis 2:17

Sin brings death to man in three ways:

a) **Physical death.**

Sin brought sickness and death into the world. On the day Adam and Eve sinned, their natural bodies started dying. Genesis 5:5.

b) **Spiritual death.**

Read Ephesians 2:1

i) This scripture is speaking of people who are alive but at the same time it says they are dead.

ii) People without Christ today are dead spiritually.

iii) Sin separated man from God's fellowship. Sinful man cannot communicate with God.

c) **Eternal death.**

Read Romans 6:23

There comes a time when every person will die and his or her body will go to the grave. The soul, the real person inside the physical body, does not go to the grave, but will live forever.

Without Christ, the soul of man is separated from God's love for eternity in hell. This is the worst death of all.

2. Guilt.

Read Genesis 3:7-10

a) Adam and Eve had peace with God in the garden. Because of the guilt and shame of their sin, we afterwards see them hiding from God in fear.

b) Many people today do not admit that they are sinners, but the guilt of their sin weighs on their hearts and robs them of peace.

3. Sorrow.

Read Genesis 3:14-19

a) Before his sin, man was free from strife and all his needs were met. Afterwards God said that man would be in warfare with Satan (verse 15) and that he would have to struggle to provide for his needs.

- b) We see in the world today that sin has brought many sorrows to people's lives. These include drug addiction, broken marriages, strife in relationships, poverty, crime, etc.

4. **Darkness.**

Illustration: A man had to journey through the night across an area of land that had large holes in the ground. While it was still light the man could find his way, avoiding the holes, but as darkness came he stumbled on the way and fell into the holes, harming himself.

Read Proverbs 4:19

- a) Sin brings darkness.
- b) Without the light of God's presence, man stumbles in the darkness and does not know the right way to go. So then man falls into all kinds of traps that the devil has placed there to bring harm to him.

5. **Bondage.**

Read John 8:34

Sin makes man a slave. He cannot do what he wants to, but is bound like a person bound with chains. He is separated from the freedom that comes from knowing God.

F. There is nothing man can do to save himself

Read Jeremiah 2:22

1. Lost and bound in sin man tries many different ways to remove himself from this state.
2. Many people think good works, going to church, better education, different religions, trying to be good, etc., will help. Proverbs 14:12.

Illustration: Again to our picture of the large canyon of sin separating us from God. People try with these things we have listed to build a bridge across this canyon. The Bible is clear that all of these attempts will not bridge this separation.

There is nothing man can do in himself to remove his sin and restore fellowship with God. Acts 4:12.

All of man's attempts, no matter how good they are, will not remove the guilt of man's sin. Isaiah 64:6.

G. Jesus Christ is the only answer

Read Romans 7:24-25

1. With all this bad news we might wonder if there is any hope for man.
2. The good news is found in Jesus Christ. Only the blood of Jesus can remove our sin and restore our relationship with God.

Memory Verse

Isaiah 59:2, *“But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you so that he will not hear”.*

Teacher’s Notes

Accepting Jesus and the power of His blood is the only way to restore our fellowship with God (Ephesians 2:13). The following do not save:

1. **Different religions:** John 14:6. Jesus did not say that He was **a** way to God. He said that He is **the only** way.
2. **Going to church:** John 3:1-3. To the religious Jesus said, “You must be born again”.
3. **Good works:** Ephesians 2:8-9. Good works without Christ will not save us.
4. **Education:** 1 Corinthians 1:18-21. All man’s learning and wisdom will not gain him eternal life.
5. **Mental belief in God:** James 2:19-20. The demons believe in Jesus, but they are not saved.

God makes the way

Lesson 5

A. Introduction

Read Proverbs 8:35-36

1. In the last few lessons we have seen that sin is the reason for man's separation from God, and that all of man's problems have come because of sin.
2. We also learned that there is absolutely nothing that man can do to deliver himself from this hopeless state.

Illustration: A certain group of people were living on the bank of a wonderful life-giving stream. One day a very big rock fell into the river some kilometres upstream. This turned the river in a completely different direction. The people had no water to drink or to wash themselves. Their crops began to die in the fields for lack of water. Soon the people began dying. The people worked very hard trying to improve their situation where they were. They fertilised the fields, weeded the plants and even planted more crops. All of these good efforts did nothing to change their plight. Without the life-giving water the village people grew weaker, became ill and continued to die. The people needed to deal with the root cause of their problem. They needed to get help to remove the rock, which would restore the flow of the life-giving water.

3. Sin is the root cause of the problems of mankind. In these next lessons we will see how God has dealt with this root cause of sin and has given us new life.

B. God always had a plan

Read 1 Peter 1:18-20

1. It was not God's plan for sin, sickness and suffering to come upon mankind. The God who loves us desires the best for us.

But for love to be real love there has to be a choice or it is not a love relationship at all. God gave man a free will. Man was given a choice to love God but he chose to go his own way.

2. God in His foreknowledge saw man's fall and in His love made a plan for man to be restored.

Back in eternity, before the universe was even created, the Godhead planned that Jesus Christ should die on the cross of Calvary for the sin of man. How great the love of God is, that He should give His only Son so that we could be restored. 1 John 4:10.

C. The stream of blood in the Old Testament

God's repeated lesson right through the old covenant is that only blood can atone for sin and

bring man back into relationship with God.

1. Adam and Eve.

Read Genesis 3:21

Only a very short time after they sinned, God killed two animals and covered Adam and Eve with the skins.

He was pointing to something right from the start. As Adam and Eve stood, dripping with blood from those freshly skinned animals, God was saying, "only the blood will cover your sins".

Even before Christ died on the cross God was seeing the blood of Jesus that would cover all sin.

2. Cain and Abel.

Read Genesis 4:3-5

It does not seem fair that Cain's offering should have been rejected. Cain had worked hard and brought a good offering.

But God wanted to make it clear that all of man's good works and good intentions will never be good enough to deal with sin.

3. Israel delivered from slavery and death.

Read Exodus 12:1-14

Frogs, boils, hailstorms, locusts, etc. ... did not manage to release Israel out of slavery. It was only the blood of an innocent lamb that resulted in their freedom.

The Passover was God's way of pointing to the blood of Jesus Christ that would deliver us from our bondage to sin and death.

4. Blood sacrifices.

Read Leviticus 1:1-5

a) The way into God's presence in the Old Testament Tabernacle was by the offering of a blood sacrifice. All the way through the Old Testament this stream of blood flowed.

b) There was no secret power in the blood of bulls, lambs and goats. God allowed this blood to be a token, which drew its power from the blood of Christ.

Notice that the sacrifice had to be without defect, pointing to Christ the sinless sacrifice.

D. The final sacrifice

Read Hebrews 10:10-14

1. All the blood sacrifices throughout the Old Testament were pointing to the blood of Jesus Christ – the Spotless Lamb that took away the sins of the world. John 1:29.
2. We have been made holy forever by His blood. His sacrifice was once for all. It is final and it is for everyone, so any further shedding of blood is no longer necessary.

E. The blood has made the way

Read Ephesians 2:13

1. Through the blood of Jesus the sin that separated us from God has been dealt with. What was impossible for man to do himself, God did through the death of His Son.
2. We are free to come to God now and to enjoy His fellowship forever.

What a wonderful God! What a tremendous provision!

Memory Verse

Hebrews 10:10, *“We have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all”.*

Teacher’s Notes

Consider the power of the blood of Jesus Christ shed on the cross:

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. | It atoned for us. | Leviticus 17:11. |
| 2. | It cleanses us. | 1 John 1:7. |
| 3. | It overcomes Satan. | Revelation 12:11. |
| 4. | It purchased us. | Acts 20:28. |
| 5. | It redeemed us. | Colossians 1:13-14. |
| 6. | It justified us. | Romans 5:8-9. |
| 7. | It cleanses our consciences. | Hebrews 9:14. |
| 8. | It gives us forgiveness. | Matthew 26:27-28. |
| 9. | It freed us. | Revelation 1:4-5. |

Jesus is alive

Lesson 6

A. Introduction

Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-8

In the last lesson we learned that Jesus Christ died for us. It is wonderful to know that the death of Jesus washed away our sins. But the good news would be incomplete if we do not declare also that Jesus Christ rose from the dead. The good news is that **Jesus died for our sins**, He **was buried** and on the third day **He rose** from the grave.

Many religious leaders in history have claimed to bring salvation. All these men are dead and their bodies remain in the grave.

The grave that Jesus was buried in is empty. Christ is risen. He is alive! John 20:3-9. Many witnessed this fact. Jesus showed Himself to more than five hundred people at one time.

B. God's plan fulfilled

Read Acts 26:22-23

1. Neither the Jews, nor the Romans, nor Satan could have forced the Son of God to the cross. John 19:11.

Jesus offered Himself up willingly. Matthew 20:28.

2. Christ declared to His disciples that He would die and rise again. Matthew 16:21.
3. Not only did the blood of the Old Testament point to the cross but God also spoke through His prophets declaring His plan. At the right time Jesus fulfilled God's Word.

Christ was willing to face such a gruesome death because He knew what the power of His death and resurrection would do for us. Hebrews 12:2.

C. The power of the Cross

1. **We can know Him.**

Read John 3:3-8

- a) We serve a risen Saviour. He is alive and it is His desire that we know Him. You cannot know someone who is dead. Because Jesus is alive, we can know Him personally.
- b) What is natural cannot communicate with what is spiritual. Our dead spirit inside of us has to come alive to commune with God. The Bible calls this

experience being "born again". Christ's spirit in us brings resurrection power to make our spirit alive.

2. We have peace.

Read Romans 5:1-2

- a) People without Christ walk under a burden of guilt. They do not know what is bothering them but the guilt of sin is weighing on their hearts.
- b) The blood of Jesus has removed the sin and guilt that kept us from God. Our sins are forgiven and God says that He remembers our sins no longer. Isaiah 43:25. We can now enjoy peace of mind and heart, and we are free to enjoy the relationship with God that we were created for.

What a newfound freedom there is in accepting Christ! The burden of sin is lifted.

3. We are satisfied.

Read John 4:13-14

- a) Without Christ there is emptiness in people's hearts.

People try everything to fill that emptiness. It may be a career, alcohol, drugs, possessions, etc. ... but none of these pursuits ever satisfy. So then people go from one thing to another trying to find fulfillment.

- b) That void in every human heart can only be filled with the presence of Jesus Christ. John 17:26.

When we accept Christ, a well springs up on the inside that satisfies every longing of our soul.

4. We are freed from death's power.

Read Hebrews 2:14-15

- a) Jesus defeated death's power when He rose from the dead. Acts 2:24.
- b) With Christ in our lives, death no longer has any power over us. Colossians 3:3-4.
- c) One of man's greatest fears is death. When we consider how terrible it would be to experience the fire of hell for eternity, death is something to be feared.

But in Christ we are free from this fear of death and hell. God promises us eternal life with Him. John 5:24.

5. **Satan's hold over us is broken.**

Read Colossians 2:15

- a) Satan thought that he had defeated Christ at the cross. But when Jesus rose from the dead, He triumphed over Satan. 1 John 3:8.
- b) When we are in Christ we are risen with Him. Satan no longer has any authority over us. With Christ we triumph over Satan's works.

We no longer need to be afraid of any of Satan's spiritual forces of darkness. Ephesians 6:12.

6. **God's healing power released in us.**

Read 1 Peter 2:24-25

- a) God did not create us for sickness and torment. He created us to be whole in body, soul and spirit.
- b) The blood that Jesus shed on the cross has made God's healing power available for us.

Many people with minds destroyed by drugs and alcohol have come to Christ and had their minds totally restored. Others, who have been abused, come to Christ and receive healing in their emotions. Testimonies abound of those who have accepted Christ and have received miraculous healing in their physical bodies.

God's resurrection power is able to touch every part of our being and every area of our lives.

7. **To give us abundant life.**

Read John 10:10

- a) Jesus died and rose again to give us life. Abundant life is not just for eternity, but also for here and now.
- b) The same power that raised Christ from the dead is released in us. Ephesians 1:19-20.

This resurrection power at work in us will enable us to live a victorious life. By His resurrection power at work in us He enables us to do the things pleasing to God.

We are given liberty to enjoy an abundant life walking with God.

Memory Verse

John 14:6, “*Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me”.*”

Teacher’s Notes

More about the work of the cross:

- | | | |
|----|---|-------------------|
| 1. | It reveals God’s love to us. | 1 John 4:10. |
| 2. | A new heart promised. | Ezekiel 11:19-20. |
| 3. | By faith. | Romans 4:3. |
| 4. | Not by keeping the law. | Acts 13:39. |
| 5. | It cannot be earned. | Romans 4:4-5. |
| 6. | It is only by God’s grace. | Romans 3:24. |
| 7. | God gets all the glory. | Romans 11:30-36. |
| 8. | It saves us from God’s wrath. | Romans 5:9. |
| 9. | Our sins are covered by the blood of Jesus. | Romans 4:7-8 |

What we must do

Lesson 7

A. Introduction

Read Exodus 12:13

1. We have seen the powerful work of the Cross. Christ by His blood redeemed all mankind and opened the way back to a living relationship with God. Hebrews 10:19-22.
2. We saw the powerful picture from Exodus 12 where the people of God were delivered from slavery. But it was only those who applied the blood of the lamb on the doorposts of their houses, who were saved.
3. We can know all about the blood of Christ and the power of His resurrection. However, if we never apply the blood to our own hearts, we will not be delivered from the slavery of sin.

Salvation by the blood of Jesus stands as a wonderful free gift to any person who will receive it and apply it to their life.

B. Apply the blood

Read 1 John 1:8-9

1. To come to God, the sin that separates us from God must first be dealt with. It is only the blood of Jesus that can remove that sin.
2. We apply the blood of Christ when we confess to God that we are sinners and acknowledge that we are in need of His help.
3. As we do so, He promises to forgive us our sins and to purify our hearts from our sins.

C. Real repentance needed

Read Acts 3:19

1. God challenges us from His Word to repent of our sins.
2. Real repentance is more than just acknowledging our sin to God. The Greek word "metanoia" used for repentance in the New Testament also means a heartfelt decision to go in a new direction.

Repentance is not just confessing with our mouths that we are sinners, but really confessing our sin from our hearts, Acts 2:37. From our hearts we must also make a decision to turn from the path of sin to a walk which is pleasing to God. Proverbs 28:13.

D. By faith

Read Romans 10:9-10

1. Salvation cannot be worked for by trying to please God. It is by grace alone. Ephesians 2:8-9.

We will never be good enough in ourselves and there is no price that we can possibly pay for our salvation. Christ paid it all with His blood on the cross.

2. Salvation can only be obtained as a free gift from God through faith. Romans 6:23.

Faith is believing from our heart that all that God said was accomplished on the cross is true, and that it is for us. Not only that Jesus died for us but, "that God raised Him from the dead", for us.

With the heart we believe and with the mouth we speak it out and seal God's salvation to our lives.

E. Receive Christ

Read Revelation 3:20

1. Jesus does not come to force His way into anyone's life. He wants a response from the heart.

Christ is gently knocking on the door of people's hearts today. He challenges anyone to open the door of his or her heart by inviting Him in. Christ promises that He will come in and fellowship with us.

What a promise! The God who created us to fellowship with Him, comes and lives inside us. 2 Corinthians 13:5.

2. By His power at work in us He begins to change us from the inside out.

Many people have tried to be good enough to come to God, but God says, "Come to Me through the blood of Christ and I will work My holy power in you".

Illustration: A man had attended church all his life and was now old. He read the Bible and prayed. He knew about Jesus and the power of the cross, but all his life he had strived to please God and was still not sure of his salvation. One night he heard a man preaching the gospel. Challenged, the man repented of trying to live a good life in his own strength and he asked Jesus to come into his heart. Soon the man found a new joy and peace in his heart and the assurance of his salvation that he had always looked for.

F. The prayer of acceptance

Here is a suggested prayer for receiving Jesus. This is not a special formula, but what we do pray needs to come from our heart.

The prayer should include the following points:

Father I come to You in Jesus' name.

I confess my sins to You and admit my need for Your salvation.

I believe that You died on the cross for me and that You rose again from the dead.

I ask You to forgive me and to cleanse me from all unrighteousness.

I invite You to come and be Lord of my life.

By faith in Your power working in me I thank You Lord that I can live a life pleasing to You.

Remember that our salvation does not depend on our feelings but is by faith in what God has said He will do in His word. 2 Peter 1:4.

If you have prayed this prayer, then God has forgiven you, Christ has come into your heart, you are a child of God and Jesus is Lord of your life. God is true to His promises. 2 Corinthians 1:20.

G. Let Jesus be Lord of your life

Read Colossians 2:6

1. Confessing Jesus as Lord is not just empty words. Romans 10:9-10. We are confessing the power of the cross – that Jesus is now Lord of all. Philippians 2:8-11.
2. Life lived to please ourselves only leads to emptiness. Matthew 10:39. Having received Christ we need to let Him be Lord of our lives.

Let us surrender to His lordship right from the start and ask Christ to take control of our lives. Luke 14:27. The best life is one lived doing His will.

Memory Verse

Romans 10:9, *“If you confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead you will be saved”.*

Teacher’s Notes

Suggested counsel to give to those who have given their lives to Christ:

Explain the need:

1. To start and continue to testify to others about Christ. Matthew 10:32.
2. To obtain a Bible and to read it daily, Matthew 4:4. Encourage the person to read the Gospels first before reading other parts of the Bible.
3. To build a relationship with God through personal daily prayer. John 16:23-24.
4. To go to church and have fellowship with other Christians. Hebrews 10:25.
5. To get baptised as soon as possible. Acts 2:38.
6. To be filled with the Holy Spirit. Luke 11:11-13.

We are a new creation

Lesson 8

A. Introduction

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17

Illustration: Being born again completely transforms us into a new creation. It is like an ugly caterpillar that has been bound by its cocoon and is then suddenly transformed into a beautiful butterfly that is free to spread its wings and fly.

Many Christians do not realize how beautiful they are in God's sight and the freedom that they now have in Christ, and so they continue to crawl around like a caterpillar.

B. Let us consider some ways in which we are new creatures in Christ

1. A new heart.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:21

a) To be righteous is to be right before God, having no sin. Because of the blood of Jesus, God looks at us and sees new hearts.

b) This does not mean that we cannot give in to sin. 1 John 1:8.

When we do sin we need to repent and the blood of Jesus will keep our new hearts clean day by day. 1 John 1:9.

c) Satan would remind us of our past sins, to try to get us to hang our heads in guilt and shame and run from God's presence like Adam and Eve did.

We must remember the power of the blood, lift up our heads and walk in a close relationship with God. Isaiah 43:25.

2. A new relationship.

Read John 1:12

a) Not everyone in the world is a child of God. All people were created to be His children but only those who have received Christ are God's children.

b) Natural children have greater privileges with their natural father than other children. They enjoy his fellowship, protection, provision, etc.

c) God is our Father now. He wants us to enjoy the privilege of being His children, providing for our every need. You belong to His family now and are a member of His household.

3. A new position.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12, 27

- a) As Christians we each make up the different parts of God's spiritual body in the earth now.
- b) Christ considers His body, the Church, as very important. You are Christ's physical representative on earth. Anyone who touches you is touching Christ. Acts 9:1-5. This is a great privilege, but it is also a great responsibility.
- c) Christ is the Head of His body on the earth. Colossians 1:18.

As your natural head directs the rest of your body, you can expect Christ to guide you now as a member of His body.

Illustration: A man struck his foot against a rock and broke his small toe; one of the smallest members of his body. The man's head immediately told all the necessary parts of the body to rush to aid and protect this hurting member.

You see our natural head is totally committed to the members of our natural body. No matter how small they may be, the members of our own natural body are all very important to us.

In the same way Christ is totally committed to you. You are a member of His body and are very important to Him.

4. A new authority.

Read Luke 10:19

- a) Jesus said, "I have given **you** authority to overcome **all** the power of the enemy".

Christ defeated Satan at the cross and is now seated in authority over all authorities and powers. Ephesians 1:18-23.

Where the head is, the body must be also. Ephesians 2:6. We are seated with Christ in authority over every power of darkness.

- b) Satan tries to bluff Christians into believing that he has the authority over them. 1 Peter 5:8.

We need to resist him and tell him to go in Jesus' name. James 4:7.

Illustration: A young boy who had accepted Christ was still awakened in the night by demons that terrorised him and brought him great fear. The young boy heard a preacher teach from Luke 10:9 about the authority the believer now has in Christ over Satan. When the demons came that night, instead of giving in to fear, the young boy resisted the demons and told them to flee. The demons

ran and the boy slept in peace.

5. A new inspiration.

Read Revelation 3:20

- a) When we repent and ask Jesus to be Lord of our life, by His Spirit He comes and lives inside us.

Christ living in us will inspire us to a new lifestyle that is pleasing to God.

- b) The power of the Holy Spirit within us is the same power that raised Christ from the dead. It is the same power that created the universe. It is God's power. Romans 8:9-11. By that power we can do anything that God wants us to do. Philippians 4:13.

- c) We can trust God. As we surrender ourselves to Him we can rest in Him. God will complete His work through us. He will guide us in our new walk with Him.

Memory Verse

2 Corinthians 5:17, *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come”.*

Teacher’s Notes

Read Ephesians 1:17-20

Pray this prayer for yourself and also for the people you will teach. It is one thing to know the truth with our minds, but to walk in victory we need to pray for a spiritual revelation in our hearts of the position we have in Christ. Ask the Holy Spirit to impart that revelation to the hearts of the people you teach.