

# THE LIFE OF JESUS

JUNIOR 1 YEAR 1 BOOK 1

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THE LIFE OF JESUS

USGA

Teacher's Guide and Student Handouts

**The Birth of Jesus and Its Teachings**

Passages: Mt 1:18–25; 2:1–23; Lk 2:1–39

*Memory Verse*

“So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: ‘Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,’ which is translated, ‘God with us.’” (Matthew 1:22–23)

<b>Knowledge of God’s Will [God’s Word]</b>	<b>Knowledge of God [God’s Divine Nature]</b>	<b>Good Work [Behavior]</b>
Understand the many events that happened before and after the birth of Jesus.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. God is sovereign, and He is in control of history.</li><li>2. God’s prophecies never fail.</li><li>3. With God, nothing is impossible.</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Trust in God’s sovereignty.</li><li>2. Live upright lives.</li><li>3. Serve God wholeheartedly.</li></ol>

*Overview*

**Events and Spiritual Teachings**

- A. The Prophecies of Jesus’ Birth and Their Fulfillment
- B. God Chooses Joseph and Mary
- C. Witnesses and Testimonies of Jesus’ Birth

**Life Application**

1. God’s Sovereignty
2. Follow God’s Divine Direction

**Memory Verse**

**Conclusion:** God is worthy of our worship.

**A. The Prophecies of Jesus' Birth and Their Fulfillment**

The Bible teaches us that before God even made the world, He had already planned that Jesus would be the way, the truth and the life for all of us, and Jesus' crucifixion our path to salvation. The only payment that would reconcile sinners to a holy and loving God would be Jesus' death.

Let us read 1 Peter 1:19–20. “But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you.”

Note the word “foreordained.” This word indicates that God had appointed or decreed something beforehand. In other words, Jesus' birth and death had already been planned before the foundation of the world! God's love for us is so great that He prepared a way for us to be His children long before we were born so that we can be forever with Him in the future.

Let us read a few of the prophecies about Jesus' birth and learn how they were fulfilled:

**1. The Messiah will be born in Bethlehem**

a. Prophecy

Micah 5:2 – “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.”

b. Fulfillment

- Matthew 2:1 – “Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem.”
- Luke 2:15 – “So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.’”
- John 7:42 – “Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was?”

**2. The Messiah will be born of a virgin**

a. Prophecy

Isaiah 7:14 – “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”

b. Fulfillment

Matthew 1:23 – “‘Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,’ which is translated, ‘God with us.’”

**3. The Messiah will be a descendant of David**

a. Prophecy

- Isaiah 11:1 – “There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots.”
- Jeremiah 23:5 – “‘Behold, the days are coming,’ says the LORD, ‘that I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and

righteousness in the earth.”

b. Fulfillment

Luke 3:31 – “The son of Melea, the son of Menan, the son of Mattathah, the son of Nathan, the son of David.”

## **B. God Chooses Joseph and Mary**

God Himself descended from heaven to earth and manifested as a man. God did not choose a family with wealth, status, or power. Rather, He chose Joseph and Mary, an ordinary couple, to be Jesus’ parents. Joseph and Mary were both descendants of David, fulfilling the many prophecies that the Messiah would be born of David’s line (Isa 11:1; Jer 33:15; Ezek 37:24). First, let us examine Joseph.

### **1. Joseph**

Joseph, as the Bible tells us, was not the biological father of Jesus. Matthew 1:18 mentions, “Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.” Matthew 1:25 also mentions, “And [Joseph] did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.”

Mary and Joseph were engaged to be married. Like all grooms, Joseph was busy preparing the wedding feast and his home for his new bride. It was while they were still betrothed that he learned Mary was pregnant. He did not know how this happened, so imagine his great disappointment. Let us read Matthew 1:19–24 next.

God had sent Joseph a dream in which He revealed to Joseph the true nature of Mary’s pregnancy and His will for Joseph.

#### **What can we learn from Joseph, who was chosen by God to carry out His plan?**

In this passage we can see three beautiful qualities in Joseph: righteousness, the fear of God, and humility. Joseph had the right, by law, to refuse to take Mary as his wife. Although it seemed as if Mary had been dishonest, Joseph wanted to save her from public disgrace by dealing with the matter discreetly. He had decided this even before God spoke to him in a dream. He wanted to do what was right. Yet, after the dream, despite his confusion, Joseph trusted God’s will and God’s plan.

### **2. Mary**

Mary was the wife of Joseph and mother of Jesus. Before she married to Joseph, the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and announced the coming birth of Jesus. Let us read Luke 1:26–38.

Mary wrote a song recorded in Luke 1:46–55 in which she exalted God for His faithfulness. She considered herself to be blessed from that moment onwards, as she mentioned in verse 48: “For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; for behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.”

#### **What can we learn from Mary, who was chosen by God to carry out His plan?**

- a. In Luke 1:46–47, she writes, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.” It tells us that she rejoiced in knowing God’s plan for her and that she was glad to be doing His will. Are we joyful in doing God’s will and carrying out His plan for us?

- b. Luke 1:38 records: “Then Mary said, ‘Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.’” She called herself a maidservant of the Lord and was extremely glad and thankful that God was willing to use her to fulfill His plan. She humbled herself and yielded to God’s calling.
- c. In Luke 2:19, we read, “But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.” She received a message from God and asked, “What is God’s plan for me and how can I be God’s vessel?” She wanted to find out what God wanted her to do, an answer that can only be found by meditating on God’s word with a humble and lowly heart. Are our hearts humble enough to receive God’s will? Are we humbled upon knowing God’s will?

### **C. Witnesses and Testimonies of Jesus’ Birth**

#### **Luke 2:1–39**

##### **1. The testimony from the shepherds**

The amazing event of Jesus’ birth was revealed to some shepherds in the fields. The shepherds were terrified when the angel first appeared, but the angel bid them not to fear, for they had no reason to be afraid. The angel bore good tidings: the announcement of the birth of the Messiah, Christ the Lord. The angel then told the shepherds the sign that would let them know how to find Jesus Christ. The shepherds immediately went with haste to find Jesus, and upon seeing Him, spread the message the angels had told them: The Savior had been born.

##### **2. The testimony from Simeon**

The Bible describes Simeon as “just and devout,” and someone who waited “for the Consolation of Israel.” He was a man of faith who longed for the coming of the Messiah. The Holy Spirit filled Simeon and revealed to Simeon that he would not see death until he had seen the Lord Jesus. When he saw Jesus, Simeon took Him in his arms and blessed God (Lk 2:28–32).

Simeon understood that the Messiah’s coming also brought salvation to the Gentiles, not only to the Jews. Simeon further prophesied to Mary saying, “Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also)” (Lk 2:34–35). He was preparing Mary for the sorrow and grief she would bear upon witnessing Jesus’ death on the cross.

##### **3. The testimony from the prophetess Anna**

As a young widow, it would have been normal for Anna to remarry and bear children. But she chose to serve the Lord instead and prayed daily in the temple. Like Simeon, she longed for the Messiah to come, and her prayer was for the restoration of Israel. Once she saw baby Jesus, she began to share the news of Jesus with those who were looking for redemption in Jerusalem.

Neither Simeon nor Anna had any status. Still, they were godly people who lived God-centered lives. Their highest priority was to serve God; therefore, both were able to recognize and proclaim God’s Messiah. Are you filled and guided by the Holy Spirit? Do you long to see the Messiah face to face, as Simeon and Anna had?

#### **Matthew 2:1–12**

##### **4. The testimony from the magi**

We do not know much about the wise men, nor do we know how many wise men were there. But we do know that they traveled far to see the King of the Jews, the Messiah. Upon seeing the young Child, they responded with joy, worship, and gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. This is

the true essence of worship: bowing down to worship in honor and reverence. After finding Jesus and worshiping Him, they were warned by God not to return through Jerusalem as they had originally intended.

### Check for Understanding

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- 1. What does it mean in 1 Peter 1:19–20 that Jesus was “foreordained”?** It means that Jesus Christ’ birth and death were planned even before the world had been created.
- 2. Share one example from the Bible of how Jesus’ birth or death was planned.**
  - a. The Messiah will be born in Bethlehem (Mic 5:2; Mt 2:1; Lk 2:15; Jn 7:42)
  - b. The Messiah will be born of a virgin (Isa 7:14; Mt 1:23)
  - c. The Messiah will be a descendent of David (Isa 11:1; Jer 23:5; Lk 3:31)
- 3. How did Joseph respond when visited by the angel of the Lord? How did Mary respond when visited by the angel Gabriel?** Both Joseph and Mary responded with great humility, the fear of God, and submission to the will of God. At first, Joseph wanted to refuse Mary as his wife, but once he learned that it was God’s will for Mary to give birth to the Messiah, he did as God commanded and took Mary as his wife. Mary, likewise, trusted in God’s will.
- 4. Why did the Lord preserve Simeon and Anna until old age to see the birth of Jesus Christ?** Neither Simeon nor Anna held any special status in society. Rather, serving God was their priority. Thus, they recognized the incredible significance and preciousness of the birth of Jesus Christ and gladly shared it with others. Being able to see the birth of the Messiah also gave them hope for redemption in Jerusalem.
- 5. True or False: The Bible records that three wise men visited Jesus.** False; the Bible does not record how many wise men visited Jesus at that time.

### Life Application

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#### 1. God’s Sovereignty

We should always follow God’s divine direction and embrace it with faith because we know that our God is a sovereign God. This means that:

- a. God has supreme power and authority (Dan 4:34).
- b. God is in complete control (Eph 1:11).
- c. God can accomplish anything (Isa 46:9–10).

There are many examples in the Bible that prove God’s sovereignty:

- God’s creation (Gen 1)
- The parting of the Red Sea (Ex 14)
- Korah was swallowed by the earth (Num 16)
- The sun stood still (Josh 10)
- The sundial moved ten degrees backward (Isa 38:8)
- An iron ax head floated on water (2 Kgs 6:5–6)
- Daniel’s three friends were preserved from the furnace fire while in the furnace (Dan 3:23–25)

#### 2. Follow God’s Divine Direction

To follow God, we must: have a heart that is loyal to Him, serve Him wholeheartedly, and live an upright life. 2 Chronicles 16:9 says, “For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.” The word “loyal” comes from the Hebrew word *shalem* meaning “perfect, whole, true, blameless and complete.”

**a. To have a heart that is loyal to Him we need to give up our carnal nature.**

Jesus Christ said, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me” (Lk 9:23). In order to have a heart that is loyal to Him, we must put aside our selfish desires and seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness (Mt 6:33). To do this, Paul instructs us to “put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry” (Col 3:5). To follow Christ, we have to give up our bad habits and any relationships that pull us from God.

When called, Joseph and Mary were both willing to embrace God’s plan by faith. Mary gave an astounding response: “Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word” (Lk 1:38). She fully embraced God’s plan by demonstrating that she belonged to God, and she chose to be a person whom God could fully use. Joseph, too, did not understand initially, but later, he embraced God’s plan by setting aside his own plan.

Are you willing to let God rule your heart? Are you willing to let go of your own plan and embrace His? Sometimes, the journey does not seem to make any sense. Sometimes it hurts, and other times it is truly difficult to follow. But when we do follow God’s plan and have a heart that is loyal to Him, He will give us His strength.

**b. To serve God wholeheartedly, we must live an upright life and trust God.**

Luke 2:25 describes Simeon as just and devout. The word “just” is translated from the Greek word *dikaios*, which means “straight,” and “devout” means “devoted to God.” These describe a person who was in the right relationship with God in heart and action.

Earlier in his life, God had told Simeon that he would see the Messiah with his own eyes before his death (Lk 2:26). We do not know how old Simeon was when God made this promise to him, but he likely wondered when he would see the Messiah. Hebrews 11:1 tells us that “faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Simeon kept waiting until that day when the Holy Spirit told him to go to the temple, where he finally saw the promised Messiah. Simeon exemplified a true life of trust and faith in God.

Anna lost her husband, but she did not become bitter. She became a blessing to the work in God’s kingdom. Anna was a prophetess, and like Simeon, she had been waiting for the coming of the Messiah. Although she grew old, she kept her spiritual vitality young by giving herself to prayer and serving God in all things. Because Anna served Him faithfully and prayed for the Messiah, the Bible records her as the only woman who recognized baby Jesus. After seeing Him, she could not help but testify of Him to those who were looking forward to redemption in Jerusalem.

Both Simeon and Anna exemplify what it means to trust God, to serve Him wholeheartedly, and to live an upright life.

**Memory Verse**

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“So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: ‘Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,’ which is translated, ‘God with us.’” (Matthew 1:22–23)

## **Meaning**

1. The prophecies in the Old Testament about the birth of Jesus were all fulfilled.
2. God did not send someone to help us; God Himself came to help us.
3. God came to earth for the greatest rescue mission: to die on the cross and save us from our sins. Is He your Savior today?

## **Conclusion**

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God is sovereign, and we must honor His kingship. He is the Most High and the Creator of all in heaven and on earth, so we must do according to His will. "For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him" (2 Chr 16:9). God has always been actively looking for those whose hearts are loyal and upright to Him, who are willing to set aside their own plans for His. He will show His power by protecting those who look to Him for deliverance.



## Lesson 1 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. What does the memory verse tell us about God's sovereign nature, and how does this affect us?  
*God is all-powerful and all-knowing; as long as He wills it, His plan will come to pass. This affects us because while we may not know what will happen today or tomorrow, God knows what will happen, and He can protect us through the trials ahead. This also means we can fully place our trust in Him without fear.*
2. Which prophecy was fulfilled in Luke 3:31? Write down its location(s) in the Old Testament.  
*The Messiah will be a descendant of David. It is written in Isaiah 11:1 and Jeremiah 23:5.*
3. How did Mary respond to Gabriel's news? What was Joseph's reaction after his dream from God?  
*She rejoiced and gave herself completely to God's will. Joseph immediately did as he was instructed by the angel and married Mary despite his previous plans to put her away secretly.*
4. Who were the two workers that God revealed Jesus' birth to? How does the Bible describe them?  
*Simeon and Anna. Simeon is described as a "just and devout" person who waited for the Consolation of Israel. He also had the presence of the Holy Spirit. Anna was described as a prophetess who dedicated her life to God after her husband died. She fasted and prayed every day for the deliverance of Israel through the birth of the Messiah.*
5. How should we live our life based on Anna's example?  
*Answers may vary. General examples: Prioritize God in your life and put Him first no matter what happens. Spend time every day with Him through prayer. Freely testify about His word without fear.*
6. Based on Mary's example, are we joyful in doing God's will and carrying out His plan for us?  
*Personal answer.*

**Jesus Prepares for the Ministry—Baptism and Temptation**

Passages: Mt 3; 4:1–11; Mk 1:1–13; Lk 3:21–22; 4:1–14; Jn 1:26–34

*Memory Verse*

“It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.’” (Luke 4:4)

<b>Knowledge of God’s Will [God’s Word]</b>	<b>Knowledge of God [God’s Divine Nature]</b>	<b>Good Work [Behavior]</b>
Understand the baptism of Jesus and how Jesus responded to the temptations of Satan by using God’s word.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. God is mighty.</li><li>2. God is righteous.</li><li>3. God is without sin, but He shares in our humanity.</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Receive baptism to wash away our sins.</li><li>2. Be anointed by the Holy spirit.</li><li>3. Be filled with God’s word to resist temptation.</li></ol>

*Overview*

**Events and Spiritual Teachings**

- A. The Baptism of Jesus
- B. The Temptation of Jesus
  1. The Three Temptations
  2. Understanding Satan’s Schemes

**Life Application**

1. Repentance
2. The Works of the Holy Spirit
3. Victory over Temptation

**Memory Verse**

**Conclusion:** Store God’s word in our heart and trust in Him.

### **A. The Baptism of Jesus**

In our lesson today, we will focus on two events: the baptism of Jesus and the temptation of Jesus.

Throughout his ministry, John the Baptist preached, convicted people of their sins, and performed baptisms. He taught that simply being a Jew was not enough to receive salvation. Let us read Matthew 3:5–6. “Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins.” It is clear that people came to be baptized by first confessing their sins. John’s baptism allowed people to confess their sins, repent, and reconcile with God. He was preparing everyone for the coming Messiah. It was then that Jesus, a sinless Man, came to John to be baptized.

The most detailed description of Jesus’ baptism is recorded in Matthew chapter 3. This recording provides a clear answer as to why Jesus insisted on receiving baptism. Let us read Matthew 3:13–17. What are some of the key words and phrases in this passage? (*Answers: to be baptized, fulfill all righteousness, came up, heavens were opened, Spirit of God, dove, beloved Son, well pleased*)

When Jesus came to John, He wanted John to baptize Him. But “John tried to prevent Him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?’” (Mt 3:14). With these words, John indicated that Jesus did not need to repent or confess any sins. John clearly understood that this was the Lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world.

“But Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Permit it to be so now, for thus, it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness’” (Mt 3:15). John had previously told Jesus that he was not fit to baptize Him, but rather was in need of repentance himself. Yet, Jesus still asked John to do so accordingly in order to fulfill all righteousness. There are three things we can learn from Jesus’s baptism.

1. Jesus dedicated His entire life to fulfilling God’s righteousness. “Righteousness” refers to meeting God’s requirements. God’s requirement was that those who come to serve Him must be washed and cleansed before service (Ex 29:4). The baptism of Jesus through John the Baptist was a fulfillment of the requirement of God’s law (*BSG: Matthew, 4:7.3:10*).<sup>1</sup>
2. The baptism of Jesus served as an example for all believers, to show that we must be baptized to become the children of God and to receive the Holy Spirit (Gal 3:26–27; 4:6–7; Rom 8:16). Even though Jesus was sinless, He took the form of a sinner by being baptized (Rom 8:3). Likewise, we can be God’s children through faith in Christ (1 Jn 5:1) and by imitating the Lord Jesus, who submitted to God’s requirement that we be baptized for the remission of sins and to receive the promised Holy Spirit (*BSG: Matthew, 4:7.3:10*).
3. The baptism of Jesus served as a testimony that Jesus was mightier than John: Jesus would baptize with “the Holy Spirit and fire” (Mt 3:11). Here, we see a beautiful contrast between John the Baptist and Jesus Christ. John the Baptist acknowledged that he could only exhort them to repent and assure them of forgiveness upon repentance. He understood that he could not do more than baptism with water. Jesus, however, could baptize with the Holy Spirit—a baptism that can purify and cleanse the heart. As water washes off external dirt, fire burns away internal

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<sup>1</sup> TJC Department of Literary Ministry, *Bible Study Guide: Matthew* (Malaysia: True Jesus Church, 2012), [https://bsg.tjc.org/tjc\\_bsg\\_guide/matthew/](https://bsg.tjc.org/tjc_bsg_guide/matthew/), 4:7.3:10.

impurities. The work of the Holy Spirit is so powerful and life changing, as proven by His descent on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:2). He creates a fire within that changes our lives forever!

Upon being baptized by John, the “heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him” (Mt 3:16). The opening of the heavens is a reminder that as sinners, we need to reconcile with God. The dove is one of many symbols that the Bible uses to represent the Holy Spirit. Each symbol shows the character and work of the Holy Spirit (*BSG: Matthew*, 4: 7.4:11b).

- Water (Jn 7:37–39): The Holy Spirit will flow out of our hearts like living water.
- Fire (Acts 2:3): The Spirit cleanses our hearts and empowers us.
- Oil (Acts 10:38): As oil was used to anoint prophets, priests, and kings, we are likewise appointed as God’s priests and kings when we receive the Holy Spirit. Oil also represents the healing presence of the Holy Spirit.
- A dove (Mt 3:16): The Holy Spirit’s appearance as a dove teaches us that our Lord Jesus has brought peace to us through His death on the cross.

Despite being sinless, Jesus Christ insisted on baptism in order to fulfill all righteousness. Knowing this, we need to show our obedience to God by treasuring and following this important doctrine, which is declared to be “for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38) and to fulfill righteousness. This is what the life of Jesus is about; He is our perfect model.

**B. The Temptation of Jesus**

**1. The Three Temptations**

Let us read Luke 4:1–13. There are a few questions we must first ask about this passage:

- a. Under what circumstances was Jesus tempted?  
He was filled with the Holy Spirit (v. 1).
- b. What significance does this hold for us?  
We must be watchful at all times, even when we feel close to God. Temptation may come suddenly after reaching a spiritual high.
- c. Why did Jesus have to endure such temptations?  
It was God’s will that Jesus should go through the suffering of temptation so that He could sympathize with our weaknesses and become our merciful and faithful High Priest (Heb 2:14–18).

Let us examine the following chart to study how the Bible records Jesus’ responses to Satan’s temptations (*BSG: Matthew*, 5: 7.1)<sup>2</sup>. [Note: Please include the charts as you teach the following section.]

Temptation	Satan’s Temptation	Jesus’ Response According to Scripture
1	“If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.”	“It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.’” (Deut 8:3)
2	“All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered	“Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the LORD your God,

<sup>2</sup> BSG: *Matthew*, [https://bsg.tjc.org/tjc\\_bsg\\_guide/matthew/](https://bsg.tjc.org/tjc_bsg_guide/matthew/), 4:7.1.

	to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours.”	and Him only you shall serve.” (Deut 6:13)
<b>3</b>	“If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here. For it is written: ‘He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you,’ and, ‘In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.’”	“It has been said, ‘You shall not tempt the LORD your God.’” (Deut 6:16)

Satan carefully worded each of his statements in an attempt to lure Jesus into falling. As children of God, we need to be aware of the traps that Satan lays down for us. Let us examine each trap and observe how Jesus carefully responded to each of them.

<b>Temptation</b>	<b>Satan’s Trap</b>	<b>Jesus’ Response</b>
<b>1</b>	By asking Jesus to turn stones into bread, Satan hoped to lure Jesus into obeying his commands and misusing His divine power for personal interests.	Jesus pointed out that obedience to God’s command for spiritual sustenance is more important than sustaining the body with food.
<b>2</b>	By asking Jesus to worship him, Satan hoped that Jesus would defy God’s commands and surrender His authority to Satan in exchange for the world.	Jesus rebuffed Satan’s attractive offer with God’s command that we are to worship and serve God alone.
<b>3</b>	By asking Jesus to throw Himself off the temple, Satan hoped that Jesus would prove His divinity by calling upon God’s protection.	Jesus rebuked Satan, saying, “You shall not tempt the LORD your God,” to show that it was wrong to deliberately test the truthfulness of God’s promise.

## **2. Understanding Satan’s Schemes**

As children of God, we must not be ignorant. Satan has control over the riches, fame, and power of this world. If we pursue vainglory, it will also come with a price. What is the price? We may gain the world, but we will lose our soul when we compromise with and bow down to Satan by sacrificing our time, energy, and loyalty to God for earthly glory (Mt 16:26).

Satan misused Scripture against Jesus in order to make his case strong. Such application of God’s word for self-justification or gratification can lead us into sin. Being well versed in Scripture, Satan is able to fool those who are not watchful or those who have incorrect motives for following God’s word. He is a deceiver and a liar (Rev 12:9; Jn 8:44), and even disguises himself as an angel of light in order to take advantage of our ignorance or spiritual incaution (2 Cor 11:14–15). He leads people into false doctrines and sin in the same way the serpent deceived Eve (2 Cor 11:3).

On the other hand, Jesus’ quoting of God’s word was based entirely on the truth in God’s words and a sincere obedience to God’s authority. Therefore, as children of God, we should not misuse

God's word to justify our actions for selfish gain. Instead, we should diligently study and apply God's word with the intent to know God and obey His will.

Luke 4:13 warns us: "Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time." Satan will return. Satan has not given up, despite his defeat. Likewise, we cannot afford to lose our vigilance even for a moment. There are times when we can claim victory over temptation, but we cannot rest at these times. Rather, we need to be prepared for further challenges by equipping ourselves with God's word and the power of the Holy Spirit (Eph 6:10–18; 1 Pet 5:8–9).

### Check for Understanding

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- 1. Why did John refuse to baptize Jesus Christ at first?** John the Baptist had urged people to confess their sins and receive baptism, but Jesus Christ was the unblemished Lamb of God. John did not feel worthy to baptize Him, and instead felt that Jesus Christ should be the one baptizing him.
- 2. Why did Jesus insist on being baptized?** He knew that by receiving baptism, He was going to "fulfill all righteousness" by meeting God's requirements of washing before serving, in accordance with God's law. He also received baptism to show the contrast between water baptism and baptism of the Holy Spirit. Lastly, He received baptism to set an example for all believers to receive baptism in the same manner.
- 3. Why was it important for Jesus to experience temptation?** After experiencing temptation as we would, Jesus could now sympathize with our weaknesses and become our merciful and faithful High Priest.
- 4. How was Jesus able to battle against each of Satan's temptations?** He used the word of God in the correct manner to counter and rebuke Satan.
- 5. What is the price we must pay if we fall to Satan's temptations and pursue vainglory?** We may gain the world, but we will lose our soul.

### Life Application

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#### 1. Repentance

The Greek word for "repentance" literally means "change of mind." Repentance consists of sincere sorrow over sin (2 Cor 7:10–11), confession (Ps 32:5), and change of action (Acts 26:20). Repentance is an expression of faith in God and obedience to His commands. According to the Lord Jesus, the kingdom of God will be taken from the unrepentant and given to those who will produce its fruit. It is those who obey and conform to God's righteousness that will be worthy of God's kingdom. Therefore, repentance is a necessary step in entering the kingdom of heaven (*BSG: Matthew, 4:7.2:8*).

#### 2. The Works of the Holy Spirit

The baptism of the Holy Spirit refers to the giving and receiving of the promised Holy Spirit, starting with the Day of Pentecost (Acts 1:5; 11:15–16). The Holy Spirit is also the spirit of judgment and spirit of burning that cleanses God's people (Isa 4:3–4). He is like fire, testing men's hearts (Mal 3:2), and He will "convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment" (Jn 16:8–11).

#### 3. Victory over Temptation

Satan lures us with three common temptations: lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh, and the pride of life. These temptations all target major human weaknesses. They are:

- a. Self-centeredness;
- b. The desire to prove oneself or to satisfy one's lust; and

- c. Submission to Satan’s commands in exchange for physical or material gains.

We can only recognize and combat these temptations by filling our hearts and minds with the word of God and by praying for the fullness of the Holy Spirit. In Ephesians 6:14–17, the only offensive weapon mentioned is the word of God. Studying and knowing the Bible well will allow us to wield the sword of the Spirit, leading us to victory.

With each of His temptations, Jesus taught us the ways we can destroy Satan’s schemes in our lives. These three ways are:

- a. Store God’s word in our hearts and know God’s will (Ps 119:11)
- b. Have a sincere heart that loves and worships God the highest King, and obey His commandments (Jn 14:15, 21, 30)
- c. Be faithful to God and do not love the world or the things that are in the world (1 Jn 2:15–17)

### *Memory Verse*

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“It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.’” (Luke 4:4)

### **Context**

This phrase originally appears in Deuteronomy 8:3, and Jesus paraphrases it in Luke 4:4.

### **Meanings**

1. God feeds us with manna, the word of God, which also happens to be food from heaven. Manna is the only food that can meet our needs when all else looks hopeless, just as when God supplied manna for the Israelites in the wilderness.
2. “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Heb 4:12).
3. Satan told Jesus to use His power to turn stone into bread, but Jesus found strength in the word of God. The word of God was His source of strength during His life, and it should be our source of strength in our lives today. It supplies us with all things that pertain to life and godliness (2 Pet 1:3).
4. The Scripture equips us with every good work. “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Tim 3:16–17).

### *Conclusion*

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After we have been baptized and have received the Holy Spirit, we must constantly treasure God’s word in our hearts. Commandments, statutes, ordinances, testimonies, and precepts—these are all words that the Scripture uses to refer to the written word of God. In order to keep from sinning and instead live a life that glorifies God, we must not only store His word, but also value His word. In this way, we can use His word against all kinds of temptations and conquer sin.

How is your faith this week? Is it strong or weak? Proverbs 22:18–19 states: “For it is a pleasant thing if you keep them within you; let them all be fixed upon your lips, so that your trust may be in the LORD; I have instructed you today, even you.” God says that He has given us His word so that it will be within us and that we may trust in Him. If we can store God’s word in our hearts, trust in Him, and not rely on our own insights, God will direct our paths (Prov 3:5–6).

## Lesson 2 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. What does it mean to “live...by every word of God”?  
*God’s word meets our needs when all else looks hopeless. It is a weapon to wield against Satan, a source of strength during our lives, and it equips us with every good work.*
2. What was the purpose of John’s baptism? Why was he unwilling to baptize Jesus at first?  
*John baptized with water for the repentance of sins. He knew Jesus was the Lamb of God, sinless and offering a much greater baptism than John’s—the baptism of the Holy Spirit and fire.*
3. Why did God want Jesus to experience temptation in the desert?  
*So that through His suffering, Jesus would be able to sympathize with our weaknesses and become our merciful and faithful High Priest.*
4. Pick one temptation and explain how Satan hoped to lure or trap Jesus. How did Jesus respond?
  - *Stone to bread: Satan hoped to lure Jesus into obeying his commands and misuse God’s power. Jesus pointed out that obedience to God’s command for spiritual sustenance is more important than physical food.*
  - *Worship Satan: Satan wanted to Jesus to defy God’s command and surrender His authority in exchange for the world. Jesus rebuffed Satan’s attractive offer with God’s command that we are to serve Him alone.*
  - *Throw Himself off the temple: Satan wanted Jesus to prove His divinity by calling on God’s protection and deliberately testing God’s promise. Jesus rebuked Satan, saying, “You shall not tempt the LORD your God,” knowing that it was wrong to test the truthfulness of God’s promises.*
5. What are the three major human weaknesses that Satan uses to tempt us? How do we defend ourselves?  
*Lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh, and the pride of life.*  
*OR*  
*Self-centeredness, the desire to prove oneself or satisfy one’s lust, and submission to Satan’s commands in exchange for physical or material gains.*  
  
*We defend ourselves by first recognizing these temptations, then filling our hearts and minds with the word of God and praying for the fullness of the Holy Spirit.*
6. Name a temptation you have faced or face at home and write which human weakness Satan is using based on the above question. How can you fight this temptation?  
*Personal answers.*



**The Beatitudes (1)**

Passages: Mt 5:1–12

*Memory Verse*

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“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 5:3)

<b>Knowledge of God’s Will [God’s Word]</b>	<b>Knowledge of God [God’s Divine Nature]</b>	<b>Good Work [Behavior]</b>
Understand the full meaning of the first four beatitudes.	1. God is gentle and meek. 2. God is righteous.	1. Seek after the fruit of the Holy Spirit. 2. Rely on God for endurance, strength, and wisdom to live out the Beatitudes.

*Overview*

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**Events and Spiritual Teachings**

- A. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven
- B. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted
- C. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth
- D. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled

**Memory Verse**

**Conclusion:** These eight promises are blessings of the kingdom of God—they are a part of God, and they all belong to the kingdom.

### **The Beatitudes**

Today, we will focus on the teachings of the first four beatitudes. The Beatitudes received their name from the Latin word *beatus* meaning “blessed.” The Greek term means “happy, fortunate.” Jesus is teaching us that true joy and blessedness can only come from an upright relationship with God. The Beatitudes are the blessings and promises God gives to those who seek after Him. Not only that, they are also an invitation to those who desire to follow God and live out the Beatitudes. The Beatitudes are an assurance of what is to come when you enter the kingdom of heaven.

Let us read Matthew 5:1–12.

#### **A. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

##### **Meaning**

The word “poor” is not referring to a lack of material possessions, but a spiritual attitude. A person who is “poor in spirit” is one that is humble before God. The person is never arrogant, self-righteous, or proud, but genuinely depends on God for His deliverance. Whether the person is physically rich or poor, he seeks the Lord Jesus with a broken heart and a contrite spirit. In return, his “is the kingdom of heaven” (e.g., the Ethiopian (Acts 8:26–38); Cornelius (Acts 10:1–48); the members at Ephesus (Acts 19:5–7)).

##### **Question: How does one become “poor in spirit”?**

Through repentance and submission to God’s word and His will (Ps 51:1–6; Isa 66:1–2; 61:1–3).

##### **Life Application**

In order to become poor in spirit, there are several actions we must take. Let’s examine the actions we need to take and then consider: Have you presented before God a spirit that is poor? Have you expressed your needs before God?

1. To become poor in spirit, we must first confess our iniquities and repent from our sins (Eccl 7:20). With true repentance we can develop a deeper relationship with God because He dwells with those who have a contrite and humble spirit (Isa 57:15).
2. Upon humbling ourselves, we can then continuously seek Him through praying, attending services, and studying His word.
3. Most importantly, we must develop a reliance on God—we want to live in total obedience and dependence on God physically, emotionally, financially, and spiritually through faith and trust.

#### **B. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.**

##### **Meaning**

The word “mourn” means “to experience deep grief.” The type of mourning mentioned in this verse refers to mourning over sin. If we are humble, we will mourn our sins and the sins of this world. The contrite in heart and the afflicted are promised the blessing of forgiveness and joy in God. Jesus reminds us that we cannot seek happiness the way the world does. If we mourn over our own sins, God will look on us with favor. Those who agree with God regarding the evil in their hearts, and who also mourn its presence, are blessed because they shall receive comfort from the Holy Spirit, the Comforter (Jn 14:16).

##### **Question: How does one become blessed through mourning?**

Mourning that leads to repentance will be blessed. “For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death” (2 Cor 7:10). Repentance results in forgiveness and cleansing from God (Ps 30:5).

Isaiah 66:2 records that the Lord will look “on him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.” The Holy Spirit, whose role is to comfort those who repent of their sins and ask for forgiveness and healing, will comfort those who experience this type of mourning. Thus, true comfort is not found in hiding our sins, but in admitting our sins to God and striving to overcome them in the future. Those who do so will be cleansed and forgiven by God, and those who truly mourn over sins will find reconciliation with God (2 Cor 5:18).

### **Life Application**

In order to truly mourn over your sins, there are a few things you must do.

1. Name the particular sin that has a hold on you (e.g., pride, lying, stealing, lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, impure speech, bitterness, complacency, jealousy, etc.). Consider what this sin has cost you and those around you. Most importantly, think about how costly this sin was for Jesus, who bore your sins on the cross and died for you (Jas 4:8–10).
2. Confess your sins to God through prayer without making any excuses (1 Jn 1:9).
3. Experience heartfelt sorrow and confess to Him with “a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart” (Ps 51:17).

### **C. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.**

The Greek word *praeis* translates to “meek” and refers to mildness, gentleness of spirit, or humility.

#### **Meaning**

When a humble person becomes meek, they do not exploit or oppress others (Mt 5:39). Although the meek do not seek vengeance or power for their own gain, they are not weak or ineffective in times of hardship. They have a spirit of self-control and always speak gracious words that are seasoned with salt (Col 4:6). They are not easily angered (Prov 14:29) but are gentle and humble just like Jesus was. Meekness is humility toward God and toward man. It is having the right or the power to do something but refraining for the benefit of someone else. Meekness is a virtue that manifests when we live a life worthy of the calling with which we are called (Eph 4:1–2).

In this beatitude, the “earth” refers to the promise of God—the blessings He gives us, the land God made room for us to be fruitful in this life (Gen 26:22), and the new heaven and the new earth in eternity that is our inheritance from God (Eph 1:14; Rev 21:1).

#### **Question: How does one become meek? What does God want us to learn?**

Meekness here emphasizes our attitude toward God. It refers to our fear of Him and our submission to His commandments. If we are obedient to God, we will experience the same blessings Isaac and Joseph experienced (Gen 26:2–6, 12–14; 50:19–20).

Meekness is not a weakness, but a strength. It is exemplified in the tranquil stillness of a heart before God—a heart that is at rest. This is only possible through a deep confidence in God, because only one who trusts in God’s protection can be free of any worries and anxieties. So how does one experience this rest and become meek? We need to seek the Lord, seek righteousness, and trust in the name of God (Zeph 2:3; 3:12). We need to pray for meekness and ask God to give us a new heart and a new spirit (Ezek 36:26).

### **Life Application**

Meekness is being humble in front of God and showing humility towards others. There are many times when we have the right or authority to do or say something, but because of God's teachings, we refrain from doing so in order to build someone up and to shine for Him. In Matthew 5:16 Jesus says, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." God wants us to live a lifestyle that will glorify Him and make people think about Him. So how do we become meek and glorify God with our lives?

1. "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." (Mt 11:29)
2. "I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love." (Eph 4:1-2)
3. Model the humility of Jesus Christ described in Philippians 2:6-8. Jesus had every right to do what He wanted. Yet, in order to save us, He humbled Himself by taking the form of a servant, becoming obedient to the point of death—even death on the cross. Jesus exemplifies meekness.

In the end, no one is meek by nature. Meekness is developed through our daily walk with Jesus as we strive to become more like Him.

### **D. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.**

#### **Meaning**

Jesus uses eating and drinking as metaphors to show us how we will receive His blessing when we seek after His righteousness. Righteousness refers to what is right in the eyes of God, so those who hunger and thirst for it are those eager to follow God's will and truth and to seek the fulfillment of God's kingdom. This is a desire that God delights in and a desire that He has promised to fulfill. The closer we are to God, the more sensitive we become to the unrighteousness in the world, and the more we hunger for righteousness. This is a powerful desire, and God will fill those who hunger and thirst for His righteousness.

#### **Question: How do we make sure we have this hunger and thirst for righteousness?**

#### **Life Application**

Hunger and thirst are strong desires. Do you have the same kind of desperation to pursue after God's righteousness? In order to be filled, we need to:

#### **1. Have the longing**

"As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?" (Ps 42:1-2). Can you sense the longing for righteousness in David's words? In Psalm 63:1, David also writes, "O God, You are my God; early will I seek You; my soul thirsts for You; my flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water."

#### **2. Take action**

When we are hungry, we look for food. When we are thirsty, we look for a drink. We need to take action spiritually as well! Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst" (Jn 6:35). Our real hunger and thirst must be for God, our source of life.

Hungering and thirsting for righteousness also requires us to seek satisfaction in Jesus Christ, not in this world. Let Him feed us with His manna, and be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit so that “out of [our] heart[s] will flow rivers of living water” (Jn 7:38). Hungering and thirsting for righteousness means pursuing the following:

- a. For the truth to be preached to the ends of the earth (Mk 16:15).
- b. For God’s will to be done (Mt 6:10).
- c. For us to accomplish His work (Jn 4:34).

Salvation begins with a hungry heart, and God promises that He will fill us. As long as we seek Him, we will be filled.

### *Check for Understanding*

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1. **What are the Beatitudes?** The Beatitudes are blessings and promises from God given to those who seek to live a godly life and follow God.
2. **What is the meaning of “poor in spirit”?** Those who are poor in spirit are humble before God. They have a deep contrition before God and have no arrogance, self-righteousness, or pride.
3. **How does one become blessed through mourning?** When we mourn for our sins, we come before God with a broken heart and a contrite spirit. Then, the Holy Spirit comforts us when we repent of our sins, and God cleanses us and forgives our transgressions. Our godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation (2 Cor 7:10).
4. **What does it mean to be meek?** The meek do not exploit or oppress others, but have a spirit of gentleness and humility like Jesus. The meek have self-control and always speak gracious words, seasoned with salt.
5. **What does God want us to learn about meekness?** One who is truly meek is someone with a heart of rest. This means they have no worries or anxieties, something only possible for one who is able to completely and totally rely on God.
6. **What does righteousness refer to in this context?** Righteousness refers to the truth of God. When we thirst for righteousness, we are eagerly seeking after God and His truth.

### *Memory Verse*

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“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 5:3)

### **Meanings**

1. This teaches us that we need to understand:
  - a. how unworthy we are before God
  - b. how helpless we are before God
  - c. how powerless we are
  - d. how unrighteous we are before God, and admit that we are all sinners
2. God has promised that we will be blessed because He will be with us; He will help us and strengthen us by holding our right hand (Isa 41:13).

### *Conclusion*

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Each beatitude reminds us of the blessings of eternity, if only we are willing to change ourselves and pursue each one. Jesus is showing us that the pathway to heaven is laid out before us if we constantly live out these beatitudes.

1. *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven*—empty our cup and open ourselves before God.
2. *Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted*—have heartfelt sorrow and confess to God with a broken and contrite spirit.
3. *Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth*—be humble and gentle.
4. *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled*—seek God with all our heart.

### Lesson 3 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. What are the Beatitudes?

*The Beatitudes are the blessings and promises God gives to those who seek after Him.*

2. For each of the beatitudes we learned today, write:

- What it is,
- What it means, and
- What it is teaching us about how to live our lives.

a. *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven—empty our cup and open ourselves before God.*

b. *Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted—have heartfelt sorrow and confess to God with a broken and contrite spirit.*

c. *Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth—be humble and gentle.*

d. *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled—seek God with all our heart.*

**The Beatitudes (2)**

Passages: Mt 5:1–12

*Memory Verse*

“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”  
(Matthew 6:33)

<b>Knowledge of God’s Will [God’s Word]</b>	<b>Knowledge of God [God’s Divine Nature]</b>	<b>Good Work [Behavior]</b>
Understand the full meaning of the last four beatitudes.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. God is gentle and meek.</li><li>2. God is merciful.</li><li>3. God is pure.</li><li>4. God is peace.</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Seek after the fruit of the Holy Spirit.</li><li>2. Rely on God for endurance, strength, and wisdom to live out the Beatitudes.</li></ol>

*Overview*

**Events and Spiritual Teachings**

- A. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy
- B. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God
- C. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God
- D. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven

**Memory Verse**

**Conclusion:** These eight promises are blessings of the kingdom of God—they are a part of God, and they all belong to the kingdom.



### **The Beatitudes**

In the previous lesson, we studied the first four beatitudes. Today, we will continue the teachings of the Beatitudes and learn about the last four.

Let's read Matthew 5:1–12.

#### **A. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.**

##### **Meaning**

In Greek, "mercy" carries the concept of having compassion and feeling pity for others. God is willing to withhold our punishment out of mercy. Jesus taught in Matthew 9:13, "But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance." When we recite the Lord's Prayer, we say, "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors" (Mt 6:12). When we show mercy to others, our heavenly Father will show mercy to us (Mt 18:21–35).

##### **Question: How do we become merciful?**

Becoming merciful begins with seeing and acknowledging our own flaws. We must grieve over our sins and hunger for God's mercy and righteousness. Understanding our own flaws and seeing the same in others helps us become more compassionate, and in turn, more merciful.

##### **Life Application**

A wonderful example of this is seen in Luke 10:30–34, where the Samaritan showed mercy to the man who had been robbed and beaten. God wants us to be like the Samaritan by having compassion and mercy towards those who are in need, whether it be a spiritual, emotional, physical, or financial need (Mt 18:27–33). Are you a merciful person? Ask yourself the following questions:

1. When you think of those in need of help, who first comes to mind?  
We need to show mercy to those who are not accepted. We can: feed the hungry; give water to the thirsty; clothe the naked; shelter the homeless; comfort the imprisoned; and visit the sick (Mt 8:10–13; 25:35–37; Jn 11:19).
2. Has anybody offended or hurt you? How can you proactively show mercy this week?  
The Bible said we need to do good to those who hurt us (Mt 5:44; 6:14–15).
3. Who is a person in your life that needs forgiveness?  
Do you have a past wound or grudge that you have held on to? How are you going to show mercy to that person?
4. Have you given others a second chance?  
Giving people a second chance is showing mercy and compassion instead of being judgmental (Mt 18:23–35).
5. Have you comforted anyone who is in sorrow or in doubt?  
It is easier to ignore or neglect than to care for those in distress. But God desires that we exercise our godly love by caring for the needs and weaknesses of others (Mt 25:37–40).

#### **B. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.**

##### **Meaning**

The Bible said that those who are pure of heart can see God. To be pure of heart means to be free of selfish desires and evil intentions. We cannot merely appear clean on the outside and believe that we

are pure. Man looks at the outward appearance, but God looks at the heart (1 Sam 16:7) and wants us to examine our thoughts and feelings. “For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies” (Mt 15:19). God wants to start with our hearts because from the heart stem all the issues of life.

**Question: Why can the pure in heart see God?**

Those who are pure can see God because God is holy. 1 Samuel 2:2 mentions: “No one is holy like the LORD, for there is none besides You.” Hosea 11:9 further mentions: “For I am God, and not man, the Holy One in your midst.” God’s divine nature is holiness, so those who see Him must also be holy.

Being pure in heart involves having a simple heart toward God. A pure heart has no hypocrisy, no guile, and no hidden motives. A pure heart is marked by its transparency—it is open, with nothing to hide—and an uncompromising desire to please God in all things.

**Life Application**

**How can we be pure in heart?**

Jesus came to save us because we have unclean hearts that need to be purified. Having a pure heart is a prerequisite to seeing God. Hebrews 12:14 says, “Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.” So how do we pursue holiness?

1. Ask God to create a clean heart in you (Ps 51:10), and He will purify you (Acts 15:9).
2. “Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn deceitfully” (Ps 24:3–4). According to this verse, a pure heart is one that:
  - a. Does not have falsehood, but pursues truth, and
  - b. Does not have deceit.
3. Do not divide your heart between the world and God, but focus your heart entirely on God alone. James 4:8 exhorts us to “cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.” This concept of double-mindedness is further explained in James 4:4: “Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

**C. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.**

**Meaning**

John 1:12 says, “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.” Furthermore, Galatians 3:26 tell us that we “are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.” We become children of God by believing in Him and having faith in Him. This beatitude teaches us that the sons of God are peacemakers and that they should be the channel of blessings for making peace between God and men (Eph 2:13–18).

**Question: Why is a peacemaker called a Son of God?**

Isaiah 9:6 says that God’s name “will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” But why Prince of Peace? After the relationship between God and man was destroyed due to sin, there was no peace among men. But Colossians 1:20 explains that it pleased God “to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.” He sent Jesus Christ to make peace, and when He was born in

Bethlehem, a multitude of heavenly hosts joined the angel in praising God, saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men” (Lk 2:13–14).

A sinful man cannot please God except through Jesus, the Prince of Peace. The Lord Jesus preached peace to all men (Acts 10:36; Eph 2:17), and as Micah prophesied, “And this One shall be peace” (Mic 5:5). He was nailed on the cross for us, and through His blood, we can reconcile with God and have peace with Him. Through the redemption of Jesus, we received the adoption of sons (Gal 4:5; Eph 1:5); God is a peace-loving God, and as His children, we need to pursue what He pursues. We must be peacemakers, willing to make peace the way Jesus did.

### **Life Application**

#### **How can we become peacemakers?**

1. Love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us.  
Read Matthew 5:43–45. Please underline the first part of verse 45: “that you may be sons of your Father in heaven.” We must love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us to be called sons of God.
2. Learn to forgive.  
Read Colossians 3:12–15. It is easy to hold on to grudges against our parents, siblings, brethren in church, or even against other people in school. But we are God’s children, His elect and chosen people, and as such, we must learn to forgive others, because God Himself already forgave us of all our sins. Whatever grudges we hold, large or small, we must learn to let go of them in order to become peacemakers and true sons of God.
3. Bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit.  
We need to be led by the Spirit because one of the manifestations of the fruit of the Holy Spirit is peace (Gal 5:22–23). So, we must bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit in order to be peacemakers.

In all, peacemakers pursue reconciliation and harmony. We must build, not burn, bridges.

#### **D. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

##### **Meaning**

2 Timothy 3:12 tells us, “Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.” If we have decided to put God first in our family, work, school, and other aspects of life, sooner or later we will meet some form of opposition. An earlier beatitude states, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.” In this context, practicing righteousness means leading a godly life by being merciful, pure, and peaceable. But these practices often lead to persecution.

##### **Question: Why is the kingdom of heaven the reward?**

When our faith is tested through persecution, we will suffer, but at the same time, the reward is great.

*For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.*

(2 Cor 4:17–18)

Our light affliction will transform into an eternal weight of glory beyond compare. Thus, we must be glad and joyful when we are persecuted for righteousness’ sake. “Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great

is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you” (Mt 5:12). Jesus longs for us to seek our treasure in heaven, not on earth, just as He did when He “for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross” (Heb 12:2). Likewise, we can also endure for the sake of our reward in heaven.

### Life Application

#### What do we do when we are persecuted for righteousness?

1. **Do not fear (Ps 56:4, 11)**

Remember that God is always with us. No matter what we are enduring, He is right there beside us, and there is none greater or more powerful than our God. Therefore, there is nothing for us to fear.

2. **Rejoice (Rom 5:3)**

When they were imprisoned and later beaten for sharing the gospel, Peter and his fellow apostles “departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name” (Acts 5:41). The tribulations God permits in our lives are opportunities for us to glorify God and to grow in faith.

3. **Endure (1 Cor 10:13)**

God is faithful, and He has promised that He will never make us endure more than we can bear. He knows our strengths and our weaknesses. Knowing this, take courage and endure whatever persecutions and tribulations that take place in our lives, because endurance will come with its own reward (1 Cor 9:24–25; Jas 1:12).

*[B]ut rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ’s sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.*

(1 Pet 4:13–14)

### Check for Understanding

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1. **What does righteousness refer to in this context?** Righteousness refers to the truth of God. When we thirst for righteousness, we eagerly seek after God and His truth.
2. **How can we live out righteousness?** We can live out righteousness by being peacemakers, seeking purity, and showing mercy to others.
3. **Why can the pure in heart see God?** Those who are pure in heart can see God because purity leads to holiness and God is holy.
4. **How can we be pure in heart?** Ask God to create in us a clean heart. Once our heart has been purified, we must determine to pursue only truthfulness and maintain a daily walk with God, focusing on Him only from day to day.
5. **Why must we be peacemakers?** God is a peace-loving God, as proven by the death of His Son. Therefore, as His children, we should also pursue what God pursues.
6. **What do we do when we are persecuted for righteousness’ sake?** Do not fear, but rejoice and endure instead, knowing that for our suffering we will be greatly rewarded in heaven.

### Memory Verse

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“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”  
(Matthew 6:33)

### **Meanings**

The things that matter to God should always take priority over things of this world. His kingdom and His righteousness are of greater value than any material riches. It is God’s command that we are to seek first His kingdom and His righteousness. In return, God promises to take care of all our needs.

What do we devote our time, money, and energy to today? God does not want us to neglect our daily duties as Christians in this world to pursue material things. How we live and the ways we live matter to God. Are you seeking Him in full obedience? Or are you seeking things that will perish? Where your heart is, there your treasure will be. Do you treasure God’s kingdom above all?

### **Conclusion**

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Each beatitude reminds us of the blessings of eternity, if only we are willing to change ourselves and pursue each one. Jesus is showing us that the pathway to heaven is laid out before us if we constantly live out these beatitudes.

1. *Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy*—constantly show mercy.
2. *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God*—seek God with purity and single-mindedness.
3. *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God*—pray for our enemies and those who persecute us; bear the fruit of peace.
4. *Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven*—when persecuted, endure, rejoice, and do not fear.

## Lesson 4 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. What are the Beatitudes?  
*The Beatitudes are the blessings and promises God gives to those who seek after Him.*
  
2. Pick three of the beatitudes. For each write:
  - What it is,
  - What it means, and
  - What it is teaching us about how to live our lives.
    - a. *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven—empty our cup and open ourselves before God.*
    - b. *Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted—have heartfelt sorrow and confess to God with a broken and contrite spirit.*
    - c. *Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth—be humble and gentle.*
    - d. *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled—seek God with all our heart.*
    - e. *Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy—constantly show mercy.*
    - f. *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God—seek God with purity and single-mindedness.*
    - g. *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God—pray for our enemies and those who persecute us; bear the fruit of peace.*
    - h. *Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven—when persecuted, endure, rejoice, and do not fear.*

**Sermon on the Mount (1)**

Passages: Mt 5:13–48; 6:1–3

*Memory Verse*

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“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.” (Matthew 5:14)

<b>Knowledge of God’s Will [God’s Word]</b>	<b>Knowledge of God [God’s Divine Nature]</b>	<b>Good Work [Behavior]</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. To understand the meaning of salt and light.</li><li>2. To understand that murder begins in the heart.</li><li>3. To know what it means to commit adultery.</li><li>4. To recognize the importance of oaths.</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. God is light.</li><li>2. God is all-knowing.</li><li>3. God searches our hearts.</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. To illuminate the life that we have in Christ.</li><li>2. To avoid immorality by fully depending on God.</li><li>3. To guard our hearts.</li><li>4. To be truthful.</li></ol>

*Overview*

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**Events and Spiritual Teachings**

- A. Salt and Light
- B. Murder Begins in the Heart
- C. Adultery
- D. Oaths

**Memory Verse**

**Conclusion:** Let our light shine before men so that we glorify God when others see our good works. Let us live for God!

## **A. Salt and Light**

Let us begin by reading Matthew 5:13–16.

### **1. Salt**

If used wisely, salt can enhance our diet. But if abused, it can be harmful. Salt has a few functions:

- It enhances.
- It gives flavor.
- It preserves.

When used properly, salt permeates food and preserves it. Likewise, as Christians, we must be in the world but not of it. We live in the world, but must not be contaminated or influenced by its immorality and sins. At the same time, we must preserve against moral decay in our society (Col 4:6).

### **A Warning from Jesus**

We lose our saltiness if we allow impurities into our lives. 1 Corinthians 15:33 says, “Evil company corrupts good habits.” Disobedience, indifference to the rules in our lives, fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, filthiness, foolish talking, or coarse jesting can also corrupt us (Eph 5:3–4). In fact, if we are not salt of the earth, then we will be thrown out and cast into the furnace of fire (Mt 13:42).

### **2. Light**

Light has a few functions:

- It makes things visible.
- It illuminates.
- It turns darkness into light.

God is the true light (Jn 8:12). We must “let [our] light so shine before men” (Mt 5:16). To do so, we must know the truth and stand for it. We cannot simply live out our faith inside the walls of our homes and churches, as that would be like hiding a light under a basket. As the light of the world, we can warn others of danger and direct them to a safe harbor: the church. We can provide hope for those who are lost. God wants us to show the way to others as a light and be a witness for God (1 Pet 2:12).

### **Life Application: How do we become the salt and light of the world?**

1. As "salt," we need to counter the power of sin.
2. As "light," we must not hide, but illuminate the life that we have in Christ.
3. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we can continue to be God’s witnesses for the lost world. When we invite others to church, preach, and live out Christ-like lives, we shine our light.

Our true value is not in what we can achieve for ourselves, but in what we can do for others. As His children, God has called us to bring His qualities to the world. If we fail to meet that expectation, we fail in our duty as Christians, and our lives become meaningless. When we worship God with pure hearts; love others as ourselves; do good without growing weary; do not compromise to the standards of this world; tell the truth; and stand up for the Lord even when no one else will, we are shining for Him.



## **B. Murder Begins in the Heart**

Let us continue by studying Matthew 5:21–26. This passage mentions the terms “raca” and “fool,” both referring to insults we say to those who have angered us. It is commonly accepted that murder involves physically taking a person’s life and that only those who murder will face judgment. But here, Jesus teaches us that if our hate toward others becomes anger, we will face the same judgment (vv. 21–22).

### **1. Understanding Anger**

Hatred is often born out of anger, but we must understand that anger itself is not a sin. Anger is not the same as murder; it is a response. We can be angry without sinning, unless we choose to disobey God’s word. What we do with our anger determines whether it is sinful, and unresolved anger is a sin that brings God’s judgment.

### **2. Understanding Reconciliation**

Reconciliation is crucial in God’s eyes and should be done even before worshipping Him (Mt 5:23–24). If you know that you have caused someone to be angry, find that person and ask for an apology and forgiveness. Reconcile your relationship. Both sides are responsible for coming together. Reconciliation is never easy, but God commands it, and there is an urgency to settle matters quickly as there are consequences for leaving a broken relationship unresolved. Jesus wants us to come to repentance and to reconcile.

### **Life Application: Why and how must we reconcile?**

Why is God teaching us about anger and reconciliation? He wants us to understand that allowing our anger to consume us can lead to hellfire. Instead of submitting to anger, we must step back and see what God wants us to do. Let us study what the Scripture teaches us about anger:

- “Be angry, and do not sin’: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil.” (Eph 4:26–27)
- “So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.” (Jas 1:19–20)

One of the most common triggers for our anger are often the actions of our family members. In such cases, ask yourself: If my parent or sibling has something against me, then have I taken sufficient steps to reconcile, whether or not I am to blame? If not, am I willing to humble myself, talk to them, and seek reconciliation before my next prayer?

## **C. Adultery**

Next, we will read Matthew 5:27–32.

### **1. The biblical definition of adultery**

Adultery is committed when a married person has sexual intercourse with someone who is not their spouse. It is mentioned fifty-two times in the Bible, and is severely condemned with each mention. It creates so much damage that is difficult to undo. Not only is it extremely hurtful to the spouse, but it also robs the children of the love, joy, peace, and security that they need from a healthy marriage. Adultery devastates spouses in so many ways that families are never the same afterward.

But Jesus raises the bar higher than the physical act: if anyone looks at a woman with lust, he has already committed adultery with her. To lust after someone in your heart is already adultery, because your mind imagines the sexual acts. Adultery begins in the heart before it ever reaches the

bed, and this is a sin in the eyes of God because the mind has performed it. All lustful thoughts come from the heart, so we have to guard our hearts (Prov 4:23).

## 2. The consequences if a man divorces his wife

“For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience” (Eph 5:5–6).

If a man divorces his wife, the wrath of God will come. Paul warned the believers that those who do what is mentioned in Galatians 5:19–21 will not inherit the kingdom of God. Further, the Bible warns that “what God has joined together, let not man separate” (Mk 10:9), and “marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge” (Heb 13:4).

### Life Application: How can we avoid sexual immorality?

Avoiding sexual immorality is one of the biggest struggles we can encounter, especially in an age where pre-marital sex is not only accepted but encouraged. To avoid this sin, we must keep ourselves firmly rooted in our knowledge of God’s will, who desires that we be sanctified (1 Thess 4:3). Paul writes that our body is the “temple of the Holy Spirit [...] therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s” (1 Cor 6:19–20). As His temple, we must be holy in all our conduct (1 Pet 1:16). But what are some practical ways we can avoid this sin?

#### 1. Be careful about what we fill our minds with, for the battle begins in the mind.

Our imagination is most active when we are weak on the bed—the place where sin is often hatched.

#### 2. Pray daily and depend on the power of the Holy Spirit.

We cannot defeat sexual temptation by our own strength; we must rely on the power of the Holy Spirit (1 Thess 4:7–8) and God’s word to help us control our bodies in holiness and honor (1 Thess 4:3–4).

#### 3. Never put yourself in tempting situations.

Leave and seek accountability (Gen 39:12). You cannot fight this alone. You also need a strong Christian to help you. Find someone who is trustworthy and has an ongoing and deep relationship with God, who is willing to listen to your struggles and pray with you and for you.

#### 4. Remember our great and awesome God who died for our sins (Neh 4:14; 1 Cor 11:25)

Remember the blood He shed for you on the cross. Remember that we will need to give an account of our life when we see Him face to face on the judgment day (Rom 14:12).

## D. Oaths

Finally, let us read Matthew 5:33–37.

Oaths, meant to be a solemn declaration and sign of trustworthiness, were often misused as a way to make up for a lack of personal integrity. Jesus wants us to speak the truth from our hearts. If asked to swear in court, as long as we are not trying to cover up falsehoods, we need not refuse to testify under oath, just as when Paul claimed that God was His witness (Rom 1:9; 2 Cor 1:23; 1 Thess 2:5, 10; Phil 1:8). Even Jesus testified under oath (Mt 26:63, 64). God wants us to speak the truth. This lesson is emphasized many times throughout the Bible:

- “But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No,’ lest you fall into judgment.” (Jas 5:12)
- “Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, but those who deal truthfully are His delight.” (Prov 12:22)

- “But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.” (Rev 21:8)

### **Life Application: How do we combat lying?**

Let us read Ephesians 4:25. “Therefore, putting away lying, ‘Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,’ for we are members of one another.” Paul uses a similar phrase, “put off,” in Ephesians 4:22: “that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts.” From this, we can see that lying is one of the characteristics of the “old man” or “old nature.” Where our old selves were corrupted because of deception and dishonesty, our new selves are born in truth, righteousness, and holiness, and as such, we must strive to avoid any falsehood in our lives.

### *Check for Understanding*

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- 1. How are we the salt of the earth?** We strive to lift up those around us through our speech and our good works, which are seasoned with grace. At the same time, we must preserve against the moral decay that threatens our society.
- 2. What must we do to be the light of the world?** We must reflect the light of God through our actions and good works. We can direct others to a safe harbor: the church. We can provide hope to those who are lost in the dark. We must light the way for others and be a witness for God.
- 3. What does the Bible teach about hatred?** Those who hate others will face the same judgment as those who murder.
- 4. What must we do if we are angry with someone?** Before we can come before God, we must first reconcile with the other by apologizing and asking for forgiveness. Anger itself is not a sin, but it will become one if our anger leads us to sin.
- 5. How does the Bible warn against looking at another with lust?** The Bible warns that looking at another with lust is already committing adultery, a serious sin. Thus, we must guard our hearts against such temptations.
- 6. Why must our “yes” be “yes,” and our “no,” “no”?** The Bible warns against lying, as the Lord hates it, condemning liars to experiencing a second death. Rather, we must speak truthfully, as the Lord delights in those who deal truthfully.

### *Memory Verse*

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“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.” (Matthew 5:14)

### **Meaning**

We are to reflect the light of Christ so that everyone can see it in us. We are to let our light “shine” by glorifying God in:

1. Our faith—Be ready to give an account of the hope that we have (1 Pet 3:15)
2. Our speech
3. Our trustworthiness
4. Our integrity
5. Our Christ-like character: the fruit of the Holy Spirit
6. Our compassion—Lead others out of the darkness and into the marvelous light to Jesus Christ

A city that is set on a hill can be seen from afar. Truly, many of the cities of the world are located on mountaintops, and these cities can be seen from afar. This means that our actions should not be hidden. The world is looking at us, and we must be seen.

### *Conclusion*

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Light is the nature and character of God. He is light—the only source of light—and He is holy and sinless with no darkness. Without His illumination, we continue to walk in darkness (2 Cor 2:14). But if we walk with Him, we walk in holiness, righteousness, and faith.

Psalm 18:28 records: “For You will light my lamp; the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness.” The human spirit is the lamp of God, and God is the one who lights our lamps. In order to shine for God, our old nature must be broken first. If we truly put to death our old nature, there will be a change in our minds and deeds—especially when it comes to temptations and sin. We must nail our old natures on the cross and become the salt and light of the world.

## Lesson 5 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. According to the memory verse, how are we to act as the light of the world?  
*We cannot simply live out our faith inside the walls of our homes and churches; we need to shine for Him in all our actions, warn others of danger, and direct them to a safe harbor: the church. We can provide hope for those who are lost, show the way to others as a light, and be a witness for God (1 Pet 2:12).*
2. What is our duty as the salt of the world?  
*Avoid being contaminated by the world but instead enhance and flavor it with God's qualities, and preserve it against moral decay.*
3. What does Jesus teach us about anger? What are the dangers of anger?  
*Those who harbor anger against another will receive the same judgment as murderers. While anger itself is not a sin, it can lead to the disobedience of God's will.*
4. Where does adultery begin according to God? What are four ways we can guard ourselves against it?  
*We have committed adultery already if we think about it in our heart and mind. We can avoid immorality by knowing God's will, glorifying God in our body, putting off our old self, and being obedient and holy children.*
5. What can you change about yourself in order to better reflect God's light in the world?  
*Personal answers. Common responses may be speech, anger, motivation, or habits involving cleanliness or time spent playing versus studying.*
6. What action will you take this week or quarter to try and change this?  
*Personal answers. Remind them to write down **actionable** responses, meaning something that is tangible and checklist-able (e.g., "pray for five minutes every day" versus "pray more"). Examples: Place a quarter in a jar for every swear word ("swear jar") or take ten deep breaths before speaking when angry.*

**Sermon on the Mount (2)**

Passages: Mt 6

*Memory Verse*

“Let my prayer be set before You as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.” (Psalm 141:2)

<b>Knowledge of God’s Will [God’s Word]</b>	<b>Knowledge of God [God’s Divine Nature]</b>	<b>Good Work [Behavior]</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Understand the meaning of the Lord’s Prayer.</li><li>2. Understand the meaning of fasting.</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. God is our Father.</li><li>2. God is our provider.</li><li>3. God is our protector.</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Worship Him through prayer daily.</li><li>2. Seek Him for all of our needs.</li><li>3. Fast and pray when distress and trouble come.</li></ol>

*Overview*

**Spiritual Teachings**

- A. The Lord’s Prayer
- B. Fasting

**Life Application**

1. Learning How to Pray
2. Spending Time with God in Prayer

**Memory Verse**

**Conclusion:** With the Lord’s Prayer as our guide to worship Him, whether in times of distress or trouble, fast and pray to rely on God’s intervention.

**A. The Lord's Prayer**

The Lord's Prayer contains many great teachings and is filled with incredible meaning. Thus, we must take the time to stop and reflect on the meaning of each phrase. Let us read Matthew 6:9–13.

**Meaning**

**Our Father in Heaven**—We start by calling God our heavenly Father. He is our Father because we are His sons (Jn 1:12–13). He adopted us as His children (Gal 4:5; Eph 1:5), and He sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts (Gal 4:6).

**Hallowed be Your name**—God wants us to honor His name. Why? His name is holy and awesome and must be revered (Ps 111:9; Rev 15:4). Hallowed is another word for “sanctified,” or “holy.” Ezekiel 36:23 says, “‘And I will sanctify My great name [...] and the nations shall know that I am the LORD,’ says the Lord GOD, ‘when I am hallowed in you before their eyes.’”

**Your kingdom come**—Jesus started His ministry by emphasizing repentance, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Mt 4:17). Jesus tells us that God's kingdom “is not of this world” (Jn 18:36), but is “within you” (Lk 17:21). In other words, God's kingdom is where He rules: in heaven, within our hearts, and in the church, which is God's kingdom on earth (Heb 12:18–29).

**Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven**—We need to ask God to fill us “with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding” (Col 1:9) so that we can know and do His will (Mt 7:21).

**Give us this day our daily bread**—Bread represents God's provision for us. This provision is not a one-time provision, but a “daily” provision. God understands our needs (Mt 6:8, 32), so when we ask Him for our daily bread, He will answer us. It is important to trust that God will provide all our needs, every day, no matter what they may be.

**And forgive us our debts**—We are not perfect. Even after water baptism, we may still commit wrongs. So we must confess our sins before God and ask for forgiveness (1 Jn 1:7, 9).

**As we forgive our debtors**—Jesus wants us to forgive those who have hurt us in addition to asking God to forgive us our trespasses. God cannot be present in a heart filled with anger and hatred. Matthew 6:14–15 says, “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” It is the Lord's will that we forgive one another, just as Jesus forgave us (Col 3:12–13).

**And do not lead us into temptation**—God does not tempt anyone (Jas 1:13), but we need to ask God to save us from falling into sin, lest we be ensnared by it (Mt 26:41). We need to ask God not to let us be tempted beyond what we can bear, and trust that “with the temptation [God] will also make the way of escape, that [we] may be able to bear it” (1 Cor 10:13).

**But deliver us from the evil one**—The evil one may try to harm us physically, spiritually, or mentally. Satan's goal is to steal, kill, and destroy (Jn 10:10). For this reason, we should ask God to deliver us from the evil one and remember that “the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one” (2 Thess 3:3).

**For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever**—These words remind us that our citizenship is in heaven (Phil 3:20). One day, we will reign with the Lord in His kingdom (2 Tim 2:12; Rev 22:5), which is “not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit” (Rom 14:17). And since God is the Creator, all power and glory belong to Him.

The Lord’s Prayer ends with *Amen* (v. 13), a Greek word transliterated from Hebrew, meaning “verily” or “so let it be.” In saying this, we affirm the sincerity of our prayer and ask God to fulfill it.

## **B. Fasting**

Let us study Matthew 6:16–18. Fasting in the Bible generally means going without any food and drink for a period (Est 4:16). Fasting is a form of self-affliction, originally taken from the Hebrew expression “*inna napso*,” which means “to afflict the soul.” There are many examples of fasting in the Bible:

- The Israelites fasted on the Day of Atonement (Lev 23:27–32; Num 29:7; Jer 36:6).
- Nehemiah fasted upon learning that Jerusalem was laid in ruins (Neh 1:4).
- Prophetess Anna “served God with fastings and prayers night and day” at the temple (Lk 2:37).
- Jesus fasted for forty days and forty nights before Satan tempted Him (Mt 4:2).
- Paul and Barnabas fasted and prayed for the appointment of elders in the churches (Acts 14:23).

### **What is the purpose of fasting?**

Fasting prayer is powerful, as it increases one’s spiritual strength from God. While fasting is not mandatory, there are occasions when it becomes a necessity.

#### **1. To seek deliverance from calamities**

- a. During the reign of Jehoshaphat, the king proclaimed a fast throughout the land, and with God’s help, the Jews had a complete victory over their numerous enemies (2 Chr 20).
- b. When Haman, minister of Persia, was about to eliminate all the Jewish people, Queen Esther, Mordecai, and the Jews fasted and prayed (Est 4:15–16). God listened to their prayers, and consequently delivered the Jews from genocide.
- c. When heresy is prevalent (Mt 24:23–24) or when persecutions are imposed upon the church (Acts 8:1–3), the whole church should unite, fast, and pray to God earnestly for deliverance.

#### **2. To seek forgiveness of sins**

- a. Sincere prayer with fasting is exceedingly powerful. The people of Nineveh, for example, responded to Jonah’s warning and proclaimed a fast. Even the king fasted for his sins by putting on sackcloth and sitting in ashes. God saw their repentance, so He decided not to destroy them (Jon 1:1–2; 3:1–10). Personal fasting is a way to humble oneself before God, and it can also be used for special petition or intercession to the Lord.
- b. God may use poverty, disease, or hardship to remind His followers to return to Him. Therefore, if we fall short of His glory, we have to confess our sins and contritely ask the Lord to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 Jn 1:9).

#### **3. To seek scriptural understanding**

- a. Daniel fasted for three weeks in order to understand the vision given to him. During the period of fasting, he prayed to God for understanding. As a result, God gave him the meaning of the mysterious vision (Dan 10:1–3, 12).
- b. Numerous passages in the Bible are too profound to understand. But if you are eager to know the meanings of these verses, in addition to conducting research, fast and pray so that God may grant you spiritual understanding.



#### 4. To receive the spiritual power to cast out demons

In response to the inability of the disciples to cast out a demon, Jesus stressed the importance of prayer and fasting (Mt 17:14–21). We may feel that we lack power and that our prayers are ineffective. Under such circumstances, we need to fast and pray for power and faith (Mt 17:20). If done with sincerity, we can even drive out evil spirits.

#### 5. To pray for the growth of the church

- a. In the church at Antioch, many prophets and teachers fasted and prayed for the growth of the church. The apostles were then sent out by the Holy Spirit and preached the words of God, performing miracles and leading many to believe in the Lord.
- b. In the same way, the appointment of elders in every church was done with prayer and fasting (Acts 14:23). When we ask God to open a door of grace to the Gentiles, we must pray with fasting as well (Col 4:3; Acts 14:27).
- c. In addition to assisting us in the preaching of the gospel, fasting and praying is important when we need God's guidance. Ezra and Nehemiah both fasted and prayed before setting forth to do His work (Ezra 8:21–23; Neh 1:3–4, 11). It is a manifestation of our devotion to God and our service to Him.

#### What manner of fasting is unacceptable to God?

1. Do not fast as a formality—Oftentimes, people fail to understand the purpose of fasting and treat it as a mere formality. They fast only because others do, and may even feel proud of their “achievement.” This is wrong.
2. Do not fast hypocritically—As taught by the Lord Jesus when He prayed in the wilderness, we should fast for a definite good cause while leading a normal prayerful life in private.

*(For supplementary material, see Manna Issue #5: What you need to know about Fasting.)*

#### Check for Understanding

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1. **What is the spiritual teaching in the phrase “and give us this day our daily bread”?** God is the one who provides for our needs. We need to trust Him. Further, He is the one who offers us spiritual food and drink that will fill our hearts.
2. **What is the spiritual teaching in the phrase “as we forgive our debtors”?** We must forgive those who have hurt us or sinned against us. Only those who forgive others can be forgiven by God—and those who choose to forgive others are loved by Him because forgiving and loving others is God's will.
3. **Where is God's kingdom, and why should we pray for it?** It is both in heaven, our hearts, and in our church, which is God's kingdom on earth. We must pray that His kingdom be established firmly in our hearts and minds, and that we can spread it to those who have not yet received His word.
4. **For what purpose did the people of Nineveh fast? What was the result?** They fasted and prayed to seek forgiveness for their sins. Even the king of Nineveh fasted. As a result of their contrition and repentance, God refrained from destroying the city.
5. **For what purposes do we fast today?** For the repentance of sins, for a petition or intercession, for the purposes of serving our Lord, and for the power to drive out evil spirits.
6. **What manner of fasting is unacceptable to God?** Fasting as a formality or for the sake of self-accomplishment, and fasting hypocritically, for the sake of receiving praise or showing others what we are doing.

*Life Application*

**1. Learning How to Pray**

God desires for us to come near to Him and pour out our hearts. When we do, He will be there to meet our needs. To help us learn how best to pray, He has given us the Lord’s Prayer as a model prayer for us to follow. Let’s re-examine the prayer, this time looking at how we can use each line as the foundation and guideline for our other prayers.

<b>The Lord’s Prayer</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Our Own Prayer</b>
<b>Our Father in heaven</b>	Acknowledge God’s presence in heaven.	“Dear Father, I adore You. You are the God of the Most High—You rule and reign. You’re worthy of my praise!”
<b>Hallowed be Your name</b>	Do not profane God’s name: by doing so, we sin and dishonor God (Prov 30:9; 1 Tim 6:1); We cannot be counted as true if we do not keep His name holy in our thoughts, speech, and conduct.	“Dear God, there is no other name on earth that is more holy than Your name. I will not profane or blaspheme Your name in vain because Your name is sacred.”
<b>Your kingdom come</b>	As Christians, we should pray each day for God’s kingdom to be revealed and joyfully anticipate the Lord’s second coming, when we shall enter that everlasting place (2 Pet 1:11).	“Dear God, I pray that Your kingdom will come! As we live, we await and look for Your return and have this blessed hope that You will reign forever and ever in our hearts and in heaven.”
<b>Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven</b>	Ask God for His will. We need to put our all before His presence and actively seek and fulfill His will so that it may truly be done on earth as it is in heaven.	“Dear God, I want to know Your will in my life. As Ephesians 2:10 says, ‘I am Your workmanship, created in You to do good works, which You have prepared for me that I should walk in them.’ Teach me to do Your will and to submit to Your plan and purpose.”
<b>Give us this day our daily bread</b>	We will not worry about tomorrow because God is our provider. Seek first His kingdom and righteousness and live for Him, and He will provide all of our needs, both spiritual and physical.	“Dear God, thank You for food, clothing and a home. You said men should not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. Thank You also for spiritual nourishment each time I read Your word!”
<b>And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors</b>	Ask God to reveal to us the hidden bitterness in our hearts. Do not forget that we first have to forgive our debtors and show mercy to those who have wronged us.	“Dear God, help me to forgive everyone who has trespassed against me so that You can forgive me my debts. I will be merciful, tender, and compassionate toward those who have wronged me. I refuse to be resentful or upset.”
<b>And do not lead us into temptation, but</b>	Help us not to place ourselves in tempting situations. Ask for	“Dear God, I know that You are faithful and that You will deliver me from

<b>deliver us from the evil one</b>	vigilance and the power of the Holy Spirit to be alert so that we are on guard every moment. Ask God to deliver us by finding a way to escape temptation.	tempting situations. By the power of the Holy Spirit, I will be alert and watchful. Please deliver me from evil.”
<b>For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.</b>	God’s kingdom, power, and glory belong to Him.	“Dear God, I want to praise You because the kingdom and the power and the glory belong to You! I will continue to adore You and praise You for who You are. Your lovingkindness is better than life, and my lips shall praise You forever and ever! Amen.”

## 2. Spending Time with God in Prayer

Prayer is a source of joy and strength. It is a time for us to draw closer to God. Those who have attended a student spiritual convocation know its power. Since prayers are significantly longer, after a week of regular prayer from early morning to bedtime, we feel as though we have touched God.

Do you have time to pray daily? Is it often a short, hurried prayer? Instead of only spending these few, rushed moments with God, let us resolve to do the following:

1. Pray daily to the Lord. “Evening and morning and at noon, I will pray, and cry aloud, and He shall hear my voice” (Ps 55:17).
2. Use the Lord’s Prayer as our guide to worship Him, to praise Him, and to give all our petitions to Him. As a result, God’s provision and protection will come.
3. In times of distress or trouble, fast and pray to rely on God’s intervention.

### Memory Verse

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“Let my prayer be set before You as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.” (Psalm 141:2)

### Meaning

1. Incense, which has a sweet odor, was burned as an offering to God in His temple. According to Mosaic law, only a high priest could make an offering of incense at the altar of incense (Ex 30:7), marking the simple act as a privileged act reserved for those who serve God. Today, we who are God’s high priests have the privilege of communicating directly with God, but instead of burning incense or making sacrifices, our very prayers, when in alignment with His will, are like a sweet and pleasing aroma to Him. This makes our prayers not only a form of petition, but also a form of worship.
2. When we pray to God, we are fully entrusting our problems to Him. He wants us to pour out our hearts to Him, because it is a sign of our love for Him and of our reliance on our Father in heaven. The Bible tells us, “Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us” (1 Jn 5:14). Whatever petition we have—intercession, a cry for help, for comfort, or even a prayer of joy and thanksgiving—God will hear it; He has promised His help to those who call out to Him.

### Conclusion

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Jesus has given us a model prayer (Mt 6:9; Lk 11:2). Use the Lord's Prayer as our guide to worship Him, to praise Him, and to give all our petitions to Him. As a result, God's provision and protection will come. And in times of distress or trouble, fast and pray to rely on God's intervention.

Let us set a goal to acknowledge Him and His presence before we start each day. Remember to pause, worship, and ask God for His divine intervention, guidance, provision, and protection.

## Lesson 6 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. What does it mean to have prayers like incense?  
*Incense was burned as an offering to God in His temple. Our prayers, when in alignment with God's will, are like a sweet and pleasing aroma to Him. This makes our prayers not only a form of petition, but also a form of worship.*
2. Choose a line from the Lord's Prayer, write it down, and explain what it teaches us about God.  
*See Section A of the Spiritual Teachings section. (Example: "Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" – God's purpose never changes, and His will never hindered. However, those who serve Him are often obstructed from following His will because of Satan.)*
3. Name two examples of people fasting in the Bible and explain why they fasted.  
*See Section B of the Spiritual Teachings section. (Example: Esther, Mordecai, and all the Jewish people. They fasted because Haman, the king's advisor, was about to destroy all of the Jewish people. They needed God's deliverance. Esther also needed God's strength to help her stand in front of the king despite the danger to her life.)*
4. What are four purposes for which we fast today?  
*For the repentance of sins, for a petition or intercession, for the purposes of serving our Lord, and for the power to drive out evil spirits.*
5. Why is prayer so important? What is a common excuse we often make for not praying?  
*It deepens our relationship with God, gives us spiritual strength and wisdom, and helps us resist temptation so that we can follow God's will.*

*Personal answers. (Examples: Not enough time; do not have anything to pray about; once a day is enough even if it is short.)*

6. Write down at least one goal or action plan for the week that will help improve your prayer life.  
*Personal answers. Remind the students to write down an **actionable** goal or plan, something that is checklist-able and achievable. Praying an hour a day, for example, is likely far too high a goal for someone who only prays five minutes every morning.*

*(Examples: Pray about one line of the Lord's Prayer each day, considering its teachings, why it is included in the Lord's Prayer, and what it teaches us about God. Write a list of prayer requests or people to pray for, and pray for one or two of the items on the list each day.)*

**The Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem**

Passages: Mt 21:1–11; Mk 11:1–11; Lk 19:28–44; Jn 12:12–19

*Memory Verse*

“Hosanna to the Son of David! ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!’ Hosanna in the highest!” (Matthew 21:9)

<b>Knowledge of God’s Will [God’s Word]</b>	<b>Knowledge of God [God’s Divine Nature]</b>	<b>Good Work [Behavior]</b>
Jesus, the Messiah, entered Jerusalem on a colt, affirming His royalty as well as His humility.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. God is our King.</li><li>2. God is just, and He brings salvation.</li><li>3. God is lowly and gentle.</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Act as His witness.</li><li>2. Be sanctified and ready to be used by God.</li><li>3. Exhibit gentleness in words and in actions.</li></ol>

*Overview*

**Events and Spiritual Teachings**

- A. Jesus Is Omniscient
- B. Jesus Is King
- C. Jesus Is Lowly, Just, and Has Salvation

**Life Application: The Lord Has Need of You!**

1. God wants us to be His witnesses
2. God wants us to be gentle and humble

**Memory Verse**

**Conclusion:** When Jesus Christ was on earth, He served with lowliness and gentleness. He will return again, and when He comes, He will come with great power.

## Events and Spiritual Teachings

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### **The Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem (Mt 21:1–11)**

*“Tell the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your King is coming to you, lowly, and sitting on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.’”*

(Mt 21:5)

The triumphal entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem has been recorded in each of the four gospels (Mk 11:1–10; Lk 19:29–38; Jn 12:1–16). This triumphal entry was a beautiful contrast to the death that Jesus would suffer in a week’s time. The entry portrayed Him as the King of peace, the Son of David.

#### **A. Jesus Is Omniscient (Mt 21:1–6 – The Preparation)**

Let us first turn to Matthew 21:1–6. (*Note:* Matthew mentions Bethphage, a place that can no longer be found. It was located on the eastern side of the Mount of Olives, close to Bethany, near Jerusalem.)

This passage demonstrates Jesus’ omniscience and authority. Everything had been planned—Jesus knew the location of the animals and what the disciples needed to say. The disciples needed only to respond in faith. But why is this event such a miracle?

1. The disciples found the colt, just as the Lord had predicted.
2. The owner of the colt agreed to lend him to Jesus.
3. The colt, which no one had ever sat on, was obedient instead of unruly (*BSG: Luke, 7.1:1*).<sup>1</sup>

#### **B. Jesus Is King (Mt 21:7–11 – Jesus Enters Jerusalem)**

Let us continue by reading Matthew 21:7–11.

Upon entering Jerusalem, a huge crowd surrounded Jesus and another large crowd went before Him (Mt 21:9). They shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David! ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!’ Hosanna in the highest!” (Mt 21:9). They honored Jesus as King by laying down their garments before Him and cutting large palm tree branches to spread along the road.

#### **Understanding Messiah**

Messiah means “anointed one” in Hebrew. God told Abraham that all the world would be blessed through his descendants (Gen 12:1–3), and He told David that He would set up a seed after him and establish his house and kingdom forever (2 Sam 7:12). The Israelites placed their faith in these promises, hoping for a strong political Messiah to free them, as Isaiah had prophesied: “And it will be said in that day: ‘Behold, this *is* our God; We have waited for Him, and He will save us. This is the LORD; We have waited for Him; We will be glad and rejoice in His salvation” (Isa 25:9).

#### **C. Jesus Is Lowly, Just, and Has Salvation**

Let us read Zechariah 9:9.

#### **God Is Just**

Being just means hating oppression, cheating, and all forms of mistreatment. God is fair, and one day, He will judge the world and each person in it. Since He is just, all-knowing, ever-present, and all-powerful, He clearly sees every heart, thought, and intent. Isaiah 30:18 names Him as a “God of justice,”

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<sup>1</sup> TJC Department of Literary Ministry, “Ministry in Jerusalem”, *Bible Study Guide: Luke* (Malaysia: True Jesus Church, 2012), [https://bsg.tjc.org/tjc\\_bsg\\_lesson/luke-27/](https://bsg.tjc.org/tjc_bsg_lesson/luke-27/), 7.1:1.

and Deuteronomy 32:4 teaches us that “all His ways are justice, a God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He.”

### God Has Salvation

God is not only just, but also full of love, mercy, and grace. “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom 5:8). He is a God of mercy who provided a way for us to be saved: He gave us His son to die on the cross for our sins. If we are willing to receive salvation, all He requires of us is to accept Jesus Christ as our Savior by faith and trust in Him. Then, He will give us the right to become His children (Jn 1:12).

Steps to Receive Salvation
1. Recognize our sinfulness, the consequence of which is eternal separation from God (Rom 6:23), and that we fall short of His glory (Rom 3:23).
2. Ask God for forgiveness of sins and be willing to turn from our sins (1 Jn 1:9).
3. Believe that He died for our sins and rose again (1 Cor 15:4; Lk 24:45–47), granting us salvation not by our works, but by our faith in God’s grace (Eph 2:8).
4. Receive water baptism to wash away our sins (Acts 2:38).
5. Pray for the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38).
6. Keep His commandments and live a godly life (Eccl 12:13; 1 Jn 5:3).

### Life Application

#### The Lord Has Need of You!

“And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord has need of them,’ and immediately he will send them” (Mt 21:3).

Just as the colt was used by Jesus to demonstrate His power and His kingship, we too can be used by God for His purpose.

#### 1. God wants us to be His witnesses

Before Jesus ascended to heaven, He told His disciples to be witnesses for Him (Acts 1:8) by shining His light and preaching the gospel. God wants everyone to come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Tim 2:4). Every soul is precious and valuable to Him, so we must also care for those God has placed in our lives. Romans 10:14–15 says:

*How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!”*

The Lord has need of you!

#### How can God use us?

- **God seeks to equip us through His word**

In order to be used by God, we must study His word and “meditate in it day and night” (Josh 1:8). To meditate means to contemplate and to internalize.



- **God requests us to be set apart**

The colt Jesus chose had never been ridden by another. Likewise, God wants us to be set apart by being cleansed and pursuing after holiness. Paul tells us that there are different kinds of vessels, and vessels that are cleansed are three things: sanctified, useful for the Master, and prepared for every good work (2 Tim 2:20–21). We need to sanctify ourselves by living a holy life separate from the world.

- **God wants us to rely on Him**

God told Joshua to “be strong and very courageous” (Josh 1:7) because He knew Joshua was afraid. In order to be strong and courageous, we must rely on God through prayer.

It is a great honor to be used by God. You do not need to possess great talent, but need only to equip yourself with God’s word, cleanse yourself, care about witnessing to others, and rely on Him fully.

## **2. God wants us to be gentle and humble**

Jesus is the best example of one who is gentle and lowly in heart. He even calls everyone to Him in Matthew 11:28, offering rest that is not a physical rest, but a spiritual one that gives us peace in our hearts, minds, and souls. How can we be gentle and humble like Jesus?

### **Everyone has imperfections. How can we be gentle and humble?**

- **Gentle in Our Words (Prov 15:1)**

Instead of countering unkindness with harsh words, speak gentle words. The Bible teaches us to be patient with one another by being humble and gentle (Eph 4:2). Conflicts may be unavoidable, but destruction is optional. When we are upset or frustrated, remember James 1:19: “Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.”

A relationship can be built up or torn apart depending on the words we speak. Apostle James teaches us that our tongues are an “unruly evil, full of deadly poison” (Jas 3:8). How can we praise God with the same tongue we use to curse or mock others? Taming our tongues is a challenge we can only overcome if we rely on God. Therefore, say a daily prayer if you have a hard time taming your tongue: “Dear God, please help me control what I say; guard my lips, but most importantly, guard my heart” (Ps 141:3; Prov 4:23).

- **Gentle in Our Actions (1 Thess 2:7)**

Jesus is all-powerful, but He was always gentle, kind, and loving.

Paul once shared how he treated others: “But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children” (1 Thess 2:7). A gentle person is a strong person, who speaks the truth with all lowliness. In fact, all genuine followers of God should be distinguished by being gentle in all that they do.

The only way for us to exhibit gentleness is to walk in the Spirit, for gentleness is a fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:22–23) and is closely related to love, kindness, and self-control. By being filled with the Holy Spirit, we are able to be far gentler than we could ever be without it. The more we walk in the Spirit, the more we can overcome the ugly tendencies of our flesh. A gentle person can even help someone who is caught in sin (Gal 6:1).

- **Gentle in Our Witness (1 Pet 3:15)**

The Bible teaches that to whomever we witness, we must witness with gentleness and respect. “Always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear” (1 Pet 3:15). We must be ready to give a defense, but do it with gentleness and with fear.

People all around us are looking for living proof that God is real and that He exists. “You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, *that is*, of the heart” (2 Cor 3:2–3).

### *Check for Understanding*

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- 1. How does Jesus’ preparation to enter Jerusalem demonstrate His omniscience and His authority?** He knew where the animals were located. Furthermore, He knew that if the disciples said the Lord had need of them, then the animals would be given to them.
- 2. Why did Jesus want to ride into Jerusalem on a donkey?** To fulfill the prophecy written in the Old Testament in Zechariah 9:9.
- 3. How was Jesus greeted as He rode into Jerusalem?** Upon entering Jerusalem, a huge crowd surrounded Jesus and another large crowd went before Him (Mt 21:9). They shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David! ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!’ Hosanna in the highest!” (Mt 21:9). They honored Jesus as King by laying down their garments before Him and cutting large palm tree branches to spread along the road.
- 4. What does it mean to be lowly? What does it mean to be just?** To be lowly means to be humble and free of pride. Being just means hating oppression, cheating, and all forms of mistreatment.
- 5. What are the four ways God prepares us for His use?** He equips us with His word, asks us to be set apart from the world, wants us to be concerned about witnessing, and desires for us to rely on Him.
- 6. In what three ways can we be gentle and humble?** In our words, our actions, and our witness—when we speak to others about our hope in God.

### *Memory Verse*

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“Hosanna to the Son of David! ‘Blessed *is* He who comes in the name of the LORD!’ Hosanna in the highest!” (Matthew 21:9b)

### **Meaning**

#### *Hosanna*

A Hebrew word meaning “save, please” or “grant salvation,” which can be found in Psalm 118:25. Therefore, “Hosanna” means “salvation is coming.” The crowds recognized Jesus Christ as the heir of David, the promised Messiah.

#### *Son of David*

This phrase was often used in the New Testament to refer to Jesus Christ, and He never denied that He was the Son of David. God had promised David, the king of Israel, that his throne would be established forever (2 Sam 7:12–13), and when we examine Matthew chapter 1 and Luke chapter 3, we can find the genealogical evidence that Jesus was a direct descendant of Abraham and David through Joseph, His earthly father.

As He rode through Jerusalem on the donkey, Jesus received praises from the crowd welcoming Him as King. Jesus was the Son of God, who came to save us all from eternal condemnation, and as such, was

worthy of such a welcome. We should give our adoration and praise to Jesus Christ, as He indeed is our King, granting us eternal life.

### *Conclusion*

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Jesus is indeed the Messiah. He offered Himself as a sacrifice for our sins, to deliver us all from eternal condemnation. He prophesied that He would die and rise again (Mt 16:21), and afterward, sit on David's throne (Mt 19:28). When He was on earth, He served with lowliness and gentleness (Mt 20:25–28). Thus, we must do the same by relying on the Holy Spirit so that we can be filled with gentleness and holiness to serve God as vessels for Him.

## Lesson 7 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. What are the meanings of “Hosanna” and “the Son of David”?  
*“Hosanna” is a word of both praise and petition meaning “salvation is coming.” “Son of David” affirms Jesus’ identity as both a descendent of King David, as well as the messianic King who brings us salvation and is deserving of our praise.*
2. Why did Jesus ride into Jerusalem on a donkey?  
*The instructions He gave to His disciples and the colt’s obedience proved Jesus’ authority, but at the same time showed Jesus’ humility; a worldly king would never ride on a donkey. In addition, Jesus was fulfilling a prophecy written in Zechariah 9:9.*
3. What did the people use to greet Jesus as He entered Jerusalem? Why?  
*They used palm branches to greet Him, laying them on the ground before Him. These signified their acceptance and recognition of Jesus as King, not just any man.*
4. What does it mean to be lowly? How was Jesus gentle and lowly?  
*To be lowly means to be humble and gentle. It means to have an absence of pride. Jesus showed these qualities by making Himself accessible to all, not just the rich or the powerful. He sought out the sinners, the poor, and the sick, and He welcomed the little children. He made it clear that He was here to serve, not to be served.*
5. What does Paul teach us about being vessels for God in 2 Timothy 2:21?  
*We need to set ourselves apart and keep ourselves clean. Only by being clean can we be sanctified, useful for the Master, and used for good works.*
6. How can we become a better vessel for God in our daily lives? What can we improve at home? At school?  
*Personal answers.*

Junior 1 Year 1 Book 1 Lesson 8

**Jesus' Prayers**

Passages: Jn 17; 14:6; 1:1, 14; Heb 4:14; Jas 2:26; 1 Pet 2:11; Mt 7:24–27; Phil 3:20; 1 Jn 3:18

*Memory Verse*

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6–7)

<b>Knowledge of God's Will [God's Word]</b>	<b>Knowledge of God [God's Divine Nature]</b>	<b>Good Work [Behavior]</b>
Jesus Christ prays for our sakes so that we may keep His word and become united in Him.	Jesus Christ is our intercessor.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Glorify God by letting others see Jesus in you.</li><li>2. Draw closer to God through prayer.</li></ol>

*Overview*

**Events and Spiritual Teachings**

*The High Priestly Prayer*

- A. Jesus Prays for Himself and for a Relationship with His Father (Jn 17:1–5)
- B. Jesus Prays for His Disciples (Jn 17:6–19)
- C. Jesus Prays for the Unity of His Church (Jn 17:20–26)

*The Prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane*

- D. Jesus Prays in the Garden of Gethsemane (Mt 26:36–46)

**Life Application**

- 1. Glorify God with Our Life
- 2. Draw Near to God Through Prayer

**Memory Verse**

**Conclusion:** Receive, accept, and obey God's words so that others can see Jesus in us. Remember the importance of prayer in developing a closer relationship with God.

**The High Priestly Prayer**

John chapter 17 is the longest prayer of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is referred to as the “High Priestly Prayer.” He made this prayer after the last supper, just a few hours before His arrest and crucifixion on the cross. Even with His imminent death, Jesus still kept us in His heart. In this prayer, He prayed for three things: the glory of God through the manifestation of His word; the work that has been entrusted to His disciples; and the safety, joy and unity of His disciples.

**A. Jesus Prays for Himself and for His Relationship with His Father (Jn 17:1–5)**

**1. Glorify the Father (Jn 17:1)**

The word “glory” is translated as *kabod* in Hebrew, which is derived from a word meaning “heavy.” The verb “to glorify” means to give weight to or to give honor to. We glorify someone by expressing their importance and worth. For example, Jesus used the word “glory” five times in the section where Jesus prays for Himself:

v. 1	“ <b>Glorify</b> Your Son, that Your Son also may <b>glorify</b> You”
v. 4	“I have <b>glorified</b> You on the earth.”
v. 5	“And now, O Father, <b>glorify</b> Me together with Yourself, with the <b>glory</b> which I had with You before the world was.”

Through the repetition of “glorify,” we can see the importance of glory in the relationship between God and Jesus Christ. But how did Jesus glorify God? According to verse 4, Jesus Christ glorified God by finishing the work that God had given Him to do: to “seek and to save that which was lost” (Lk 19:10). In other words, Jesus Christ came to this world to call the lost so that they may know God, accept Him, and have eternal life.

**2. Jesus’ Relationship with His Father**

The Bible says that Jesus “Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed. (Lk 5:16; cf. Mt 14:23; Mk 6:46; Lk 9:10). Jesus chose solitary places because He valued the time He spent with God. He set an example for us in more than just prayer, but also in how to develop an intimate relationship with God. Jesus’ relationship with Him was so intimate that He would do or say nothing without God’s approval, showing how close He was to the Lord and how well He knew the heart of His Father.

Just like any father, God wants to spend time with His children. He wants us to withdraw ourselves from the world around us and spend time alone with Him in prayer. Only then will we be able to achieve the same kind of relationship that Jesus had with God.

**B. Jesus Prays for His Disciples (Jn 17:6–19)**

In the second section of the prayer, Jesus Christ prayed that His disciples might be sanctified by God’s truth (v. 17). For the disciples to be sanctified by the truth, three steps were required: the disciples *received* the word given by Jesus (v. 8); *accepted* the words (v. 8); and *kept*, or obeyed, the words (v. 6).

**1. Keeping God’s word (vv. 6–8)**

**a. Received the word**

Unless we receive the word and who God is, we will never receive eternal life. John 17:3

reminds us that eternal life is to know God. This does not simply mean knowing that He exists, but also learning His character, hearing His teachings, and seeing what He has done. Jesus Christ has come and given us His word. It is up to us to receive it.

**b. Accepted the word**

In school, we may learn just enough to pass a test, but we may not spend time studying the subject in-depth. This is not enough for God's word. We need not only to hear the words, but also to understand the meaning behind them, and most importantly accept them into our hearts.

**c. Obeyed the word**

James 2:26 says, "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." A Christian's faith matures only through the obedience of God's word. To be sanctified by the word, it is crucial that we obey and put God's word into everyday practice.

**2. In the world, but not of the world (vv. 9–19)**

In 1 Peter 2:11, Christians are called "sojourners and pilgrims." Though we only dwell on this earth temporarily, we often become caught up in pursuing material luxuries to satisfy ourselves. And as long as we live in this world, Satan will always try to lure us back to him. Despite this, Jesus did not pray that God take us out of the world, but allow us to stay in the world. Jesus Christ wants us to live a life of holiness in His name. Through our different attitudes and actions in life, we can act as the light of the world and guide others to God.

**C. Jesus Prays for the Unity of His Church (Jn 17:20–26)**

**1. Be united in Christ**

In the final section of the prayer, Jesus Christ prays that all believers be one with Him, just as He and God are one. Jesus is our mediator and High Priest so that we can be one with God, which allows us to be united with one another. And being united with one another glorifies God's name, making us witnesses to others who don't believe (vv. 21, 25).

**We are one body in Christ**

"For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ" (1 Cor 12:12). Even though we are individual entities, in Christ, we all belong to the same body. So if one member rejoices, we rejoice. If one weeps, we weep as well (Rom 12:15). We work with one heart and one mind.

**2. How do we become united in Christ?**

**a. Serve the Father**

Serving our Father requires two things: obeying His words (1 Sam 12:24) and following Him (Jn 12:26). We serve God by doing as He instructs us in His word. We also serve by following God and being where He is present. In which areas are we serving God?

**b. Serve one another**

It is inevitable that we will have differences in thoughts, habits, and perceptions. So how can we be united? We must set aside our differences and love one another, just as Christ loved us. Loving one another requires that we accept, understand, and help one another in our actions. We serve one another in deed and in truth (1 Jn 3:18). That means we forgive, encourage, intercede, and help one another in truth. We must not look lightly upon any

members of this body, but instead do all things for others as if doing it for ourselves.

### ***The Prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane***

Another famous prayer is Jesus' prayer in the garden of Gethsemane. While the "High Priestly Prayer" was entirely for His disciples and His followers, this prayer was entirely for Himself. It is a potent prayer that shows that Jesus was as scared as any of us would be when faced with pain and death. It proves Jesus' true nature as fully human. Yet even in His humanity, He was still able to find the strength in God to face His suffering and the will to fulfill God's salvation.

#### **D. Jesus Prays in the Garden of Gethsemane (Mt 26:36–46)**

##### **1. The progression of the prayer**

- a. Jesus told the three disciples to watch, or be on guard (v. 38)
- b. Jesus began praying, asking His Father to let the cup pass from Him, if it were possible (v. 39)
- c. Jesus found the disciples asleep; He warned them to watch and pray (vv. 40–41)
- d. Jesus went back and prayed a second time (v. 42)
- e. Jesus prayed the third time after finding the disciples asleep again (vv. 43–44)
- f. Jesus told the disciples that the one who would betray Him was coming (vv. 45–46)

##### **2. Pray to know God's will and receive strength**

In His great distress, Jesus went immediately to pray to the only one who could help Him. The Book of Hebrews describes His prayers as with "vehement cries and tears" (Heb 5:7). After three prayers in this manner, filled with courage and strength through the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus was ready to rise and meet His betrayer (Mt 26:46).

God is the source of our strength. By praying in the power of the Holy Spirit, we in turn will receive strength. But we do not pray only for strength. Jesus' prayer was clearly a desperate one, but His desperation was not just for God's help. His prayer was primarily for Him to surrender His physical fears to the will of God (Lk 22:42–44).

##### **3. Watch and pray**

In verse 41 Jesus says, "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation." To watch means to be alert. At night, a watchman must be cautious and vigilant so that he can detect any potential danger. But being watchful alone is not enough; Jesus states that we must also pray. Why?

- a. We are easily distracted by our desires and fleshly needs (2 Cor 2:11)
- b. Satan prowls around like a roaring lion to devour us (1 Pet 5:8)
- c. We must give an account of our lives when we stand before Him (Rom 14:12; 1 Pet 4:5)

Therefore, when we watch and pray, we must pray without ceasing (1 Thess 5:17) and ask God to cleanse us, teach us, and give us strength to be freed from all distractions (Heb 12:2).

### ***Life Application***

#### **1. Glorify God with Our Life**

In His prayer for the believers, Jesus Christ prayed that the world might know God through them. As followers of Christ, how do we answer Jesus' prayer? How do we live a life so that others can see the importance of God? To answer this question, we must first understand two very important things.



**a. Know who we are**

By knowing who we are, we can recognize where we belong and our purpose. We are “a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people” (1 Pet 2:9). As citizens of heaven, we obey and pursue God knowing that one day we will return to our true home in heaven (Phil 3:20). So how do citizens of the world act in comparison to citizens of heaven? *(Teachers: Allow students to discuss. Example answers given below.)*

<b>Citizens of the World</b>	<b>Citizens of Heaven</b>
Focus on achieving a successful life	Focus on achieving eternal life
Enjoy pleasure brought by luxury and possessions	Enjoy the peace and joy we have in Christ
Satisfaction brought by gains in life	Contentment brought by having Christ in our life
Follow the changing trends and values of the world	Follow the teachings and principles of the Bible, God’s word
“I” am the focus and ruler of my own life	God is the Lord and King of my life

God has promised to take care of our needs so that we never have to worry about what to eat or to wear. Instead, God says we ought to pursue God’s kingdom and righteousness (Mt 6:33) and live our lives based on biblical values and principles, not on the values of this world.

**b. Obey His word**

Knowing who we are and what we have received makes it easier to understand that as God’s children, we ought to worship Him. The Bible says that we must worship Him in Spirit and in truth, which means we must worship with a sincere heart. But in order to do so, we must first love Him. Loving God makes it simple to obey His teachings and serve Him according to His will. And when we do, the world will see how different we are; they will see God’s glory in us.

**2. Draw Near to God Through Prayer**

Jesus’ prayer in Gethsemane shows us that prayer is not only a way to glorify God, but also to draw near to and receive strength from Him. The apostle Paul teaches us “be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Phil 4:6–7). So how do we draw near to God in our prayers?

**a. Pour out your heart**

“Trust in Him at all times, you people; pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us” (Ps 62:8). Jesus showed and proved to us that there was only one way for Him to overcome His anxieties: He walked into Gethsemane and prayed. There is no shame in pouring out our troubles and fears before the Lord and crying out to Him for help.

**b. Pray with persistence**

Jesus told us, “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you” (Mt 7:7). Jesus prayed three times before He received strength. Persistence in our prayers shows God that we trust Him to take care of us. If God has not answered your

prayer yet, He wants you to keep praying until He is ready to answer you in His own time.

**c. Pray according to God's Will**

Jesus prayed three times that this cup pass from Him, but only according to God's will, not His own (Mt 26:39, 42, 44). The Bible teaches us, "You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures" (Jas 4:3). Our prayers are not for the sake of fulfilling our own desires, but for the sake of drawing closer to God and living according to His will.

**d. Pray in faith**

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God [...]. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord" (Jas 1:5–7). Doubts are what make us fearful and anxious, and these are dangerous feelings that often drive us to sin. Prayer helps us build up our faith, and in turn, our faith helps us to overcome our doubts and draw closer to God.

*Check for Understanding*

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- 1. What are the three things Jesus prayed for in John 17?** He prayed for: the glory of God through the manifestation of His word; the work that has been entrusted to His disciples; and the safety, joy, and unity of His disciples.
- 2. How did Jesus glorify God while in this world?** He came to this world to call His chosen people and teach them about the word so that they may know God and have eternal life. He also came to show mankind the magnificence of God's name and the importance of knowing God and accepting Him into our life.
- 3. How were Jesus' disciples sanctified by the truth?** They received, accepted, and kept the words given by Jesus.
- 4. How does God want His children to act in comparison to those of this world?** God wants us to pursue His kingdom and righteousness, not the material desires and satisfactions of the world. He wants us to live a life of holiness and joy in His name so that we may act as the light of the world and guide others to God.
- 5. How do we become united in Christ?** Serve the Father by obeying His words, following Him, and serving one another in love.
- 6. What does Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane teach us about the importance of prayer?** We must pray to know God's will and to receive strength, and we must also watch and pray to remain vigilant against the distractions of the world.

*Memory Verse*

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"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6–7)

**Meaning**

As God's children, we do not need to worry about our lives or what will happen tomorrow. But with all the uncertainties that surround us, how can we avoid being anxious and obtain the peace Jesus wants for us? This peace comes from our trust in God. By relying on Him through our prayers, we are trusting

that God will help us and solve our problems. When we obtain this peace, our hearts and minds will no longer be controlled by our anxieties, regardless of the problem we are facing.

### *Conclusion*

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Jesus prayed that we might behold the glory that God has given Him, not because of what we have done but because of who we belong to. In the same way Jesus' disciples received, accepted, and obeyed His words, let us prove through our actions that we are separate from the world we live in. We need to bear spiritual fruits in our daily life so that we may manifest the nature of God in our actions.

Jesus also showed us that we should always turn to God in our time of need. God is the source of our strength. We need to pray in the power of the Holy Spirit, especially when we are in trouble or face difficult problems. Through constant prayer with God, we can learn to better trust Him with our needs, remain strong in tribulation, and over time, develop a closer relationship with Him.

## Lesson 8 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. What does it mean to “be anxious for nothing”? How can we do this and obtain peace?  
*As God’s children, we do not need to worry about our lives or what will happen tomorrow. We can do this by fully trusting that God will help us and by relying on Him through our prayers.*
2. What are the three things Jesus prayed for in John 17?  
*Jesus Christ prayed for: the glory of God through the manifestation of His word; the work that has been entrusted to His disciples; and the safety, joy, and unity of His disciples.*
3. How did Jesus glorify God while in this world?  
*He came to this world to call His chosen people and teach them about the word so that they may know God and have eternal life. He also came to show mankind the magnificence of God’s name and the importance of knowing God and accepting Him into our life.*
4. What are the three steps to being sanctified by the truth? Explain each step in detail.  
*Receive the word: Do not simply know that God exists, but also learn His character, hear His teachings, and see what He has done for us.  
Accept the word: Understand the spiritual meaning and intent behind God’s word and integrate it into our hearts.  
Obey the word: Obey God’s word by putting His teachings into action.*
5. In what way are we “sojourners and pilgrims”? How should this affect the way we act?  
*We only dwell in this world temporarily. This means we must live a life of holiness and joy in Jesus’ name by pursuing God’s kingdom and living according to biblical values and principles, not values of this world.*
6. Do you think you have an intimate relationship with God? Why or why not? How can you improve your relationship with Him?  
*Personal answers.*

**The Trials of Jesus**

Passages: Mt 26:26–74; 27:1–26; Mk 14:53–72; 15:1–15; Lk 22:54–71; 23:1–25; Jn 18:12–40; 19:1–16

*Memory Verse*

“He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth.” (Isaiah 53:7)

<b>Knowledge of God’s Will [God’s Word]</b>	<b>Knowledge of God [God’s Divine Nature]</b>	<b>Good Work [Behavior]</b>
Understand the events that took place between Jesus Christ’s arrest and His crucifixion.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. God is love.</li><li>2. God’s prophecies never fail.</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Boldly testify for Christ.</li><li>2. Be obedient in doing the will of God.</li><li>3. Emulate Christ’s virtues when facing wrongful accusations.</li></ol>

*Overview*

**Events and Spiritual Teachings**

- A. Jesus Is Arrested
- B. Jesus Is Tried in Court
- C. Jesus’ Response

**Life Application**

- 1. Jesus was innocent
- 2. Jesus was obedient
- 3. Jesus was silent

**Memory Verse**

**Conclusion:** Despite the pain and anguish He was forced to suffer, Jesus Christ obeyed God’s will even till the end. Are we able to remain as faithful as Jesus was when faced with trials and wrongful accusations?

## Events and Spiritual Teachings

### A. Jesus Is Arrested

What would you do if you were falsely accused, illegally tried, and then condemned? Let us first read John 18:1–12.

We learned when He prayed in Gethsemane that Jesus was “exceedingly sorrowful, even to death” (Mt 26:38), but God sent an angel from heaven to strengthen Him (Lk 22:43). After the prayer, He prepared Himself for the arrest, knowing full well the abuse that His body would soon suffer. Shortly after, armed with “lanterns, torches, and weapons,” troops and officers of the chief priests and Pharisees all came for Jesus (Jn 18:3).

Yet, Jesus chose not to flee. He walked forward and met them, asking them whom they were seeking (Jn 18:4)! Further, even when His life was in danger, Jesus showed His compassion, requesting that they let His disciples go free (v. 8). And when Peter cut off the high priest’s servant’s right ear (v. 10), Jesus healed the servant despite his participation in Jesus’ arrest (Lk 22:51). The Romans then came forward, arrested, and bound Jesus (Jn 18:12).

In difficult situations, we usually concern ourselves with our safety and well-being. Nevertheless, Jesus, who had prayed to the Father to release Him from this suffering, chose to be obedient to God’s will above all, both in allowing His arrest and in manifesting the love of God, even to His enemies.

### B. Jesus Is Tried in Court

	Judge	Text	Decision	Estimated Time	Place
Religious trials by the Jews	Annas	Jn 18:12–23	Guilty	2:00–2:30	House of Priest
	Caiaphas	Mt 26:57–68; Mk 14:53–65; Lk 22:54, 63–65; Jn 18:24	Guilty	2:30–5:00	House of Priest
	Sanhedrin	Mt 27:1; Mk 15:1; Lk 22:66–71	Guilty	6:00	Court of Sanhedrin
Civil trials by the Romans	Pilate	Mt 27:2, 11–14; Mk 15:2–5; Lk 23:1–6; Jn 18:28–38	Innocent	6:30	Praetorium
	Herod	Lk 23:7–12	Innocent	7:00	Jerusalem
	Pilate	Mt 27:15–26; Mk 15:6–15; Lk 23:13–25; Jn 18:39–19:16	Innocent	7:30–8:00	Praetorium

#### The First Trial

Now let us read John 18:13–24. Following His arrest, Jesus stood first before Annas, a former high priest and father-in-law of high priest Caiaphas.

Annas questioned Jesus concerning two subjects: His disciples and His teachings (v. 19). Such a preliminary inquiry was unlawful under Hebrew code. In any case before the court, the accusing witnesses must define their charge against the accused, and the accused must be protected from any effort to make him testify against himself. Jesus knew that Annas was breaking the law in an attempt to solicit testimony from Him. Though the Bible does not record an answer to the first question, Jesus responded to the second by telling Annas to ask witnesses about what He taught (vv. 20–21). Upon saying this, an officer struck Him with the palm of his hand (v. 22), to which Jesus said, “If I have spoken

evil, bear witness of the evil; but if well, why do you strike Me?" (v. 23). When Annas was finished with Jesus, they brought Him before Caiaphas (v. 24).

### **The Second Trial**

Now, let us read Mark 14:53–65.

Caiaphas and a group of men, including false witnesses, gathered at his house. But these false witnesses contradicted one another (vv. 56–59). Caiaphas wanted to bring this case down to Pilate, so with a lack of valid witnesses, he once again broke the law and spoke to the accused. But Jesus kept silent (vv. 60–61). Only when Caiaphas asked Jesus, "Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" (v. 61) did He finally answer: "I am" (v. 62). This statement was considered blasphemous and worthy of death. So the high priest said, "What further need do we have of witnesses? You have heard the blasphemy! What do you think?" (vv. 63–64). Those present during the trial not only condemned Him, but also spat on Him, blindfolded Him, beat Him, and mocked Him (v. 65).

Caiaphas broke the law again by appealing to the gathered. As moderator, Caiaphas did not possess the authority to decide the outcome; only the council had that right. Yet, Caiaphas instead appealed to those gathered: men biased against Jesus, who had already condemned Him long before the trial.

### **The Third Trial**

We will continue with Luke 22:66–71.

The third trial was the shortest of all. First thing in the morning, the religious leaders brought Him before the Sanhedrin and again broke the law by making Jesus testify against Himself. Straightforward and to the point, they commanded Him: "If You are the Christ, tell us" (v. 67). Jesus understood that the council did not care how He responded; in their minds, He was already guilty. Thus He boldly said, "Hereafter the Son of Man will sit on the right hand of the power of God" (v. 69). So, the council asked another question: "Are You then the Son of God?" Giving no excuse or defense, Jesus responded, "You rightly say that I am" (v. 70).

Upon hearing Jesus' response, the whole multitude arose and led Him to Pilate (Lk 23:1). The Pharisees and Sadducees, normally in contention with each other, united in their opposition toward Jesus. However, knowing that the charge of blasphemy meant nothing in a Roman court, they changed the charge to treason when they brought Him to Pilate, claiming that Jesus was guilty of perverting the nation and evading taxes (Lk 23:2).

Why were the religious leaders so passionately opposed to Christ? To them, Jesus was a threat to the Jewish leaders' power. He confronted their sin. He upset their tables in the temple and threatened their monetary profits. He convicted them of their lack of love to God and to people. They were willing to do anything to get Him out of their lives, even to the point of sowing the seeds of falsehood.

### **The Fourth Trial**

In Pilate's court, the law now followed the Roman Code of Criminal Procedure. Let us study further in John 18:28–38. The Jews led Jesus to Pilate, but dared not enter the Praetorium, for it was Passover (v. 28). The Talmud (Jewish civil and ceremonial law body) stated that no Jew could enter a Gentile court on Passover, or he would be defiled. While criminal in attitude and in their condemnation of Jesus, the Jews were still extremely legal in their religion, to a fault.

### **1. Accusation**

The first step of the Roman criminal code trial procedure was accusation. When asked by Pilate what charges they brought against Jesus (v. 29), the multitude, having no valid accusation, answered evasively: "If He were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered Him up to you" (v. 30). Due to their lack of a valid accusation, Pilate told them to "judge Him according to your law" (v. 31), thinking that they had found fault in Him according to their own laws. However, the Jews replied, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death" (v. 31). Pilate now understood the gravity of the charges brought against Jesus.

### **2. Interrogation**

The second step of the Roman criminal code trial procedure was interrogation, to probe and search for evidence against the man. Pilate first asked Jesus, "Are You the King of the Jews?" (v. 33). It was unlikely that Pilate would refer to Him as the King of the Jews, so Jesus answered him, "Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning Me?" (v. 34).

Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?" (v. 35). Pilate's concern was with worldly matters: was Jesus taking over the Jewish government? However, Jesus replied, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here" (v. 36).

### **3. Defense**

The third step in the Roman criminal code procedure was defense. Like United States law, Roman law allowed defendants to have a defense attorney. Jesus was never allowed that option, so Pilate, acting on behalf of a defense attorney, had to look at the trial from the point of view of Jesus. "Are You a king then?" Pilate asked Jesus (v. 37). "Jesus answered, 'You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice'" (v. 37). Jesus spoke of the truth of the gospel, but Pilate did not understand. Pilate replied, "What is truth?" (v. 38).

### **4. Verdict**

The fourth step was the handing down of a verdict. Jesus said nothing of what He been accused of: overthrowing Rome and willfully evading taxes. Rather, He spoke of a kingdom that was not of this world. Thus, Pilate found Jesus not guilty of treason. But when Pilate went out and told the Jews, "I find no fault in Him at all" (v. 38), the multitude became even more incensed, crying out, "He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee to this place" (Lk 23:5).

When Pilate heard the word "Galilee," he had an idea. He asked and discovered that Jesus was a Galilean, which would make Him fall under Herod's jurisdiction. In an attempt to hand off the problem, Pilate "sent Him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time" (Lk 23:7).

### **The Fifth Trial**

Let us read on in Luke 23:8–11. Herod, the one who beheaded John the Baptist and who dealt cruelly with his subjects, viewed Jesus as a miracle man and wanted to see Him, having heard much about Him. However, he simply wanted amusement for his court. When Jesus chose not to cooperate (vv. 8–9), "the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused Him. Then Herod, with his men of war, treated Him with contempt and mocked Him, arrayed Him in a gorgeous robe, and sent Him back to Pilate" (vv.



10–11). Herod did not even bother holding a trial. He and the Jewish leaders rejected Christ for different reasons, but they acted alike in their rejection of Him.

### **The Sixth Trial**

Now came the final trial, recorded in Matthew 27:11–26. Once again, Jesus stood before Pilate. Once again, Jesus reaffirmed that He was the King of the Jews, but remained silent when the chief priests and elders falsely accused Him. His silence made the governor marvel greatly (v. 14).

Pilate's wife had sent to him, saying "Have nothing to do with that just Man, for I have suffered many things today in a dream because of Him" (v. 19). Pilate understood that the chief priests had delivered up Jesus because of envy (v. 18). The chief priests did not come to Pilate for a fair trial; they simply wanted permission to put Jesus to death.

Not wanting to condemn an innocent Man, Pilate attempted different solutions, one of which was a compromise: as it was customary to release a prisoner on the Passover, Pilate offered a choice between releasing Barabbas or Jesus (v. 17). Barabbas was a notorious criminal, while Jesus was clearly innocent. Yet, "the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitudes that they should ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus" (v. 20).

Pilate then asked what he was supposed to do with Jesus. The crowd answered as one, saying, "Let Him be crucified!" (v. 22). Unable to comprehend their response, Pilate asked in turn, "Why, what evil has He done?" (v. 23). But they refused to answer and repeated their cry, "Let Him be crucified!" (v. 23). Seeing the rising tumult, Pilate understood that this was a fight he could not win. So in a vain attempt to free himself of the guilt of condemning an innocent Man, he washed his hands before them (v. 24). He then released Barabbas to them, scourged Jesus, and delivered Him to be crucified (v. 26).

Pilate presented Jesus to the multitude saying, "Behold the Man!" (Jn 19:5), and declared Jesus' innocence. But the Jews cried out that Jesus should die, for He made Himself the Son of God (v. 7). Startled by this, Pilate returned to the Praetorium to ask Jesus, "Where are You from?" But Jesus remained silent (v. 9), fulfilling the prophecy in Isaiah 53:7, which said, "He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearer is silent, so He opened not his mouth."

When Pilate reminded Him that he had the authority to release or crucify Him, Jesus responded, "You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin" (Jn 19:11). Thus, Jesus pinned the greater culpability for His death upon the religious leaders.

Three times Pilate declared that he found no fault in Jesus (Lk 23:4, 14–15, 22). Yet despite his numerous attempts to free Him, Pilate finally gave in when the Jews accused him of working against Caesar by releasing Jesus (Jn 19:12). The chief priests even backed this claim by saying that they had no king but Caesar (v. 15), yet another show of blatant hypocrisy in their faith: their concerns for God's laws were purely out of self-interest. In the ultimate display of irony, it was the pagan Romans who found Jesus innocent and the chosen race of Jews who found Jesus "guilty." God's own chosen people crucified His Son out of envy and hard-hearted evil.

### **C. Jesus' Response**

Today, there are many who make the same mistake as Pilate. They come into contact with Jesus and understand that He is right and true. But they fear that if they truly follow Him, it will come at a cost

they are unwilling to pay. Many fear exclusion or discrimination for declaring their faith, so they yield to pressure and compromise what they know inwardly to be right and true.

Jesus Christ responded differently in every situation, but He never compromised His purpose. When wicked King Herod confronted Him, He remained silent. When He stood before Pilate, He bore a simple and powerful testimony of His divinity and purpose: carrying out God's will.

Some people believe that silence, meekness, forgiveness, or humble testimony are signs of weakness. But to "love [our] enemies, bless those who curse [us], do good to those who hate [us], and pray for those who spitefully use [us] and persecute [us]" takes faith, strength, and, most of all, courage (Mt 5:44). When we are valiant in our testimony of Jesus Christ, we will be greatly blessed.

### *Check for Understanding*

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- 1. What did Jesus do when the troops and officers of the chief priests came to the garden to arrest Him?** He went forth to meet them.
- 2. Who was Annas?** Annas was the father-in-law of the current high priest, Caiaphas.
- 3. Who found Jesus guilty?** The Jewish leaders, Annas, Caiaphas, and the Sanhedrin all found Jesus guilty.
- 4. How did Jesus answer when Pilate asked Him, "Are You the King of the Jews"?** Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."
- 5. True or False: Herod passed the sentence of death against Jesus.** False.

### *Life Application*

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The Christ whom people rejected shows us why we should repent and trust in Him:

- 1. Jesus was innocent.**  
Jesus "had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth" (Isa 53:9). Pilate even proclaimed Jesus' innocence three times (Lk 23:4, 14–15, 22). Yet, Jesus' mistreatment at the hands of sinners fulfilled prophecies that He had made (Lk 9:22, 44; 18:32). It also fulfilled many Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah as the suffering servant. Jesus was the spotless Lamb of God, the only sacrifice for our sins. As Isaiah 53:6 says, "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all."
- 2. Jesus was obedient.**  
Jesus had the power to defend and even vindicate Himself. But when Pilate told Jesus that he had the authority to release Him or crucify Him, Jesus told Pilate, "You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above" (Jn 19:11). Jesus refused to save Himself, and instead obediently offered Himself as the sacrifice for our sins. So, we should trust Him and turn from all our sins out of love for Him.
- 3. Jesus was silent.**  
"But He answered him not one word" (Mt 27:14). Each trial Jesus stood was an utter mockery, and He was surrounded by cruel men determined to see Him die. Awaiting Him was a heavy cross, piercing nails, and a fearful death. Yet He chose not to speak, for He knew that it was God's will for Him to shed His blood for our sins. "The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed" (Isa 53:5). The charges were untrue, but He chose to

remain silent in obedience to God's will. Would we be able to remain silent if we were the ones falsely accused?

Jesus loves us so much that He stood resolute against accusations and condemnation by His own people. He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Today, how can we repay His love towards us?

- By keeping His commandments
- By loving our neighbors as ourselves
- By preaching His gospel
- By serving in the church

### Testimony

*In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I testify. During the end of fifth grade, my parents thought about buying a new house and moving out of state. At school, I always cared about what my friends thought of me, so the thought of having to make new friends terrified me. I had always felt the need to be accepted and liked by those around me, and after spending so much time and effort to have a few good friends, I did not want to take a chance at being rejected in a new school.*

*Thankfully, we did not move, but I realized how sensitive I was to the opinions of others. If I ever felt rejected or disliked, I would complain to myself, fight with my siblings, or complain to God in an attempt to make myself feel better. Sometimes, I thought that maybe I was just being too sensitive and I ought to be more confident, but there was always a need to justify my actions or clear up any misunderstandings. I even remember arguing with a friend over who met the other person first as if it was some competition to be the best friend a person could ever have.*

*After attending a student spiritual convocation, I wondered to myself, "Why do I care so much?" God's opinion of me should matter more than anyone else. I thought to myself, "What does God think of me?" I thought maybe the fear of rejection and the actions I took were all just a reflection of my insecurities with others. Through the power of prayer, I no longer felt the need to prove myself to anyone, but rather prove myself to God through imitating Christ for others to see. Instead of being loud or acting funny, I could be myself and be the person God wants me to be. Amen.*

- Anonymous

### Memory Verse

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"He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth." (Isaiah 53:7)

### Meaning

All the prophecies in the Old Testament about the afflictions of Jesus had been fulfilled after Jesus was arrested, including this one that describes Jesus as a lamb led to the slaughter.

Greatly distressed and afflicted, Jesus was subjected to physical pain and mental anguish by His captors. The suffering He endured would usually be answered with anger and lamentation, yet Jesus was silent. The fact that He did not open His mouth in complaint was all the more remarkable, making the merit of His sufferings even greater. As a sheep standing before its shearers is silent, so was Jesus. He offered no resistance. He uttered no complaint.

## *Conclusion*

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There are many teachings we can learn from Jesus' trials, but one very important teaching was that the Lord Jesus remained silent. He "opened not His mouth" before the Jewish rulers, Pilate and Herod. Thus, He fulfilled the prophecy in Isaiah 53:7, "He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth." Despite the pain and anguish He was forced to suffer, He obeyed God's will even till the end.

## Lesson 9 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. Where does the Bible record: “He opened not His mouth”? And what does it mean? How did Jesus fulfill this?  
*This was recorded in Isaiah 53:7. As a sheep standing before its shearers is silent, so was Jesus. He offered no resistance and uttered no complaint. He obeyed God’s will for Him to be led quietly to His death.*
2. How did Jesus react to the people who came to the garden to arrest Him?  
*With patience and compassion.*
3. How many trials did Jesus undergo, and before whom was He presented in each?  
*Six: Annas, Caiaphas, Sanhedrin, Pilate, Herod, and Pilate again.*
4. What was illegal about Jesus’ trial before Annas?  
*Annas asked Jesus questions before the charge against Jesus was clearly defined. It was also against the law to ask the accused or defendant to testify.*
5. What three characteristics did Jesus display throughout His trials?  
*His innocence – they could not find any real charges against Him.  
His obedience – Jesus had the right to defend and vindicate Himself, but Jesus refused to use His power and authority to save Himself, and instead obediently offered Himself as a sacrifice for our sins.  
His silence – Jesus stood trial without uttering a word in His defense despite the many false accusations flung His way and the numerous physical torments inflicted upon Him.*
6. Knowing that Jesus was obedient until death for our sakes, how can we repay His love for us in our everyday lives? Think of a task that you can complete this week and write it down below.  
*Personal answers.*

*Memory Verse*

“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit.” (1 Peter 3:18)

Knowledge of God’s Will [God’s Word]	Knowledge of God [God’s Divine Nature]	Good Work [Behavior]
Through the death of His Son, God has given us the greatest gift—eternal life.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. God is love.</li> <li>2. Jesus is the sacrificial Lamb.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Take up the mission.</li> <li>2. Live for Jesus Christ                         <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Trust God’s plan and do His will</li> <li>b. Magnify God in everything we do</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

*Overview*

**Events and Spiritual Teachings**

- A. The Perfect Plan of Salvation
- B. Jesus Christ’s Mission and Crucifixion
- C. The Progression of the Crucifixion (as recorded in the four Gospels)
- D. Jesus Tastes Death on Our Behalf

**Life Application**

1. Taking Up the Mission
2. Live for Jesus Christ

**Memory Verse**

**Conclusion:** Are you living out God’s plan and His will by taking up the mission? In your everyday life, are you magnifying God?

**A. The Perfect Plan of Salvation**

When God created the world, everything was perfect. When Adam and Eve took the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and ate it, sin entered the world. “The wages of sin is death” (Rom 6:23): because of sin, everyone has been separated from God and is doomed for eternal punishment. To save us, God formed the perfect plan for salvation: God sent Jesus, who was sinless, to atone for the sins of the world (2 Cor 5:21). Only through Jesus’ death and resurrection could we be permitted entrance into heaven.

**B. Jesus Christ’s Mission and Crucifixion**

**1. Jesus’ Mission and Purpose**

When Jesus was in the world, He was clearly aware of His mission: to save mankind from sin. His mission was set out in the prophetic words of Isaiah, which He read in the temple at the beginning of His ministry:

*The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me,  
Because He has anointed Me  
To preach the gospel to the poor;  
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,  
To proclaim liberty to the captives  
And recovery of sight to the blind,  
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;  
To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.*  
(Lk 4:18–19; cf. Isa 61:1–2)

In the four Gospels, we see Jesus call many to repentance and forgive the worst of sinners. He saved the woman at the well and the adulterous woman who was caught in the act. He saved the sinful woman with the alabaster flask (Lk 7:37) and even forgave and sought to save the self-righteous leaders of the time. His mission and purpose was to seek and save the lost.

**2. Jesus’ Faithfulness to His Mission**

From a young age, Jesus knew that He “must be about [His] Father’s business” (Lk 2:49), so He conducted Himself with purpose and determination during His time on earth. He declared, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work” (Jn 4:34), and “for this purpose I have been sent” (Lk 4:43). Jesus manifested God’s desire to save souls, admonishing the people to turn from their sinful ways in order to live (Ezek 33:11), and not only live, but have an abundant life through Him (Jn 10:10). When at last He was about to be arrested, He said, “I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do” (Jn 17:4).

**3. Jesus Is Arrested**

After about three years of public ministry, when the time came for Jesus to carry out His mission, He resolutely journeyed to Jerusalem. He foretold of His death to His disciples:

*“Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death, and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify. And the third day He will rise again.”*

(Mt 20:18–19)

As Jesus predicted, one of His disciples betrayed Him and made arrangements with the religious authorities to arrest Jesus. In obedience to the will of the heavenly Father, Jesus surrendered Himself to His enemies. The Jewish council produced false witnesses to bring charges against Jesus, and brought Him to the Roman governor Pilate to have Him executed. Despite finding no fault in Him, Pilate gave in to the pressure of the Jewish leaders and ordered that Jesus be crucified.

#### **4. Crucifixion**

Crucifixion was one of the most torturous forms of execution ever conceived by men. It was designed to cause an excruciating, slow death, and was reserved by the Romans for the worst of criminals. The Bible records the humiliation and torture Jesus endured, including being beaten, stripped of His dignity, mocked, and tortured both physically and mentally (Mt 27:27–31). Moreover, He was forced to walk to the execution grounds carrying the same heavy wooden crossbar they would use to crucify Him. But tired and weak from bruises, wounds, and blood loss, He was unable to carry it, so the soldiers forced a man named Simon to carry it for Him.

The execution grounds were outside Jerusalem beyond the city wall, on a hill called Golgotha (Hebrew), or Calvary (Latin). Its name meant “place of the skull” because the rocky hill resembled a skull. Many of Jesus’ enemies gathered (Lk 23:35–37), mocking and jeering as He suffered for their sins. The chief priests ridiculed Him, saying, “He saved others; Himself He cannot save” (Mt 27:42), while others taunted Him, saying, “You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself, and come down from the cross!” (Mk 15:29–31). Even one of the criminals being crucified next to Him blasphemed Jesus, saying, “If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us” (Lk 23:39).

Despite the mental and physical suffering, Jesus continued His mission on the cross. The second criminal knew he deserved to die, and also knew that Jesus had done nothing wrong, so he rebuked the first criminal and asked Jesus to remember him (Lk 23:42). Jesus responded, “Today you will be with Me in Paradise” (Lk 23:43). Jesus also thought of His mother and asked John, His disciple, to take care of her. From that day onward, Mary lived in John’s home.

Jesus’ sufferings culminated on the cross, where He gave His own life for mankind. From the beginning of His ministry, Jesus knew that He must suffer and die on the cross to accomplish salvation. He declared, “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life” (Jn 3:14–15). Jesus meant that He would be lifted up, hung on the cross, and eventually resurrect and receive glory, all so that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life.

#### **5. Jesus Gives Up His Spirit**

In the middle of the day, darkness covered the whole land. The crowd gathered around the cross heard Jesus cry out, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” (Mk 15:34). Jesus had been on the cross for nearly six hours. After some sour wine was offered to Him to wet His mouth, Jesus finally cried out with a loud voice, bowed His head, and gave up His spirit. The curtain in the temple was torn from top to bottom as the earth shook. Even the Roman centurion and the soldiers were in great awe at Jesus’ death and said, “Truly this Man was the Son of God!” (Mk 15:39).

There is no greater love than what our Lord Jesus suffered for us. God does not simply love us from afar or with distant affection. He lowered Himself, came to this world, suffered, and died for our sins (Jn 3:16). Through the death of His Son, God has given us the greatest gift—eternal life. To receive it, we need only believe in Jesus as our Lord and Savior and entrust our lives to Him.



**C. The Progression of the Crucifixion (as recorded in the four Gospels)**

<b>Matthew</b>	<b>Mark</b>	<b>Luke</b>	<b>John</b>
27:23 "Let Him be crucified!"	15:13 "Crucify Him!"	23:20 "Crucify Him, crucify Him!"	19:1–3 Jesus scourged. Crown of thorns and purple robe placed on Him. Soldiers strike Him with their hands.
27:26 Jesus scourged and delivered	15:15 Jesus scourged and delivered	23:25 Jesus delivered	19:6 "Crucify Him, crucify Him!"
27:28–30 Jesus stripped, made to wear scarlet robe. Crown of thorns placed on His head and a reed put in His right hand. Mocked, spat on, and struck on the head with a reed.	15:16–19 Jesus clothed with purple and crown of thorns put on His head. Mocked, spat on, and struck on the head with a reed.	-	19:16 Jesus delivered
27:32 Simon of Cyrene compelled to carry the cross	15:21 Simon of Cyrene compelled to carry the cross	23:26 Cross laid on Simon of Cyrene	19:17 Jesus bears His cross
-	-	23:28–31 Jesus addresses the weeping women	
27:33 They arrive at Golgotha	15:22 They arrive at Golgotha	23:33 They arrive at Calvary	19:17 They arrive at Golgotha
27:35 They crucify Him	15:24 They crucify Him	23:33 Crucified with two criminals, one on His right and the other on His left	19:18 Crucified with two criminals, one on either side, and Jesus in the center
-	-	23:34 "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do"	19:19 "JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS." in Hebrew, Greek, Latin
27:35 Lots cast for His clothing	15:24 Lots cast for His clothing	23:34 Lots cast for His clothing	19:23–24 Lots cast for His clothing
27:37 "THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS."	15:25 "THE KING OF THE JEWS."	23:35–37 Rulers, soldiers, onlookers mock Him	-
27:39	15:29	23:38	-

Passers-by blaspheme Jesus	Passers-by blaspheme Jesus	"THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS."	
27:41 Chief priests and scribes mock Him	15:31 Chief priests and scribes mock Him		-
27:44 Jesus reviled by those crucified with Him	15:32 Jesus reviled by those crucified with Him	23:40–43 One criminal repents; Jesus promises Paradise to him	-
-	-	-	19:26–27 Jesus said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Jesus said to His beloved disciple, "Behold your mother!"
27:45 Darkness from sixth hour to ninth hour	15:33 Darkness from sixth hour to ninth hour	23:44 Darkness from sixth hour to ninth hour	-
-	-	23:45 Sun was darkened; veil of temple torn in two	-
27:46 "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?"	15:34 "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"		19:28–29 "I thirst!" Sour wine offered
27:50 Jesus cries out with a loud voice and yields up His spirit	15:37 Jesus cries out with a loud voice and breathes His last	23:46 Jesus cries out with a loud voice, "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit."	19:30 "It is finished!" He bows His head and gives up His spirit
27:51 Veil of temple torn in two from top to bottom; earth quaked and rocks split	15:38 Veil of temple torn in two from top to bottom	-	-
27:54 Centurion: "Truly this was the Son of God!"	15:39 Centurion: "Truly this Man was the Son of God!"	23:47 Centurion: "Certainly this was a righteous Man!"	19:34 Soldiers pierce His side with a spear; water and blood come out
-	-	23:48 Crowd beats breasts and departs	19:35–37 He who saw it bore true witness
27:55–56 Many women see all from afar	27:41 Many women see all from afar	23:49 All Jesus' acquaintances and the women who followed Him stand at a distance, watching	

## D. Jesus Tastes Death on Our Behalf

As He had told His disciples, Jesus became our ransom. In addition to the horrors of His physical torment, Jesus suffered spiritual torment and bore the weight of our iniquities. God laid on Him the sins of the world, and thus He was forsaken by God so that He could taste death on our behalf. Jesus' crucifixion shows the greatest evil perpetrated against the perfect Son of God, but also the greatest manifestation of love. It is a display of both the darkest side of humanity, and the ultimate triumph of life over death.

### *Check for Understanding*

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- 1. What was Jesus Christ's mission and purpose during His time on earth?** He came to do the will of God and to finish His word. He came so that man could have abundant life through Him. He preached the truth of the kingdom of God and asked sinners to repent. He also understood that He was to die on the cross for the sins of mankind.
- 2. Did Jesus Christ resist when the great multitude came to arrest Him?** No, He came forth and surrendered Himself, for He knew it was God's will for Him to be taken.
- 3. What forms of abuse did Jesus Christ suffer at the hands of His captors?** He was beaten, stripped of His dignity, and mocked by many.
- 4. What did Jesus Christ cry out when He was in pain, dying on the cross?** "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"
- 5. What happened when Jesus Christ gave up His spirit?** The veil in the temple was torn from top to bottom and the earth shook. Even a Roman soldier who had been watching marveled, "Truly this Man was the Son of God!"

### *Life Application*

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#### **1. Taking Up the Mission**

Before ascending into heaven, Jesus commissioned His disciples to take up the ministry of the gospel, saying, "As the Father has sent Me, I also send you" (Jn 20:21). We are called to preach and witness as the chosen disciples of Christ. We have an important purpose. Yes, there may be hardship, but our labor is not in vain, as we will be rewarded (1 Cor 9:17). Knowing this, will you respond to the calling in Mark 16:15?

#### **2. Live for Christ**

We should no longer live for ourselves, but for our Lord Jesus who died for us. How do we live for Christ?

##### **a. Trust God's plan and do His will.**

Do you trust God's plan for you? Jesus declared that His mission in life was to do the will of the Father (Jn 6:38). To live for Christ is to entrust our lives to God's will. That means we say to our Lord every day, "Dear Father, may Your will be done. Help me to be faithful in submitting to Your plan and living out Your will." When we trust and submit to God's plan, His will shall be made known to us.

##### **b. Magnify God in everything we do.**

"According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death" (Phil 1:20).

To the apostle Paul, living for Christ meant magnifying Christ in his body. Our bodies and lives are telescopes aimed at magnifying the glory of God and who He is. It is our purpose to help others come to know Him more! Do we demonstrate and magnify the glory and beauty of Christ? Are we

to God the fragrance of Christ (2 Cor 2:15)? We need to magnify Him in our lives because we are a letter from Christ written for all to read (2 Cor 3:3).

### *Memory Verse*

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“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit.” (1 Peter 3:18)

#### **Meaning**

**“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust,”**

“Just” refers to those who are morally righteous: upright and just. “Unjust” refers to those who fall short of the righteousness required by divine laws.

**“that He might bring us to God”**

Jesus served as the third party whose purpose was to open a path for us to access God. Because of Jesus, we have been reconciled to God once and for all.

**“being put to death in the flesh”**

This means to kill the physical body. Jesus Christ’s physical life ceased on the cross when He breathed His last and yielded up His spirit.

**“but made alive by the Spirit.”**

This refers to the Spirit of God raising Jesus from the dead (Rom 8:11). On the cross, He experienced separation from the Father when He was made sin for us (2 Cor 5:21). He cried out, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” (Mt 27:46). Although His earthly body was dead, three days later, His body was resurrected in a transformed and eternal state through God’s Spirit.

### *Conclusion*

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Jesus freely gave His life for our sakes (Mt 20:28). Knowing that, the only way we can even begin to repay the debt of love we owe to Him is by trusting in God’s plan, doing His will, and magnifying God in everything we do. That way, our lives can be a beacon of hope and testimony to those around us.

## Lesson 10 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. Who are the “unjust,” and for what purpose did Christ have to suffer?  
*The unjust are those who fall short of the righteousness required by divine laws. He suffered so that we, the unjust, would be reconciled with God.*
2. What was Jesus Christ’s mission and purpose during His time on earth?  
*He came to do the will of God and to finish His word. He came so that man could have abundant life through Him. He came to save the lost. He also understood that He was to die on the cross for the sins of mankind.*
3. How did Jesus’ actions show His faithfulness to His mission during His life and crucifixion?  
*He conducted Himself with purpose and determination, traveling far and wide to call sinners to repentance, to heal the sick, and to teach His followers the new law of love. He also submitted Himself peacefully to His suffering and death, despite knowing what was to come when they arrested Him in the garden of Gethsemane.*
4. Read Luke 23:34. What was Jesus’ reaction to those who tortured and humiliated Him?  
*He asked God to forgive them.*
5. What was Jesus’ commission to His followers? What are some ways we can fulfill this commission?  
*Read Mark 16:15. Ex: By fully trusting God. By asking our friends to come to church. By reflecting God’s holiness in our decisions and our actions and magnifying God in everything we do. By forgiving those who have wronged us and acting as peacemakers of the world.*
6. Have you magnified God in your actions this past week? Explain how you have or have not, and how you might change that this coming week.  
*Personal answers. Ex: Getting into an argument with a sibling versus keeping the peace and withholding words of anger; obeying parents despite not wanting to; praying or not praying before meals at school, etc.*

*Memory Verse*

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”  
 (Mark 10:45)

Knowledge of God’s Will [God’s Word]	Knowledge of God [God’s Divine Nature]	Good Work [Behavior]
Jesus paid the penalty for our sins.	1. God is love. 2. Jesus is the sacrificial Lamb. 3. Jesus is the living water.	1. Live a life of obedience. 2. Be willing to suffer for God. 3. Commit our lives to God.

*Overview*

**Events and Spiritual Teachings**

The Seven Sayings on the Cross

1. Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do. (Lk 23:34)  
**Life Application:** Jesus paid the penalty for our sins
2. Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise. (Lk 23:43)  
**Life Application:** God does not despise a broken and a contrite heart
3. Woman, behold your son! (Jn 19:26) Behold your mother! (Jn 19:27)  
**Life Application:** Love your parents unconditionally
4. My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? (Mt 27:46)  
**Life Application:** Repay the love of God
5. I thirst! (Jn 19:28)  
**Life Application:** Jesus is the living water
6. It is finished! (Jn 19:30)  
**Life Application:** Give our all to God
7. Father, “into Your hands I commit My spirit.” (Lk 23:46)  
**Life Application:** God is our Father in heaven

**Memory Verse**

**Conclusion:** Jesus Christ set an example so that we can understand the essence of true love, compassion, and forgiveness through His words spoken on the cross.

## **Introduction**

Jesus' redemptive work on the cross was the fulfillment of God's divine plan of salvation for mankind: reconciliation between God and man through the shedding of Jesus' precious blood (Eph 2:13–17). The words that He spoke on the cross carry profound spiritual significance. Let's carefully study the seven sayings that Jesus spoke while on the cross. Each phrase offers a wealth of meaning.

### **1. *Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do. (Lk 23:34)***

Jesus, in His moment of greatest agony, prayed for forgiveness for His enemies. This is such an astoundingly powerful statement from our Lord Jesus Christ. He has set for us the ultimate model and standard for forgiveness. Though surrounded by the most unworthy crowd, Jesus prayed with unmatched mercy and love. He also uses "Father," just as He taught His disciples (Mt 6:9). This is an expression of love, care, and trust.

Who are "them" and "they"? There are many possible answers:

- The Roman soldiers who beat, mocked, and humiliated Him before carrying out His execution.
- The chief priests and elders who used false witnesses against Jesus (Mt 26:59) and stirred up the crowd, demanding His crucifixion (Mt 27:20–23).
- The Pharisees, the first to actively plot against Jesus (Mt 12:14).
- The Sadducees who sought to discredit Him (Mt 22:23–34).
- The thieves on the cross alongside Him, one of which mocked Him.
- The mob that demanded His crucifixion (Lk 23:23).

**Life Application: Jesus paid the penalty for the sins that we commit deliberately and in ignorance. He has shown us what forgiveness, mercy, and love are.**

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" (Mk 10:45). We are the ones who sent our Lord Jesus to the cross. We are the ones He prayed for God to forgive. We are the sinners for whom Jesus paid the ultimate sacrifice. And since we have freely received God's mercy and love, we should freely give the same to others. Let us learn to extend forgiveness to our neighbors, our enemies, and those who persecute us (Mt 5:43–44).

### **2. *Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise. (Lk 23:43)***

A dying thief showed his remorse when he told the other criminal that they had received "the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong" (Lk 23:41). He then showed his faith when he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom" (v. 42). Jesus assured him entry to paradise not only for his repentance, but also for his great faith, which is essential in order to receive salvation. Jesus' life purpose—the calling of not the righteous, but sinners (Mt 9:13)—is manifested dramatically in this message. This promise, given by Jesus as He hung dying on the cross, resonates with power, majesty, and authority, illustrating His desire, even to the last hour, to lead the lost to salvation.

**Life Application: God does not despise a broken and a contrite heart (Ps 51:17).**

Only after a heartfelt confession of sin and an earnest plea for forgiveness can one begin to catch sight of the glory and grandeur that God has in store for eternity.

### **3. *Woman, behold your son! (Jn 19:26) Behold your mother! (Jn 19:27)***

The “disciple whom Jesus loved” is used four times in the Gospel of John to refer to apostle John himself, and of the four Gospels, his is the only one that records Mary's presence at the cross. Seeing her Son being tortured on the cross surely was like a sword piercing through her soul, as Simeon prophesied (Lk 2:35). Mary must have been broken-hearted and inconsolable. Seeing His mother standing near the cross with the apostle John, Jesus committed His mother's care into his hands, and from that hour, John took her to his own home (Jn 19:26–27). In His most painful hour, Jesus still gave thought to the welfare of His mother after His death, once again exemplifying God's commandment of love.

**Life Application: Love our parents unconditionally.**

“Woman, behold your son!” “Behold your mother!” Jesus' words to His mother and His beloved apostle while on the cross serve as a brilliant summation of His life and teachings on the essence of love and love for family.

**a. We must love our parents unconditionally.**

Sometimes, due to misunderstandings between our parents and us, we cause each other indescribable pain and grief. But whether they understand us or not, we are commanded, “Honor your father and your mother” (Ex 20:12). As long as we honor our parents, God's love can heal the pain.

**b. We must be responsible for our family.**

In 1 Timothy 5:8, Paul mentions, “But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.” Right here, Jesus demonstrated His love for His mother. He emphasized the value of family. We need to ask God for divine wisdom so that we can truly love our family members as Jesus loves us.

**4. My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? (Mt 27:46)**

“But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear” (Isa 59:2). When Jesus was on the cross, He was separated from God because He carried our sins. As God placed the sins of the world on Jesus Christ, God had to turn away from Him. In His deepest agony, Jesus was abandoned by His heavenly Father. The unbearable pain of being forsaken by God is beyond human understanding.

**Life Application: Repay the love of God.**

We should understand that God's love is as strong as death (Song 8:6). He manifested in the flesh, died on the cross, and washed us of our sins with His blood. Remember God's sacrificial love and His cry of agony. Truly cherish the grace of God and remain always in the love of Jesus.

**a. Examine our zeal towards God**

We need to reflect upon this question: in what way has God loved us? It is easy to forget, but He first loved us, so we should be moved to love Him throughout our lives (1 Cor 16:22; 1 Jn 4:19).

**b. Repay the love of God**

We should stir up the gift of God in us, stir up love and good works in each other (2 Tim 1:6; Heb 10:24), and ask God to direct our hearts to serve Him more while we are still able to repay His greatest love and grace.

**5. I thirst! (Jn 19:28)**



In contrast to Jesus' previous cry of spiritual suffering, this phrase reflects the physical suffering experienced during crucifixion. In a prophecy, David described the anguish of Jesus vividly: "I am poured out like water, and all My bones are out of joint; My heart is wax; it has melted within Me. My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and My tongue clings to my jaws [...]. They pierced My hands and My feet" (Ps 22:14–16). This simple phrase is a fulfillment of the prophecy in Psalm 69:21 and also shows us:

**a. Jesus' humanity**

Jesus came to earth and manifested in the flesh, so He had a physical nature just as we have. By saying, "I thirst," Jesus showed us that He indeed died in the flesh for our sins.

**b. Jesus is the living water.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ promised that "he who [goes to Him] shall never hunger, and he who believes in [Him] shall never thirst" (Jn 6:35). He also told us, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive" (Jn 7:37–39). Jesus offers His believers the fountain of water that will spring up into everlasting life.

**Life Application: Jesus is the living water.**

Jesus has promised that those who believe in Him will receive the Holy Spirit. But we cannot stop at simply receiving it; we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Only then can we fully submit to God's Spirit and allow Him to guide our daily lives. When we are filled with the Spirit, we will have faith and the power of God to resist sin and bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit. As the living water flows out of our hearts, the Spirit within us constantly cleanses and renews us day by day, guiding our steps and cleansing us of sin.

**6. It is finished! (Jn 19:30)**

This phrase teaches us about God's plan of salvation and why He came to save us. In the garden where Jesus was arrested, Jesus told Peter, "Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?" (Jn 18:11). The "cup" was the task given by God, and the drink within was bitter and painful, but He still accepted it. This shows His submission to God's will, and His determination to complete His tasks, which were heavy:

- To serve mankind. *"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."* (Mk 10:45)
- To seek the lost. *"For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."* (Lk 19:10)
- To take away our sin. *"Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"* (Jn 1:29)

Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice as the good shepherd by laying down His life for His sheep (Jn 10:10–11). With these words, Jesus finally fulfilled His purpose on earth.

**Life Application: Give our all to God**

**a. Live a life of obedience.**

The highest calling for all believers is to obey God's words. When we obey our heavenly Father, we can be strong witnesses for the Lord, because when others "see [our] good works," we "glorify [our God] in heaven" (Mt 5:16). And as long as we obey Him, we will always have God's blessing and protection (Jas 1:25; Ps 119:1–2).

**b. Be willing to suffer for God.**

The Bible often mentions God's followers suffering for His sake. Many who chose to believe in God suffered imprisonment, beatings, physical torture, or death (Acts 5:40; Heb 11:32–38). Jesus taught us that in order to follow Him, we must be willing to take up our cross daily (Lk 9:23–25). In New Testament times, when someone carried a cross, it meant that he had been condemned to die. Today, it means that we must put our old self to death. We can do this by:

- Setting aside our own way of doing things
- Giving our goals and future into God's hands
- Nailing all of our worldly desires to the cross
- Pursuing righteousness, not the pleasures of this world (Mt 6:33)

Today, God has entrusted us with the mission of spreading the gospel and the responsibility of living a life that glorifies Him. In his closing moments, Paul said, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness" (2 Tim 4:7–8). It should be every Christian's hope to be able to utter confidently, with their last breath, "It is finished."

**7. Father, "into Your hands I commit My spirit." (Lk 23:46)**

Jesus' last words are intimate words of complete faith. Upon breathing His last, He then entered into glory. God raised Him up, "having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it" (Acts 2:24). The hope of a Christian today lies not in this life, but in eternity after death, leaving all worldly burdens behind and reaping the rewards of his good deeds (Rev 14:13).

**a. Jesus fulfills His mission and that of His Father on the cross.**

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (Jn 3:16). Even though He was forsaken by God in spirit and suffered greatly in flesh, Jesus ultimately completed His redemptive work on the cross and committed His spirit to His Father.

**b. The barrier of sin has been removed. We can now approach God with confidence and boldness (Heb 4:14–16).**

The Gospel of Luke records that after three hours of darkness, "the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was torn in two" (Lk 23:45). This veil had previously hidden the Holy of Holies. But Jesus' death broke down all barriers. His blood atoned for all of our sins, so Jews and Gentiles alike are all able to enter the Holy of Holies (Heb 10:19–22) and commune directly with God.

**Life Application: God is our Father in heaven**

**a. Call God "Abba, Father."**

"Abba, Father" signifies the intimate relationship of a Father and His child. It is absolutely beyond human understanding that a holy, just, all-knowing, all-powerful, and ever-present God who created the heavens and the earth has invited us, the sinful, to call Him "Abba." Jesus dedicated His entire life to God, before giving Himself to God in death as well. He and His Father were one, unified in spirit and purpose. We ought to strive for the same relationship with God.

**b. Commit our lives to Him.**

We should commit our lives to God as Jesus did. God is always looking for people whose hearts are fully committed to Him so that He can bless them (2 Chr 16:9). Therefore, let us commit our lives to the true church that is the body of Christ, to growing spiritually, and to devoting ourselves to the

teachings of God’s word. Only by committing ourselves to Him will we fulfill the purpose He has for us.

**c. Approach God with “boldness” (Heb 10:19) and “full assurance of faith” (Heb 10:22).**

The Holy Spirit “bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together” (Rom 8:16–17). Know that we are God’s chosen children and, as such, are permitted to approach Him with confidence and faith.

### *Check for Understanding*

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#### **What is the significance of each of Jesus Christ’s last words?**

1. *“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.”*  
Even as He was suffering on the cross, Jesus Christ forgave those that had put Him on the cross in the first place. He unselfishly had compassion on them, instead of asking God to bring punishment upon them or asking God to deliver Him.
2. *“Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”*  
Jesus Christ’s mission in life was to bring sinners to repentance, and on the cross, He continued to carry on His mission.
3. *“Woman, behold your son! Behold your mother!”*  
Though Jesus Christ descended from heaven to take the form of a man, He still had an earthly mother and father. At that moment, He understood that His mother needed someone to care for her. So, out of His compassion for her needs and her grief, He put her in the care of His beloved disciple John.
4. *“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”*  
Jesus Christ had a close relationship with His Father during His ministry, as His power came from above. However, during His time on the cross, He could feel the abandonment by His Father as He bore the sins of mankind. It pierced Him deeply, so He cried out. Separation and alienation from God was the price Jesus Christ had to pay for man’s salvation.
5. *“I thirst!”*  
This phrase reflects only one aspect of the physical suffering that Jesus Christ suffered on the cross. It also fulfilled the prophecy recorded in the Book of Psalms.
6. *“It is finished!”*  
These words mark the moment when Jesus Christ knew that He had completed His purpose on the earth: to pay the price for the sins of man by dying on the cross.
7. *“Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.”*  
With these words, Jesus Christ accomplished God’s plan of salvation for mankind through the shedding of His blood on the cross. Jesus Christ obediently endured physical and emotional suffering at the hands of His captors, all for the sake of fulfilling God’s will.

### *Memory Verse*

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“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”  
(Mark 10:45)

#### **Meaning**

From the Greek *lutron*, “ransom” means to release a person, such as a prisoner or slave, from bondage. We could never pay the cost for freedom from the bondage of sin on our own, so Jesus paid the price for us. We obtained freedom at the cost of His life. This verse explains the two-fold purpose of Jesus’ coming into this world:

### **1. To Serve**

Jesus is the Creator and King over all creation. But when He came in the flesh as a Man, He humbled Himself and took on the form of a servant. He was born in a manger and lived a lowly life. Jesus owned all of creation, yet He became poor for us (2 Cor 8:9) in order to preach the good news of the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. Jesus suffered rejection, envy, hatred, and false accusations. He knows and understands our grief and our pain because He endured it Himself while serving mankind.

### **2. To Give His Life**

While Jesus suffered on the cross, darkness covered the whole land. Jesus finally cried out loudly, bowed His head, and gave up His spirit. The earth shook, rocks split, and the temple veil was torn from top to bottom. Even the Roman centurion and the soldiers were in great awe at Jesus' death, saying, "Truly this was the Son of God!" (Mt 27:54). He loved us by coming to this world to bear our pain and to die for us. There is no greater love than our Lord Jesus' willingness to suffer for us.

### ***Conclusion***

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The final words Jesus spoke while upon the cross are truly filled with spiritual significance. Jesus Christ set an example so that we can understand the essence of true love, compassion, and forgiveness. Even though He suffered the physical agony of crucifixion, He never forgot His divine purpose of coming to earth. We must deeply feel the suffering and sacrifice Jesus has made for our sins and determine to live for Him.

## Lesson 11 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. What does “ransom” mean in this context? What bondage did Jesus release us from?  
*From the Greek word “lutron,” it means to release a person, such as a prisoner or slave, from bondage. Jesus paid the price to release us from the bondage of sin.*
  
2. Choose four of the seven sayings on the cross. What is their significance, and what do they teach us?
  - a. *“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.” Jesus Christ forgave those that had put Him on the cross. He unselfishly had compassion on them, instead of asking God to bring punishment upon them to deliver Him. How much more should we show compassion on our enemies.*
  - b. *“Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.” Jesus Christ’s mission in life was to bring sinners to repentance, and on the cross, He continued to carry on His mission. His response to the remorseful criminal also tells us that it is never too late to save a soul or to repent of our sins. God will always listen to a contrite heart.*
  - c. *“Woman, behold your son! Behold your mother!” At that moment, He understood that His mother needed someone to care for her. So, out of His compassion for her needs and her grief, He put her in the care of His beloved disciple John.*
  - d. *“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” During His time on the cross, He could feel the abandonment by His Father as He bore the sins of mankind. It pierced Him deeply, so He cried out. Separation and alienation from God was the price Jesus Christ had to pay for man's salvation.*
  - e. *“I thirst!” Jesus Christ suffered greatly on the cross. It also fulfilled the prophecy recorded in the Book of Psalms and proved to us that Jesus was indeed God made into flesh, with physical needs. This is also a reflection of the fountain of living water that Jesus offers to us.*
  - f. *“It is finished!” Jesus Christ came to pay the price for the sins of man by dying on the cross. His obedience unto death paid for our sins, so we in turn should also obey God as best we can.*
  - g. *“Father, ‘into Your hands I commit My spirit.’” Jesus Christ completed His purpose through the shedding of His blood on the cross. Jesus Christ obediently endured physical and emotional suffering at the hands of His captors, all for the sake of fulfilling God’s will and breaking down the barrier between God and us. It is for this reason that we are able to approach God as our Father in heaven with boldness and assurance in faith.*
  
3. Pick one of the teachings above and write down how you can personally apply this teaching to your life.  
*Personal answers. (See Life Application sections.)*

*Memory Verse*

“Then He said to them, ‘Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day.’” (Luke 24:46)

<b>Knowledge of God’s Will [God’s Word]</b>	<b>Knowledge of God [God’s Divine Nature]</b>	<b>Good Work [Behavior]</b>
1. Jesus Christ has risen from the dead. 2. The resurrection is the fulfillment of salvation.	1. Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life. 2. Jesus Christ is able to deliver us from eternal condemnation. 3. God gives us the hope of everlasting life.	1. Live a new life of righteousness. 2. Live not for us, but for the Lord. 3. Work for Him with diligence.

*Overview*

**Events and Spiritual Teachings**

*Luke 24: The Resurrection of Jesus Christ*

- A. Jesus Rises from the Dead (vv. 1–12)
- B. Jesus Appears to Two Disciples on the Road (vv. 13–35)
- C. Jesus Appears to His Disciples (vv. 36–49)
- D. Jesus Ascends to Heaven (vv. 50–53)

**Life Application**

- 1. If Jesus had not risen, He would not have been able to deliver us from eternal condemnation, and we would still be in sin (1 Cor 15:17–19).
- 2. When we experience doubts or fears, Jesus is walking alongside us.
- 3. We have been given a great commission, so let us equip ourselves to preach the gospel.
- 4. As Christians, we have joy and hope in knowing that Jesus will return.

**Memory Verse**

**Conclusion:** We are justified by the resurrection of Jesus Christ (Rom 4:25). Without His resurrection, we would have no hope of salvation (1 Cor 15:17–19).

### **Introduction**

“He is not here, but is risen!” (Lk 24:6). After being crucified on the cross and bearing the burden of our sins, Jesus triumphed over death. The hour of darkness was over. Through appearing in person and teaching His disciples the Scriptures concerning Himself, our Lord Jesus removed their doubts and brought them joy, peace, and hope.

### **A. Jesus Rises from the Dead (Lk 24:1–12)**

Let us begin by reading Luke 24:1–12.

#### **From Sadness to Joy!**

What do you notice about the changes in the emotions and feelings of those who discovered Jesus Christ’s empty tomb? Initially, they were “greatly perplexed,” and bowed their faces to the earth in fear of the two men in shining garments (vv. 4–5). They were filled with confusion, but the two men in shining garments reminded them of what Jesus had said, and they “remembered His words” (vv. 6–8). However, when Mary Magdalene and the other women shared the details of this encounter to the apostles, they “did not believe them” (v. 11). Only Peter took action by running to the tomb, “marveling to himself at what had happened” (v. 12).

#### **What does Jesus Christ’s resurrection teach us about His death?**

The Lord’s death is not a tragic ending but the accomplishment of God’s redemptive plan as prophesied in the Scriptures and by Christ Himself. Likewise, His resurrection demonstrated that, in accordance with His sovereign will, God has indeed conquered the power of sin and, in turn, death.

#### **What lessons can we learn from His resurrection?**

If Jesus had not risen, He would not have been able to deliver us from eternal condemnation, and we would still be in sin (1 Cor 15:17–19). But His resurrection also offers other lessons for us:

1. His resurrection is crucial because it means that Jesus Christ is alive (Jn 14:6) and that He rules His kingdom (Ps 22:28). He is real.
2. The testimony of the women about Jesus’ resurrection seemed to be idle tales to the apostles, so they did not believe them. Later Jesus appeared to them and rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart (Mk 16:14). If we do not believe what others testify about Jesus’ word or promises, the Lord may be displeased with our unbelief.
3. Jesus Christ’s resurrection is for our justification (Rom 4:25). Death has been conquered. We, too, will be raised from death to live forever with Christ.
4. The resurrection of Jesus Christ helps us find meaning and hope, even in times of trouble, tribulation, and tragedy (1 Pet 1:3).

### **B. Jesus Appears to Two Disciples on the Road (Lk 24:13–35)**

Let us continue by studying Luke 24:13–35. The Gospel of Luke is the only gospel book that records this incident in detail (the Gospel of Mark briefly mentions the event in Mk 14:12). Luke presents to us a detailed and insightful account of Jesus appearing to two of His disciples: Cleopas and an unnamed disciple.

#### **1. What were the two disciples discussing? How did they feel?**

They were discussing the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ, as well as the discovery of the empty tomb. The two men were disheartened that Jesus Christ had not “redeemed” Israel in the

way they thought He would, but instead had died on the cross (vv. 19–21).

- 2. According to the words recorded in verse 21, how did the disciples interpret the Lord's death?**  
They believed that His death was final. Their usage of "we were hoping" reveals that they did not believe He would be able to save them anymore.
- 3. What prevented them from understanding the meaning of the Lord's death?**  
Their foolish preconceptions prevented them from understanding the connection between Christ's death and His resurrection. As a result, they were slow of heart in believing the prophecies in the Scriptures about Christ (vv. 25–26).
- 4. What remarkable action did Jesus Christ take, as recorded in verse 27?**  
"And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself" (v. 27). We may not know which specific Scripture Jesus Christ chose to teach the disciples, but we know that He taught them all "the things concerning Himself." This included His death and His resurrection, as well as the reason why He needed to experience suffering and, ultimately, death on the cross. Their lack of faith in the prophecies prevented them from recognizing Jesus, even as He stood before them. Thus, Jesus Christ taught them the Scriptures, just as He had during His initial ministry.
- 5. When were the eyes of the two disciples finally opened?**  
After Jesus Christ shared the truth of His word, they invited Him to stay with them, for it was late in the day. As they sat at a table together, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. In that instant, "their eyes were opened and they knew Him" (v. 31). Once their hearts were nourished by the word of God, their hearts burned within. And once they received Him into their place and had fellowship with Him, their eyes were opened.
- 6. Why did Jesus vanish from them after their eyes were opened?**  
Once their eyes were opened because of the truth, there was no need for the physical presence of Jesus Christ. It became a matter of faith, for we must live by His word in faith, not by our ability to see Him physically. "Jesus said [...] because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed" (Jn 20:29).
- 7. What is the meaning of verse 32: "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?" What did they do after these words?**  
When we have fellowship with God, either through prayer or reading the Bible, He will touch our hearts and open our eyes. Their interaction with Jesus Christ had stirred up something within them, and they were excited to testify and share the good news. "So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, saying, 'The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!'" (vv. 33–34). After they had been with Jesus, they had an amazing response!

The interaction the two disciples shared with Jesus holds a few teachings for us:

1. The two disciples' physical eyes were blinded to His true identity. Thus, Jesus taught them all the things in the Scriptures concerning Him so that they could first come to know Him. Likewise, we may not recognize Jesus, but we have to trust in His teachings and promises. Having the knowledge of Jesus Christ and accepting Jesus Christ are two completely different things. We



need Jesus to open our eyes spiritually.

2. The disciples had to study, understand, and trust the Scriptures before they recognized Jesus. Their spiritual eyes of faith were opened once they understood the Scriptures more and took of the bread that Jesus broke. “You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me” (Jn 5:39). We have never seen Him, much less seen Him perform miracles as He did in His ministry on earth. But the whole Bible—both the Old Testament and the New Testament—has been given to us as a witness of Him and for Him.

So, it is imperative for us to study the prophecies in the Old Testament concerning Jesus’ death and resurrection. When we study God’s word, He will be revealed to us and will walk with us as the resurrected Savior and Lord.

### **Life Application**

1. Have there been times in your life when you were in doubt or despair?
2. Were you walking all alone? Or was there someone walking alongside you?
3. Did you pray to God with your spiritual friends or family members? How about reading the Scriptures to find more answers?
4. What finally made you realize that the Lord was with you? Can you testify about His presence in your life to others?

### **C. Jesus Appears to His Disciples (Lk 24:36–49)**

Next, we will read Luke 24:36–49. This is the first time Jesus appeared to His disciples after His resurrection. Notice how Jesus greeted them with the words, “Peace to you,” yet they reacted in fear “and supposed they had seen a spirit” (v. 37).

#### **Why were they so terrified and frightened?**

Keep in mind that the disciples had lost their hope after the Lord’s death and were perplexed by the report of His post-resurrection appearance. Then, out of nowhere, Jesus appeared before them. It is no wonder that they were frightened and terrified! This is precisely why Jesus introduced Himself with the calming phrase, “Peace to you.”

The peace from God calms our hearts and frees us from anxiety and fear. The disciples were troubled because they still had doubts in their hearts (v. 38). Therefore, the Lord brought them peace by removing their doubts and fears (*BSG: Luke, 7.3:11*).<sup>1</sup>

#### **Why was it necessary for the Lord to show the disciples that He was not a spirit?**

It is interesting to note that Jesus asked the disciples to touch Him; He even ate in front of them. If Jesus Christ had not done these actions, then the disciples would have thought that the spirit of the Lord had returned from the dead. They still would not have been convinced that Jesus Christ had indeed risen physically from the dead (*BSG: Luke, 7.4:12*).

#### **Ask God to Reveal His Teachings to Us**

“Then He said to them, ‘These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms

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<sup>1</sup> TJC Department of Literary Ministry, “The Resurrected Christ”, *Bible Study Guide: Luke* (Malaysia: True Jesus Church, 2012), [https://bsg.tjc.org/tjc\\_bsg\\_lesson/luke-31/](https://bsg.tjc.org/tjc_bsg_lesson/luke-31/), 7.3:11.

concerning Me.’ And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures” (vv. 44–45), instead of simply proving Himself with miracles.

Only through understanding God’s sovereign plan in the Scriptures could the disciples understand the significance of the resurrection. Jesus Christ’s resurrection was not only a miracle, but the fulfillment of salvation. Our knowledge of Jesus Christ should not be built only on our experiences of healings or other miracles, but also on the teachings in the Scriptures. We need to ask God to reveal His will to us so that we can understand the mysteries of God in His word and come to a living faith in Christ (Mt 11:25–27; 1 Cor 2:10–13) (*BSG: Luke, 7.4:14*). Only then, after forming complete trust in God through understanding Him, can our faith be rooted in Him.

### **Jesus’ resurrection has a direct relationship with the great commission**

Jesus Christ has entrusted this great commission to all of us. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus Christ has received all authority in heaven and on earth and opened the way to salvation (Mt 28:18). We are His witnesses, so we have the responsibility of preaching this message of salvation to the entire world (*BSG: Luke, 7.4:15*). The main message of our preaching is based on verse 47: “and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”

### **Life Application**

To preach the gospel, we first need to understand the Scriptures that contain the salvation of Jesus Christ. Second, we need the “power from on high” (v. 49), which is the power of the Holy Spirit. As recorded in Acts 1:14, they “all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication” in the upper room, until they were all filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4).

### **D. Jesus Ascends to Heaven (Lk 24:50–53)**

Finally, we will conclude by reading Luke 24:50–53.

It is difficult to imagine this painful parting with the Lord Jesus as He was carried up into heaven. Many times, physical separation involves tears and sadness. Yet, verse 52 records the disciples as returning to Jerusalem “with great joy.” Why? First, they now knew that Jesus Christ had accomplished God’s salvation plan through His resurrection, so there was hope of everlasting life for them. Second, He will return! Just as He was taken up into heaven, in the same manner He will come down from heaven. We will be reunited with the One we love in heaven one day (Lk 21:26; Acts 1:11; 1 Pet 1:8).

### **Life Application**

How has the resurrection of Christ brought joy in your life? Jesus is alive, and He is with us. The same Jesus who spoke and ate with the disciples after He had risen is also with us every moment of our lives. Even though He has ascended to heaven, He is present in every space and time. He is our comforter, our healer, our strong tower and refuge! His resurrection gives greater meaning to suffering and death. Let us read Romans 8:19–25.

### **Check for Understanding**

- 1. Why is Jesus Christ’s resurrection important for us?** If Jesus had not risen, He would not have been able to deliver us from eternal condemnation, and we would still be in sin.
- 2. What prevented the two disciples from recognizing Jesus Christ, who stood before them?** The two disciples were slow in believing the prophecies in the Scriptures about Christ. They did not

completely understand the Scriptures, so Jesus Christ taught them about all the Scriptures concerning Him.

- 3. Why was it necessary for the Lord to show the disciples that He was not a spirit?** Jesus Christ asked His disciples to touch Him and even ate in front of them. He did this to prove that He had physically risen from the dead. Otherwise, the disciples would have thought that only His spirit had returned from the dead.
- 4. What did Jesus Christ promise to send to the disciples?** He promised to send them power from on high, the Holy Spirit.
- 5. Why did the disciples return to Jerusalem with great joy after Jesus Christ ascended to heaven?** After seeing Jesus Christ in person, risen from the grave, they knew God's salvation plan had been accomplished through His death. There was hope of everlasting life for them.

### Memory Verse

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"Then He said to them, 'Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day.'" (Luke 24:46)

### Meanings

- Jesus had to suffer because He was the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (Jn 1:29). His physical torture was part of the payment required for our sins. We have been bought by the "precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish and without spot" (1 Pet 1:19). "And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission" (Heb 9:22). It was on the cross that He triumphed over Satan, sin and death.
- Jesus Christ's resurrection is highly crucial to our faith. It offers us eternal hope since He has conquered death (Rom 8:11). His resurrection is one of the truths upon which Christianity is built (1 Cor 15:3-4).

*And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.*

(1 Cor 15:14-19)

### Conclusion

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Jesus Christ's resurrection is at the heart of the gospel message and a crucial step in God's redemption plan. Overcoming His death was as crucial as His death itself. Had Jesus remained deceased, He would not have overcome death, and we, in turn, would perish with no hope for any life to come. The Bible tells us that Jesus' followers would be the most pitiful of all people if Jesus never resurrected (1 Cor 15:17, 19). Resurrection does not simply mean we live a new life or change our worldly ways. Rather, on the last day, our physical body will actually resurrect or be transformed into a spiritual body (1 Cor 15:51-53; 1 Thess 4:14-18).

Knowing that Jesus Christ has risen from the dead, we must live a new life of righteousness with Him (Rom 6:8-13). We should not live for ourselves but for our Lord (2 Cor 5:15) and work for Him with diligence, knowing that our labor is not in vain (1 Cor 15:58).

## Lesson 12 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. Why was it necessary for Christ to suffer and rise from the dead?  
*He had to suffer because He was the "Lamb of God," and without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sins. His resurrection was crucial because it proves that Jesus has conquered death and gives us eternal hope.*
2. What does Jesus Christ's resurrection teach us about His death?  
*The Lord's death is not a tragic ending but the accomplishment of God's redemptive plan, as prophesied in the Scriptures. His resurrection also demonstrated that Jesus Christ has conquered the power of sin.*
3. What did Jesus Christ do when He appeared before Cleopas and the unnamed disciple?  
*He did not reveal who He was, but instead taught them from the Scriptures why His suffering was necessary and what His death accomplished. He made sure they understood the prophecies before revealing His identity.*
4. Why were the disciples terrified when Jesus appeared? How did He ease them?  
*They were terrified because they still had doubts and fears. Jesus eased them with His simple words of "peace to you," and also by removing their doubts and fears by proving His resurrection when eating and drinking with them.*
5. Do you have any doubts today? How do you think you can relieve these doubts?  
*Personal answers. (Examples: By praying more about my doubts; by reading the Bible more to remind myself that God is in control; by focusing more on what to do for God rather than on an uncertain future; by constantly reminding myself that God takes care of even the sparrows in the air; by practicing the word of God to experience a living faith)*
6. There is nothing more important than spiritually training and equipping ourselves. Try setting a goal for yourself for the next quarter that will help you better train and equip yourself for God's work.  
*Personal answers. Encourage the students to think of personal habits, such as laziness or lack of self-control, or personal skills, such as helping with the younger children or playing piano. Other examples may be paying better attention during service, memorizing more Bible verses, or even trying to spend more time getting to know other church members.*  
***If possible, check their progress on this goal periodically throughout the next quarter.***

## Junior 1 Year 1 Book 1 Review

### Memory Verses

Instructions: Fill in the blanks correctly using the provided words and references.

blessed	prayer	Son of David	live
hidden	Spirit	sacrifice	peace
poor	sins	rise	seek
thanksgiving	virgin	suffer	word
light	Immanuel	righteousness	highest
served	ransom	lamb	afflicted

Matthew 21:9	Psalms 141:2	1 Peter 3:18	Luke 4:4
Luke 24:46	Matthew 5:3	Matthew 1:22–23	Matthew 5:14
Mark 10:45	Isaiah 53:7	Matthew 6:33	Philippians 4:6–7

1. “So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: ‘Behold, the \_\_\_\_\_ shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name \_\_\_\_\_,’ which is translated, ‘God with us.’” (\_\_\_\_\_)
2. “It is written, ‘Man shall not \_\_\_\_\_ by bread alone, but by every \_\_\_\_\_ of God.’” (\_\_\_\_\_)
3. “\_\_\_\_\_ are the \_\_\_\_\_ in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (\_\_\_\_\_)
4. “But \_\_\_\_\_ first the kingdom of God and His \_\_\_\_\_, and all these things shall be added to you.” (\_\_\_\_\_)
5. “You are the \_\_\_\_\_ of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be \_\_\_\_\_.” (\_\_\_\_\_)
6. “Let my \_\_\_\_\_ be set before You as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening \_\_\_\_\_.” (\_\_\_\_\_)

7. "Hosanna to the \_\_\_\_\_! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' Hosanna in the \_\_\_\_\_!" (\_\_\_\_\_)
8. "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with \_\_\_\_\_, let your requests be made known to God, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (\_\_\_\_\_)
9. "He was oppressed and He was \_\_\_\_\_, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a \_\_\_\_\_ to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth." (\_\_\_\_\_)
10. "For Christ also suffered once for \_\_\_\_\_, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the \_\_\_\_\_." (\_\_\_\_\_)
11. "For even the Son of Man did not come to be \_\_\_\_\_, but to serve, and to give His life a \_\_\_\_\_ for many." (\_\_\_\_\_)
12. "Then He said to them, 'Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to \_\_\_\_\_ and to \_\_\_\_\_ from the dead the third day.'" (\_\_\_\_\_)

## Multiple Choice

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1. \_\_\_\_ : Which of the following is not a prophecy concerning the birth of Jesus Christ?
  - a. The Messiah will be born in Bethlehem.
  - b. The Messiah will be visited by three wise men.
  - c. The Messiah will be born of a virgin.
  - d. The Messiah will be a descendant of David.
  
2. \_\_\_\_ : Which three purposes did the baptism of Jesus Christ serve?
  - a. To fulfill all righteousness, serve as a testimony, and serve as an example
  - b. To fulfill all righteousness, serve as a testimony, and wash His sins away
  - c. To fulfill all righteousness, serve as an example, and wash His sins away
  - d. To serve as a testimony, serve as an example, and wash His sins away
  
3. \_\_\_\_ : How are we the salt of the earth?
  - a. We enhance others by letting them act however they want.
  - b. We preserve against the moral decay of the world.
  - c. We flavor the world by being fun and entertaining.
  - d. None of the above.
  
4. \_\_\_\_ : Which of the following is not a purpose of fasting?
  - a. To receive forgiveness of sins
  - b. To demonstrate our holiness
  - c. To gain scriptural understanding
  - d. To aid in the growth of the church
  
5. \_\_\_\_ : How did Jesus show His authority during His triumphal entry into Jerusalem?
  - a. The disciples found the colt, just as Jesus had predicted.
  - b. The owners agreed to lend the colt to Jesus.
  - c. The colt, which had not been ridden before, obeyed Jesus.
  - d. All of the above.
  
6. \_\_\_\_ : What did Jesus pray about the disciples in John chapter 17?
  - a. They received the word, accepted the word, and preached the word.
  - b. They received the word, kept the word, and preached the word.
  - c. They received the word, accepted the word, and kept the word.
  - d. They accepted the word, kept the word, and preached the word.
  
7. \_\_\_\_ : Which three characteristics did Jesus display throughout His trials?
  - a. Innocence
  - b. Obedience
  - c. Silence
  - d. All of the above.

### *The Beatitudes*

Instructions: Match the second half of the beatitude to the first half, and then explain the meaning.

- A. Blessed are the peacemakers
- B. Blessed are those who mourn
- C. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness
- D. Blessed are the merciful
- E. Blessed are the poor in spirit
- F. Blessed are the meek
- G. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake
- H. Blessed are the pure in heart

<b>Beatitude</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
_____ For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.	
_____ For they shall be comforted.	
_____ For they shall inherit the earth.	
_____ For they shall be filled.	
_____ For they shall obtain mercy.	
_____ For they shall see God.	
_____ For they shall be called sons of God.	
_____ For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.	



*Jesus Christ's Crucifixion*

Instructions: Please list the order in which the following events are recorded from 1–10.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ cries out, "It is finished!", bows His head, and yields up His spirit.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ is clothed with a robe and a crown of thorns.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ cries out, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"
- \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ promises Paradise to a repentant criminal being crucified next to Him.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Soldiers pierce His side with a spear and water and blood come out.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Those who crucified Jesus Christ cast lots for His clothing.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Many women watch His crucifixion from afar.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ entrusts the care of His mother into John's hands.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ prays to God to forgive His transgressors.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A centurion remarks, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

*The Seven Sayings on the Cross*

Instructions: Choose four of the seven sayings on the cross. Indicate the letter of which you have chosen in the left column, then use the right column to explain the significance of each and its teaching.

- A. "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."
- B. "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."
- C. "Woman, behold your son!" "Behold your mother!"
- D. "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"
- E. "I thirst!"
- F. "It is finished!"
- G. "Father, 'into Your hands I commit My spirit.'"

Saying	Significance and Teaching

*Short Answers*

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**1. What are three major human weaknesses that Satan uses to tempt us? How can we defend ourselves against these temptations?**

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**2. What does it mean to have prayers like incense?**

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**3. “Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work” (2 Tim 2:21). In this verse, what does Paul teach us about being vessels for God? How can we become a better vessel for God in our daily lives?**

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**4. What was Jesus’ commission to His followers? What are some ways we can fulfill this commission?**

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**5. Why was it necessary for Christ to suffer and rise from the dead?**

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## Junior 1 Year 1 Book 1 Review Answer Key

### Memory Verses

1. "So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 'Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,' which is translated, 'God with us.'" (Matthew 1:22-23)
2. "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.'" (Luke 4:4)
3. "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5:3)
4. "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." (Matthew 6:33)
5. "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden." (Matthew 5:14)
6. "Let my prayer be set before You as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice." (Psalms 141:2)
7. "Hosanna to the Son of David! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' Hosanna in the highest!" (Matthew 21:9)
8. "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God, and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7)
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10. "For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit." (1 Peter 3:18)
11. "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45)
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- E. Blessed are the poor in spirit
- F. Blessed are the meek
- G. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake
- H. Blessed are the pure in heart

Beatitude	Meaning
__E__ For theirs is the kingdom of heaven	<i>The poor in spirit seek Jesus with a broken heart and a contrite spirit. They will obtain a deeper relationship with God.</i>
__B__ For they shall be comforted	<i>Those who mourn their sins will find reconciliation with God.</i>
__F__ For they shall inherit the earth	<i>The meek have a gentleness of spirit and are at rest whether in times of hardship or plenty.</i>

<u>  C  </u> For they shall be filled	<i>Those who hunger are eager to follow God’s will and truth.</i>
<u>  D  </u> For they shall obtain mercy	<i>When we show compassion to and pity others, our heavenly Father will show mercy to us.</i>
<u>  H  </u> For they shall see God	<i>The pure in heart are free of selfish desires and evil intentions.</i>
<u>  A  </u> For they shall be called sons of God	<i>The children of God must be peacemakers, as He is the Prince of Peace.</i>
<u>  G  </u> For theirs is the kingdom of heaven	<i>Those who lead a godly life and suffer persecution will be received into eternal glory.</i>

### Jesus Christ’s Crucifixion

Instructions: Please list the order in which the following events are recorded from 1–10.

7	Jesus Christ cries out, “It is finished!”, bows His head, and yields up His spirit.
1	Jesus Christ is clothed with a robe and a crown of thorns.
6	Jesus Christ cries out, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”
4	Jesus Christ promises Paradise to a repentant criminal being crucified next to Him.
10	Soldiers pierce His side with a spear and water and blood come out.
3	Those who crucified Jesus Christ cast lots for His clothing.
9	Many women watch His crucifixion from afar.
5	Jesus Christ entrusts the care of His mother into John’s hands.
2	Jesus Christ prays to God to forgive His transgressors.
8	A centurion remarks, “Truly this was the Son of God!”

### The Seven Sayings on the Cross

Instructions: Choose four of the seven sayings on the cross. Explain the significance of each and its teaching.

- “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.” (Lk 23:34)**  
*There is no better display of Jesus’ love than this: that He asked God to forgive those people who had tortured and humiliated Him in the cruelest manner possible. Jesus has shown what are forgiveness, mercy, and love and asks that we show the same to others.*
- “Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.” (Lk 23:43)**  
*Jesus continued to fulfill His purpose in life: to bring hope to the hopeless and salvation to the lost. God will never despise a broken and a contrite heart. It is never too late to repent of our sins.*
- “Woman, behold your son!” (Jn 19:26) “Behold your mother!” (Jn 19:27)**  
*Even while in pain, Jesus made sure to take care of His mother, who was surely grieving at the sight of her Son, bloodied and beaten on the cross. These commands serve as a brilliant summation of His life and teachings on the essence of love.*
- “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” (Mt 27:46)**  
*Because Jesus bore our sins, God shunned Jesus at Jesus’ most trying time in His life. The spiritual agony of being forsaken by God is beyond human comprehension, and this agony caused Jesus to cry out these words. We should always examine our zeal towards God and repay His greatest love and grace.*

- **“I thirst!” (Jn 19:28)**  
*This powerful need fulfilled the Scriptures, proved that Jesus died in the flesh for our sins, and showed that He accepted the cup of God’s will. It is a reflection of Jesus’ offering of living water for all of us. The water that Jesus offers us is the fountain of water that will spring up into everlasting life.*
- **“It is finished!” (Jn 19:30)**  
*This phrase vividly illustrates the divine purpose and the culmination of God’s plan of salvation. God’s great plan was finally accomplished because Jesus was obedient to the end. The most important thing for all of God’s believers to do is to live in obedience to His will.*
- **“Father, ‘into Your hands I commit My spirit.’” (Lk 23:46)**  
*The hope of a Christian today lies not in this life, but in the eternity of life after death. With these words, Jesus fulfilled His mission on earth and removed the barrier between God and us. By committing our lives to Him and calling ourselves His children, we are permitted to approach God as our Father, with boldness and assurance in faith.*

### Short Answers

- (Lesson 2) What are three major human weaknesses that Satan uses to tempt us? How can we defend ourselves against these temptations?**  
*Lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh, and the pride of life. (Or self-centeredness, the desire to prove oneself or satisfy one’s lust, and submission to Satan’s commands in exchange for physical or material gains.) We defend ourselves by first recognizing these temptations, then filling our hearts and minds with the word of God and praying for the fullness of the Holy Spirit.*
- (Lesson 6) What does it mean to have prayers like incense?**  
*Incense was burned as an offering to God in His temple. Our prayers, when in alignment with God’s will, are like a sweet and pleasing aroma to Him. This makes our prayers not only a form of petition, but also a form of worship.*
- (Lesson 7) “Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work” (2 Tim 2:21). In this verse, what does Paul teach us about being vessels for God? How can we become a better vessel for God in our daily lives?**  
  
*We need to set ourselves apart and keep ourselves clean. Only by being clean can we be sanctified, useful for the Master, and used for good works.*
- (Lesson 10) What was Jesus’ commission to His followers? What are some ways we can fulfill this commission?**  
*“And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature’” (Mk 16:15).  
Examples: By fully trusting God. By asking our friends to come to church. By reflecting God’s holiness in our decisions and our actions and magnifying God in everything we do. By forgiving those who have wronged us and acting as peacemakers of the world.*
- (Lesson 12) Why was it necessary for Christ to suffer and rise from the dead?**  
*He had to suffer because He was the “Lamb of God,” and without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sins. His resurrection was crucial because it proves that Jesus has conquered death and gives us eternal hope.*