

ESSENTIAL TRUTHS OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE ©

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The following lessons have been developed with a conviction that new believers, like newborn babies, require very intentional and basic nourishment.

As we commit to instructing new believers in the ways and commands of Jesus, we must remember that the Holy Spirit is the One ultimately responsible for leading new believers to understand God's word. In partnership with the Holy Spirit, a clear and simple resource can help any Christian, new or old, to be comfortable leading new believers into that sweet life of following Jesus.

LESSON 1 – A GIFT THAT SAVES

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God's word says in Romans 6:23 that, *"the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."* Salvation is gift from God! It is a gift that saves us from the penalties of sin (death) and brings forgiveness and peace.

What do you need to do to earn a gift? _____

This is contrary to what many people believe is true. Without God's gift, humans have tried other things to earn salvation.

THINGS WHICH CANNOT SAVE US

Religion does not save us. Religion is man's effort to get to God. According to Acts 26:5, what religion did Paul practice before following Christ? *"According to the strictest party of our _____ I have lived as a _____."* Pharisees were the religious leaders of Judaism. Later the apostle Paul considered his religion as loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ. *Read also Philippians 3:4-8.

INCORRECT
Christ + Religion
= Salvation

Good works do not save us. Good works are man's effort to be accepted by God. But the apostle Paul, who taught that religion does not save us, also teaches that good works will not save us either. Speaking of salvation, Paul says in Ephesians 2:8-9 that it is *"not a result of _____, so that no one may boast."*

INCORRECT
Christ + Religion
+ Good Works
= Salvation

HOW WE ARE SAVED

We are saved by grace. The word "grace" means a gift, something we do not deserve and cannot earn. Salvation is the free gift of God. Ephesians 2:8 says, *"For by _____ you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the _____ of God."*

CORRECT
Christ = Salvation

We are saved by faith. Faith is how we extend our empty hands out to receive the grace (gift) of God. Again, Ephesians 2:8 says, *"For by grace you have been saved through _____."* According to the Bible, faith implies a personal confidence that Jesus died for us in order to save us and forgive our sins. We acknowledge that we are **NOT** saved by religion or good works, but by the grace of God, which we receive by faith.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Do you believe that you are saved?

How do you know?

According to Romans 6:23, what were you saved from?

LESSON 2 – HOW TO RECOGNIZE SIN

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Most people have a false concept of what sin really is. Sin is God's enemy and ours as well if we are to be His children. If we are to resist sin, then we must be sure that we understand it, recognize it, and know what God's word says about how we should respond to it.

WHAT IS SIN?

A wrong way of understanding sin: *"It's just the way I am. It's not my fault!" --- "As long as I feel good, it's not sin." --- "It is only sin if it harms someone else, but I'm not harming anyone!" --- "If everyone does it, it is not sin!"*

A right way of understanding sin. God teaches in 1 John 3:4 (NIV) that *"Everyone who sins _____ the law; in fact, sin is _____."* Also, in James 4:17, the Bible says, *"So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin."* This means that sin is *breaking* the law of God, and it is also *failing* to do what God wants us to do.

WHAT IS THE ORIGIN OF SIN?

In Romans 5:12, we read, *"Therefore, just as _____ came into the world through one man, and death through _____, and so death _____ to _____ men because _____ sinned."* Sin is a curse that we have inherited from Adam. But we also know that we cannot blame Adam for our sin, *"because all (including you and me) sinned."*

WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN?

Sin contaminates us. Jesus says in Mark 7:15, *"There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can _____ him, but the things that come out of a person are what _____ him."*

Sin enslaves. Jesus says in John 8:34 that, *"Everyone who practices _____ is a _____ to _____."*

Sin separates us from God. Romans 3:23 states, *"for _____ have _____ and fall short of the glory of God."*
*Read also Isaiah 59:2.

Sin causes death. Romans 6:23 says, *"For the wages of _____ is _____."* This is not only physical death, but spiritual death and eternal death. *Read also Revelation 20:14.

WHAT IS THE SOLUTION FOR SIN?

The answer is found in the person of Jesus Christ. He is God's gift for the salvation of humankind. Ephesians 1:7 says, *"In him (Jesus) we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses."* Furthermore, in 1 John 1:9 we learn that *"If we confess our sins, [God] is faithful and just to _____ us our sins and to _____ us from all unrighteousness."*

PERSONAL APPLICATION

In what area of your life do you think that you have sin?

What do you think you should do with your sin?

LESSON 3 – WHAT IT MEANS TO REPENT FROM SIN

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Repentance is not remorse or doing penance. It is not trying to make up for your sins by doing good deeds. Jesus preached, “Repent!” So it is certainly important that we understand repentance, and the fruit it will produce. *See Matthew 3:8.

WHAT IS REPENTANCE?

Repentance is a turning *from sin to God*. It is a total change. It is having a new mind and a new goal for life. It is to live with your back turned against sin, *and* with your life turned towards God in pursuit of Him. In 1 Thessalonians 1:9, Paul recognizes true repentance by “*how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God.*”

*Read the story of the prodigal son in Luke 15:11-31.

Repentance starts with recognizing sin. This is what occurred in the parable of the prodigal son in Luke 15:17, where it says, “*But when he came to _____*”. He was realizing his true condition, his misery, and ultimately his sin!

Repentance includes sorrow. When the apostle Peter denied Christ three times, the Bible says in Luke 22:62, “*And he went out and wept bitterly.*” He wept because he realized he had sinned; that he had denied Christ! *See also 2 Corinthians 7:9-10.

Repentance produces confession and abandonment of sin. The young man in the parable of the prodigal son illustrates this truth in three steps.

- Luke 15:18 (NIV) records the prodigal son’s intention. “*I will set out and go _____ to my father.*” It is a **turning around**.

- Luke 15:18-19 (NIV) continues, “*and say to him: Father I have _____ against heaven and against you. I am no longer _____ to be called your son.*” This is **confession of sin**.
- Luke 15:20 then says, “*So he _____ and went to his father.*” That is an **abandonment of sin**.

WHAT IS EVIDENCE OF REPENTANCE?

You will forgive others. We know that God will only forgive the truly repentant. Jesus says in Mark 11:25-26, “*And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, _____ him, so that your Father in Heaven may _____ you your sins.*” Forgiveness of others is evidence that we have truly repented and understand our own need for forgiveness.

You will seek restitution with others. In Luke 19:8 it says: “*And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, ‘Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I _____ to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I _____ it fourfold.’*” Restitution is our greatest testimony to the world concerning the change that Christ has made in our lives.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

For what things in your life do you need to ask God for forgiveness?

Pray to God, confessing those sins, and ask Him for forgiveness.

Is there anyone whom you need to forgive or with whom you need to seek restitution? If so, do this as quickly as possible.

LESSON 4 – THE NEW LIFE GOD GIVES US

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In John 3:3 our Lord Jesus said, *“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is _____ he cannot see the kingdom of God.”*

WHAT IS THE NEW LIFE?

What the new life is not.

- It is not a process of fixing the old life. See Matthew 9:16-17.
- It is not given to us by our parents. See John 1:12-13.
- It is not gained by religion, ritual, or regulation. See Philippians 3:4-8.

What the new life is. God assures us in 1 Peter 1:4 (NIV) that as his children, we are *born “into an _____ that can never _____, spoil or fade.”* New life is the supernatural act of God, giving us a new nature, adopting us into His family, calling us His children, and giving us an eternal inheritance!

- 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a _____ creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”*
- John 1:12 teaches us, *“But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the _____ to become _____ of God.”*
- 1 John 3:14 says, *“We know that we have passed out of _____ into _____.”*
- In John 3:16 we observe *“that whoever believes in him (Jesus) should not perish but have _____ life.”*

WHAT DOES THIS NEW LIFE CONSIST OF?

New security. Romans 8:39 says that neither *“height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to _____ us from the _____ of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

Peace and joy. Romans 15:13 says, *“May the God of hope fill you with all _____ and _____ in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.”*

Intimate relationship with God, of love and obedience. We read in John 14:20-21, 23-24 (NIV), *“On that day you will realize that I am _____ my Father, and you are _____ me, and I am _____ you.”*

Hunger for God’s Word. 1 Peter 2:2 says, *“Like newborn infants, long for the pure _____ milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation.”*

Trials and struggles of the faith. 2 Timothy 3:12 teaches us that *“Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be _____.”*

Desire for the company of other Christians. Acts 2:42 says, *“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the _____, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”*

Desire to tell others of your faith in Christ. Again, in Acts 4:20 (NIV) it says, *“For we cannot help _____ about what we have _____ and _____.”*

PERSONAL APPLICATION

What are some of the changes you have observed in your life since you received Christ as your personal Savior?

LESSON 5 – GOD IS YOUR FATHER

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What are three characteristics of a *bad* father?

What are three characteristics of a *good* father?

IN WHAT SENSE IS GOD OUR FATHER?

- God **created** us in our mother's womb. Psalm 139:13-14
- God **made** us His children. John 1:12-13
- God **adopted** us as His children through Jesus Christ before the creation of the world, according to his love and will. Ephesians 1:3-5
- God **placed** us in His family in heaven. Ephesians 3:14-15
- God **supplies** all our needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19

GOD, OUR FATHER IS

Eternal and unchanging. In James 1:17 we read, *“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not _____ like shifting shadows.”* If God does not change, then He could have no beginning or end, and so He must be eternal. *See Psalm 90:2.

Holy. To be Holy means to be separated and set apart from sin. God does not sin, nor does he tolerate sin. In 1 Peter 1:16, God says, *“You shall be _____, for I am _____.”*

Just. God always acts in justice, and he always treats us justly. This gives us the security of having entrusted our lives into the hands of a just God. 1 John 1:9 states, *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and _____ to forgive us our sins.”*

Love. God cannot stop loving us, for He is Love. 1 John 4:16: *“And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is _____. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.”*

God's love is also unconditional, meaning He loves us despite what we are. Romans 5:8 says, *“But God shows his _____ for us in that while we were still _____, Christ died for us.”*

Finally, 1 John 4:19 teaches us that, *“We _____ because he first _____ us.”* This means that even our ability to love comes from God!

Lord. This term is based on the truth that God is the Absolute Owner of the Universe. He is the Ruler. Everything is under his authority. When we accept him as Lord, we are acknowledging Him to be the Lord of our lives. 1 Timothy 6:15 describes God as, *“the blessed and only _____, the King of kings and _____ of lords, [...] To Him be honor and might forever. Amen.”*

We prove that God is Lord of our life in at least three ways:

- Matthew 4:10: We worship God alone.
- Matthew 4:10: We serve God alone.
- Romans 14:8: We live for God alone, Amen!

PERSONAL APPLICATION

What characteristics of God as Father do we enjoy? Why?

Express your gratitude in prayer.

LESSON 6 – WHO IS JESUS?

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To begin this session, read Philippians 2:5-11.

CHRIST IS ETERNAL Philippians 2:6

Christ existed before everything. John 1:1 says of Jesus, “*In the _____ was the _____, and the Word was with _____*”. Christ has always existed with the Father and the Holy Spirit as God.

Christ is the creator of all humanity. In John 1:3 we read that Jesus, along with the Father and the Holy Spirit, together created mankind.

Christ is the Savior of the world. John 3:17 says “*For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be _____ through him.*”

CHRIST BECAME INCARNATE Philippians 2:7

Christ became man and lived as a man. Philippians 2:7 says, “*but emptied _____, by taking the form of a servant, being found in human _____*”.

Christ revealed the Father. John 1:18 says, “*No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made Him _____*”.

CHRIST WAS SURRENDERED Philippians 2:8

He died on the cross. Philippians 2:8 says again, of Jesus, “*And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of _____, even _____ on a _____*.” He took our place, and died on the cross to save us.

He was separated from the Father when punished for our sins. This is a mystery! When he bore all our sins on the cross, the Bible states in Mark 15:34 that Jesus cried out “*My God, my God, why have you _____ me?*”

However, by his death, Jesus opened to us the way to get to God!

CHRIST IS EXALTED Philippians 2:9

He arose! Acts 2:32 (NIV) says, “*God has _____ this Jesus to _____, and we are all witnesses of it.*” God raised Jesus from the dead, as proof of his accepted sacrifice.

He is the only way to God. 1 Timothy 2:5 says, “*For there is one God, and there is one _____ between God and men, the man _____*”.

He is the giver of Life. Jesus said in John 14:19 “*Because I live, you also will _____*”.

CHRIST THE COMING KING Philippians 2:9-11

Note the following . . .

Jesus came first as a weak baby. He was despised and rejected.

When He comes again, He will come with great power and glory!

PERSONAL APPLICATION

How has this lesson changed your understanding of Jesus Christ?

Express in prayer what you thank Jesus the most for.

LESSON 7 – WHO WILL HELP ME?

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WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Holy Spirit is God.

- God is **all powerful**. Romans 15:19 and Luke 1:35
- God is **eternal**. Hebrews 9:14
- God is **all knowing**. 1 Corinthians 2:10

The Holy Spirit is not a force, or energy.

- The Holy Spirit has a **will**. 1 Corinthians 12:11
- The Holy Spirit has **emotions**. Ephesians 4:30.
- The Holy Spirit has **intelligence**. 1 Corinthians 2:13

WHAT DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT DO?

In the life of the unbeliever.

John 16:8-11 states that the Holy Spirit convicts “the world concerning _____ and _____ and _____.”

At the moment we receive Christ.

- The Holy Spirit incorporates us into the body of Christ, which is the Church. 1 Corinthians 12:13 says, “*For in one Spirit we were all _____ into one _____.*” The word *baptize* means to immerse. The Spirit immersed us into God’s Church when we received Jesus.

- He came to live in us when we receive Jesus. 1 Corinthians 3:16 says, “*Do you not know that you are God’s _____ and that God’s Spirit _____ in you.*”
- He marked you as a child of God. Ephesians 4:30 says, “*And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were _____.*” See also Romans 8:15-16.

Throughout the Christian Life.

- The Holy Spirit helps us **know Jesus!** John 15:26-27 says that the Holy Spirit works in the life of the believer in the following way: “*But when the _____ comes, [...] He will bear _____ about me.*”
- The Spirit guides **our prayers!** Romans 8:26 says, “*For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us.*”
- The Spirit helps us **become more like Jesus!** 2 Corinthians 3:18 (NIV) says that we “*are being _____ into His image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the _____.*”
- The Spirit gives us the **power and the means to serve!** 1 Corinthians 12:4 says, “*Now there are varieties of _____, but the same Spirit.*”
- When we submit to the Spirit, He **fills our lives!** Ephesians 5:18 says, “*And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the _____.*”

PERSONAL APPLICATION

What has this lesson taught you about the Holy Spirit?

Express in prayer what you most appreciate about the Holy Spirit.

LESSON 8 – WHAT GOD SAYS

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2 Timothy 3:16 teaches us that the bible is God's word. It has come to us directly from God's mouth! *"All Scripture is _____ out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness."*

THE BIBLE IS OUR ONLY AND SUFFICIENT AUTHORITY

The Bible is lasting.

God says in Matthew 24:35, *"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my _____ will _____ pass away."*

The Bible is trustworthy.

2 Timothy 3:16 says, *"All Scripture is _____ out by God and profitable for teaching,"*

The Bible is truth.

John 17:17 says, *"Sanctify them in the truth; your _____ is _____."*

THE BIBLE IS GOD'S VOICE FOR OUR LIVES

The Bible shows us God.

The Bible was written so that we could understand who created us. It is the means by which God speaks to us. It is a letter of love, written for us. In it we learn what God is like!

The Bible directs our present life.

The Bible teaches us how to live, and gives us laws and guidelines for our own good.

The Bible reveals our future life.

The Bible shows us the way to heaven, in that it shows us Jesus, who has gone to prepare a place for us. It tells us what is to come!

THE BIBLE IS OUR SPIRITUAL FOOD

Read 1 Peter 2:2 and Matthew 4:4.

The Bible keeps us healthy.

A balanced diet consists of *reading, studying, and meditation.*

The Bible is for our instruction.

Set aside a specific time to be quiet and alone with God's word.

- In the reading of the Bible, it is good to have a plan, and the best plan is to begin with the Gospels.
- Take small bites, reading through short passages of scripture at least two times before asking yourself questions such as: "What is God teaching me about Himself, or about the Holy Spirit? What is He teaching me about myself?" etc.
- Finally, choose a verse that stood out to you, and memorize it.
- End the time with prayer and giving thanks to God for what you have learned, and ask Him to help you to obey Him.

The Bible is for our growth.

The Bible is the Word of God, and He speaks to us as we read it. As we meditate on it, we establish a dialogue between God and ourselves. If we approach it with true spiritual hunger, we will profit by the reading of it. Remember, the Bible is a book to be obeyed!

James 1:22 (NIV) cautions, *"Do not merely _____ to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. _____ what it says."*

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Find a specific time and place each day to be alone with God.

Choose a Gospel to read.

Pray, asking God to give you the wisdom to understand His word.

LESSON 9 – HOW TO TALK WITH GOD

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Prayer is essentially a *dialogue* that can be expressed in various ways.

WHAT IS PRAYER?

Read Mathew 6:5-7

- Prayer is intimate communion between you and God.
- Prayer is simple and sincere conversation with God.

WHAT DOES PRAYER INCLUDE?

Prayer includes adoration.

In Matthew 6:9 Jesus teaches that our prayers should include, “Our Father in heaven, _____ be your name.” What this means is “May **who You are** be lifted up!”

Prayer includes gratefulness.

Ephesians 5:20 reminds us to be “giving _____ always and for everything to God the Father”.

Prayer includes confession:

1 John 1:9 says, “If we _____ our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” It is important that you confess your sins to God daily. Be specific in your confession!

Prayer includes intercession:

1 Timothy 2:1 (NIV) says, “I urge, then, first of all, that _____, prayers, _____, and thanksgiving be made for all people.”

Prayer includes petition:

Philippians 4:6 (NIV) says, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and _____, with thanksgiving, present your _____ to God.”

HOW SHOULD WE PRAY?

Pray in the name of Jesus.

Jesus says in John 14:13, “And I [God] will do whatever you _____ in my _____”. Jesus is your way to the Father’s ear!

Pray according to the will of God.

1 John 5:14 says, “And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask _____ according to His _____ He hears us.” Do not ask God for something you know is wrong!

Pray with confidence.

Matthew 21:22 (NIV) says, “If you _____, you will _____ whatever you ask for in prayer.”

Pray without bitterness.

Matthew 6:14 (NIV) says, “For if you _____ other people when they sin _____ you, your heavenly Father will also _____ you.”

PERSONAL APPLICATION

As you reflect on this lesson, make a list of all the things that God has impressed on you that you should pray for today!

Talk with God right now.

LESSON 10 – WALKING WITH GOD

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True believers in Christ will be known by their conduct and attitude, for they truly have new life!

Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

The Word of God establishes the principles that guide the way we should live, and it is necessary to obey those principles.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO OBEY?

Read 1 John 2:3-6.

- It is not just knowing about Christ or completing a set of rules.
- It is obeying and living the Word of God (Verse 3).
- It is the evidence that we know God and dwell in Him (Verse 4-5).
- It is walking as Jesus walked (Verse 6).
- It is living the kind of life that God wants us to live.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH ABOUT OBEDIENCE?

THE POSITIVE

Colossians 3:23: “Whatever you do, _____ heartily, as for the _____ and not for men.”

Ephesians 2:10: “For we are his [God’s] workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for _____, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

1 Corinthians 10:24: “Let no one _____ his own _____, but the good of his _____.”

Romans 14:22 (NIV): “Blessed is the one who does not _____ himself by what he _____.”

THE NEGATIVE

Galatians 5:13 (NIV): “You, my brothers [...] do not use your _____ [from punishment of sin] to _____ the flesh.”

1 Corinthians 6:12: “‘All things are _____ for me,’ but not all things are _____. [...] I will not be _____ by anything.”

1 Corinthians 8:9: “But take care that this _____ of yours does not somehow become a _____ block to the weak.”

1 Peter 2:16: “Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for _____, but living as servants of God.”

PERSONAL APPLICATION

How should we apply the biblical principles?

Self-examination

When faced with a decision that will test your character and obedience, what should you do? The following questions will help you to examine your conduct.

- What would Jesus do? **1 Corinthians 11:1**
- Would this be pleasing to God? **Galatians 1:10**
- Would this give others the opportunity to accuse me of wrongdoing? **Philippians 2:15**
- Would this be a good example to other Christians? **1 Timothy 4:12**
- Does this show that I have more love for God? **1 John 2:15**
- Would Jesus be pleased if He found me doing this when he returns? **1 John 2:28**

Areas of life to be examined

Vacation plans, material possessions, personal relationships, sexual life, looking after your health, work, pleasure, entertainment, and personal habits, etc.

LESSON 11 – WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

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The church is made up of people God has called out of the world to serve and love Him together. Someday all of the church will gather together in heaven. Until then, it gathers in many places. Philemon 1-2 says, "Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, to Philemon our beloved fellow worker ... and the _____ in your house:"

THE BIBLE GIVES DIFFERENT DESCRIPTIONS OF THE CHURCH

God's people are like a Temple.

Ephesians 2:22 "...being built together to become a dwelling in which God _____ by his Spirit." This temple is made of people and God's Spirit dwells among us.

The Church is also like a body.

Romans 12:5 "So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each _____ belongs to all the others." Each member of the church is important.

Most of all, God speaks of the church as a family.

Hebrews 2:11 "Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them _____ and _____." If the Lord Jesus has washed you from your sins you are a part of His family.

WHAT DO HEALTHY FAMILIES DO?

Families celebrate when children are born into it.

The church does this by baptizing new believers and receiving them into fellowship. Acts 2:41 "Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were _____ that day."

Families share meals together.

The most important meal the church shares is the Lord's supper where we regularly eat the bread and drink the cup to remember the Lord Jesus' sacrifice for our sins and proclaim that his life is enough for us. Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Families teach their members so they can succeed in life.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 tells us why it is important to teach God's Word. "All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be _____ for every good work."

Families provide discipline when we fall into error.

2 Timothy 3:16, "... teaching, rebuking, correcting and training..." We must accept the loving discipline of the church leadership if we disobey God's Word.

Families love one another and enjoy life together.

John 13:35 . . . "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you _____ one another." Jesus is at the center of our lives. We gather to enjoy Him together.

FAMILIES NEED STRONG LEADERSHIP TO SET A GOOD EXAMPLE

Hebrews 13:7 "Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and _____ their faith." Read 1 Timothy 3:1-7 for the character of leaders who are to oversee the teaching of God's Word, the practice of baptism and the Lord's table and discipline in God's family.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Have you been baptized into God's family?

Is it possible to experience family life (see #2 above) without spending time together? How are you spending time with God's family?

LESSON 12 – FIGHTING THE ENEMY

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The Christian lives on a spiritual battlefield. Satan, God's chief enemy, uses the sin found in this world and the sinful appetites of our flesh to push us away from God. The good news is our Lord Jesus has defeated Satan. He will lead us in His victory as we follow Him. 2 Corinthians 2:14 *"Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ..."*

SATAN OPPOSES US

Satan wants to destroy us, but Jesus promises us victory. In John 10:10 Jesus said, *"The thief comes only to steal and kill and _____; I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."*

Satan's wants us to think wrong thoughts, while God wants us to think rightly. 2 Corinthians 10:5 says *"...and take every _____ captive to obey Christ."*

Satan wants us to do wrong things, while God wants us to act rightly. Colossians 3:17 *"And whatever you do, in _____ or _____, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."*

SATAN'S STRATEGIES

Satan is a deceiver. Satan deceives people through lying spirits and false teachers. In John 8:44 Jesus said, *"...When he lies, he speaks out of his own _____, for he is a liar and the father of lies."* 2 Corinthians 11:14 says, *"...Satan disguises himself as an angel of light."* He twists truth into attractive lies.

Satan is a Tempter. Satan attempts to lure us away from what pleases God and brings God's blessings. When we fail to be faithful to God through our fellowship with one another we fall into the Devil's trap. 1 Thessalonians 3:5 says, *"I sent to learn about your faith, for fear that somehow the _____ had _____ you..."*

Satan is an Accuser. In Revelation 12:10 Satan is called *"the accuser of our brothers and sisters."* Satan tries to convince Christians that they are still condemned because of the sins they commit. But God says in Romans 8:1, *"...there is therefore now no _____ for those who are in Christ Jesus."*

Satan is a destroyer. Satan wants to destroy our enjoyment of God and prevent us from being useful for God. 1 Peter 5:8 says, *"...Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring _____, seeking someone to devour."*

OUR DEFENSE AGAINST SATAN'S ATTACKS

We must know who we are and who we belong to. We are followers of Jesus and we belong to Him. 1 John 4:4 says, *"Little children, you are from God and overcome them, for he who is in you is _____ than he who is in the world."*

We must carefully judge what is true by God's word. 1 John 4:1 says, *"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but _____ the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many _____ have gone out into the world."*

We must resist Satan by submitting ourselves to God. Our best defense against Satan is to surrender to God's control. When we obey God, we resist the Devil. James 4:7 *"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will _____ from you."*

PERSONAL APPLICATION

We must also learn to flee Satan's temptations. Don't try to face temptation on your own. Instead run to Jesus and He will give you victory.

Where in your life do you need victory over Satan today?

LESSON 13 – THE RETURN OF JESUS

ESSENTIAL TRUTHS OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE ©

In the beginning God created everything. God created humans in His image so that we could know Him in a meaningful relationship. But man decided to disobey God and so sin entered our hearts and sin's curse came upon the earth. Wonderfully, God had a plan. God the Son came to earth over 2,000 years ago. He came to restore those who believe in Him into a right relationship with a Holy God. He died for our sins. He rose from the grave and ascended into Heaven. And from the heavens He has promised to come again. When He comes again He will gather all those who believe in Him to Himself, punish all who have not believed in Him and restore all the earth from the effects of sin's curse.

JESUS WILL RETURN

He will return as He left. It will be real and visible.

Acts 1:9-11 says, "...*This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the _____ as you saw him go into heaven.*"

He will return in a time of great trials, unbelief, and wickedness.

Read 2 Timothy 3:1-4. The follower of Jesus must remain faithful in a faithless time.

We should always be prepared for Jesus to return at any time.

Matthew 24:42-44 tells us that, "... *you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not _____.*"

JESUS WILL RETURN FOR HIS FOLLOWERS

Jesus is now preparing a place for us.

John 14:1-3 says "... *Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to _____ a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will _____ and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.*"

Jesus will gather His followers to Himself.

A great encouragement is found in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17. "... *and so we will _____ be with the Lord.*"

JESUS WILL RETURN AS JUDGE AND KING

Read 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10. The return of Christ will mean great comfort and blessing for those who believe in him and will bring great judgment on all who do not.

JESUS WILL RETURN TO COMPLETE OUR SALVATION

He will give us glorified bodies and make us like Him.

1 John 3:2 (NIV) says "... *we know that when Christ appears, we shall be _____, for we shall see him as he is.*"

He will bring glory and freedom from sin to all the earth.

Read Romans 8:18-21.

His coming means joy for us and should be eagerly awaited.

Philippians 3:20-21 (NIV) says, "*But our citizenship is in heaven. And we _____ await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ...*"

PERSONAL APPLICATION

What emotions do you feel the most when you think of Christ returning, and why?

Read 2 Peter 3:11-12. How do you think you should prepare yourself for Christ's return?

LESSON 14 – MAN’S ETERNAL STATE

ESSENTIAL TRUTHS OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE ©

Death is an unavoidable part of our existence. The bible teaches us that after we die we will all be judged by God. Our eternity will be based on this judgement.

Hebrews 9:27-28 (NIV) reads, *“Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.”*

Four things that you can be certain of: You will die. You will face God’s judgment. Jesus Christ died for sinners. Jesus is returning to bring to Himself all who have trusted in His saving work.

WE WILL ALL DIE

Hebrews 9:27 says, *“Just as people are destined to die _____.”* The Bible teaches us that there is no second chance to change your future after you die. There is no reincarnation and no purgatory. It is in this life that all people must settle the issues of their eternal destiny.

WE WILL ALL FACE JUDGMENT

All will be held accountable for their thoughts and deeds.

Romans 2:6-8 tells us that *“God ‘will repay each person according to what they have done.’ To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give _____ life. But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be _____ and _____.”*

Judgment will be based on whether a person has believed in Jesus as Savior. Read 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9.

Physical death comes once but it is not the end. It is the beginning. For some it will be the beginning of an everlasting heaven and for others the beginning of a never-ending hell.

THOSE WHO REJECT JESUS FACE AN ETERNITY APART FROM GOD

It is a place of unending punishment.

2 Thess. 1:9 says, *“They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might.”*

It is a place of conscious suffering.

Matthew 13:49-50 says, *“So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”*

It is a place of suffering in the presence of the Devil and Demons.

Jesus spoke of this judgment in Matthew 25:41 and 46 when he will one day say, *“Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for _____ and _____. ... And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”*

THOSE WHO RECEIVE JESUS AS SAVIOR INHERIT ETERNAL LIFE IN GOD’S PRESENCE

It is a place of unending perfection.

Read Revelation 21:4-5 *“... I am making all things new.”*

It is a place of conscious blessing.

Read Revelation 22:1-5

It is a place where we enjoy the presence of the Lord Jesus forever.

Revelation 21:3 says, *“Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.”*

PERSONAL APPLICATION

For those who have died it is too late to do anything to change their destiny. Our concern must be for the living.

Who do you know that you fear will not go to heaven?

How should you pray for them?

What about heaven are you most looking forward too?

LESSON 15 – GROWING IN SANCTIFICATION

ESSENTIAL TRUTHS OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE ©

Sanctification means to be “set apart” for God’s special use. God sets us apart from a sinful world when we receive Christ as Savior and God keeps us apart from sin in the world as we grow to be more like Jesus. God is separate from all impurity; this is His holiness.

1 Peter 1:15-16 says, “...as He who called you is _____, you also be _____ in all your conduct...”

We are not only set apart *from* sin but we are set apart *to* God. This is so we may enjoy a greater and greater measure of His life and power as we grow up in our salvation. This is what the sanctified life is. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:23.

WHERE SANCTIFICATION BEGINS

The sinful old person we were has been put to death.

The Christian life begins not only with a new birth but also with a death. Our old self of sin once sat on the throne of our hearts. At conversion, our old self dies, and we are given a new life with God now seated on the throne of our hearts.

Romans 6:4,6 says, “We were buried therefore with him by baptism into _____, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in _____ of life.”

We were born again as new creatures.

2 Corinthians 5:17 says, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a _____ creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” Sanctification is the spiritual and moral growth of that new person. It is inevitable for the true born-again believer to grow from infancy into maturity. Read 1 Peter 2:2.

How do we avoid having our growth stunted? Sin is still present in our flesh. Like a disease, if it is not addressed will make us sickly and weak. There are two things essential to healthy growth as a Christian.

ESSENTIALS FOR HEALTHY GROWTH

We must count up what is true.

Romans 6:11 says, “In the same way, _____ yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.” We are being encouraged here to add up the truths that help us grow. Do the math.

Christ Died – Your Old man died with Him.

Christ Rose – You are alive in Him.

You have been born again.

We were not born again so that we would live as we once did. We were born again to live according to God’s will and to become more and more like Jesus.

We must always be RECEIVING Jesus.

We began the Christian life by receiving Christ and we grow in that life the same way.

Colossians 2:6 says, “Therefore, as you _____ Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him.” And James 1:21 says, “Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and _____ with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.” Here we are told to receive what we have already received. Jesus is in us. He is forever ours. He is the implanted Word.

How did you first receive Jesus Christ?

Willingly. Humbly. Confessing sin. Grieving sins. Forsaking sin. Trusting Jesus to deliver me. Giving Jesus my life. Believing He alone could save. With thankfulness. Desiring God’s glory above all.

Of course, there is more that you can add to that list. But these are the attitudes of receiving Jesus the first time and they are the attitudes by which we continue to receive Him as our power for living a holy life.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

How are you growing in holiness?

What in your life is hindering your growth?

What area of growth can you receive Him for help today?

LESSON 16 – LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

ESSENTIAL TRUTHS OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE ©

Jesus is coming to take us to heaven one day. Until then He has given us the gift of the Holy Spirit. In John 14:15-18 the Holy Spirit is called the _____. The Spirit comes to us bringing Jesus' presence and power. We experience the Spirit with us in at least four ways.

WE WALK WITH THE SPIRIT

Galatians 5:16 says, *"But I say, _____ by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh."*

The Holy Spirit brings to us the **companionship** of the Lord Jesus. In order that we can abide in him and he can produce his fruit through us. Read John 15:1-6.

WE WAR BY THE SPIRIT

Romans 8:13 says, *"For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you _____ the deeds of the body, you will live."*

In this companionship, we go to war together against the sin that rises out of our own fleshly desires. We are not left to face temptation on our own. We have the advantage of having Holy Spirit battling alongside of us. Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-4

WE SERVE IN THE SPIRIT

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 says, *"Now there are _____ of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are _____ of service, but the same Lord; and there are _____ of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."* All believers in the Lord Jesus are given gifts from the Holy Spirit to serve those around us.

Read Romans 12:6-8 and count the gifts that are given to members of the local church. Remember that God has a special way He wants you to serve in the Church.

WE WITNESS THROUGH THE SPIRIT

Acts 1:8 says, *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my _____ in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

The Holy Spirit is given to us for more than just our own growth. He also helps us make Jesus and his gospel known to a lost world.

For these, the Holy Spirit offers to fill us with Himself. Being filled with the Holy Spirit means to be under His influence. Ephesians 5:18 commands, *"And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be _____ with the Spirit."* This is commanded because we must be filled over and over again. Once you receive Jesus as your Savior, you receive the Spirit as a Helper. But we are not always *filled*.

HOW ARE WE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Present your body to God. Read Romans 12:1-2.
Present yourself as an empty vessel. God won't fill what is already full.

Ask for the Spirit to fill you. Read Luke 11:9-11.

Intend to obey. Read Acts 5:32.
Don't expect to be filled if you don't intend to obey.

Have faith and receive His filling. Read Galatians 3:2.
We receive the Spirit by faith as we received the Lord Jesus for salvation.

Let God have all of you. Present yourself, ask, obey, and have faith. God fills us at the point where we intend to act according to His will.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Is there any area of your life where the Spirit doesn't have full access?

Is there any sin in your life that is blocking the filling of the Spirit?

LESSON 17 – MADE RIGHT WITH GOD

ESSENTIAL TRUTHS OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE ©

The Bible teaches that no individual is righteous because all have sinned and disobeyed God's law. The effect of this sin is that it makes us unclean before God, separates us from God, and makes us all appear guilty before Him. Read Romans 3:10; 23

GOOD WORKS DO NOT MAKE US RIGHT WITH GOD

We cannot be made right with God by following moral laws. The only way we could be right by following the law of God would be to follow it without ever breaking a single command. The law of God reveals our sins and forces us to admit that we are guilty. The law cannot remove sin.

Galatians 3:10 says, *"For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, 'Cursed be everyone who does not abide by _____ things written in the Book of the Law, and _____ them.'"*

This means that failure to obey one measure of the law brings upon you the judgment of the whole law as a law breaker. Read James 2:10.

FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST MAKES US RIGHT WITH GOD

Remember that it is Jesus who justifies us from our sin. In order to make us right with God (justified) Jesus lived a sinless life, perfectly obeying all the commands of God. Then he suffered the punishment for all our sins, taking them on himself at the cross so that he may offer all of his righteousness to those who believe in him. Read Romans 3:21-26.

Romans 3:28 says, *"For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the _____."*

Galatians 3:11 says, *"Now it is evident that _____ is justified before God by the law, for 'The righteous shall live by _____.'"*

Galatians 2:16 says, *"yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through _____ in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified."*

2 Corinthians 5:21 says, *"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the _____ of God."*

BEING MADE RIGHT WITH GOD INVOLVES THREE GIFTS WE RECEIVE IN CHRIST JESUS

We gain forgiveness of sins.

Forgiveness means that God is no longer angry at us for our sins. He sets us free from the guilt of our sins and he relents from the eternal punishment that our sins deserve. Read Acts 13:38-39.

Romans 5:9 says, *"Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the _____ of God."*

We are placed into Christ's life and given Christ's righteousness.

When we believe in the Lord Jesus as our Savior, we are spiritually immersed into him and as a result his righteousness **covers** us. Now when God views us, He views us dressed in the perfect righteousness of His Son Jesus.

Galatians 3:27 says, *"For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have _____ Christ (as a garment)."*

Read also Romans 5:17-21.

We are brought into God's favor.

We are reconciled into relationship with Him and given His peace.

2 Corinthians 5:19 says, *"That is, in Christ, God was _____ reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and he has committed the message of reconciliation to us."*

Read also Ephesians 2:13-17

PERSONAL APPLICATION

How do you live before others when you are in a right relationship with them?

If you have been made right with God by believing in Jesus, how should you now live before God?