

# PARABLES AND MIRACLES OF JESUS

JUNIOR 1 YEAR 1 BOOK 2

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PARABLES AND MIRACLES OF JESUS

USGA

Teacher's Guide and Student Handouts

**The Parables of the Sower and of the Wheat and the Tares**

Passages: Mt 13:1–23; Mk 4:1–20; Lk 8:1–15; Mt 13:24–30, 36–43

*Memory Verse*

“But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard of the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.” (Luke 8:15)

<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 taught the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven through parables.	Jesus is the sower who has sown the seed of the gospel for all to hear.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Hear the word of God and understand it, so that we can bear fruit.</li><li>2. Shine for the Lord.</li><li>3. Be rooted in the truth.</li></ol>

*Overview*

**Events and Spiritual Teachings**

- A. The Parable of the Sower (Mt 13:3–9, 18–23)
  - **Life Application:** Do I Bear Fruit for Christ in My Life?
- B. The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares (Mt 13:24–30)
  - **Life Application:** Reflect God’s Divine Nature and Be Rooted in the Truth

**Memory Verse**

**Conclusion:** God expects us to bear the fruit of a Christ-like character.

## Events and Spiritual Teachings

### Introduction: Understanding Parables

Jesus taught many parables in the Bible. The word “parable” is derived from the Greek root word *paraballo*, which means “to come alongside or compare.” A parable often compares two ideas or objects to teach a principle or a concept. Parables can illustrate spiritual concepts in a way that plain language cannot.

Jesus spoke in parables for two reasons. First, He wanted to reveal the truth to those who had a deep desire to learn. Second, He wanted to conceal the truth from those who were indifferent. These included the Pharisees, a group of Jews who publicly rejected Him and His teachings. The parables that Jesus shared meant nothing to them because of their calloused hearts. But for the believers, the parables served to reveal the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven. That is why Jesus said in Mark 4:9, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!” (*BSG: Matthew*, 220).<sup>1</sup>

### A. The Parable of the Sower (Mt 13:3–9, 18–23)

Do you know the ingredients necessary for producing a harvest with abundant fruit? Good soil and healthy seeds! In addition, an experienced gardener who will look after the seeds and tend the soil is crucial to a bountiful harvest. This is the central teaching in the parable of the sower. Let’s turn our focus to Matthew, chapter 13, which begins with a large crowd gathered around Jesus (Mt 13:2).

In His first set of parables, Jesus used everyday examples to teach important truths about those who have been called to the kingdom of heaven. Jesus began by sharing the story of a man sowing seeds in a field. Let’s read Matthew 13:3–9 to see what Jesus shared.

### Elements of the Parable of the Sower

Element	Representation	References
Seed	The word of God	Lk 8:11; 1 Pet 1:23, 25; Mk 4:28–29
The Sower	Jesus, preacher, member	Heb 2:2–3; Mt 3:1–2; Ps 126:5–6
Ground	The condition of our hearts	Mt 13:19, 23; 1 Cor 3:6–9

### The Four Types of Ground

The parable of the sower concerns a sower who scatters seed that falls on four types of ground.

Wayside	The <b>wayside</b> (hard ground) prevents the seed from sprouting at all, so the seed become nothing more than bird food.
Stony places	The <b>stony places</b> provide enough soil for the seed to germinate and begin to grow, but because there is “no depth of earth,” the plants do not take root and soon wither in the sun.
Thorny places	The <b>thorny places</b> allow the seed to grow, but the competing thorns choke the life out of the beneficial plants.
Good ground	The <b>good ground</b> allows the seed to grow and bear much fruit.

<sup>1</sup> TJC Department of Literary Ministry, “Segment Analysis 8a,” *Bible Study Guide: Matthew*, (USA: True Jesus Church, 2002), 220.

Now that we have examined the parable and its elements, let us continue reading to see how Jesus explained its meaning. We will first turn to and read Matthew 13:18–23, and then examine the following chart (*BSG: Matthew, 220*).<sup>2</sup>

Ground Type	Representation		Result
<b>Wayside</b> (hard ground)	Hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it (v. 19).		The wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart (v. 19).
	<b>Teaching</b>	The “word of the kingdom”: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● God is the Creator</li> <li>● Man has original sin</li> <li>● God’s salvation plan</li> <li>● Heavenly hope</li> <li>● The teachings of how to be saved</li> </ul>	Birds represent: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Wicked one (Gospel of Matthew)</li> <li>● Satan (Gospel of Mark)</li> <li>● Devil (Gospel of Luke)</li> </ul>
<b>Stony Places</b>	Hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; has no root, so can only endure for a while (vv. 20–21).		When tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles (v. 21).
	<b>Teaching</b>	What causes individuals to have “no root”? They do not seek a relationship with God daily or keep the word of God in their hearts. They can be scorched and will wither away when tribulation comes. Similarly, anyone can develop a stony heart if they are not rooted.	Matthew 7:26–27 emphasize the peril of a weak foundation. One without roots is like “a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell.” Conversely, one with a strong foundation “shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when heat comes” (Jer 17:8).
<b>Thorny Places</b>	Hears the word, but worldly cares and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word (v. 22).		He becomes unfruitful (v. 22).
	<b>Teaching</b>	What is the deceitfulness of riches? When our priorities are fixed on wealth or material things. The root of all kinds of evil is not money itself, but the love of money (1 Tim 6:10). When a person sets his mind on the desires of the flesh and the accumulation of riches, he easily wanders from the faith.	Love for the world robs us of our love for God (1 Tim 6:9–10; 1 Jn 2:15–16; Mt 6:19–24). Jesus said, “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses” (Lk 12:15). Our physical lives are temporary. Focusing on our earthly desires, what we eat, or what we wear, prevents us from seeking God’s kingdom and bearing fruit according to His will (Lk 12:31).
<b>Good Ground</b>	Hears the word with a noble heart and good heart and understands it (Mt 13:23; Lk 8:15).		Bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty (v. 23).

<sup>2</sup> “Segment Analysis,” *Bible Study Guide: Matthew, 219–220*

	<b>Teaching</b>	<p>The Bible teaches us, “He who is of God hears God’s words” (Jn 8:47), and “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.” (Mt 5:3, 6).</p> <p>Only good ground can produce much fruit. When the ground is not properly tended, it affects the crops. Therefore, it must be tended and fertilized with the right amount of nutrients. Then the seed can germinate, and the roots can reach deep down, allowing the crop to produce and bear fruit.</p>
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*“Therefore take heed how you hear. For whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken away from him.”*

(Luke 8:18)

### **Life Application**

#### **Do I Bear Fruit for Christ in My Life?**

The parable of the sower concludes by describing the seed that fell on good ground, which “yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty” (Mt 13:8). How can we prepare ourselves to be that good ground and bear fruit? In Luke 8:15, Jesus described the good ground as “those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.”

We have received the eternal word of God. But it is our responsibility to make sure that we “walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him” (Col 2:6–7). Therefore, we need to set our priorities straight and take the right path to ensure that we can bear fruit.

#### **1. Step One: Abide in Him (Jn 15:4–8)**

A branch must be firmly attached to the vine, its source of nourishment and strength, in order to stay alive. Likewise, we must stay connected to our Lord Jesus in order to bear fruit. So, how do we abide in Jesus?

- Have daily devotion and prayer with our Lord Jesus. Without this direct connection to our Lord Jesus, our lives become fruitless.
- Walk in the Spirit daily and turn from fulfilling the lusts of the flesh (Gal 5:16)
- Attend church services, have fellowship with brothers and sisters, serve the members, and stay in the true church.

#### **2. Step Two: Allow God’s Word to Take Root Within Me**

Just as a seed takes root in good soil, God’s word takes root in a receptive heart. We need to receive God’s word eagerly (1 Pet 2:2). Meditate on it (Ps 119:97), keep it in our hearts (Ps 119:11), and put it into practice (Heb 5:14) so that it becomes an integral part of us (*BSG: Matthew, 220*)<sup>3</sup>.

#### **3. Step Three: Walk in the Spirit**

The only way to bear fruit is by maintaining an intimate relationship with our Lord Jesus daily and walking in the Spirit. The Holy Spirit within us allows us to bear good fruit (Gal 5:22–23). Jesus has chosen us to go and bear everlasting fruit (Jn 15:4, 8): love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Gal 5:22). The more we walk in

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<sup>3</sup>“Segment Analysis 3,” *Bible Study Guide: Matthew*, 219

the Spirit and allow the Holy Spirit to take control of our thoughts, our emotions, and our will, the more fruit we will bear.

### **B. The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares (Mt 13:24–30)**

Jesus gives us this parable immediately after the parable of the sower. Let us read Matthew 13:24–30. Now that we have read the parable, let us study Matthew 13:37–43 to learn how Jesus explained the parable.

#### **Elements of the Parable of the Wheat and the Tares**

<b>Element</b>	<b>Representation</b>	<b>Significance</b>
The sower	The Son of Man (v. 37)	
The field	*The world (v. 38)	
Good seeds	The sons of the kingdom (v. 38)	Will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father (v. 43)
Tares	The sons of the wicked one (v. 38)	Will be wailing and gnashing teeth (v. 42)
The enemy	The devil (v. 39)	
The harvest	The end of this age (v. 39)	
The reapers	The angels (v. 41)	Will gather those who offend and practice lawlessness and cast them into the furnace of fire (vv. 41–42)

\*Jesus is teaching about “the kingdom of heaven” (v. 24) in the world.

The central teaching of the parable of the sower reveals that when we preach the gospel to others, the condition of their hearts will affect how they respond. In the parable of the wheat and the tares, Jesus imparts to us another crucial teaching regarding the kingdom of heaven: harmful tares can grow among the good wheat, making it difficult to remove the tares without also removing the wheat. Thus, it is more beneficial to wait until the harvest to separate them. When the kingdom of heaven comes to its fruition, the tares will be removed from among the wheat and burned.

#### **The Works of Satan**

Did you know that a tare closely resembles young wheat? It is only when the wheat begins to develop its head that the tare becomes discernable. Imagine what these invasive tares can do!

Satan can take on disguises to deceive us (2 Cor 11:14). He can appear to be good wheat when, in reality, he is a harmful tare. Satan attempts to destroy God’s work by placing in the world false believers and false teachers in the world whose mission it is to lead the children of God astray. They may pretend to be the Christ (Mt 24:4–5), or they may be false apostles or ministers (2 Cor 11:13–15) who preach false doctrines and perform miracles (Heb 13:9; 2 Thess 2:7–12).

Let’s read 1 Peter 5:8: “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.” We must always remember that Satan roams around like a roaring lion. When we preach the gospel, he puts great effort into devouring the weak by using deception. So we must exercise self-control and be alert, “for we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places” (Eph 6:12). For these reasons, we need to be deeply rooted in biblical teachings.

## God's Judgment Will Come Soon

"Let both grow together until the harvest" (Mt 13:30). The owner had no intention of leaving the wheat with the tares indefinitely. At "the end of the age," the tares will be gathered and burned, at which time there will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Who will be doing this reaping? God's angels.

*When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.*

(Mt 25:31–33)

On the day Jesus returns, all unbelievers will be judged for their sin and unbelief and removed from God's presence. Those who are the good wheat, who follow God wholeheartedly, will reign with Him forever and "shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father" (Mt 13:43).

## Life Application: Reflect God's Divine Nature and Be Rooted in the Truth

There are two teachings from this parable that we can apply to our lives while we are waiting for the angels to reap the harvest:

1. We will live side by side with the worldly and wicked people until the end of the age. Therefore, we must "let [our] light so shine before men, that they may see [our] good works and glorify [our] Father in heaven" (Mt 5:16).
2. Harmful tares are all around us. If we are not rooted in the truth (Col 2:7), we are giving Satan the opportunity to devour us. Therefore, the only way we can defend against Satan is to know the truth (Jn 8:32) and learn to defend it. In addition, we must continuously draw upon God's strength through the power of the Holy Spirit (Lk 24:49). The more we actively practice what we believe, the more we can discern and defend against Satan.

## Check for Understanding

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1. **In the parable of the sower, what does the ground represent?** The ground represents the condition of our hearts.
2. **What are the four types of ground? What are their conditions and the results of their conditions?**
  - a. Wayside – Hears the word of the kingdom, but does not understand it → Wicked one comes and snatches away the word
  - b. Stony places – Hears and receives the word with joy, but has no root → Stumbles when tribulation or persecution arises
  - c. Thorny places – Hears the word, but cares of the world and deceitfulness of riches choke it → Becomes unfruitful
  - d. Good ground – Hears the word with noble and good heart and understands it → Bears fruit
3. **What do the wheat and tares represent in the parable of the wheat and the tares?** The wheat represents the sons of the kingdom; the tares represent the sons of the wicked one.
4. **What will happen to the wheat and the tares during the end of the age?** The angels will gather the tares, which will be burned. The wheat will "shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father."

## Memory Verse

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"But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard of the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience." (Luke 8:15)

## Meaning

1. **Good ground:** This is ground that has a noble and good heart. A person whose heart embodies this type of ground leaves the door open for God's word to enter. He or she recognizes that everything you need can be found in God. For this reason, a person whose heart is good ground will keep God's word and bear fruit with patience.
2. **Being fruitful:** When we bear good fruit, we glorify God. He said, "Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit" (Mt 12:33). "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire" (Mt 7:19). Ultimately, God wants us to bear "the fruit of righteousness" (Jas 3:18). In order to produce the best fruit, you must have the fullness of the Holy Spirit. "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples" (Jn 15:8). Therefore, we must strive to be fruitful.

## Conclusion

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When preaching, the gospel of the kingdom is responded to in many different ways. While the message may have no effect on one individual, the same message may compel others to bear fruit. The condition of a person's heart determines whether God's word will have an effect on him and whether he is worthy of God's kingdom. The Lord has called us to heed and accept the message of the gospel (Heb 2:1–3). So, we must humbly open our heart to receive and act upon it. Those who do not respond to the Lord's calling will have no part in God's kingdom (Mt 13:11, 13).

God expects us to bear the fruit of a Christ-like character. When we receive God's word and put it into practice, our conduct and lifestyle will naturally reflect God's divine qualities for the glory of God (Phil 1:11; Col 1:6; Gal 5:22–23; Jn 15:8, 16–17).

We should not be surprised that harvest time is drawing near, as we are approaching the end of the age. We must stand firm in the truth. Judgment will not be pleasant, for no threshing could be. The lake of fire will bring intense pain and anguish for the wicked. This is the everlasting fire prepared for the wicked. Then, the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" (Mt 13:43).



## Lesson 1 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. What kind of heart is required for us to become “good ground”?  
*We must have a noble and good heart, as well as leave the door open for God’s word to enter. Our heart must recognize that everything we need can be found in God.*
2. Explain the four types of ground and what they represent.
  - a. *Wayside – Hears the word of the kingdom, but does not understand it → Wicked one comes and snatches away the word*
  - b. *Stony places – Hears and receives the word with joy, but has no root → Stumbles when tribulation or persecution arises*
  - c. *Thorny places – Hears the word, but cares of the world and deceitfulness of riches choke it → Becomes unfruitful*
  - d. *Good ground – Hears the word with noble and good heart and understands it → Bears fruit*
3. What three steps or actions are necessary to become “good ground” and bear fruit for God?  
*Abide in God and stay connected to Him in our daily lives; be receptive to the word by receiving it eagerly, meditating on it, keeping it in our hearts, and practicing it so that it becomes an integral part of our lives; and maintain an intimate relationship with God by walking in the Spirit and allowing it to control our thoughts, emotions, and our will.*
4. What two warnings does the parable of the wheat and the tares teach us?  
*First, we must be wary of the tares—works of Satan designed to deceive us and make us fall, such as false prophets, false Christs, and false teachings—living side by side with us. Second, God’s judgment will come soon, and it will not be pleasant, for the tares will be separated to be thrown into the fire, while the wheat will be preserved to shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father.*
5. In what two ways do we need to act on these warnings?  
*Because we will be living among the tares, we must live in a way that reflects God’s divine nature with good works and good conduct. Second, we must be rooted in the truth, otherwise we will be easily pulled away from God. To defend ourselves, we must know the truth, defend it, and continuously draw upon God’s strength through the Holy Spirit.*
6. What kind of “tares” do you think are in your own life? How can you avoid them?  
*Personal answer.*

*Memory Verse*

“He answered and said to them, ‘Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.’” (Matthew 13:11)

<b>Knowledge of God’s Will [God’s Word]</b>	<b>Knowledge of God [God’s Divine Nature]</b>	<b>Good Work [Behavior]</b>
The parables in Matthew 13 are connected to the progression of the church.	God is all-knowing and sovereign.	Treasure and live out the true gospel we have received.

*Overview*

**Events and Spiritual Teachings**

- A. Understanding the Kingdom of Heaven
- B. The Parables of the Heavenly Kingdom
  - 1. The Parable of the Mustard Seed
  - 2. The Parable of the Leaven
  - 3. The Parable of the Hidden Treasure
  - 4. The Parable of the Pearl
  - 5. The Parable of the Dragnet

**Life Application**

- 1. We must fight against false teachings
- 2. We must treasure the truth
- 3. We must be watchful to the end

**Memory Verse**

**Conclusion:** Treasure the truth and be watchful by being a living testimony until Jesus comes again.

## Events and Spiritual Teachings

### A. Understanding the Kingdom of Heaven

The seven parables in Matthew, chapter 13, all begin with “the kingdom of heaven is like”; therefore, in order to understand the teachings behind the parables, we must first understand what “the kingdom of heaven” is referring to. The phrase is special because it is only found in the Gospel of Matthew. We will find that in the instances where the Gospel of Matthew uses “the kingdom of heaven,” the three other gospel books use “the kingdom of God.” Let us look at an example.

Matthew 13:31	Luke 13:18–19
Another parable He put forth to them, saying: “ <b>The kingdom of heaven</b> is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field.”	Then He said, “What is <b>the kingdom of God</b> like? And to what shall I compare it? It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and put in his garden; and it grew and became a large tree, and the birds of the air nested in its branches.”

From this, we know that “kingdom of heaven” and “kingdom of God” refer to the same thing. We need to understand that the “kingdom of heaven” does not necessarily signify a kingdom located in heaven, but rather refers to a kingdom that belongs to God. So, where is this kingdom? In Luke 17:21, Jesus Christ states that “the kingdom of God is within you,” or in other translations, “in the midst of you.” This implies that His kingdom is His chosen people, which is the church.

### B. The Parables of the Heavenly Kingdom

We can view these parables as prophecies concerning what will happen to the people of God, or in other words, the church. From this perspective, let us first look at the two parables we studied last week, the parable of the sower and the parable of the wheat and the tares.

The parable of the sower illustrates different types of responses to the gospel. There are those who receive it but allow it to wither away, while others allow the gospel to take root deeply in their hearts. The parable of the wheat and the tares is a warning about the false teachers that will appear in the church. They will both grow together until judgment day, when the tares will be separated and burned.

Today, we will study the next five parables of the heavenly kingdom recorded in Matthew, chapter 13, so that we can gain a deeper understanding about the kingdom of God and our place in it.

#### 1. The Parable of the Mustard Seed

*“Another parable He put forth to them, saying: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches.’”*

(Mt 13:31–32)

Just like a small mustard seed, the people of God were at first small in number. When Jesus Christ ascended to heaven, there were only about 120 disciples (Acts 1:15). However, after Peter preached on the Day of Pentecost, around 3,000 people believed and were baptized (Acts 2:41), and their numbers only grew from there. Just as in the parable, what once was small grew large.

Consequently, birds came to rest in its branches. From the explanation of the birds in the parable of the sower, we can understand that the birds in the parable of the mustard seed represent the

wicked one (Mt 13:4, 19). If we examine the history of the apostolic church, we can see that it does indeed follow this pattern. As more believers were added to the church, false teachers and their teachings entered into the church, and the truth was slowly changed. Despite the corruption, the number of believers continued to grow greatly.

## **2. The Parable of the Leaven**

*“Another parable He spoke to them: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened.’”*

(Mt 13:33)

The woman who put the leaven into the flour represents the false teachers who bring false teachings into the church. The leaven represents malice and wickedness (1 Cor 5:8). While the birds in the previous parable are identifiable and noticeable in the tree, the leaven in the meal is concealed. The parable illustrates how the corruption completely permeated the apostolic church and changed the truth entirely.

## **3. The Parable of the Hidden Treasure**

*“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.”*

(Mt 13:44)

The treasure is the true gospel, and this parable illustrates how the true gospel has once again been found after it had been lost (Col 2:3). It represents the reemergence of the truth that is found in True Jesus Church. This treasure is exceedingly precious, and those who wish to gain it must forsake the things of the world for it. Today, we are blessed to have found this treasure, the true gospel. However, do we understand its true value? Apostle Paul understood that the truth of the gospel was more valuable than anything else in this world. As a result, he considered everything else rubbish when compared to the treasure that is Jesus Christ (Phil 3:8).

## **4. The Parable of the Pearl**

*“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.”*

(Mt 13:45–46)

Similar to the parable of the hidden treasure, the pearl represents the truth. However, from this parable, we can see that the truth was not discovered unexpectedly. The merchant actively sought out beautiful pearls, and when he found one of great value, he knew that his search was over. He had to buy it. In the same way, after the emergence of the true gospel, people have started to search for it. Once they find it, they understand its great value and are willing to give up everything to obtain it. When we have this truth, we cannot take it for granted. Matthew 7:6 instructs us that we cannot throw away our pearls to the swine. Once we have received the truth, we must hold on to it because there is nothing of greater value.

## **5. The Parable of the Dragnet**

*“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will*

*come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth."*

(Mt 13:47–50)

Just as in the parable of the wheat and the tares, this parable depicts the judgment in the end time. Similarly, there is also a separation between the good and the wicked. As with the wheat, the good catches are gathered together to be stored, while the bad catches, as with the tares, are burned (Mt 13:30). This is a reminder that when Jesus Christ comes again, we will all have to face judgment.

### *Check for Understanding*

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1. **In the context of the parables in Matthew 13, what is the kingdom of heaven?** The church.
2. **How does the kingdom of God equate with the kingdom of heaven?** In the instances where “the kingdom of heaven” is used in the Gospel of Matthew, “the kingdom of God” is used in the other gospel books.
3. **What does the nature of these parables concern?** The progression of the true church.
4. **What does each parable illustrate about the kingdom of heaven?**
  - a. The Parable of the Mustard Seed: Begins small but grows large, resulting in false teachings entering into the church.
  - b. The Parable of the Leaven: False teachings completely permeate the church so that the truth is lost.
  - c. The Parable of the Hidden Treasure: The gospel is once again found after being lost.
  - d. The Parable of the Pearl: The gospel is precious and more valuable than anything.
  - e. The Parable of the Dragnet: Judgment will come upon the church, and the good and wicked will be separated. The wicked will be burned in the fire.

### *Life Application*

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The parables of the kingdom of heaven help us to have a better understanding about God’s kingdom, but even more importantly, they remind us of the principles that we must hold on to as Christians.

#### **1. We must fight against false teachings**

From the parable of the mustard seed and the parable of the leaven, we can see the pattern of Satan’s attack. The birds  **dwell in**  the tree and the leaven is  **put into**  the meal. Satan attacks by planting false teachers and heresies in the church (Mt 24:4–5). Knowing this, we must not only be watchful and alert for false teachings, but we must also be well rooted in the truth. This way, we will be able to identify and defend against heresies in the church. Satan has and will continue to attack the kingdom of God until the end of time. Therefore, it is crucial that we remain vigilant and watchful.

#### **Discussion**

- Has a church member ever told you anything contrary to the Bible? How did you respond?
- How would you respond to someone who says you receive the Holy Spirit when you are baptized? (*Sample answer: Acts 8:14–17*)
- What can we do to remain watchful against Satan’s deception? (*Sample answers:*)
  - *Pray to the Lord for the wisdom to discern (Jas 1:5; Prov 4:5–6)*
  - *Study the Scriptures ourselves (Ps 119:105)*
  - *Ask pastors or trusted teachers and adults questions if we have doubts.*

## 2. We must treasure the truth

As people who have already received the hidden treasure and precious pearl, the gospel is our most valuable treasure. However, we often take it for granted. It is a privilege and blessing to be in possession of the truth, but there is a requirement for us to truly receive it. Just as Moses and Paul counted all things of the world rubbish so that they may gain Christ, we must also do the same (Phil 3:8).

### What is our treasure?

Matthew 6:21 tells us that where our treasure is, our heart will also be. Even though we know our treasure should be the truth, our hearts are frequently filled with something else. It may be our studies, extracurricular activities, or different types of entertainment. Let us try identifying what our treasure is right now by reflecting upon these questions.

- What do we constantly think about?
- What is the most valuable thing to us right now?

### Discussion: How do we value our treasure?

- How do you treat something that you treasure?
- Is this how you treat the true gospel?
- How can we remind ourselves to treasure the true gospel? (*e.g., Meditate on God's words daily, share the gospel with our friends, write down blessings God has given us, etc.*)

## 3. We must be watchful to the end

The parable of the dragnet warns us that we will all receive judgment. The question is: Are we ready for it? Normally, we are so busy in our daily lives that we don't think too much about the coming of Christ. However, we do not know when He will come, so we must constantly ready ourselves (Mt 24:42). If we put off preparing until the day He comes again, it will already be too late.

So, how do we prepare? Jesus Christ encouraged His disciples to watch because we do not know the day or hour that He is coming. But the act of watching is not passive. We cannot simply sit around doing nothing while waiting for Jesus to come. Instead, we must actively prepare by finding ways to improve ourselves daily.

- Understand God's nature more by studying His word.
- Become "good ground" as in the parable of the sower, by bearing honest, humble, and obedient hearts.
- Pursue the kingdom of heaven and His righteousness as opposed to the desires of this world.

### Discussion

- How would we live differently if we knew the exact day that Jesus Christ would come?
- How will you actively watch for the time when Jesus Christ comes again? (*e.g., Treating family members with more love, being more patient with those around us, studying God's word daily*)

### Testimony: Finding Hope and a Purpose

*Before I came to know Jesus Christ, I was a typical teenager. I went to school every day and hung out with my friends after school. I swore, gossiped, told a lot of lies, and more. I was a wild and active person, but my family was strict. As a result, I would often lie so that my parents would not find out that I had disobeyed them.*

*I was not happy because my family had a lot of problems. My parents would constantly fight. I also felt that I was the only child who was not loved. In traditional families like mine, sons are favored*

*over daughters. So, between my older brother and I, I always felt slighted. Since my sister was the youngest child, she was always taken care of and protected. As a result, I started to feel that my parents hated me and that they only took care of me because it was their responsibility.*

*I did not believe in God because I felt so much suffering, sadness, and depression from the fighting and unhappiness in my family. I would often hide in the bathroom and cry because that was the only place where I could cry. Once, I was so depressed I thought about committing suicide. The only reason why I did not was because I worried that I would have to go to the hospital if my attempt failed.*

*In the summer of 2002, my cousins came to visit us and started to preach to us. Despite our refusal, they continued to invite us to attend the Student Spiritual Convocation in August. Though I refused to attend, my sister went. When she came back, I asked her what she thought of it and she told me that she liked it and that it was fun.*

*I started to be more interested in going to church, and my uncle would come and drive my siblings and me to church for the Sabbath. The youths there were very welcoming, and I learned how to pray from a sister. It was a nice experience to be able to express my deepest thoughts and feelings. From then on, I continued to pray often and my sister and I would attend church services regularly with my uncle's family.*

*In April 2003, I was baptized into the True Jesus Church. After baptism, I began to see the importance of God and His commandments. Every week, I couldn't wait for Fridays and Saturdays to come because Friday night marked the day of rest, and I really enjoyed going to church on Saturday. My relationship with my parents improved because I saw how my suffering built up a strong character. I also reminded myself that I should forgive my parents now that I had found the truth.*

*I am a very different person compared to who I was before coming to Christ. I used to shed so many tears and was constantly unhappy. But now I understand that for Christians, even though life is not easy and sometimes we shed tears because of our suffering, we still have hope. I used to think that no one could ever understand my pain and suffering because they were not in the same position as I was. But now, whenever I pray, I know that God is there and that He knows exactly how I feel when I cry out to Him. I have nothing to fear because God has already told me that He is my God and that He will be with me.*

- Wun-Chiao Cheung, Queens, New York, USA  
*Manna 59: Find Hope and a Purpose*  
Also adapted from *Saving Grace*

### **Memory Verse**

"He answered and said to them, 'Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.'" (Matthew 13:11)

### **Meaning**

1. Because we are His children, Jesus Christ has revealed to us the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, teachings that are a part of the gospel and therefore must be treasured and reflected upon.
2. These mysteries serve as both warnings and encouragements for us.

## *Conclusion*

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It is important that we continue to fight against false teachings, treasure the true gospel, and be watchful until Jesus comes again. Let us continue to live out the truth, so that we can glorify God's name and be a living testimony of His grace to the world!



## Lesson 2 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. What is the purpose of the mysteries that Jesus gave us regarding the kingdom of heaven?  
*We can see them as prophecies regarding what will happen to the people of God, and also as warning and encouragement for us.*
2. What does the kingdom of heaven refer to in these parables?  
*It does not simply refer to the place in heaven, but to the place in our hearts. As the Bible implies, the kingdom of heaven is "within our hearts," inferring that the kingdom of heaven is the church itself.*
3. What do the birds and the leaven represent? In what ways are they different?  
*They represent false teachers and heresies within the church. The birds that nest in the mustard tree are visible. However, the leaven is placed within, making it harder to see and consequently more difficult to defend against.*
4. What is the difference between the man who found the hidden treasure and the merchant who found the pearl? How did they both respond to the situation?  
*The man who found the treasure stumbled upon it by accident, while the merchant actively sought out pearls. They both responded by immediately realizing the item's worth and selling all of their possessions to obtain it. They recognized that the item was worth more than all that they had.*
5. What is the key teaching in the parable of the dragnet? How does this affect our daily lives?  
*In the end times, all will be judged and either gathered or cast aside to be burned in the furnace. This affects our daily lives because it teaches us to remember that we do not know when the end times will be, and that all of our actions will be judged.*
6. Share one way you will be actively watchful this week.  
*Personal answers.*

**The Parables of the Wedding Feast and of the Wise and Foolish Virgins**

Passages: Mt 22:1–14; Mt 25:1–13

*Memory Verse*

“Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.”  
(Matthew 25:13)

<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. God sent His Son to the world, but the people rejected Him. As a result, the kingdom of heaven has been opened so all can receive the gift of salvation. 2. Jesus Christ will return at an unknown hour.	1. Jesus Christ is the bridegroom, and the church is the bride of Christ. 2. God is merciful. 3. God is just.	1. Put off the old man and put on the new man. 2. Be filled with the Holy Spirit.

*Overview*

**Events and Spiritual Teachings**

- A. The Parable of the Wedding Feast (Mt 22:1–14)
  - 1. Understanding the Parable and Its Spiritual Teachings
  - 2. **Life Application:** Let Your Garments Always Be White
- B. The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins (Mt 25:1–13)
  - 1. Understanding the Parable and its Spiritual Teachings
  - 2. **Life Application:** Are We Ready to Meet the Bridegroom?
  - 3. **Life Application:** The Effects of Baptism of the Holy Spirit
  - 4. **Life Application:** Filled with the Spirit Continually and Consistently

**Memory Verse**

**Conclusion:** Fix our eyes on Christ and be mindful of His second coming.

*Events and Spiritual Teachings*

**A. The Parable of the Wedding Feast (Mt 22:1–14)**

When Jesus Christ ministered on earth, people would gather from different places to listen to Him speak concerning the kingdom of God. Though He taught using many methods, Jesus Christ most commonly taught about the kingdom of heaven through parables. In previous lessons, we learned about the parables of: the mustard seed; leaven; the hidden treasure; the pearl; the dragnet; the sower; and the wheat and the tares. We need to understand that when we study these parables closely, we can discover rich truths about Jesus and why He came to save us. Most importantly, these parables all teach us the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven.

Let’s first turn to Matthew 22:1–14 and read the passage.

**Understanding the Parable and Its Spiritual Teachings (BSG: Matthew, 7.7–7.9)<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Who is the king?</b>	The king is God, the Father.
<b>Who is the son?</b>	The son who is being honored at the feast is Jesus Christ.
<b>What is the purpose of this feast?</b>	Jesus Christ compared the kingdom of heaven to a wedding feast that a king had prepared for his son.
<b>What happened to the servants who called the invitees to attend?</b>	They were ignored, treated spitefully, and even killed by those who did not respect the king’s command and invitation.
<b>How did the king respond?</b>	Furious, he sent his armies to destroy the murderers and burn their city.
<b>What did the king do after?</b>	He sent invitations to anyone his servants could find, both bad and good.
<b>What does the wedding garment represent?</b>	Our wedding garment* is the righteousness of Christ (Phil 3:9), which is spotless and perfect. We have to wear it in order to attend the wedding feast.
<p>From the beginning, God provided a “covering” for our sin. He “made tunics of skin, and clothed [Adam and Eve]” (Gen 3:7, 21). This required animal sacrifice. In Revelation, we learn of a multitude wearing white robes**, for they “washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb” (Rev 7:9, 14).</p> <p>*The wedding garment can represent baptism, the sacrament for the remission of sins for regeneration. “We are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags” (Isa 64:6). So, anyone who claims to believe in Christ but refuses to put on Christ through baptism (Gal 3:26–27) is not fit to enter God’s kingdom.</p> <p>**Notice that the garments mentioned in Revelation 3:4–5 are “not defiled” and are “white.” Thus, we have to make sure that our “garments always be white,” fit for a kingly feast (Eccl 9:8).</p>	
<b>Why was it such an offense not to wear the wedding garment?</b>	The wedding garment was required attire for all in attendance at the feast. Likewise, God also has His righteous requirements for those who wish to enter His kingdom.
<p>Those who seem to accept the gospel but do not live out God’s will in their lives are not worthy of God’s kingdom. The wedding garment is our holy character. Holiness is always present in those who are guests of the great King, for without holiness, no one shall see the Lord (Heb 12:14).</p>	

<sup>1</sup> TJC Department of Literary Ministry, *Bible Study Guide: Matthew*, (Malaysia: True Jesus Church, 2012), [http://bsg.tjc.org/tjc\\_bsg\\_lesson/matthew-30/](http://bsg.tjc.org/tjc_bsg_lesson/matthew-30/), 7.7–7.9.

<p><b>When the man was speechless in response to the king, what did the king do?</b></p>	<p>The king commanded his servants to bind the man “hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth” (Mt 22:13).</p> <p>This refers to an eternity without God.</p>
<p><b>Why did Jesus end the parable with this statement: “For many are called, but few are chosen”?</b></p>	<p>The servants called all those they could find to the feast. But only those who accepted the invitation and dressed in wedding garments were chosen.</p>
<p><b>How was the first invitation different from the second? Who did the two groups of people represent?</b></p>	<p>The first invitation went to a select group of people, but the second went to all, “both bad and good.” The first group represents the Jewish leaders and people who rejected Jesus, since they had been chosen first. The second group represents everyone who came to accept Christ, both Jews and Gentiles, regardless of their past conduct.</p>
<p><b>What does this parable teach us? What must we do to enter God’s kingdom?</b></p>	<p>This parable teaches us how to receive the gospel of salvation. God has prepared the best things for us in abundance. Thus, we should honor and accept God’s gracious gift of salvation by setting aside our own priorities and humbly obeying the gospel. We must receive water baptism for the remission of sins. Then we must put on the righteousness of God and practice God’s will in our lives. God is patient, but there will come a day when it will be too late for those who have rejected His offer of salvation.</p>

**Life Application: Let your garments always be white**

*“But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. So he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless.”*

(Mt 22:11–12)

At a wedding full of guests, the king noticed one man who “did not have on a wedding garment.” Wearing proper garments at a wedding is imperative. Why? An invitation to a royal wedding should not be taken lightly. He had been given the rare opportunity to attend, so he should have given due respect for it.

God’s invitation to salvation should not be taken lightly. Jesus Christ is telling us that when we see Him return, it is going to be a glorious event. Let us turn to Revelation 19:6–9.

Here, the Bible reveals exactly what the wedding garment in the parable represents. In the marriage between the Lamb, Jesus Christ, to His bride, the church, the bride put on “fine linen,” defined as “the righteous acts of the saints.” (Rev 19:8). This requires purging our sins through water baptism and receiving the Holy Spirit in order to live righteous lives. To live a righteous life is to live a life of obedience, of godly character, and of good works. Ephesians 4:20–24 uses the example of clothing to teach us what we should “put off” and “put on.”

Examine yourself. What do you need to “put off” to keep your garment “clean”? *(Allow students to share.)*

Ecclesiastes 9:8 says, “Let your garments always be white, and let your head lack no oil.” Since we have been called to God’s salvation, we must keep our garment clean for when we see our Lord. The parable

clearly teaches us that those attending the feast must wear a wedding garment. But keeping a garment white and unblemished demands vigilance and constant care on a daily basis. Purity is our aim, so we must strive against all that is evil, profane, and wicked. We can keep our garment white by walking in righteousness.

**B. The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins (Mt 25:1–13)**

Let us read Matthew 25:1–13. This parable is based on Jewish wedding customs. These weddings took place in the evening; therefore, those who were waiting for the bridegroom and the bride had to prepare their own lamps.

**Understanding the Parable and Its Spiritual Teachings**

Element	Represents	
<b>Bridegroom</b>	The bridegroom refers to Jesus Christ. When Jesus Christ returns, He will receive His bride, the church. In the Bible, weddings are often used to teach about the second coming of Jesus Christ (Isa 62:5; Mt 22:1–4).	
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>New Testament Descriptions</b></p> <p>The New Testament often describes Jesus as the bridegroom.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled” (Jn 3:29).</li> <li>• “And Jesus said to them, ‘Can the friends of the bridegroom mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast’” (Mt 9:15; cf. Mk 2:19–20).</li> <li>• In Ephesians 5:25–32, the church is the wife of the Jesus Christ, who is head of the church.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Old Testament Descriptions</b></p> <p>In the Old Testament, God is described as the husband of Israel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “For your Maker is your husband, the LORD of hosts is His name; and your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth” (Isa 54:5).</li> <li>• “For as a young man marries a virgin, so shall your sons marry you; and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you” (Isa 62:5).</li> <li>• “I will betroth you to Me forever; yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and justice, in lovingkindness and mercy” (Hos 2:19).</li> </ul>
<b>Ten Virgins</b>	The ten virgins represent the church members.	
<b>Lamps</b>	Lamps are containers for storing oil. Each oil lamp has a wick that needs to be trimmed in order to burn well. However, the wick will not burn without oil. The five foolish virgins prepared lamps and trimmed the wicks, but they had no oil.	
<b>Oil</b>	<p>In biblical times, oil was a necessity. You could not count on others to supply your oil. In this parable, five of the virgins had not prepared enough oil, so they were not ready to meet the bridegroom when he arrived.</p> <p>Spiritually, oil represents the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is powerful, and dwells within a person after they receive Him. A person has received the Holy Spirit when they speak in tongues (Acts 2:4; 19:6). There are many functions of the Holy Spirit (<i>Teachers: see Life Application: The effects of</i></p>	



	<i>baptism of the Holy Spirit</i> ). We need His power to lead us in living righteous lives. We cannot rely on our ministers or parents to provide the fullness of the Holy Spirit for us.
<b>Wedding</b>	Represents the second coming of Jesus Christ.

<b>Comparison of the Ten Virgins</b>	
<b>What are the similarities?</b>	<b>What are the differences?</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All virgins</li> <li>2. All waiting for the bridegroom</li> <li>3. All had lamps</li> <li>4. All slumbered and slept</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Five were wise and five were foolish</li> <li>2. The foolish took lamps, but no oil; the wise had both lamps and oil. The foolish virgins were not ready for the bridegroom; they tried to buy oil at a critical time. Being caught unprepared, they were left behind.</li> </ol>

When Jesus Christ returns and takes the church as His bride, He will come at an unexpected moment. In 1 Thessalonians 5:2–3, Paul warns us: “For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, ‘Peace and safety!’ then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.”

**Life Application: Are We Ready to Meet the Bridegroom?**

The parable of the wise and foolish virgins is a wake-up call for all of us. When we indulge in our worldly desires rather than remain spiritually sober, we are actually choosing to distance ourselves from God. That is why the bridegroom said to the foolish virgins, “Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you” (Mt 25:12). The foolish virgins confessed the Lord with their mouths, but in their hearts and conduct, they were far from God (Jas 4:4–5).

We have been given so much in this life: God is our Savior, who has chosen us to be His people. Are you satisfied with going through life unprepared, even after receiving water baptism and the Holy Spirit? God has extended to us the greatest invitation of all: an invitation to the heavenly kingdom. Are we ready to meet the bridegroom? Jesus Christ will return at an unknown hour, so we must be ready for His arrival. We need to be filled with the Holy Spirit and fix our eyes on Jesus Christ at all times. We must make an effort constantly to be alert, watchful and mindful of His second coming.

Consider the following:

1. Why should we maintain our daily spiritual cultivation?
2. How can we lose sight of our salvation if we are caught up in the world and in sin?
3. In what ways can we fall asleep spiritually and lose our vigilance?
4. State a few ways we can fight against spiritual sleepiness.

*“Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night.”*

(1 Thess 5:6–7)

**Life Application: The Effects of Baptism of the Holy Spirit**

While water baptism revives our spiritual lives, baptism of the Holy Spirit continuously imbues our spiritual lives with strength from above. Our lives are renewed day by day through the ministry of the Spirit, allowing us to mature spiritually so that we conform more and more to the image of Christ.

We know that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God (Jn 4:24). We need the Holy Spirit to enter the heavenly kingdom (Eph 1:13), help us in our daily lives (Jn 14:26), assure us of God's presence (1 Jn 3:24), and intercede for us (Rom 8:26). With so many roles, it is only natural that we need the fullness of the Holy Spirit for a successful spiritual life! Paul exhorted the Christians at Ephesus saying, "And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit" (Eph 5:18). Wine is capable of causing a man to become immoral. But the person in whom the Holy Spirit dwells is able to find the strength to lead a wholesome spiritual life in Christ: a life that is totally changed.

Paul prayed for the Ephesian church "to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man" (Eph 3:16). This teaches us that walking in the Spirit requires that we are filled with the Spirit. Let's read Galatians 5:16–25.

When we walk in the Spirit, we do what God wants us to do instead of what Satan or the world wants us to do. This passage also teaches us the visible characteristics that the Spirit produces, such as love and joy. If we do not produce this fruit in our lives, we know that we are not yet filled with the Holy Spirit, because without Him, we do not have God's power to overcome our weaknesses (Acts 1:8). But in what way is the baptism of the Spirit a continual, long-term process?

#### **Life Application: Filled with the Spirit Continually and Consistently**

Water baptism is a once-in-a-lifetime experience, whereas baptism of the Spirit is a continual, long-term process. Many who receive the Holy Spirit stop working on their spiritual lifestyle. But we need to spiritually cultivate ourselves each and every day. We must constantly pray to God, read His word, meditate on His teachings, and put them into action. When we do, His Spirit fills our hearts, and we will find it easier to walk in the Spirit and do what He wants us to do. However, being filled with the Holy Spirit does not mean we will stay filled. If we don't maintain our spiritual lifestyle, the Spirit's fullness will eventually go away. That is why it is a continual long-term process. It is a daily renewal that we need to actively practice (Tit 3:5), so that we are like the five wise virgins, ready and prepared for Jesus' coming at any time.

#### **Discussion**

1. What obstacles prevent us from being continuously renewed by the Spirit each day?
2. What kind of personal support can we build up, find, or discover in order to maintain a fruitful spiritual lifestyle with the fullness of the Holy Spirit?

#### ***Check for Understanding***

1. **What do these two parables teach us about?** They teach us to prepare for the second coming of Jesus Christ.
2. **Why is Jesus Christ compared to the bridegroom?** When Jesus Christ returns, He will receive His bride, the church.
3. **How were all ten virgins alike in what they did?** They were all waiting for the bridegroom; they all had lamps; all slumbered and slept.
4. **What made the wise virgins different from the foolish?** The wise virgins took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

5. **What does the oil represent? Why do we need to prepare enough?** The oil represents the Holy Spirit. We need to abide in Christ by living righteous lives. Only then will the bridegroom acknowledge and welcome us. (*BSG: Matthew, 7.2*).<sup>2</sup>
6. **What can we learn from the fact that the oil could not be shared?** We cannot rely on others, such as our parents, grandparents, or ministers to help us be filled with the Holy Spirit. Furthermore, we cannot wait until Jesus Christ comes to start preparing ourselves—by that time, it would be too late.
7. **Why did not being watchful lead to such serious consequences?** When we indulge in our worldly desires rather than remain spiritually sober, we are actually choosing to distance ourselves from God. That is why the bridegroom said to the foolish virgins, “Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you” (Mt 25:12). The foolish virgins confessed the Lord with their mouths, but in their hearts and conduct, they were far from God (Jas 4:4–5).
8. **Why did Jesus Christ teach this parable?** Jesus Christ will return at an unknown hour, so we must be ready for His arrival. We need to be filled with the Holy Spirit and fix our eyes on Jesus Christ at all times. We must make an effort constantly to be alert, watchful and mindful of His second coming.

### Memory Verse

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“Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.”  
(Matthew 25:13)

### Meaning

1. “Watch” in Greek is *gregoreuo*. The term expresses a command. Here, Jesus directly commands us with His authority to watch! Jesus used “watch” fourteen times in the New Testament gospel books.
2. Jesus has not yet returned, but He has commanded us to watch. Let us read Mark 13:34–37. We need to watch because of two reasons: First, we do not know when He will return. Second, we need to be ready for when that day comes.

### Conclusion

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Everyone has now been extended an invitation to enter heaven. But as illustrated in the first parable, we can only remain if we accept His salvation by faith and wear the proper attire. Our ‘wedding’ garments must always be white, something achieved by purging our sins through water baptism and receiving the Holy Spirit in order to live a life of obedience, godly character, and good works. The second parable illustrates how we must be ready for Jesus Christ, as He will return at an unknown hour. We need to be filled with the Holy Spirit and fix our eyes on Jesus at all times. In this way, we can make a constant effort to be alert, watchful, and mindful of His second coming.

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<sup>2</sup> Bible Study Guide: Matthew, [http://bsg.tjc.org/tjc\\_bsg\\_lesson/matthew-34/](http://bsg.tjc.org/tjc_bsg_lesson/matthew-34/), 7.2: 4a.



### Lesson 3 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. What are we watching for, and why do we need to watch for it?  
*The second coming of Christ. We do not know when it will come, but we must be prepared and ready for it.*
2. What do these two parables teach us about?  
*How to receive and prepare for the second coming of Christ.*
3. What does the wedding garment represent? What kind of life do we need to live to keep it white?  
*The wedding garment represents a righteous life. We must live a life of obedience to God's will, godly characteristics, and good works to keep it white.*
4. What does the oil represent? What does it mean that it cannot be shared?  
*The oil represents the Holy Spirit. We cannot rely on others to help us fill ourselves with the Spirit. Maintaining our spirituality is something only we can do for ourselves. Further, we cannot wait until the second coming to start preparing – by then it will be too late.*
5. What does it mean to fall asleep spiritually? How can we prevent this?  
*Falling asleep spiritually means losing our watchfulness and our vigilance. It means we are no longer waiting for the second coming and no longer living a righteous life with godly conduct. (Examples for how to prevent this may be those discussed during class.)*
6. How can we actively renew ourselves daily in the Spirit?  
*Answers will vary. For example, remembering to keep God first, memorizing verses, spending more time in prayer, keeping peace with siblings/parents/family members, etc.*

**The Parables of the Workers in the Vineyard and of the Talents**

Passages: Mt 20:1–16; Mt 25:14–30

*Memory Verse*

“His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’” (Matthew 25:23)

<b>Knowledge of God’s Will [God’s Word]</b>	<b>Knowledge of God [God’s Divine Nature]</b>	<b>Good Work [Behavior]</b>
1. For by grace, we are saved through faith, and that not of ourselves. 2. God can punish us if we do not put our God-given talents to work.	1. God is faithful. 2. God rewards. 3. God is a fair judge.	1. We must strive to finish God’s work together, no matter when we begin the work. 2. We must put our talents to use to help God and multiply them.

*Overview*

**Events and Spiritual Teachings**

- A. The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard (Mt 20:1–16)
- B. The Parable of the Talents (Mt 25:14–30)

**Life Application**

- 1. By grace, we are given the opportunity to work in His vineyard.
- 2. We must accept with gratitude all that God offers to us.
- 3. One day, Jesus Christ will return, and His reward is with Him for those who have been chosen to labor in God’s work.

**Memory Verse**

**Conclusion:** Be zealous for God’s work until the day our Lord returns.

**A. The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard (Mt 20:1–16)**

Notes:

- Denarius (v. 9): the usual daily wage; Roman soldiers received one denarius a day as wages
- Third hour = 9:00 am
- Sixth hour = 12:00 pm
- Ninth hour = 3:00 pm
- Eleventh hour = 5:00 pm

Each parable that Jesus shared revealed a truth or several truths of the kingdom of God. More importantly, each parable teaches us how to have a relationship with Him. In Matthew 19:27, Peter asked Jesus what reward would be given to those who had given up everything to follow Him. He said, “See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?” Jesus answered the question by sharing the parable of the workers in the vineyard. Let us read Matthew 20:1–16.

A landowner leaves early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. After some time, the landowner realizes that he needs more workers to finish the work. So, he hires another group and tells them, “Whatever is right I will give you.” He hires more workers around noon, 3 pm, and again around 5 pm, which is towards the end of the day. Altogether, the landowner hires five groups of workers, hiring the last group just one hour before the end of the day.

Finally, when all the hard work is done, the landowner gathers them to pay them. Each worker, even those hired at the end of the day, receives a full day’s wages. Those hired at the beginning of the day become upset, as they believe they deserve more wages for working longer hours. Their anger against the landowner spills forth and they complain, “These last men have worked only one hour, and you made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the heat of the day” (Mt 20:12). In his defense, the landowner replies:

*Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what is yours and go your way. I wish to give to this last man the same as to you. Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is your eye evil because I am good?’ So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen.*

(Mt 20:13–16)

**Understanding the Parable**

Let us discuss the following questions:

**1. How is this parable contrary to common sense and expectations?**

Common sense tells us that whoever works more should be paid more.

**2. What does the paying of wages represent? Explain your reason.**

The paying of wages represents the bestowing of the grace of God. Although in the parable, the laborers seemed to have earned the wages, the fact that everyone received the same amount tells us that the wages were not earned. These unemployed laborers were promised the wages simply for agreeing to work in the vineyard, regardless of how much effort they put in.

**3. What does this parable teach us about the nature of salvation and about God?**

Even if we work hard for the Lord, we cannot claim any merit for our salvation because we have received it as a free gift (Eph 2:8–9; Rom 3:27–28; Tit 3:4–5). From this parable, we learn about the

abundant grace of God. He does not show favoritism in the giving of grace (Acts 10:34). But this is not to suggest that it makes no difference how diligently we work for God; the Bible teaches that each person will be rewarded according to his labor (1 Cor 3:8; 15:58).

4. **According to the Lord's own words, what is the teaching of the parable?**

"So the last will be first, and the first last" (Mt 20:16).

5. **Who are the last that will be first?**

Either the new believers in Christ, or the repentant sinners who receive God's grace and forgiveness in "the eleventh hour." In verses 4 and 7, we see that the laborers trusted that the landowner would do for them whatever was right. Likewise, believers who humbly accept and trust in God's grace become first in the kingdom (*BSG: Matthew, 7.1: 2a*).<sup>1</sup>

6. **Who are the first that will be last?**

These are the ones who seem to have preeminence in the religious community, but perhaps because they have exalted themselves to be first and have taken God's grace for granted, they risk becoming the least in God's eyes. Some even reject the kingdom because of their pride in their early conversion or the amount of work that they have done for the church over the years (*BSG: Matthew, 7.1: 2b*).<sup>2</sup>

7. **Why did the landowner decide to pay all the workers the same amount of wages? What does it mean spiritually?**

His decision to pay all the workers was an act of mercy, not injustice. This act teaches us about God, whose grace and mercy are abundant upon those who have been chosen. In the matter of salvation, we are all sinful and "fall short of the glory of God" (Rom 3:23). We cannot obtain God's salvation through our own deeds. His grace and mercy are freely given to us. It does not matter when God calls us, whether it is early or late in our lives; His grace and salvation are His and His alone.

8. **What is the meaning in verse 16: "So the last will be first, and the first last"?**

Our Lord teaches us that the Lord does not show partiality in giving grace to the believers; the reward of having eternal life will be given to all. The thief crucified on the cross with Jesus (Lk 23:39–43) did not perform any services for the Lord, but he received the same reward of spending eternity with Jesus Christ.

### Life Application

The wages in the parable represent the grace of God. In the matter of salvation, we are all sinful and "fall short of the glory of God" (Rom 3:23). Workers such as those in the parable received pay each day for their manual labor. But if they were not hired, they would not receive payment. They would go home empty-handed, and perhaps be forced to tell their family that there was no money for food that day.

As the hours ticked by, the workers lingered, waiting anxiously for an opportunity. When the last hour came, they likely were completely out of hope. Their devastation made these workers appreciate the owner's actions all the more. They could do nothing about their lack of work, but the owner came and gave it to them. Likewise, we cannot obtain God's salvation through our own deeds. His grace and mercy are freely given to us. It does not matter whether God calls us early or late in life. His grace and salvation are His to give freely.

1. We are given the opportunity to work in His vineyard by grace.

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<sup>1</sup> TJC Department of Literary Ministry, *Bible Study Guide: Matthew*, (Malaysia: True Jesus Church, 2012) [http://bsg.tjc.org/tjc\\_bsg\\_lesson/matthew-28/](http://bsg.tjc.org/tjc_bsg_lesson/matthew-28/), 7.1: 2a.

<sup>2</sup> *Bible Study Guide: Matthew*, [http://bsg.tjc.org/tjc\\_bsg\\_lesson/matthew-28/](http://bsg.tjc.org/tjc_bsg_lesson/matthew-28/), 7.1: 2b.

2. All the workers agreed to work for the wages determined by the landowner. Likewise, when God offers us His mercy and grace, we cannot look for fairness. We should not attempt to negotiate with God. Whatever He offers to us, we should accept with gratitude.
3. One day, Jesus Christ will return, and He will reward those who have been chosen to labor in God’s work. Do not compare your reward with others by saying, “I have worked harder and I have worked longer, so I should get a greater reward.”

**B. The Parable of the Talents (Mt 25:14–30)**

Before we go into the spiritual teachings of this parable, let us examine the elements:

Element	Meaning
Man	Jesus Christ
The far country	Heaven
The servants	All the people whom God has called
The lord’s return	Jesus Christ’s second coming
Talent	A substantial amount of money in the culture of that day. In today’s terms, it refers to the gifts and abilities that God has given us.

**Understanding the Parable**

The conclusion in Matthew, chapter 24, is the backdrop to the parable of the talents in Matthew, chapter 25. After explaining the terrible things to come at the end of this age, Jesus instructed His followers to prepare themselves for His coming, where He would judge His servants according to their actions during His absence (Mt 24:45–51).

A man traveling to a far country calls three of his servants and gives each one five talents, two talents and one talent, respectively. The word “talent” in Greek refers to a sum of money. When the man returns from his trip, the servant who received five talents tells him that he has doubled the amount. The one who received two talents shares the same announcement. Immediately, the man praises them by saying, “Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord” (Mt 25:21).

Now, the third servant had not done what the other two had done. Afraid, he went and hid his talent in the ground. Upon learning this, the man becomes angry. He calls the third servant “wicked and lazy,” telling him that he should have put the money in the bank and let it earn interest. He takes the talent from the servant and gives it to the one who has ten talents, then casts “the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth” (Mt 25:30).

**Life Application**

God gives each of His children a physical body, talents and gifts, and opportunities. These are all valuable, and He expects good stewardship that will lead to a return on what He has given. He is interested in what we do with our talents, but He is also fair because He does not require from us what we have not received. We must put our talents to use to multiply them and help in God’s work. This physical life is a preparation for the coming kingdom of God. Therefore, how we live and how we use the talents, abilities, and opportunities that we have been given is crucial.

1. God expects us to have a measurable increase in our lives in regard to what He has given us. We only live once. We have to do something for God. In the parable, one servant gained tenfold and another fivefold. They were diligent and faithful servants who worked hard and saw an increase. As a result, the servants were given the authority to rule over many things because they had been faithful over a few things. They were likely filled with joy when the master rewarded them (Mt 25:23).
2. Laziness and fear are not valid excuses for avoiding service to God. He judges each individual by what we do with what He has given to us.
3. God, who has given us life, expects us to grow spiritually. He wants us to live each day with a goal and a purpose. He has given us the opportunity to do His work, and all works are important in God's eyes. Not everyone can preach powerfully, sing beautifully, heal the sick, or comfort the weak. We all have different talents, but God values each of us as long as we serve one another wholeheartedly. Our lives become meaningful when we work for the Lord. We may start with few talents, but as long as we develop them, we can accomplish great works for the kingdom of God. At the end of our lives, we will stand before Him to give an account of what we have done with what our Lord Jesus Christ has given us. We must not allow ourselves to become the lazy, fearful, and unprofitable servant, who was eventually cast into the outer darkness (Mt 25:30).

### Discussion

- When God calls us to be in His kingdom, we must use the talents God has given us to serve Him and the church. What talents are we currently using to serve Him?
- As we serve Him, are we allowing Him to mold and shape us into something useful for His glory and His kingdom?
- Are we allowing the power of the Holy Spirit to help us use the talents that God has given us? This transforming power elevates our life to be something meaningful, just as He has intended.

### Check for Understanding

1. **Why did the landowner decide to pay all the workers the same amount of wages? What does it mean spiritually?** His decision to pay all the workers was an act of mercy, not injustice. This act teaches us about God, whose grace and mercy are abundant upon those who have been chosen. In the matter of salvation, we are all sinful and "fall short of the glory of God" (Rom 3:23). We cannot obtain God's salvation through our own deeds. His grace and mercy are freely given to us.
2. **In the Parable of the Talents, on what basis were the servants rewarded or punished? What does this teach us?** God expects us to give our best according to what we have received (2 Cor 8:12). So, we should each fulfill our responsibilities faithfully and diligently.
3. **What can learn about our service to God from Matthew 25:29?** If we do not put our God-given talents to work, we may eventually lose these talents and come under the punishment
4. **How does this parable show the fairness and grace of God?** God is fair because He does not require from us what we have not received. He is gracious because He considers us worthy and has entrusted to us talents of great value. In the parable, the faithful servants were given the authority to rule over many things because they had been faithful over a few things. Likewise, the reward we receive from God will be much greater than our efforts deserve (*BSG: Matthew, 7.5*).<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Bible Study Guide: Matthew, [http://bsg.tjc.org/tjc\\_bsg\\_lesson/matthew-34/](http://bsg.tjc.org/tjc_bsg_lesson/matthew-34/), 7.5: 9.

### *Memory Verse*

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“His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’” (Matthew 25:23)

### **Meaning**

When examining the parable of the talents, we can see that the two diligent servants are rewarded different amounts, but the lord praises both for their hard work. This verse teaches that we are to use whatever talents we have been given to the best of our ability for God’s glory. Whatever our talents may be, by using them for God, we will be called a “good and faithful servant.” God will also make us ruler over many things. With joy, we will enter the kingdom of heaven. God holds each individual responsible for how we use our gifts and opportunities. All of our work for the Lord has eternal rewards and eternal consequences.

### *Conclusion*

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Like in the parable of the workers in the vineyard, we must all strive to do God’s work together, no matter when or how we have been called. The talents that we apply to God’s work – the way we use what God has given us – will have consequences. In the parable of the talents, when the man returned, he judged the servants based on their faithfulness, and he rewarded or punished them according to what they had done. This is exactly what the Bible tells us that Christ will do: He will judge every person by his or her works according to the law of God (Rev 20:12–13). This parable has a deeper message than simply being faithful with what we have been given. Our Lord will return one day and establish a new kingdom; this is the greatest motivation for being zealous for the Lord’s work.

#### Lesson 4 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. What are the consequences for using or not using the gifts God has given us?  
*If we use them, we will be blessed and rewarded as good and faithful servants, but if we do not, then we will be punished.*
2. What does it mean that “the last will be first, and the first last”?  
*God does not show partiality when giving salvation. All will receive the same reward of salvation. For example, the robber who was crucified with Jesus had only a few moments with Him, but nonetheless received the same reward as His disciples who spent a lifetime following Him.*
3. What do the wages in the parable of the workers in the vineyard represent? What does this teach us about our salvation?  
*The wages represent the grace of God. This teaches us that our salvation cannot be earned by our own deeds, for all men fall short of the glory of God. We have been given salvation by His grace, and His grace alone.*
4. How does God want us to use our talents?  
*He wants us to develop them by serving Him more and thus accomplish great works for the kingdom of God. Then, at the end, we can stand before God and give an account of how we used and increased the talents that we were given by the Lord.*
5. The faithful servants produced different results, but both were praised. What does this teach us about our own gifts in comparison to the gifts of others?  
*All of us have different gifts, but they are all valued and equal in God’s eyes.*
6. How can you personally become a diligent and faithful servant?  
*Personal answers.*



Junior 1 Year 1 Book 2 Lesson 5  
**The Parable of the Sheep and Goats**  
Passages: Mt 25:31–46

*Memory Verse*

“And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’” (Matthew 25:40)

<b>Knowledge of God’s Will [God’s Word]</b>	<b>Knowledge of God [God’s Divine Nature]</b>	<b>Good Work [Behavior]</b>
God will judge us regarding how we help others in their time of need.	God is righteous and just.	Serve God by serving our brothers and sisters, which can be done by overcoming our apathy and growing in love.

*Overview*

**Events and Spiritual Teachings**

- A. The Final Judgment
- B. Lessons Learned from the Sheep
- C. Lessons Learned from the Goats

**Life Application**

- 1. Overcoming Apathy
- 2. Growing in Love

**Memory Verse**

**Conclusion:** Before Christ the righteous judge comes again, let us serve the Lord and man with a genuine loving heart.

## Events and Spiritual Teachings

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### A. The Final Judgment

First, let us read Matthew 25:31–46. While the two parables from the previous lesson discuss events prior to Jesus Christ’s second coming, this parable teaches us what will occur during the final judgment, after Christ has come again. People of all nations will be gathered before Jesus Christ, who sits on the throne of His glory, and He will separate them into two groups: the sheep and the goats.

Now, let us make an in-depth comparison of the sheep and the goats.

The Sheep	The Goats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• On the right (v. 33)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• On the left (v. 33)</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• “Come” (v. 34)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• “Depart from Me” (v. 41)</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Blessed (v. 34)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cursed (v. 41)</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Will inherit the kingdom prepared by God for them (v. 34)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Will depart into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels (v. 41)</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Helped strangers, those who were hungry, thirsty, naked, ill, imprisoned, etc. (vv. 35–40)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Neglected strangers, those who were hungry, thirsty, naked, ill, imprisoned, etc. (vv. 42–45)</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Deemed righteous (v. 46)</li></ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Go into eternal life (v. 46)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Go away into everlasting punishment (v. 46)</li></ul>

### B. Lessons Learned from the Sheep

The key difference between the sheep and the goats is that the sheep were willing to help the least of Christ’s brethren. First, let us ask ourselves: who are Christ’s brethren? The answer can be found within the Bible. In Matthew 12:49–50, Jesus Christ points to His disciples and says, “Here are My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother.” Today, we who do the will of God are Christ’s disciples. Therefore, Jesus Christ considers us His brethren.

However, the sheep did not simply help the brethren of Christ. Specifically, they helped the least of them. In the context of the parable, the word “least” refers to individuals or groups that seemed insignificant in the eyes of the world. These are people who relied on others for support, and who were unable to help themselves. Outcast, excluded, and looked down upon by society, they needed the most help, but often were unable to find it.

This parable is a wake-up call for us, clearly revealing to us the importance of helping our brothers and sisters in Christ who are in need. It is a call to action. We know what it means to give food or water to those in need. However, more important than helping someone with their physical needs is helping them with their spiritual needs.

Let us take a careful look at the spiritual teaching for each action of love performed by the sheep.

#### 1. Give food to the hungry

Our spiritual food is the word of God (Mt 4:4). As we study the Bible, we can use what we have learned to encourage those around us. Through our sharing of God’s words, we give nourishment to those who hear it.

**2. Give drink to the thirsty**

The word for “to give drink” is the same word as “watered” in 1 Corinthians 3:6–8. From this, we can see that to give drink is to help someone to grow in Christ. Without water, a seed cannot grow, and without water, a person can feel weak and dehydrated. So, “to give drink” can be something as simple as praying for those whom we know are facing trials, so that God can refresh them and give them strength.

**3. Show hospitality to the stranger**

Abraham, who showed hospitality to three strangers, was actually serving angels (Gen 18:2; Heb 13:1–2). We can learn not only from Abraham’s actions of servitude, but also from his attitude of receiving guests. Abraham was quick to act and took the initiative to offer the best food that he had to the three strangers. Today, this means that we should also take the initiative and offer to those in need. When we see that someone is struggling, instead of waiting for a cry for help, we can take the first step and ask, “How can I help?”

**4. Clothe the naked**

Nakedness represents shame (Rev 3:18). When we see those who are naked, we must help them to put on clothes to get rid of their shame. The Bible records that after Shem and Japheth, two of Noah’s sons, were told of his nakedness, they “took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and went backward and covered the nakedness of their father” (Gen 9:23). In a similar manner, clothes can represent righteous deeds (Rev 19:8). Thus, we can “clothe the naked” by encouraging those who are not keeping the Sabbath, who are not walking the path of light, or who are struggling with various temptations.

**5. Visit the sick or imprisoned**

Visiting the sick or imprisoned is as simple as being present for people in their time of need. Though words are able to express sympathy, a person’s physical presence can mean so much more, even if the person does not know what to say. We are all part of the body of Christ (Heb 13:3). When one member is in pain, then all the members are in pain.

The result of the sheep’s acts of love is that during the final judgment, they will be considered the blessed and righteous ones of God. He will call them to come closer to Him, so that they may inherit the kingdom of God and receive eternal life.

**C. Lessons Learned from the Goats**

From verse 44, it is clear that before God condemned them for their inaction, the goats were completely unaware that they had done anything wrong. They did not equate loving and serving their brothers and sisters in need with the love they had towards God. 1 John 4:21 tells us that, “he who loves God must love his brother also.” Today, we cannot say that we love and serve God when we do not show care and concern for our brothers and sisters in need.

When we look closely at the goats, we can see that their inaction originated from their apathy towards other members who were in need. To be apathetic is to feel an indifference or lack of concern for others. Like the sheep, the goats saw those in need; unlike the sheep, they did nothing to help them. Though the goats did not directly harm others, they indirectly caused harm by neglecting to help those that needed it.

Let us study an example of apathy recorded in the Bible.

The Gospel of Luke 10:30–35 records the parable of the good Samaritan. In this parable, thieves attack a man who is traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho. The thieves “[strip] him of his clothing, [wound] him, and [depart], leaving him half dead” (v. 30). As the injured man lies on the road, slowly succumbing to his injuries, the Bible records that three individuals encounter him. First, a priest comes along, but seeing the injured man on the road, he makes the decision to pass by on the other side. Second, a Levite comes along, and after taking a look at the severely injured man, also chooses to pass by on the other side. Lastly, a Samaritan sees the injured man and has compassion on him. The Samaritan not only bandages his wounds but sets the injured man on his own animal, brings him to an inn, and takes care of him (v. 34).

When the priest and the Levite both chose to pass by the injured man after seeing him with their eyes, they exhibited apathy. Instead of coming to his aid, they each made the conscious decision to ignore his clear need. Though they had not been the ones to cause him harm, they were apathetic to his suffering, possibly causing the man mental anguish. The priest and Levite explicitly demonstrated the inaction of the goats: they saw with their own eyes the need of their brethren, but actively chose not to help.

The parable of the sheep and the goats is an important reminder that God judges not only what we have done, but also what we have not done. For their inaction, the goats will be judged unfavorably on the last day, as Jesus Christ will command them to depart from Him and go away into the everlasting fire. Today, let us reflect: Are we a sheep or a goat?

### *Check for Understanding*

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- 1. What time period does this parable teach us about?** This parable is set during the final judgment, after Christ has come again.
- 2. Who are Christ’s brethren? Provide biblical support.** Christ’s brethren are His disciples, who are His brothers and sisters in Christ (Mt 12:48–50).
- 3. Explain the spiritual significance of each:**
  - a. Giving food to the hungry: Encourage with the word of God.
  - b. Giving water to the thirsty: Pray for and watch over those in need.
  - c. Showing hospitality to the stranger: Take initiative when helping those in need.
  - d. Clothing the naked: Encourage those who are struggling to live a life of righteousness.
  - e. Visiting the sick or imprisoned: Being empathetic to the pain of those going through trials.
- 2. Why did Jesus Christ command the goats to depart from Him?** They were apathetic to the needs of their brethren.
- 3. What is the end result for the sheep and for the goats?** Sheep will receive eternal life; goats will receive everlasting condemnation.

### *Life Application*

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#### **1. Overcoming Apathy**

From this parable, we can see that the opposite of love is not hate, but apathy. The goats did not receive eternal condemnation for acting with evil intention; they received eternal condemnation for failing to act at all. Sometimes, we can be just like the goats. We may hear our brothers and sisters share about trials they are going through or temptations they are currently experiencing but simply nod our head in silence. We may hear an announcement about a person who needs our prayers but forget about the person right after the announcement is over. Let’s take a moment to reflect on the following questions.

- What can cause a person to be apathetic to someone in need? (*Ask students to share some reasons why they or others may be apathetic towards others.*)
- How have we been apathetic to the needs of our brothers and sisters? (*Ask students to share about one way they have been apathetic or about an instance of apathy they have witnessed.*)
- What is one way we can overcome our apathy towards our brothers and sisters?

Though our servitude for the Lord will be judged on the last day, another critical aspect we will be judged upon is our service to our brothers and sisters. God does not only want us to love and serve Him; He wants us to live out this love by showing care and concern to those around us.

When Jesus Christ looks upon the suffering of His brethren, He considers it His own suffering. Thus, when we show care and concern for our brothers and sisters, we are showing care and concern for Jesus Christ Himself. Knowing this, let us not be apathetic, but instead, take the initiative and be proactive in looking after the needs of our brothers and sisters around us. Let us strive to be sheep by showing our love for our brethren through our actions and prayers.

## **2. Growing in Love**

In order to be called sheep, we must not only overcome apathy, we must also grow in love. So, what does it mean to grow in love? In Philippians 1:9, the apostle Paul encouraged the members “that [their] love may abound still more and more.” This tells us that we can always increase in our love for others.

But what does it mean to grow in love? Love is not just a feeling, nor is it passive. True love for others requires action and is displayed in our speech and in our conduct. Just as the sheep saw a need and actively offered help, we must proactively demonstrate our love for others.

What are concrete ways that we can show love to our brothers and sisters? (*Examples below.*)

- *Visit members who are ill*
- *Bring food or water to elderly brothers and sisters*
- *Refrain from speaking negatively about brothers and sisters*
- *Be faithful in keeping the church clean*
- *Pray for members who need intercession*

When we put our love into action, others will benefit, and we will glorify God. It is a conscious decision for us to choose love. So, let us constantly ask ourselves:

- How have I grown in love today?
- How have I put love into action today?

### **Testimony**

*It was the middle of Joanne’s summer vacation. Her parents were cooking for a church seminar and since they would be shorthanded, she had to go help out. On the way to church, she was not a happy camper. It was her time to sleep in and lounge around at home, but instead she was on her way to work in a kitchen. After arriving, she was given the task of cutting and washing the vegetables. As she was working and sulking, several older members came to help her. They were smiling and chatting away cheerfully. Their faces were filled with such joy, though they were doing such a mundane task, that Joanne had to ask them, “Isn’t it tiring to have to cut and wash all these vegetables?” The older members looked at her and replied, “It is a joy to be able to serve our brethren and to serve the Lord!”*

*Through the words of the older members, Joanne was reminded that her service was not only for brothers and sisters, but it was also for the Lord. Their example helped to change her heart. No longer did she complain about having to use her summer break to help her parents; now she praised God for the opportunity to be able to serve others.*

- Anonymous

### **Memory Verse**

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“And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’” (Matthew 25:40)

### **Meaning**

1. Jesus Christ is our King.
2. How we treat our brothers and sisters is equated to how we treat Jesus Christ.
3. The least of Christ’s brethren are the disciples of Jesus Christ that seem insignificant in the eyes of the world.

### **Conclusion**

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Our God in heaven is just and righteous. He will judge all people, and this judgment is inevitable. Before Christ comes again, we must wisely use our time to serve the Lord and to serve man with a loving heart. For our love, Christ will say to us that we are blessed, and we will be able to receive our inheritance in heaven that has been prepared for us.

## Lesson 5 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. What does the memory verse teach us about helping the least of Christ's brethren?  
*The least of Christ's brethren are the disciples of Jesus Christ that seem insignificant in the eyes of the world, and how we treat our brothers and sisters is equated to how we treat Jesus Christ.*
2. What event does this parable concern, and what does it teach us to expect?  
*It concerns Christ's second coming, and it warns us to expect separation between the blessed who will inherit the kingdom and the cursed who will depart into everlasting fire.*
3. Why were the sheep blessed by the Lord?  
*They were not simply those who followed God, they were those willing to help the least of Christ's brethren – the outcasts, the excluded, or those looked down upon by society. The sheep were those who took action to help those in need.*
4. Why were the goats cursed by the Lord?  
*Unlike the sheep, the goats were those who did not serve their brothers and sisters in need. While they did not have evil intentions, their lack of action resulted in the neglect of the needy, and thus of Jesus Christ Himself.*
5. Why is it important to Jesus that we avoid apathy? How can we overcome it?  
*When Jesus Christ looks upon the suffering of His brethren, He considers it His own suffering. Thus, when we show care and concern for our brothers and sisters, we are showing care and concern for Jesus Christ Himself.  
Answers will vary.*
6. How can we grow in love? Name at least three concrete ways we can show our love.  
*True love for others requires action, and it is displayed in our speech and in our conduct. Just as the sheep saw a need and actively offered help, we must proactively demonstrate our love for others. Examples will vary, but may include visiting sick members, refraining from speaking ill about other members, bringing food and water to older members, keeping the church clean, interceding for others, etc.*

**Miracles over Nature**

Passages: Jn 2:1–11; Mk 4:36–41; Mt 14:22–33

*Memory Verse*

“But He said to them, ‘Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?’ Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.” (Matthew 8:26)

<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 has power and authority over nature.	God is the almighty Creator.	Trust in the Lord because all of creation is under His control.

*Overview*

**Events and Spiritual Teachings**

- A. Understanding Miracles
- B. Jesus Christ Has the Power to Transform Nature
- C. Jesus Christ Has the Power to Control Nature
- D. Jesus Christ Transcends Nature

**Life Application**

- 1. Looking to Jesus Christ in the Midst of a Storm
  - What Are Storms?
  - Looking to Jesus
- 2. Overcoming Fear with Love and Faith

**Memory Verse**

**Conclusion:** Jesus Christ is the Almighty God and Creator of the heavens and the earth. When we obey His words and put our trust in Him, He will never disappoint us.



## Events and Spiritual Teachings

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### A. Understanding Miracles

In the Bible, there are many miracles recorded in the Old and New Testaments. A miracle is an extraordinary event that demonstrates God's intervention in the lives of men. During His time on earth, Jesus Christ performed many miracles. These miracles were evidence that Jesus Christ is God, the Creator of the universe. Studying His miracles helps us to develop a better understanding of Christ, and of why we can trust in Him with our whole heart.

Let us look at how Jesus Christ proves that He is the almighty sovereign God through His miracles over nature. The chart describes the five miracles over nature performed by Jesus Christ, as recorded in the Bible.

Miracles over Nature	
Turned Water to Wine	Jn 2:1–11
Calmed the Storm	Mt 8:23–27; Mk 4:36–41; Lk 8:22–28
Walked on Water	Mt 14:22–33; Mk 6:48–51
Coin in the Fish's Mouth	Mt 17:24–27
Cursed the Fig Tree	Mt 21:18–22; Mk 11:12–25

In today's lesson, we will study the first three of these miracles.

### B. Jesus Christ Has the Power to Transform Nature

Let us begin by reading John 2:1–11.

#### The Problem

This passage records the first miracle that Jesus Christ performed during His ministry on earth. Jesus was attending a wedding in Cana of Galilee. During the wedding banquet, Jesus' mother informed Him that the wedding banquet had run out of wine. This would have been quite embarrassing for the bride and groom's families, because this meant that they had not prepared enough wine to serve the guests for the whole feasting period of seven days.

#### The Miracle

Jesus Christ simply gave instructions for the servants to follow. Six large stone pots, capable of holding twenty or thirty gallons of water, were set nearby. He instructed the servants to fill the pots with water. After they finished filling the pots, Jesus then instructed them to draw out some water and bring it to the master of the feast. When the master of the feast tasted the water that had turned to wine, he said to the bridegroom, "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!" (v. 10).

This miracle was the first of many signs to demonstrate Jesus' authority over nature. Jesus Christ has the power to transform one substance into another. Without Him, it would be impossible for water to become wine. However, He required action for this transformation to occur. First, the servants obeyed Jesus. Second, during the whole process, the servants did not question any of His instructions, but trusted in His words. As a result of their obedience and trust, they were witnesses to Jesus Christ's transformative power.

This miracle was also an unexpected blessing for the married couple. With His transformative power, Jesus Christ blessed their marriage and their new life together. Unless He had acted, the marriage feast may have ended in shame and embarrassment. But because of this miracle, their new life together began with joy. This is a blessing that we want to experience in our own lives in the future!

We also want to experience His power to transform, something that we can receive only when we put His words into action and trust in Him. This requires us to be obedient to His word and to trust in His word. For example, if we are currently struggling with anger, we can ask God to transform us. When we are willing to obey His word and trust in His ability to change us, we will be able to experience His transformative power in our life.

### **C. Jesus Christ Has the Power to Control Nature**

Let us continue by studying Mark 4:36–41.

#### **The Problem**

Jesus Christ and His disciples had been preaching to a multitude by the lake. When evening came, they decided to cross the lake. As they traveled across, Jesus Christ fell asleep in the stern of the boat. Suddenly, “a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling” (v. 37). The disciples were very afraid, so they woke Jesus, who was still sleeping during the storm.

#### **The Miracle**

When Jesus Christ awoke, He rebuked the wind and the sea. At once, the wind and waves ceased. Jesus then turned to His disciples, saying, “Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?” (v. 40).

This miracle demonstrates Jesus’ ability to control nature. As the Creator, He has authority over His creation. This is why when Jesus Christ commanded the waves and winds to “be still,” they obeyed. After Jesus Christ calmed the storm, the disciples were afraid of Him and wondered who He was that even the wind and sea would obey Him (Lk 8:25). They did not understand that Jesus Christ was able to control the wind and the waves because He is God, the Creator, and thus has complete control over His creation.

Knowing that Jesus Christ has authority as the Creator is crucial to our faith. As the Creator, all things are under His control; understanding this truth enables us to trust in Him. The disciples lacked this knowledge, so their trust and faith in Him were lacking. Though Jesus Christ was with them in the boat, they were still afraid. They could not see that the Creator of all things was with them; they could only see how terrible the storm was. Their fear stemmed from their lack of faith and trust in God.

In our life, we will encounter difficulties or “storms” that may make us fearful. In Philippians 4:6, Paul encourages the members in Philippi to “be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.” As humans, it is natural for us to be afraid when we encounter difficulties. However, we must remember that we have Jesus Christ, the Creator, with us. We can bring our worries and anxieties to Him, and He will help us weather them.

### **D. Jesus Christ Transcends Nature**

Jesus does not only control nature, He also transcends it. Let us turn to Matthew 14:22–33.

## **The Problem**

After preaching to the multitudes, Jesus Christ sent His disciples ahead of Him on a boat, while He went up a mountain to pray. Later on in the evening, the disciples were in the boat being tossed around by the waves. They tried desperately to row to the other side, but the wind was against them.

## **The Miracle**

The disciples saw a figure walking towards them on the water. Thinking it was a ghost, they were afraid. It was at this moment that Jesus called out to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid" (v. 27). Instead of receiving Him warmly, Peter questioned Jesus, saying, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water" (v. 28). Jesus Christ granted Peter's request and enabled Peter to walk on water. Initially, Peter walked on the water as Jesus did, but when he saw the great waves, he became afraid and began to sink, crying out to Jesus to save him. Reaching out His hand to catch Peter, Jesus admonished him saying, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" (v. 31). Once Jesus and Peter climbed into the boat, the winds stopped.

By walking on water, Jesus demonstrated His ability to transcend nature and do the impossible. No one else can walk on water or enable another person to do the same. However, Jesus Christ was able to do both. This miracle is another demonstration of His almighty power as God Himself and of how He surpasses nature.

The disciples were amazed by what Christ had done and worshipped Him as the Son of God, proclaiming, "Truly You are the Son of God." We can see the growth in their understanding of who Christ is when we compare this to their response in the previous miracle. They no longer wonder who He is. They are now able to acknowledge that He is the Son of God.

Peter was on his way towards Jesus Christ when he began sinking. This means that both he and Jesus Christ still had a distance to cross before they returned to the boat. The Bible states that the wind did not stop until both of them were in the boat. Thus, during their return to the boat, the boisterous wind continued to blow. For Peter, the situation remained the same, but now he had Jesus by his side.

This miracle reminds us that we must always look to Jesus Christ. When Peter attempted to walk on water, he was able to do so initially. But when he focused instead on the great winds, Peter became afraid and began to sink. His fear was the evidence of his doubt in Jesus' ability and power.

We may be the same as Peter. We initially have faith but begin to doubt once we see that our negative situation has not changed and that our problems still exist. We can easily lose focus on Jesus and allow the worries of the world to affect us. This is when our faith in Jesus may become shaken. It is crucial to remember that God wants us to trust in Him completely to the end. Rather than focusing on the waves, we must instead focus on Jesus by bringing our worries to Him in prayer. As we look upon Him, the winds will become insignificant.

Today, Jesus is able to help us through the storms in our life. This does not mean that all our problems will be solved immediately. However, it is an opportunity for us to learn how to trust in Christ's love and protection. As we continue to witness the work of Christ in our lives, let us continue to deepen our understanding of our Almighty God, the Creator.

## ***Check for Understanding***

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1. **What was the first miracle that Jesus Christ performed?** He turned water into wine.
2. **How do we experience God's transformative power in our lives?** By putting God's word into action and trusting in Him.
3. **How is being afraid related to having a lack of faith?** When we are afraid, we do not completely trust and believe that God is able to protect or help us.
4. **Why do the wind and waves obey Jesus Christ's command?** He is the Almighty God, the Creator.
5. **How do we keep our eyes on Jesus Christ?** By bringing our worries to Him and by trusting in His help.

### *Life Application*

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#### **1. Looking to Jesus Christ in the Midst of a Storm**

##### **What Are Storms?**

Have you ever stood outside in the middle of a storm? Close your eyes and imagine the rain pouring down on us and soaking our clothes. The strong wind blowing against us makes it difficult for us to open our eyes and see where to go. As we try to go forward, the wind pushes us back. Each step that we take is met with resistance as we try to find shelter from the storm.

Isaiah 54:11 compares affliction or suffering to being tossed in a tempest. In our lives, we will encounter storms that make us lose our focus on Jesus Christ. Just like real life storms, we may be so overwhelmed by these "storms" that we feel besieged and unable to escape. These storms may be addictions we have or temptations that we encounter. What are some examples of storms in our lives?

- We may have so many school assignments that we do not have any time to cultivate ourselves spiritually.
- We may constantly feel the need to fit in at school, so we may say or do things that are not Christ-like.
- We may be addicted to media, causing us to be distracted during church service.

##### **Looking to Jesus**

*You alone are the LORD; You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and everything on it, the seas and all that is in them, and You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You.*

*(Neh 9:6)*

It is so easy for us to be focused on the storms in our life that we lose sight of our relationship with Jesus Christ. But the only way to overcome our storms is by rebuilding our relationship with Him. How do we rebuild our relationship with Jesus?

- Through daily cultivation in prayer and Bible reading (2 Pet 3:18)  
The most basic step to building a relationship is getting to know the other person. We need to grow in our knowledge of Jesus Christ in order to build our relationship with Him. The only way we can increase our knowledge of Jesus is through our prayers and studying of the Scriptures.
- Through humbling ourselves and submitting to His will (Jas 4:6–7)  
Just as we will go to lengths to please those we care deeply about, we must do what pleases Jesus Christ. In order to do so, we must humble ourselves before Him and listen to what He requires from us. Only then will we know what to do to please Him.

#### **Discussion Questions**

- What are some storms that you have encountered in your life? How did you overcome them?
- What are some storms that you are currently struggling with?

Though we may encounter many storms, in the face of them all we must turn to Jesus Christ as our Savior. Only with Him by our side will we be able to overcome the storms in our life.

## 2. Overcoming Fear with Love and Faith

Through the miracles that Jesus Christ performed over nature, we can see many demonstrations of His almighty power and His ability to do what seems impossible in the eyes of man. However, we are often like the disciples: in knowledge, we know in our minds that Jesus is almighty, but in practice, we are still fearful and anxious in the face of difficulties. Even right now, we can probably all think of something that we are anxious or fearful about.

In 1 John 4:18, the Bible teaches us that when love is perfected, it casts out fear. As a result, fear has no place in a person who has been made perfect in love. Oftentimes, we forget just how much Jesus Christ loves us, so we do not love Him as we should. We become preoccupied with our fears and lose sight of Jesus Christ and His love for us. We become numb to His love. But to overcome our fears, we must first have faith in Him and bring our fears to Him. Just as a young child will run to his parents for comfort and safety, we can also run to God. Whether it is during good times such as a wedding, or distressing times such as the midst of a storm, God is in control. As we immerse ourselves in His love and remember His love daily, we will be able to overcome our fears and come to truly love Him in return (1 Jn 4:19).

Discussion: Share a time when you were afraid and God helped you to overcome your fear.

- Why were you afraid?
- How did God help you?

Whether spiritual or physical, God is able to clear any storms that we encounter when we trust in Him. Let us read a testimony about a physical storm that a church was able to overcome through God's providence.

### Testimony

*A church was planning to hold a baptism. However, a few days before, the forecast called for a severe storm on the day of the baptism. With this in mind, the members prayed to God with one heart and one mind for a miracle. On the day of the baptism, the rain poured down according to the forecast. Nevertheless, the members made the decision with faith to drive to the baptismal site. Once they arrived, they found that the rain had stopped, though the skies remained cloudy. Suddenly, just as the first person was about to enter into the water to be baptized, the sun came out from behind the clouds and a ray of sunlight shone upon on the water. This miraculous sunlight remained until the end of the baptism. Once the baptism ended and everyone left the water, the sun disappeared again behind the clouds and rain once again began to fall. As the members returned from the baptism, they were all filled with joy and praised the Lord for His wondrous blessing!*

- Anonymous

### Memory Verse

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“But He said to them, ‘Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?’ Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.” (Matthew 8:26)

## Meaning

1. Our fear stems from a lack of faith in the Lord.
2. Jesus Christ has the authority to control nature because He is God, its Creator.

## Conclusion

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*You alone are the LORD; You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and everything on it, the seas and all that is in them, and You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You.*

*(Neh 9:6)*

Jesus Christ is the Creator, and through these three miracles, He demonstrates His authority and power over His creation. Whether it is turning water into wine or calming a storm, He is able to transform and control nature according to His will. There is nothing that is impossible for Him. All that He requires of us is that we trust and have faith in Him as our Creator. When we are afraid or anxious, we should continue to believe and put our trust in Him, for when we have Him, there is nothing to fear.

## Lesson 6 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. What does the memory verse teach us about Jesus Christ as God?  
*As its Creator, Jesus Christ has authority over nature.*
2. What does His first miracle teach us about Jesus' transformative power in us?  
*In order to transform, we must be obedient. We can experience His power to transform when we put His words into action and trust in Him.*
3. Why is it important for us to understand Jesus' full authority over creation?  
*Understanding this authority is crucial to our faith because it lets us understand that He is in control of everything, and thus can be fully trusted.*
4. What does Peter's attempt to walk on water teach us?  
*It teaches us to never lose sight of Jesus. Although his situation remained the same from the moment he stepped off the boat, he only began to sink because he stopped looking at Jesus. His fear was the evidence of his doubt in Jesus.*
5. What kinds of storms can we encounter in our lives? How can we overcome them?  
*Answers will vary.  
We can overcome them by overcoming our fear with faith through building a relationship with and looking to Jesus.*
6. Write down one verse you can meditate upon when you feel anxious or worried.  
*Personal answers. Examples may be: 1 John 4:18; Nehemiah 9:6; Philippians 4:6.*

*Memory Verse*

“The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.” (Ephesians 1:18)

Knowledge of God’s Will [God’s Word]	Knowledge of God [God’s Divine Nature]	Good Work [Behavior]
God has the power to open blind eyes, both physically and spiritually.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. God is our healer.</li> <li>2. God is all-powerful.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Go to Jesus to receive healing for spiritual blindness.</li> <li>2. Be filled with the Holy Spirit and ask God to open our inner eyesight.</li> </ol>

*Overview*

**Events and Spiritual Teachings**

- A. God Is Our Healer
- B. Jesus Heals the Blind Man at Bethsaida (Mk 8:22–26)
  1. The Uniqueness of This Miracle
  2. **Life Application**
    - a. Recognizing Spiritual Blindness and Its Cure
    - b. Growing Out of Spiritual Blindness
- C. Jesus Heals Blind Bartimaeus (Mk 10:46–52)
  1. The Uniqueness of This Miracle
  2. **Life Application**
    - a. Seize the Opportunity to Know God
    - b. Earnestly and Persistently Come to Jesus in Faith

**Memory Verse**

**Conclusion:** Seize the opportunity to cry out to the Lord and do not let Him pass us by, for we may not have another chance.



## Events and Spiritual Teachings

### A. God Is Our Healer

Today, we will study several events recorded in the gospels where Jesus healed the sick. Matthew 9:35 tells us, “Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.” These included those who suffered from illnesses, chronic diseases, disabilities, and even incurable conditions such as the lame and the blind (Mt 15:30–31). Throughout His ministry, none who came to Him for healing were denied.

But when we look at the healing that Jesus performed, we must understand that His focus was not on physical healing. All forms of physical suffering and illness came as a consequence of Adam and Eve’s sin. Yet God, who is full of divine compassion and mercy, sent Jesus to give His life by dying on the cross for us, so that “by His stripes we are healed” (Isa 53:5). Jesus came not to provide physical healing, but to provide redemption, and “to seek and to save that which was lost” (Lk 19:10). That is the ultimate purpose of His healing—to redeem sinners.

In fact, the entire gospel is summed up in Luke 4:18–19:

*“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.”*

In these verses, Jesus proclaimed His purpose clearly. But who are the poor, the captive, the blind, and those who are oppressed?

<b>Poor</b>	“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Mt 5:3).
<b>Captives</b>	“Those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage” (Heb 2:15).
<b>Blind</b>	Those who turn “from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me” (Acts 26:18).
<b>Oppressed</b>	Those who are under the oppression of sin and Satan.

Every healing miracle is a clear display of Jesus’ compassion, grace, and mercy. They are proof of His divine authority, and of a never-changing God whose heart is full of love for those who suffer. We know that God is the one “who heals all your diseases” (Ps 103:3), as well as the one who “heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds” (Ps 147:3). So, when we desire healing, we must ask for it in faith from God, our healer. And from Luke 4:18–19, we can see that the healing Jesus offers is more than a release from pain and sorrow. He offers us liberation from bondage and sin.

### B. Jesus Heals the Blind Man at Bethsaida

Let us study the passage recorded in Mark 8:22–26.

*Then He came to Bethsaida; and they brought a blind man to Him, and begged Him to touch him. So He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the town. And when He had spit on his eyes and put His hands on him, He asked him if he saw anything. And he looked up and said, “I see men like trees, walking.” Then He put His hands on his eyes again and made him look up.*

*And he was restored and saw everyone clearly. Then He sent him away to his house, saying, "Neither go into the town, nor tell anyone in the town."*

## **The Context**

In the beginning of this chapter, Jesus fed around 4,000 (Mk 8:1–9). Immediately after, Jesus boarded a boat with His disciples and warned them to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees (Mk 8:15). The leaven refers to the false teachings of the Pharisees. Misunderstanding Jesus, the disciples thought He was talking about physical bread. Aware of this, Jesus said to them, "Having eyes, do you not see? And having ears, do you not hear?" (Mk 8:18). When He reached Bethsaida, He healed the blind man. When we study this miracle in context, we too can have eyes that see clearly.

### **1. The Uniqueness of This Miracle**

Jesus healed many blind people during His three-year ministry. Four of these instances are recorded in the gospels, but only the Gospel of Mark records Jesus healing the blind man from Bethsaida. This miracle is unique in several ways.

- It is the only recorded event where Jesus spit on a person.
- It is the only recorded event where Jesus healed a person in stages:
  - *Jesus' initial healing*  
Jesus took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the town, away from the crowds. Then, Jesus spit on his eyes and put His hands on him. Jesus asked the man if he saw anything. The man looked up and said, "I see men like trees, walking."
  - *Jesus' perfect healing*  
Jesus put His hands on the man's eyes again and made him look up. Then, his sight was restored.

Let's ask ourselves some questions.

#### **a. Why did Jesus lead the man outside of the town before He healed him?**

Though the Bible does not record the reason behind Jesus' decision to do this, it does record Bethsaida as a place of unbelief (Mt 11:21; Lk 10:13). Thus, Jesus may have chosen to lead the man outside of the town as judgment on the town for its unbelief. Jesus knew the heart of the people who had refused to accept His teachings.

#### **b. Why was the healing of this blind man unusual?**

The healing of this blind man is unusual because it occurred in two stages rather than instantaneously. After the first stage, he could see images, but only blurry ones. Only after the second stage, when Jesus put His hands on him a second time, did his vision become fully restored.

#### **c. What is the significance of the different stages?**

This unusual method of healing teaches us that there is a purpose behind every action that Jesus does. He is not limited to one way of healing, but heals according to how He sees fit, and never leaves His work unfinished. When God heals, He heals to the utmost. The different stages of healing in this miracle also mirror the different stages in our faith. Ephesians 1:15–16, 18 says:

*Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: [that] the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.*

Spiritual maturation and enlightenment are part of a continuous process that begins from the moment one believes. After the first stage of healing, Jesus asked the blind man if he could see anything (Mk 8:23). The man looked up and replied, "I see men like trees, walking" (Mk 8:24). He could not yet discern the nature of these objects. When Jesus put His hands on the man's eyes again and made him look up, he saw everything clearly.

**d. Why did Jesus instruct the man: "Neither go into the town, nor tell anyone in the town"?**

The Bible describes Bethsaida as a place where mighty works to repentance had been done, yet they did not repent. So, Jesus Christ said, "Woe to you, Bethsaida!" (Mt 11:21). Similarly, if we choose to reject spiritual blessings, and to reject God, then God will not interfere with our strong will. We will simply suffer the loss of our spiritual blessings and privileges. Ultimately, we must be responsible for the choices we make.

**2. Life Application**

**a. Recognizing Spiritual Blindness and Its Cure**

We can equate the man's physical blindness to our own spiritual blindness. We all have blind spots: areas of life where we cannot see the complete picture. When we lack the fullness of the Holy Spirit, our spiritual perception is clouded. Our spiritual blindness prevents us from seeing God clearly. But as we draw closer to Him and let our faith grow in obedience, our spiritual sight grows with it. It is an ongoing process, but as long as we rely on Him, Jesus will increase the clarity of our spiritual eyes so that we can see the hope of His calling and the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints (Eph 1:18). What are some areas of your spiritual life that are blurry?

It is not only our own spiritual blindness that we need to recognize, but that of others as well. In the passage we studied, the blind man had been brought to Jesus by others, who begged Jesus to touch him. Only when we ourselves are clear sighted can we see another's blindness (Mt 7:3–5), but when we do, we should intercede for them.

**b. Growing Out of Spiritual Blindness**

Jesus said, "The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!" (Mt 6:22–23). We need to be aware and constantly check the condition of our eyesight. It is not enough for us simply to be able to see; we need to see clearly with understanding. We need to see with discernment and insight.

In today's fast-paced environment, we desire quick fixes and quick answers, but God does not work like that. Spiritual growth is not instantaneous. We must go through all stages of life: learning and growing, falling down and getting back up. After the first step in His healing, Jesus asked the man, "Do you see anything?" Now is the time to ask yourself: Which areas do I need to grow in the most? *(Allow students to discuss. Examples may be: Bearing the fruit of the Holy Spirit; bearing the image of Christ; learning how to defeat the giants in my life; learning to draw closer to God; etc.)*

**C. Jesus Heals Blind Bartimaeus**

Let us now study the miracle recorded in Mark 10:46–52:

Now they came to Jericho. As He went out of Jericho with His disciples and a great multitude, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the road begging. And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Then many warned him to be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called. Then they called the blind man, saying to him, "Be of good cheer. Rise, He is calling you." And throwing aside his garment, he rose and came to Jesus. So Jesus answered and said to him, "What do you want Me to do for you?" The blind man said to Him, "Rabboni, that I may receive my sight." Then Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the road.

## 1. The Uniqueness of This Miracle

- This is one of the few miracles where the recipient's name is mentioned. Bartimaeus' name means "honorable" in Greek. In Hebrew, it means, "the son of spiritual blindness."
- Although Bartimaeus had never met or seen Jesus before, he believed in Him; as a result, he received not only physical sight, but also spiritual sight.

Let's examine this miracle by asking some questions.

### a. What condition was Bartimaeus in before he was healed?

Bartimaeus was blind and poor. Yet, it is clear from the passage that he had heard about Jesus, His miracles, and His teachings before. This is how he came to believe that Jesus could heal him. So, when he heard that Jesus was passing by, he began to cry out. Desperate for healing, Bartimaeus persisted in fighting to gain Jesus' attention, even when the surrounding people told him to stop crying out. His determination is proof of his faith.

### b. How did the crowd respond when they heard Bartimaeus cry out, "Son of David, have mercy on me"? How did Jesus respond to Bartimaeus' cries?

They warned him to be quiet at first, but then told him to "be of good cheer" after Jesus Christ acknowledged his cries. Jesus stood still and commanded the crowd to call Bartimaeus to Him. Bartimaeus' cries were enough to cause Jesus, God Himself, to stop in His tracks. Jesus' followers had no time for Bartimaeus, and the crowd kept urging him to keep quiet, but Jesus stopped what He was doing and stood still to heal him. This is the heart of our Father; every time we cry out to Him, He is here and will stand still for us.

### c. What did Bartimaeus do when Jesus called him?

He threw his garment aside, arose, and came to Jesus.

### d. Why is it important for Jesus to ask Bartimaeus, "What do you want Me to do for you?"

The Bible records many instances where Jesus asks this question before He heals a person. In a way, Jesus was testing Bartimaeus to see if he really believed that He could heal him.

### e. Why did Bartimaeus shout, "Son of David"? What does this title mean?

The Son of David is the promised Messiah, the one who was to come from the lineage of King David (Jn 7:42; Mt 21:9). In Matthew, "Son of David" appears frequently, emphasizing Jesus' identity as King. In the Gospel of Mark, Bartimaeus is the only person recorded who called Jesus "Son of David." He knew that Jesus was more than just "Jesus of Nazareth." His faith compelled him to plead for Jesus' mercy (BSG: Mark, 7.3: 10).<sup>1</sup>

## 2. Life Application

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<sup>1</sup> TJC Department of Literary Ministry, *Bible Study Guide: Mark*, (Malaysia: True Jesus Church, 2012), [http://bsg.tjc.org/tjc\\_bsg\\_lesson/mark-17/](http://bsg.tjc.org/tjc_bsg_lesson/mark-17/), 7.3: 10.

**a. Seize the Opportunity to Know God**

We are poor and blind like Bartimaeus, so we must seize the opportunity to cry out to the Lord to heal our blindness. Bartimaeus appealed to Jesus knowing that He was unlike other religious leaders; he believed that Jesus was someone who cared for the poor and the brokenhearted. Despite his blindness, he “saw” what others could not: that Jesus was the Messiah. We, too, cannot let Him pass us by, for we may not have another chance. We should seize the precious opportunity to know God so that we can have eternal life and teach others, believers and non-believers alike, to grab hold of the chance as well.

- How do you see Jesus? Is He just a moral teacher? A historic figure? What do you see?
- Do we understand the divine nature of God? Name one nature of God that you’ve experienced this past week.
- Do you grasp the opportunity to know God? Have you ever let such an opportunity slip past you?

**b. Earnestly and Persistently Come to Jesus in Faith**

How we ask for something says a lot about how much we desire the object of our plea. Bartimaeus knew that this was probably his only chance of being healed, so he persisted in his cries until Jesus answered his plea. As long as we yearn for God’s help, we should not let anyone or anything discourage us while we seek the Lord’s mercy, but instead keep crying out to Him until He answers us. We can be confident and persistent in praying to God, as long as we are asking according to God’s will.

Bartimaeus cried out to the Son of David with these words: “Have mercy on me!” Bartimaeus saw himself as a sinner. Jesus said him, “What do you want Me to do for you?” He replied, “Rabbi, I want to see.” Bartimaeus had only one desire, one that he expressed sincerely and honestly without any false humility. His faith was so great that he trusted that Jesus was able to fulfill his request. And his actions reflected his great faith. So, Jesus said to Bartimaeus, “Go your way, your faith has made you well.” Bartimaeus immediately received his sight and followed Jesus. Jesus showed us with His words that Bartimaeus had the kind of faith that pleases God. Likewise, God “is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (Heb 11:6).

- Despite his blindness, Bartimaeus had the spiritual eyes to see Jesus’ true identity. Is it better to be blind and see the true and living God, or to have two eyes and see nothing?
- How would you reply if Jesus asked you, “What do you want Me to do for you”?
- Bartimaeus showed his faith in action. Are you determined to meet Jesus and follow Jesus, just as Bartimaeus did? How have you shown or not shown your determination to come to Him and put your trust in Him?

*Check for Understanding*

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- 1. What was Jesus’ true purpose behind His healing?** Jesus came not to provide physical healing, but to provide redemption, and “to seek and to save that which was lost” (Lk 19:10). That is the ultimate purpose of His healing—to redeem sinners.
- 2. Why was the healing of the blind man at Bethsaida unusual?** The healing of this blind man is unusual because it occurs in two stages rather than instantaneously. After the first stage, he could see images, but only blurry ones. Only after the second stage, when Jesus put His hands on him a second time, did his vision become fully restored.

3. **What is spiritual blindness?** When we lack the fullness of the Holy Spirit, our spiritual perception is clouded. Our spiritual blindness prevents us from seeing God clearly.
4. **What can we learn from Bartimaeus' persistent appeals?** We, too, cannot let Jesus pass us by, for we may not have another chance. We should seize the precious opportunity to know God so that we can have eternal life and teach others, believers and non-believers alike, to grab hold of the chance as well.

### *Memory Verse*

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"The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints." (Ephesians 1:18)

### **Meaning**

This is part of apostle Paul's remarkable prayer recorded in Ephesians, chapter 1. He asked God to grant the Ephesians a greater measure of the Spirit's presence and power, particularly in the eyes. He wanted them to understand "what is the hope of His calling." Before being called by God, we have "no hope" and are "without God" (Eph 2:12). We now know what the "calling" of God is—to be saved and to be cleansed by His blood (Eph 2:13). We now have the riches of the glory of His inheritance.

Sometimes, we are so busy looking at what lies in front of us that we cannot see anything else. We need to ask God to enlighten our eyes so that our sensitivities are not dulled by our circumstances or surroundings. Let us continuously move forward in faith so that we are able to see our inheritance and thus fix our gaze on our hope for eternity.

### *Conclusion*

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Jesus said, "The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!" (Mt 6:22–23). We need to be aware and constantly check the condition of our eyesight. When Jesus asked the blind man, "Do you see anything?" The man replied, "I see men as trees, walking." So, Jesus touched his eyes again, and it was only then that he saw clearly. It is not enough for us simply to be able to see; we need to see clearly with understanding. We need to see with discernment and insight.

In the second passage, Jesus stood still and commanded the crowd to call Bartimaeus to Him. Bartimaeus' cries were enough to cause Jesus, God Himself, to stop in His tracks. Jesus' followers had no time for Bartimaeus, and the crowd kept urging him to keep quiet, but Jesus stopped what He was doing and stood still to heal him. This is the heart of our Father; every time we cry out to Him, He is here and will stand still for us.

## Lesson 7 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. Why is it so important that our eyes be enlightened? What is it that we have to be able to see?  
*We need to understand “what is the hope of His calling” – to be saved and cleansed by His blood. Sometimes, we are so busy looking at what lies in front of us that we do not fix our gaze on our hope for eternity, our inheritance.*
2. What was Jesus’ focus and purpose on earth?  
*To give His life by dying on the cross for us, so that we might be healed. To provide redemption and to seek and to save that which was lost. The ultimate purpose of His healing was to redeem sinners and offer us liberation from bondage and sin.*
3. What made Jesus’ healing of the blind man at Bethsaida a unique event?  
*It is the only recorded event where Jesus spit on a person and where He healed someone in stages. It is also unique in that Jesus specifically led the man away from the town and crowds to heal him.*
4. What happens when we are spiritually blind? How can we better our spiritual eyesight?  
*We cannot see God clearly. When we draw closer to God and let our faith grow in obedience, our sight also grows. It is an ongoing process, but as long as we rely on Him, Jesus will increase the clarity of our spiritual eyes.*
5. What two key characteristics can we learn from Bartimaeus?  
*Despite having never met or seen Jesus before, he fully believed that Jesus could heal him. Secondly, despite the people who told him to be quiet, Bartimaeus persisted in his cries to gain Jesus’ attention and continued to call out to Him until He responded.*
6. What do you think is the condition of your eyesight? Are your eyes fixed on God and His kingdom? What can you personally change or do in your life to improve your spiritual eyesight?  
*Personal answers. Try to remind the students to think of “actionable” items, something that can be actively checked off in their daily or weekly life (e.g., spend five extra minutes in prayer, memorize an extra verse each week, etc.).*

*Memory Verse*

“Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.” (1 Peter 5:6–7)

Knowledge of God’s Will [God’s Word]	Knowledge of God [God’s Divine Nature]	Good Work [Behavior]
1. Jesus has authority over sickness and death. 2. A faithful prayer for healing will save the sick.	1. God is all-powerful. 2. God is our healer. 3. God cares for us.	1. Humble ourselves, reach out, and touch Jesus in faith. 2. Earnestly come to Jesus with every need.

*Overview*

**Events and Spiritual Teaching**

- A. God Is Our Healer
- B. Jesus Heals the Woman with a Flow of Blood (Mk 5:25–34)
- C. Jesus Raises Jairus’ Daughter (Mk 5:21–24, 35–43)

**Life Application**

- 1. Humble ourselves before Jesus.
- 2. Earnestly come to Jesus in faith.
- 3. Pray to God for everything.

**Memory Verse**

**Conclusion:** What reason is there for us to fear anything when Jesus has already triumphed over death? As Jesus told Jairus, “do not be afraid; only believe.”



## Events and Spiritual Teachings

### A. God Is Our Healer

(Teachers: This section is repeated from Lesson 7, Section A. You may simply review its contents in brief, or skip it if your students remember the teachings.)

Today, we will study several events recorded in the gospels where Jesus healed the sick. Matthew 9:35 records: “Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.” These included those who suffered from illnesses, chronic diseases, disabilities, and even incurable conditions such as the lame and the blind (Mt 15:30–31). Throughout His ministry, none who came to Him for healing were denied.

But when we look at the healing that Jesus performed, we must understand that His focus was not on physical healing. All forms of physical suffering and illness came as a consequence of Adam and Eve’s sin. Yet God, who is full of divine compassion and mercy, sent Jesus to give His life by dying on the cross for us, so that “by His stripes we are healed” (Isa 53:5). Rather than to provide physical healing, Jesus came to provide redemption and “to seek and to save that which was lost” (Lk 19:10). That is the ultimate purpose of His healing—to redeem sinners.

In fact, the entire gospel is summed up in Luke 4:18–19:

*“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.”*

<b>Poor</b>	“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Mt 5:3).
<b>Captives</b>	“Those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage” (Heb 2:15).
<b>Blind</b>	Those who turn “from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me” (Acts 26:18).
<b>Oppressed</b>	Those that were under the oppression of sin and Satan.

Every healing is a clear display of Jesus’ compassion, grace, and mercy. They are proof of His divine authority, and of a never-changing God whose heart is full of love for those who suffer. We know that God is the one “who heals all your diseases” (Ps 103:3), as well as the one who “heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds” (Ps 147:3). So, when we desire healing, we must ask for it in faith from God, our healer. And from Luke 4:18–19, we can see that the healing Jesus offers is more than a release from pain and sorrow. He offers us liberation from bondage and sin.

Mark 5:21–43 records two healings, both of which are immensely moving.

### B. Jesus Heals a Woman with a Flow of Blood (Mk 5:25–34)

#### Understanding the Woman’s Circumstances

This woman was desperate to reach out to Jesus. A flow of blood for twelve years was a heavy burden to live under, both physically and socially. According to Leviticus 15:19–31, her flow of blood made her ceremonially and socially unclean. The Scriptures also tell us that she had “suffered many things from

many physicians.” Not only that, but she “had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse” (Mk 5:26).

### **The Woman’s Great Faith**

This woman knew that she was ceremonially unclean. If she touched or even approached Jesus, she would surely be judged or condemned, so she dared not publicly ask Jesus to be healed. Therefore, she thought, “If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well.” This thought and her actions clearly demonstrate her faith. Matthew 9:20 records that the woman touched only the “hem of His garment,” that is, the edge of His outer garment.

### **The Woman’s Faith Made Her Well**

When the woman touched Jesus Christ’s garment, “immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction” (Mk 5:29). In that instant, Jesus knew that power had gone out of Him. It is amazing to note that both the woman and Jesus Christ knew something miraculous had happened when she touched His garment. Jesus turned around and asked, “Who touched My clothes?” (Mk 5:30).

He knew what had happened but asked her to reveal herself so that she could understand what had truly made her well. Upon her fearful confession, Jesus told her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well” (Mk 5:34). To call her “daughter” was a sign of a father’s love, an expression of tenderness and care that surely would have alleviated her fears. Jesus clearly told her that it was not the act of touching His garment that had healed her, but her belief in His power that made her well. Her faith in Jesus drove her to reach out to Him, and she was rewarded for this faith.

### **Discussion Questions**

**1. How did the woman’s actions demonstrate her faith in Jesus Christ?**

The first obstacle the woman faced was the crowd; as an unclean person, she may have received punishment upon discovery of her status as an unclean person. Following this, her aim was to touch Jesus’ garment, which could be considered yet another offense. Even knowing this, she was determined to follow through despite her fears. As a result, her faith in Jesus’ power was rewarded.

**2. “Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction.” What can we learn from the power of Jesus?**

Jesus has the power to heal physically, spiritually, and emotionally. He can heal and cast out demons. Jesus alone can make us whole. The amazing thing is that she could feel her body was healed completely of the affliction.

**3. Why did the woman tremble with fear? Why did she fall before Him and tell Jesus the whole truth?**

She didn’t want anyone to know that she had touched His clothes, as she knew she was unclean. Now that Jesus was looking for her, she trembled with fear because she thought Jesus might rebuke her and the crowd might know her shame. She told Jesus the whole truth because she knew that He alone was the one who healed her.

**4. When Jesus said, “Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction.” What does this tell us about the heart of Jesus?**

The fact that Jesus called her “daughter” is very comforting and caring. He treated her like His

own child. Jesus is our Father, full of mercy and grace. Nothing is impossible with God when we come to Him with faith and trust. This woman exhibited her faith in an amazing way, and Jesus answered her sincere and silent plea.

### **Spiritual Teachings**

**1. “Daughter, your faith has made you well” (v. 34)**

When we act on our faith, we can be made well, too. If we act with faith, as this woman did, we can receive Jesus’ healing power.

**2. Tell Jesus the whole truth about our sin (v. 33)**

We need to tell Jesus about what we are going through and what we have done. He knows where we are hurt, and He is ready to heal us.

### **C. Jesus Raises Jairus’ Daughter (Mk 5:21–24, 35–43)**

#### **Jairus Approaches Jesus and Begs Earnestly**

Throughout His ministry, Jesus had been opposed by almost all of the Jewish leaders. Jairus, as a ruler of a synagogue, was one of those leaders himself. Despite his peers’ hostility against Him, Jairus openly came to Jesus. Jairus then fell at Jesus’ feet and begged Him earnestly to save his daughter, who was at the point of death (v. 23). Jairus humbled himself sincerely before Jesus and presented his earnest request because he truly believed that Jesus’ power would heal her. He demonstrated great faith and a bold confidence in Jesus’ power.

#### **“Do not be afraid; only believe.” (v. 36)**

When Jairus heard that his daughter was dead, he must have been devastated. But Jesus told him to do two things: to stop being afraid and only to believe. This encouragement must have been difficult to follow. Yet, Jairus only had one choice: to believe in Jesus’ words. Jairus, who lost all of his hope, now had hope through Jesus Christ.

#### **Jesus permitted no one to follow Him except Peter, James, and John (v. 37)**

The Bible does not record why Jesus only chose these three disciples to follow Him, but we can infer that they are His closest disciples. Upon arriving at Jairus’ house, He saw a crowd weeping and wailing loudly. He entered the house and proclaimed, “The child is not dead, but sleeping.” Rather than feeling hope or comfort, those at the house began to ridicule Him. In response, Jesus put the crowd all outside, and went in with His chosen disciples and the child’s parents.

#### **“Little girl, I say to you, arise.” (v. 41)**

Jesus took her hand and said, “Little girl, I say to you, arise.” Jesus returned life to the girl with the power of God, who gives life to the dead (Rom 4:17). Jesus went above and beyond Jairus’ request—He resurrected his daughter! When He told Jairus to stop being afraid and only to believe, He spoke with full assurance. As a result, Jairus’ trust in Jesus was rewarded, his faith strengthened, and his daughter lived.

### **Discussion Questions**

**1. Jairus was a respected leader in the community, yet he showed humility when asking for Jesus’ help. How did he show humility, and what can we learn from his humility?**

Though a respected community leader, Jairus did not use his authority to plead for Jesus’ help. Rather, he humbly begged Jesus to heal his daughter who was near death. When we have such humility, Jesus is ready to answer our earnest plea.

**2. What reactions did the people have when Jesus came into Jairus' house?**

They wept and wailed, believing nothing could be done, and they ridiculed Jesus when He said she is not dead but sleeping. They didn't believe in Jesus and His power of healing. They thought it was too late, indicating their lack of faith and trust in God.

**3. "The child is not dead, but sleeping" (Mk 5:39). What teaching can we draw from this?**

In the New Testament, death is often referred to as "sleep" (Acts 7:60; 1 Cor 11:30). The Bible teaches us that the death of our physical body is not final, for Jesus has triumphed over death and has given us the same triumph. When we believe in Him, we no longer have a reason to fear death (1 Cor 15:55) (*BSG: Mark, 7.3: 13*).<sup>1</sup>

**Spiritual Teachings**

**1. "Do not be afraid; only believe." (Mk 5:36)**

We all face fear, despair, or doubt from time to time. Jairus' faith encourages us to face our fear and despair at seemingly impossible times in our lives. Faith in Jesus demands us to believe in Him, despite fear of the unknown. By showing our faith, we can overcome our fear or doubt.

**2. Jesus is compassionate, and His healing power extends to everyone**

From this passage, we learned that Jesus helped the daughter of Jairus, a synagogue ruler and prominent person in society, and a woman who was a social outcast. Jesus healed them both, teaching us that His compassion and power are for all, regardless of social standing.

*Check for Understanding*

- 1. What did God do in response to the physical suffering and illness that was brought about by Adam and Eve?** He sent Jesus to give His life by dying on the cross for us, so that "by His stripes we are healed" (Isa 53:5). Rather than physical healing, Jesus came to provide redemption and "to seek and to save that which was lost" (Lk 19:10).
- 2. Why was the woman so desperate for healing?** A flow of blood for twelve years was a heavy burden to live under, both physically and socially. According to Leviticus 15:19–31, her flow of blood made her ceremonially and socially unclean. The Scriptures also tell us that she had "suffered many things from many physicians." Not only that, but she "had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse" (Mk 5:26).
- 3. How did the woman show her faith?** As an unclean person, she may have received punishment upon discovery of her status as an unclean person. Following this, her aim was to touch Jesus' garment, which could be considered yet another offense. Despite this, she still persisted and made her way through the crowds to touch the hem of Jesus' garment.
- 4. What was unusual about Jairus' approach of Jesus?** Jairus was a Jewish leader, and most Jewish leaders greeted Jesus with hostility. But Jairus not only believed in Jesus' power, he approached the Lord earnestly and humbly begged for His aid in public.
- 5. Upon reporting his daughter's death, why did the men tell Jairus that there was no point in bothering Jesus anymore?** They believed that now that his daughter was dead, Jesus could no longer help.
- 6. Why do we as Jesus' believers no longer need to fear death?** Because Jesus has triumphed over death and has given us the same triumph.

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<sup>1</sup> TJC Department of Literary Ministry, *Bible Study Guide: Mark*, (Malaysia: True Jesus Church, 2012), [http://bsg.tjc.org/tjc\\_bsg\\_lesson/mark-9/](http://bsg.tjc.org/tjc_bsg_lesson/mark-9/), 7.3: 13.

## *Life Application*

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### **1. Humble ourselves before Jesus.**

Nothing could be more different between the approaches of Jairus and the woman, but they had one thing in common: their faith in Jesus. Despite his authority as a Jewish leader, Jairus humbled himself before Jesus and was not ashamed to plead for help. And despite her uncleanness, the woman humbly set aside her shame and fear to touch Jesus' garment and confess her actions.

- Share a time when you have humbled yourself before the Lord.

### **2. Earnestly come to Jesus in faith.**

All of us have experienced being sick or ill in some way, physically or spiritually. Do you know who needs healing now in your family? At your church? God can heal us physically, emotionally, and spiritually. But we must earnestly come to Jesus with faith, just as these two did. We all face fear, despair, or doubt from time to time. Jairus' belief encourages us to have hope in the face of our fear and despair. He shows us that to have faith in Jesus means relinquishing trust in oneself, and instead placing our trust fully in God. Faith in Jesus demands that we believe in Him, despite fear of the unknown and our desire to control our own lives.

- When we face hardship or difficulties, what does it mean to have faith in Jesus?
- How do you deal with fear or despair during your struggles? What do you do to overcome it?

### **3. Pray to God for everything.**

After raising Jairus' daughter, Jesus reminded him to give her food. This shows us that He never overlooks the little details of our lives. We need to tell Jesus about what we are going through and what we have done. He knows where we hurt, and He is ready to heal us. Nothing is too great for Him, and nothing is insignificant to Him. We pray to God not only for Him to heal the sick or to find a job, but for all matters, even things as simple as finding a lost item or resolving an argument. When we pray with all our hearts, God may answer with much more than our request, in accordance with our faith. God listens to every prayer that is accompanied by faith, for "without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him" (Heb 11:6).

## *Memory Verse*

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"Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you." (1 Peter 5:6–7)

### **Meaning**

Jesus knows us inside out—He knows our personality, our state, and our feelings. It does not matter if we are shy or bold, young or old, leader or outcast. He loves us, and He cares about all of our needs. He cares about our fears, doubts, challenges, and crises, and He is ready to help. As long as we humble ourselves under His mighty hand, He will exalt us in due time. So, what do you fear? What do you need? Jesus is right here, waiting. Talk to Him, tell Him the whole truth, and have faith in Him because He truly cares for us, and He has the power to take care of us.

## *Conclusion*

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Like Jairus and the woman, we too need only believe in Jesus' power. He has already triumphed over death, and He has proven over and over again that He keeps His promises. And to us, He has promised the greatest of rewards: everlasting life. When we believe in Him, as long as we reach out to Him, we

have no reason to fear death (1 Cor 15:55). Jesus promises that we shall be resurrected in a spiritual body (1 Cor 15:22, 43–44), and thus will always be with the Lord (1 Thess 4:17). Jesus said to Jairus, “Do not be afraid; only believe.” Knowing that Jesus has already triumphed over death, what reason is there for us to fear anything on this earth?

## Lesson 8 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. What does the memory verse tell us about how to approach Jesus? What happens when we do?  
*We must approach Him with humility. He will exalt us and help us, because He cares for us and has the power to take care of us.*
2. What about the woman's belief and actions indicated her great faith?  
*The fact that she believed she needed only to touch the hem of Jesus' garment to be healed. Also the fact that she risked punishment for entering the crowds and touching Jesus, yet still did so despite knowing this.*
3. What can we learn from Jesus' response to the woman?  
*Jesus will wait patiently for us to come to Him of our own accord. And when we do, He is ready to comfort us and strengthen our faith.*
4. What can we learn from Jairus' approach of Jesus?  
*He humbled himself sincerely before Jesus and had complete faith in Jesus' ability to heal his daughter.*
5. What does it mean to truly have faith in God?  
*This means believing in Him, despite fear of the unknown and our desire to control our own lives. It means relinquishing trust in ourselves and the actions we can take, and instead trusting fully in Jesus' power and guidance.*
6. Write about a time in your life when you were afraid and perhaps doubted Jesus. What lessons did you learn? How would you apply the teachings of Jesus in the future?  
*Personal answers.*

Junior 1 Year 1 Book 2 Lesson 9  
**The Healing Miracles of Jesus (III)**  
Passages: Jn 4:46–54; 5:1–16

*Memory Verse*

“Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved, for You are my praise.” (Jeremiah 17:14)

<b>Knowledge of God’s Will [God’s Word]</b>	<b>Knowledge of God [God’s Divine Nature]</b>	<b>Good Work [Behavior]</b>
God works in ways beyond our understanding.	God is compassionate and all-powerful.	Turn to God first in our time of need.

*Overview*

**Events and Spiritual Teachings**

- A. Understanding Miracles
- B. The Healing of the Nobleman’s Son
- C. The Healing of the Man at Bethesda
- D. The Two Miracles Compared

**Life Application:** Do You Want to Be Made Well?

**Memory Verse**

**Conclusion:** Jesus Christ is the ultimate healer and Savior. If we put our trust in Him, we will find that He is able to heal us both inside and out in the most wonderful of ways.



## Events and Spiritual Teachings

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### A. Understanding Miracles

A miracle is an extraordinary event that demonstrates God's intervention in the lives of men. In the Bible, many miracles are recorded in the Old and New Testaments. Throughout His lifetime on earth, Jesus Christ performed many of them. These miracles are evidence that Jesus Christ is God, the Creator of the universe. Studying His miracles helps us to develop a better understanding of Christ, and of why we can trust in Him with our whole heart.

Today, we will look at two miracles of healing in the Gospel of John.

### B. The Healing of the Nobleman's Son

The first miracle we'll study today is recorded in John 4:46–49. Let's read it together.

#### The Problem

*So Jesus came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman whose son was sick at Capernaum. When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and implored Him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. Then Jesus said to him, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe." The nobleman said to Him, "Sir, come down before my child dies!"*

(Jn 4:46–49)

The journey from Capernaum to Cana would have taken a whole day by foot, but at such a critical time, the nobleman was willing to leave his son's side to seek Jesus. He saw Jesus Christ as his last hope in a dire and desperate situation. We are able to see his urgency and anxiety through his request to Jesus Christ. The nobleman not only begs Jesus to come heal his son, but even commands Jesus, saying "Sir, come down before my child dies!" (v. 49). He is so focused on his need for Jesus Christ to heal his son that he fails to see who Jesus Christ is. The nobleman could not see that standing before him was Jesus, who is God Himself.

Oftentimes, we are like this nobleman. In our minds, we know that Jesus Christ is able to help us, but we have difficulty bringing our burdens before Him. We focus fully on the problem. Thus, we are blind to the fact that standing before us is our almighty God, who is greater than any problem that we may face. Similarly, we may also be like this nobleman and decide for Jesus how He should help us. The nobleman believed firmly that Jesus Christ had to go down to Capernaum to be able to heal his son. However, Jesus Christ works in ways more wonderful and more powerful than this nobleman could ever imagine.

#### The Miracle

Let us continue by reading John 4:50–54.

In response to the nobleman's request, Jesus simply replied: "Go your way; your son lives" (v. 50). With those unassuming words, Jesus Christ healed the nobleman's son. He did not need to travel to Capernaum as the nobleman had thought. Instead, Jesus Christ demonstrated the power and authority of His word. The nobleman trusted Jesus and returned home after hearing His words. He did not beg or question Jesus any further.

Along the way home, the nobleman's faith in Jesus strengthened when he met his servant, who told him that his son had recovered. After further inquiry, the nobleman discovered that his son had been healed

the moment Jesus had said to him, “Your son lives.” The discovery solidified the nobleman’s faith and enabled his whole household to believe. The nobleman learned that Jesus Christ’s authority and power surpassed what he had imagined.

Today, Jesus Christ is also able to work in our lives when we trust in Him. Though we may have our own ideas about how to solve problems, we must understand that our God in heaven is all-powerful. His power is far greater than what we imagine. Therefore, we should learn to trust in His authority fully as our sovereign God, for His ways are above our own.

### **C. The Healing of the Man at Bethesda**

Next, let us turn to another miracle of healing and begin by reading John 5:1–7.

#### **The Problem**

Unlike the other miracles of healing we have studied, the person who needed healing did not explicitly ask Jesus Christ for help. Rather, Jesus Christ approached the man, asking, “Do you want to be made well?” (v. 6). Jesus had compassion on him because He knew that the man had been afflicted for a long time. Though the solution lay just before him, being unable to walk and having no one to bring him into the pool, he was not only alone, but also in a hopeless situation.

In response to Jesus Christ’s question, the man replied, “Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me” (v. 7). Similar to the previous miracle, this man was focused upon seeking the solution he believed he needed—he failed to see Jesus Christ standing before Him. But actually, Jesus was the solution he needed.

#### **The Miracle**

*“Jesus said to him, ‘Rise, take up your bed and walk.’ And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath.”*

(Jn 5:8–9)

Again, we see the power and authority of Jesus’ words. With one command, Jesus healed a man who had been suffering for thirty-eight years. Though the man had no idea who Jesus was, Jesus still healed him according to His own will and grace. Jesus Christ has the authority to heal whom He wishes.

The man who received healing had an interesting response. He did not know the identity of the Man who had just healed him, and he also did not ask. He simply stood up, took his bed, and walked away. The Bible does not record any words of thanksgiving or praise. The man did not exhibit any desire to understand why and how he was healed.

Let us continue to read John 5:10–16.

When confronted by the Jews about carrying his bed on the Sabbath, the man who was healed placed the blame on Jesus. Later, Jesus Christ found him in the temple, pointed out that he had been healed, and exhorted him to sin no more. After departing the temple, the healed man told the Jews that Jesus Christ was the one who had healed him on the Sabbath.

The Bible does not record what kind of lifestyle this man led after his healing, but through this miracle, we can see Jesus’ compassion for this man. Jesus not only wanted him to be healed physically, He also wanted him to transform from within and depart from his sinful lifestyle.

### D. The Two Miracles Compared

The author of the Gospel of John chose to place these stories together, and we can learn much by comparing and contrasting these two miracles.

The Healing of the Nobleman's Son	The Healing of the Man at Bethesda
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heard that Jesus was in the area</li> <li>• Went to find Jesus</li> <li>• Believed after witnessing the miracle</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Did not know who Jesus was</li> <li>• Found and approached by Jesus</li> <li>• Did not believe even after being healed</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Had their own ideas of how to receive healing               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The nobleman believed that Jesus had to go to his house to heal his son</li> <li>○ The man at Bethesda believed that only the pool could heal him</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Healed by the power of Jesus' word</li> </ul>	

Both of these miracles are examples of how Jesus Christ healed through the power of His words. As God Himself, He holds authority in the words that He speaks. Apart from being demonstrations of Jesus' power, these miracles are also expressions of Jesus' compassion. He shows no partiality when He heals. From those who beg Him to those who do not even know who He is, He heals them all. His compassion and love have no limits. Today, we must trust in our Savior, who not only has the power but also the compassion to help us in our time of need. Let us continue to put our faith in Him and submit to His will. When we do, we will experience His love and power in our lives in ways beyond our imagination.

#### Check for Understanding

- 1. How did the nobleman think his son was going to be healed?** He thought Jesus was going to go with him to his home in Capernaum to heal his son.
- 2. How did the man at Bethesda think he was going to be healed?** He thought he would be healed if someone could put him in the pool when the water was first stirred.
- 3. How did Jesus heal both of them?** Jesus healed both of them by His word.
- 4. Compare and contrast these two miracles. How are they similar? How are they different?**

Different		Similar
The Nobleman	The man at Bethesda	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heard that Jesus was in the area</li> <li>• Went to go find Him</li> <li>• Believed after witnessing the miracle</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Did not know who Jesus was</li> <li>• Jesus found him</li> <li>• Did not believe even after being healed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Had their own ideas of how to receive healing</li> <li>• Healed by the power of Jesus word</li> </ul>

- 5. What do these two miracles reveal to us about Jesus Christ's compassion?** Jesus Christ shows no partiality when He heals. He has the authority to heal whom He wills.

#### Life Application

*"Do you want to be made well?" (Lk 5:6)*

It seemed like an odd question for Jesus Christ to ask a man who had an infirmity for thirty-eight years because, of course, the man wanted to be healed. However, Jesus Christ's question served to reveal the man's heart. Despite having Jesus Christ standing right before him, he could only see the pool that he could never get into and the hopelessness of his situation.

Oftentimes, we can be like this afflicted man. Though Jesus Christ is right before us, we look towards other people or things to help us. When we get a headache, our first reaction is to take some medicine. When we have to make a difficult decision, we may first seek the advice of our peers. It is not wrong to take medicine or to seek the advice of others. However, when we turn to these outlets first, we have forgotten that we have a God in heaven that is almighty and powerful. It is only when these outlets are unable to help us that we finally turn to Him. At this point when we have run out of options, Jesus Christ becomes our backup plan.

Let us reflect upon ourselves with the following questions:

- What is our first reaction when we encounter a problem?
- When do we turn to Jesus?
- Have we treated Jesus Christ as our backup plan?

This afflicted man was freed from thirty-eight years of suffering once Jesus spoke words of healing. He didn't know who Jesus was, but Jesus was still willing to heal him. Today, as His precious children, how much more does Jesus want to come into our lives to make us well? He does not desire for us to suffer alone. Instead, He wants us to turn to Him so that He can make us well. Let us not make Him our second choice, but rather our first choice in life. When there is something that makes us anxious, we can ask Him to give us peace in our hearts. So, how do we remind ourselves to turn to Jesus first?

### **1. Count our blessings**

We should remember the grace that God has bestowed upon our lives. He wants us to give thanks to Him in all circumstances. Whether good or bad, God wants us to turn to Him with thanksgiving (1 Thess 5:18). When we remember to give thanks in our times of joy, then we will remember to turn to Him in our times of need.

### **2. Be connected to Him**

In our time of need, we will often go to those in whom we trust. However, trust requires time and effort to grow. This is also true of our relationship with our Father in heaven. When we pray or study His word, we connect with our God in heaven. Through this daily cultivation, we are able to grow in our trust in Him.

When we are willing to bring ourselves to Jesus Christ first, we will find that He is waiting for us to turn to Him. The things that we have relied on before will pale in comparison to our Savior, who has the power and compassion to help us overcome any obstacle we may encounter. He is the only one who can truly help us!

### **Testimony: Healed from the Inside Out**

*In the name of the Lord Jesus, I testify to glorify His name. I grew up in the church, attending religious education classes, and even receiving the Holy Spirit when I was young. When I started high school, my behavior and spirituality were good. However, my spiritual life spiraled downward as my freshman year progressed. By my junior year, I quarreled with my family daily, went wherever I wanted to go, lied constantly, and made bad friends. It progressed to the point where I thought*

*about quitting church because I couldn't understand why I was bound by so many rules when all I wanted was to be free. Pride also began to grow in my heart because everything else in my life was so good. I was young and doing well in school. I felt untouchable. What I didn't realize was that even though I was very much alive on the outside, inside I was dying.*

*One morning in October 2012, during my junior year, I woke up with a very stiff neck. When I went to the bathroom and looked in the mirror, I saw a lump the size of a gumball, sticking out of my left clavicle. A week passed and the gumball had swollen to the size of my fist. As the weeks passed, the lump seemed to grow bigger and bigger.*

*After seeing a series of head and neck specialists and oncologists, I was diagnosed with having cancer of the lymph nodes. Finally, the panic set in, but my faith was weak, so I neither blamed God nor sought His help. It seemed pointless because I thought that God didn't love me.*

*After being diagnosed with cancer, it is standard procedure to undergo several body scans. It turned out that there were two tumors in my body. Thank God, though I had two large tumors, the lymphoma was only at stage II, meaning that it was discovered early and very treatable. My chemotherapy took place about once every fortnight. I had to receive special shots to replenish my white blood cells. As a result, there were countless nights when I was jolted awake by a painful burning sensation in my spine. In one particular instance, I asked God why He would bring me this suffering, and I pleaded for Him to take away the pain. As I lay there, I started to reflect on how sinful my life was. I recalled that, "For whom the LORD loves He corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights" (Prov 3:12). As I thought about this verse, my prayer started to change. I began to understand that God was chastising me, and I accepted His actions. In prayer, I started admitting my wrong. I recognized that this was something I deserved, and I accepted it. When I returned to God, He showed His faithfulness and lessened my suffering.*

*God also protected me psychologically. Throughout my entire diagnosis and treatment, I cried only once. I knew that God had put me into good human hands while covering me with His own hand. I had a great support system consisting of my parents, friends, family, and church. I felt a peace and joy washing over me, which could only have been possible through hope in God.*

*Another blessing was that I was able to go to church throughout my illness, even though I was housebound. The cancer affected my immune system, so I had to be home-schooled. But when Saturdays came around, I would get dressed and go to church to keep the Sabbath. I had no fear about going to church because I felt that God was protecting me, that He would not allow anything to happen to me. Because of this, church was my only source of influence during that six-month period. This was another blessing, because it meant that I was removed from the darkness I had been living in. I was no longer surrounded by bad friends or negative influences at school. God was detoxifying me spiritually, and at the same time, He was filling me with His love and mercy through church members and my family. I no longer felt the need to be sinful or to fulfill my own pleasure, because I felt filled already.*

*The greatest blessing was that cancer transformed my relationship with my family. After six months of being sick and spending every day with my parents, I experienced their love more than imaginable. They supported me throughout my chemotherapy, as they accompanied me to every session, made me feel comfortable, cleaned me up after every long day, and helped me recover. They dropped their*

*entire lives to take care of me and make sure I was okay. I really thank God for giving me such amazing parents.*

*As the chemotherapy was working to shrink the malignant cells and tumors, I also felt my evil desires, anger, and weaknesses diminishing. It was spiritual chemotherapy. I found it especially interesting that I had a huge growth right in front of my heart, as though it was a physical manifestation of all the evil that was covering my heart. It had brought me so much anger and emptiness, preventing me from seeing God and other people in a good light. During my treatment, even though I felt like my outer body was dying, my inner person was slowly being brought back to life, being strengthened and restored on the right path.*

*Thank God, I was declared cancer-free in April 2013. Even though I suffered, I came out practically unscathed. Even now, my experience of having cancer feels like a dream that I can hardly remember. My only reminders of ever being sick are the scars on my body. God really protected me and showed me His mercy and love. He placed me in the fire in order to refine me so that I would be a more complete vessel. He showed me His righteousness. Even more, He showed me He is my heavenly Father. He took me back and saved me from being lost. Now I feel that I should do everything for the glory of God to repay His love.*

*I'm very thankful that He saved my life. May all glory and praise be unto His name.*

- Steffi Joeng, USA

Adapted from *Manna 75: Towards Maturity*

### **Memory Verse**

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"Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved, for You are my praise." (Jeremiah 17:14)

### **Meaning**

1. God has the authority to heal and save us.
2. If it is His will to heal us, we will be healed.
3. God is worthy of our praise because He is our healer and Savior.

### **Conclusion**

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Jesus Christ is the ultimate healer and Savior. He heals us out of His love by His word. For this reason, we should open our hearts and bring our wounds to Him. If we put our trust in Him, we will find that He is able to heal us both inside and out in the most wonderful of ways.

## Lesson 9 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. What does the memory verse teach us about God's nature?  
*God has the authority and power to heal and save us from anything. He is compassionate towards us.*
2. What did the nobleman believe that Jesus needed to do in order to heal his son?  
*He believed that Jesus needed to see his son in person.*
3. Why did Jesus approach the man He healed at Bethesda again in the temple?  
*Jesus did not limit His healing to the physical. He also wanted the man to transform from within and depart from his sinful lifestyle.*
4. What do these two miracles teach us about Jesus Christ's sovereignty?  
*Both the nobleman and the man at Bethesda had preconceived notions about what was required for healing. But Jesus is not bound by the thinking of mankind; no matter what we believe we may need, His understanding and power are infinitely greater than our own.*
5. What do these two miracles teach us about Jesus Christ's compassion?  
*Jesus shows no partiality in His healing; He has great compassion for us, especially we who are His beloved children.*
6. Share one way that you have experienced God's grace this past week.  
*Personal answers.*

**Miracles of Supply**

Passages: Mt 17:24–27; Lk 5:3–10; Jn 21:4–11; Heb 11:1; Col 1:16; Lk 11:28; Joel 2:13; Prov 10:22

*Memory Verse*

“And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.” (2 Corinthians 9:8)

<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. God provides for all our needs. 2. God’s grace is abundant and sufficient for us.	1. God is omniscient. 2. God is the source of all things. 3. God is compassionate.	1. Learn to rely on God and not on ourselves. 2. Repay God’s love by returning to Him with urgency and doing His work.

*Overview*

**Events and Spiritual Teachings**

- A. The Miracle of Finding a Coin in a Fish’s Mouth (Mt 17:24–27)
- B. The Miracle of Catching a Great Number of Fish (Lk 5:3–10)
  - **Life Application:** The Purpose of God’s Supply
- C. The Miracle of Breakfast by the Sea (Jn 21:4–11)
  - **Life Application:** The Goal of God’s Supply

**Memory Verse**

**Conclusion:** Draw close to God with complete faith and obedience so that He can supply us with immeasurable grace and blessings. God’s providence, just like His word, is wonderful, perfect, and full of abundance.



### Introduction

We have been given the ability to solve various issues in our daily life. Some abilities come easily to us, while others have been accumulated through years of experience and learning. Yet, no matter how capable we may be or how much we try, there are still moments out of our control and beyond our abilities; these moments may result in disappointment, helplessness, or anxiety. Today, let us study three miracles to learn how Jesus Christ provides for our needs and the reasons behind His providence.

### A. The Miracle of Finding a Coin in a Fish's Mouth

Let us read Matthew 17:24–27.

This miracle occurs as a result of the tax collector coming to collect the temple tax from both Jesus Christ and Peter. Unlike the common Roman civil tax, the temple tax is a religious tax paid to support the temple in Jerusalem. God established this tax in the wilderness, instructing Moses to collect half a shekel from every male twenty years and older as an offering to the Lord (Ex 30:11–16). The tax collected provided for the work of the tabernacle and, eventually, for the costs of the temple, including during the time of Christ.

After Peter came into the room, Jesus Christ knew what was on Peter's mind. So, He asked Peter: Who pays the taxes, the common people or the sons of the king? As the Son of God, the temple belonged to Jesus, and as such, He should be exempt. But rather than cause unnecessary offense and conflict, Jesus Christ chose to pay the tax. He gave Peter precise instructions about where to obtain the money.

How illogical does Jesus' command sound? There are so many fish in the sea; what are the odds that the first one Peter catches would contain the exact amount of money needed to pay the tax? All these are questions that Peter could have asked, but instead of questioning Jesus' command, he obeyed with complete faith. What is faith? "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Heb 11:1). Even though Jesus' words seemed to describe the impossible, Peter nevertheless believed with faith and took action. Thus, he was able to experience God's supply, which is not of this world.

### Learning About Jesus Christ from His Supply

#### 1. Jesus Christ is all-knowing

Jesus Christ was not physically present when the conversation between the tax collector and Peter took place, yet He knew exactly what had happened. Our Lord is all-knowing. Though He is not physically in the midst of our tribulations, He knows the difficulties we are facing. For this reason, our Lord knows our specific needs and how to provide for us, even in times when even we may not have a full understanding of our circumstances.

#### 2. Jesus Christ is Lord of creation

Jesus Christ is omniscient; He knew that the first fish Peter would catch would yield the exact amount needed to pay the tax. Not only is He omniscient, but He is also in control of all things: both organic, such as the fish, and inorganic, such as the coin. All creation is under Him and obeys Him. Just as Paul reminds us, "For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him" (Col 1:16).

As children of God, we should feel relieved and strengthened to know that nothing is impossible for God. No matter how difficult our situation or how painful our struggle, our God knows and can provide a way. People around us may be willing to help, but they too are limited because we all are simply human. Our Lord can provide not only for our physical needs, but also more importantly, for our spiritual needs. Who better to seek and ask for help from than the source of all things, our Lord Jesus Christ?

## **B. The Miracle of Catching a Great Number of Fish**

Let us read Luke 5:3–10.

This miracle was performed when Jesus Christ first met the disciples. After using Peter’s boat to teach the multitudes, Jesus Christ asked Peter to launch the boat into the deep and let down the net. Peter had doubts since he was an experienced fisherman. Furthermore, he had already toiled all night and caught nothing.

However, Peter did not allow his doubts to keep him from obeying Jesus. After listening to what Jesus Christ had taught the multitude, he was willing to follow up with actions in complete faith and obedience. Jesus Christ said in Luke 11:28, “Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!” Sure enough, Peter experienced a miracle that was beyond his expectations. The number of fish was so great that Peter needed his partners to come and help him pull up the net. Peter’s experience reminds us that in the presence of God, our effort and experiences are often insignificant. Likewise, if we rely only on our own effort and experiences, we will come up short in life. But if God is in our life, just as Jesus was in the boat, His word, abidance, and grace will satisfy our needs.

Immediately after catching a great number of fish, Peter began to see his true self and recognized his sin before God. However, Jesus responded by entrusting Peter with even a greater work—to be a “fisher of men.”

### **The Purpose of God’s Supply**

#### **1. To shift our reliance from ourselves to God**

“Believe in yourself” is a common value that is preached to us in today’s society. We are taught to believe in our abilities, our judgments, and our experience. But when we rely on ourselves, we forget who the ultimate provider is.

- There is a point in our lives where we will come to realize an important fact of life: we can toil, put forth a tremendous effort, or even use up all of our resources in pursuit of our desires, but still turn up empty-handed. But the end of man’s way is the beginning of God’s grace. Tribulations help us realize that we need to put our faith in God and not in ourselves. We must undergo trials of life, as they make us reevaluate our way of life in Christ—experience versus obedience. Our limitations are a blessing that we can give thanks for, as it is often the difficulties in our life that help us to refocus on the principles of God, not of this world.

#### **2. To increase our understanding of God**

The purpose of God’s providence in our life is not merely to assist us with our needs, but more importantly, to give us a greater understanding of God’s nature. Peter was able to experience Jesus’ blessings and power by following His words. He witnessed that Jesus Christ is God—the Creator and Master of all things—and that His supply is immeasurable. As we ourselves experience God’s abundant grace, we also experience the promises and power of God’s word. It opens us up to a deeper understanding of God’s love and a greater awareness of His true existence.

- Let us ask ourselves: When we experience God’s providence, do we come to know God more than before experiencing it? Or do we simply take His providence for granted?
- When was the last time God answered your needs? What did you learn about God’s divine character? How does our experience with God help us increase our faith?

### **3. To bring self-awareness**

When Peter witnessed the miracle, he fell to his knees and acknowledged himself as a sinner. Through God’s providence, not only can we come to know God even more, we can also come to learn more about ourselves. One brother testified that when he first came to True Jesus Church as a truth-seeker, he did not understand much of the sermon. But he felt that while sitting in the chapel, listening to the words of God made him feel small and filthy. This is a self-awareness about who we are—we all fall short of God’s glory. Paul wrote, “For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle” (1 Cor 15:9) when he understood his error in persecuting the church. But as long as we are willing to surrender to God and His guidance, He will listen to and care for us.

### **C. The Miracle of Breakfast by the Sea**

Let’s read John 21:4–11.

This miracle took place when Jesus Christ showed Himself to the disciples for the third time after His resurrection. Being spiritually weak and lost without guidance, the disciples had returned to being fishermen. Knowing this, Jesus Christ stood patiently on the shore awaiting their return. The Israelites often went astray and forgot the teachings of God, yet God continuously called for their return. As Jesus stood on the shore, the first thing He asked was whether or not they had eaten. The God that we worship is a merciful and compassionate God. Whenever we are lacking, our Lord knows and cares for our needs. As mentioned in Hebrews 4:15, our God sympathizes with our weaknesses. Our Lord is standing on the shore waiting to share our burdens and worries—when we are willing to seek Him and return to Him, He will care for us and provide for our needs (Joel 2:13).

Jesus commanded the disciples where to cast the net, and once again the disciples gained plentiful fish—153 to be exact. However, the Bible specifically states that despite the great number of fish, the net did not break. This reminds us again that when we obey God’s word, blessings will follow. The blessings of God can be abundant and rich, but they will not overwhelm us or add to our worries. “The blessing of the LORD makes one rich, and He adds no sorrow with it” (Prov 10:22). God’s grace is always perfect and sufficient for us, just like the net that held an abundant number of fish.

As soon as the disciples experienced the miracle, one of the disciples immediately recognized it as the miraculous work of the Lord. Peter even plunged into the sea to swim quickly ashore and see Jesus Christ. As the other disciples reached the shore, Jesus Christ asked them to bring some of the fish for breakfast, as He had already prepared the meal (Jn 21:12).

### **The Goal of God’s Supply**

#### **1. To draw us closer to God**

As mentioned in the previous miracle recorded in the Gospel of Luke, God’s providence will help us understand God better. However, sometimes we can forget His providence because it has been too long since we last experienced God. For example, how long has it been since you last felt the power of Holy Spirit? How long has it been since you last thought about the love of God? Or the joy and peace from God? Many times, God’s grace and providence remind us of God’s unending love and

promises. Just as the miracle reminded the disciples of what Jesus Christ had done for them, we are also reminded of what we know of God from our past blessings.

- We should not simply be reminded of God's grace. We should constantly count God's blessings in our daily life.
- As we learn more about God and His grace, what significance does it hold for us? What should we strive to achieve in our faith? Like Peter, we should go to Jesus' side quickly. Since we have already experienced how wonderful God's blessings are, we will desire God's presence all the more.
- "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you" (Jas 4:8). How can we draw near to God? By spending time with God through worship and prayer, and by inviting God into every single aspect of our life. By drawing closer to Him, we develop a stronger spiritual life!

## 2. To use what God has given us to do His work

When the disciples came to shore, Jesus Christ asked them to bring some of the fish that they had caught. Similar to the disciples catching 153 fish, we too have received abundant providence from God. These may be strengths, gifts, or wonderful testimonies that God has given us. Instead of keeping these blessings for ourselves, we should follow Jesus' teaching to give them as an offering for the Lord so that others can witness and share these blessings. We can use our personal strengths to serve our brethren, use our gifts to serve in church holy work, and use our wonderful experiences of God to testify to truth-seekers or brothers and sisters to further glorify the name of God.

*(Teachers: The following Life Application questions are included on the Student Handout.)*

### **Life Application**

- *Why do we need to cast aside our self-reliance to see God's providence?*
- *How can God's providence change our faith?*
- *How do we answer to God's providence?*

### **Check for Understanding**

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1. **Why did Jesus and Peter need to pay temple tax?** The temple tax is a religious tax used to support the temple in Jerusalem. Every Jew needs to pay the temple tax according to God's instructions to Moses. Even though Jesus points out to Peter that as the Son of God, He does not need to pay, He still instructs Peter to pay the tax to avoid offending others.
2. **What do we learn about Jesus Christ through the miracle of finding a coin in the fish's mouth?** Jesus Christ is God, who is all-knowing; He is the Creator of everything, and all creation is under His control.
3. **What did Peter experience about Jesus Christ in the miracle of catching a great number of fish?** Peter experienced blessings by obeying Jesus' command. He witnessed Jesus' sovereignty, which is beyond human logic and understanding. Lastly, through Jesus' glory, he understood that he was a sinner.
4. **What can our trials help us to realize?** Trials help us realize that we should rely on God and not on ourselves because as humans, we are limited in power.
5. **What additional actions should we take as we experience God's providence?** We should draw closer to God because we have learned how wonderful it is to have Him in our lives. In addition, we should use the blessings God has given us to serve Him.

### **Memory Verse**

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“And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.” (2 Corinthians 9:8)

### **Meaning**

Our Lord knows our needs because He is compassionate and caring. He is able to provide for us because He is omnipotent—all things have been created by Him and are under His control. His grace is so abundant that we find no lack in Him, and to repay God’s unfailing love, we should further use His grace to serve Him through every good deed.

### **Conclusion**

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Mankind constantly seeks things of this world, whether tangible or intangible. We may seek material satisfaction or worldly joy and peace to fill the emptiness inside us. But when we rely only on our own experience and effort, many times we come to realize that we cannot find true and lasting satisfaction. However, it is possible to achieve what seems impossible through God. God is omnipotent and omniscient; He can provide what this world cannot. His providence is immeasurable and in Him our labor will not be in vain. Jesus said, “Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life” (Jn 4:13–14).

When we come to know God through His providence, let us not linger in drawing ourselves closer to Him. He is waiting for us to return so that He can give us love and grace; He is there to provide for and satisfy our needs. And when we are restored from our weaknesses, let us also not forget to strengthen our brethren by sharing what God has given us.

## Lesson 10 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. What does the memory verse teach us about God's character and power?  
*Our Lord knows our needs because He is compassionate and caring. He is able to provide for us because He is omnipotent. His grace is so abundant that we will find no lack in Him.*
2. What can we learn about God through God's supply?  
*God is omniscient and knows all our needs even when we ourselves do not have a full understanding. As Lord of all creation, God is omnipotent and has power over all things.*
3. What does it mean to shift our reliance from ourselves towards God?  
*We are taught to believe in our abilities, judgments, and experience, but when we rely on ourselves, we forget who our ultimate provider is. When we encounter trials, we must learn to rely on God, not on ourselves, to overcome them.*
4. Choose one characteristic of God that you learned in this lesson. Describe how it was manifested.  
*God is omniscient: Jesus understood His disciples' needs even before they knew them.*  
*God is the source of all things: Through the coin in the fish's mouth and the great number of fish that the disciples caught when they first met Jesus both times, and when Jesus appeared after His resurrection.*  
*God is compassionate: Jesus did not rebuke His disciples for their return to their old occupation. Instead, He patiently awaited their return on the shore and prepared food for them.*
5. In what ways can God's providence change us?  
*We can attain a greater understanding of both God and ourselves. We can also draw closer to God and, instead of relying on ourselves, learn to rely on God.*
6. Describe a gift that you have and why you think it is from God. How can you use it to serve God?  
*Personal answers.*

**Miracles over Evil Spirits**

Passages: Mk 5:1–20

*Memory Verse*

“And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues.” (Mark 16:17)

<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 has authority over evil spirits.	God is almighty and ruler of all.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Identify our chains.</li><li>2. Have the desire and conviction to be free.</li><li>3. Bring our chains to Jesus.</li></ol>

*Overview*

**Events and Spiritual Teachings**

- A. Jesus Christ Has Authority over Evil Spirits
- B. The Demon-Possessed Man at Gadarenes
- C. The Demon-Possessed Boy

**Life Application:** Finding True Freedom

**Memory Verse**

**Conclusion:** In our fight against Satan, we must go to Jesus Christ and trust in His power to help us overcome our chains and give us the strength to break free.

## Events and Spiritual Teachings

### A. Jesus Has Authority over Evil Spirits

While on earth, Jesus Christ established His authority as God through the miracles He performed. This authority was not only over the physical world, but also the spiritual. In the Four Gospels, there are six specific miracles where Jesus Christ demonstrates His authority over the spiritual realm through His casting out of evil spirits.

Miracles over Evil Spirits	
Demon-Possessed Man at Gadarenes	Mt 8:28–34; Mk 5:1–20; Lk 8:26–39
Demon-Possessed Mute	Mt 9:32–33
Demon-Possessed Blind & Mute	Mt 12:22–23; Lk 11:14–23
Demon-Possessed Daughter	Mt 15:21–28; Mk 7:24–30
Demon-Possessed Son	Mt 17:14–18; Mk 9:17–29; Lk 9:38–43
Demon-Possessed Man at the Synagogue	Mk 1:21–28; Lk 4:31–37

These miracles over evil spirits are evidence that Jesus Christ is God Himself. Today, we will be studying two of these miracles to gain a deeper understanding of Jesus Christ’s authority over evil spirits.

### B. The Demon-Possessed Man at Gadarenes

#### The Problem

Let’s read Mark 5:1–10.

*Then they came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gadarenes. And when He had come out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no one could bind him, not even with chains, because he had often been bound with shackles and chains. And the chains had been pulled apart by him, and the shackles broken in pieces; neither could anyone tame him. And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones.*

(Mk 5:1–5)

After crossing the sea, Jesus Christ came to the region of Gadarenes, a Gentile country also known as Gerasenes. From the description of the demon-possessed man, we can see how pitiful his life was. The evil spirit caused him to become wild, isolated from others, and living among the tombs. The people of the area tried to bind him with shackles and chains, but those failed to contain him. The unclean spirit controlled the man’s body, even causing him to cut himself with stones. Clearly, human means were unable to subdue him or free him from the control of the evil spirits—he was in a hopeless situation.

*When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped Him. And he cried out with a loud voice and said, “What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me.” For He said to him, “Come out of the man, unclean spirit!” Then He asked him, “What is your name?” And he answered, saying, “My name is Legion; for we are many.” Also he begged Him earnestly that He would not send them out of the country.*

(Mk 5:6–10)



The turning point of the situation occurred when the demon-possessed man came before Jesus Christ. While no person had been able to help him before, Jesus Christ was able to because He had the authority and power of God. Jesus Christ's absolute authority is demonstrated through the interaction between Jesus Christ and Legion.

First, upon seeing Jesus from a distance, the evil spirits quickly went to Jesus and worshiped Him. This signified their acknowledgement and recognition that Jesus was one who had authority over them (v. 6). Second, the evil spirits referred to Him as "Jesus, Son of the Most High God" (v. 7). Jesus did not even have to speak a word of introduction and still the evil spirits were able to recognize Him.

In addition to being able to identify Jesus, they also greatly feared Him. The evil spirits begged Jesus not to send them out of the country (vv. 7, 10). This simple act of begging shows that the evil spirits were aware that Jesus had control over them. They understood that they had to obey whatever Jesus commanded them to do. When Jesus Christ said, "Come out of the man," the evil spirits obeyed because His words have authority. Though it had been impossible for man to control the evil spirits, Jesus Christ simply had to speak a few words to cast them out. From this we can see Jesus' authority over all.

### **The Miracle**

Let's read Mark 5:11–20. With His command, Jesus Christ forced the evil spirits to come out of the man (Mk 5:8, 13). However, Legion begged Jesus to be sent into a nearby herd of pigs, and Jesus consented. As a result, the evil spirits went into the herd of pigs, causing them to run down a steep place into the sea, where they drowned.

With the assimilation of Gentiles into their land, herding pigs may not have been uncommon. But according to Mosaic laws, they were unclean animals in God's eyes, unfit for eating or for sacrifice (Lev 11:7–8). Legion's entry into a herd of unclean animals reminds us that any impurity in our hearts and lives is an opportunity for temptation and sin to enter and lead us to spiritual death (Eph 4:27).

We can also see and learn from the two types of reactions to this miracle. The first type was that of the pig herders and the townspeople who, after witnessing the miracle, begged Jesus Christ to leave (Mk 5:17). They feared what they did not understand. A great miracle had been performed, but they focused only on the lost herd of pigs. Whether it was from the shock, or from the realization that they had suffered a great loss with no gain in return, the herders were unable to see Jesus Christ for the Savior that He was.

The second reaction was that of the man who had been freed from the evil spirits. This man understood who Jesus Christ really was and wanted to be with Him, so he begged to go with Jesus (Mk 5:18). Even though he had finally been freed from evil spirits and could return to his family and life, he wanted to be with Jesus. However, Jesus did not allow him to travel with Him. Instead, He commanded the newly freed man to testify to others what the Lord had done for him. His freedom from his suffering became a testimony of Jesus Christ and His power. Since Jesus was being forced to leave the region, this man would be a way for the gospel of Christ to be preached in His absence.

### **C. The Demon-Possessed Boy**

Let us look at another example of Jesus Christ's authority over evil spirits.

#### **The Problem**

Let us begin by studying Mark 9:17–20.

*Then one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not."*

(Mk 9:17–18)

This boy and his father suffered under the control of the evil spirit. The father suffered at the sight of his son in pain, unable to do anything about it. The boy suffered at the mercy of the evil spirit, as he was powerless to control his own body. The evil spirit would cause him to fall to the ground, foam at the mouth, gnash his teeth, and become rigid. It would even attempt to destroy him by throwing him into water or fire. We do not know how exactly how long the boy had been suffering under the control of the evil spirit, but we know that no one had been able to control the evil spirit. Even Jesus Christ's own disciples were unable to cast out the evil spirit.

*He answered him and said, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me." Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth.*

(Mk 9:19–20)

Jesus Christ commanded for the boy to be brought before Him. When the boy saw Jesus, the evil spirit within the boy immediately reacted. The evil spirit convulsed the boy, causing him to fall to the ground and foam at the mouth. This sudden reaction illustrates that the evil spirit knew who Jesus Christ was and responded in fear at His presence.

### **The Miracle**

Let us continue to read Mark 9:21–29. Before casting out the evil spirit, Jesus Christ first addressed the father's lack of faith, stating: "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes" (v. 23). In response to Jesus, the father of the boy cried out in tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" (v. 24). Seeing this reaction, Jesus commanded the evil spirit to come out, saying, "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!" (v. 25).

Once again, we can see the authority Jesus Christ has over evil spirits. This evil spirit had been controlling the boy since childhood, but with one phrase, Jesus Christ commanded the evil spirit to come out. The evil spirit had no choice but to obey Jesus Christ because of His authority and power as God. The "impossible" had become possible with only one phrase.

Later on, the disciples asked Him why they were unable to cast out the evil spirit. Jesus replied, saying, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting" (v. 29). Through this we know that the power to cast out evil spirits comes from prayer, which the disciples lacked. Today, this is a reminder that our own power is limited and without prayer, we have no authority. Therefore, we must pray, so that we may receive power and authority from God.

From these two miracles, we are able to see Jesus' authority over evil spirits.

- The evil spirits knew Jesus Christ was the Son of God (Mk 5:7).
- The evil spirits feared Jesus Christ (Jas 2:19).
- The evil spirits had to obey His commands (Mk 9:25–26).

In addition, these miracles also make us aware of the spiritual battle in which we are currently engaged. Satan is constantly at war with the people of God. 1 Peter 5:8 describes Satan as a roaring lion waiting to devour the people of God. However, Jesus Christ proclaims that the power to cast out evil spirits has been given to the believers of Jesus Christ (Mk 16:17). Today, we have the power and authority from God to be free and to free people from Satan.

### *Check for Understanding*

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- 1. What problems did the evil spirits cause for those who were possessed?**
  - First miracle: Caused the man to become wild, dwell among the tombs, and cut himself.
  - Second miracle: The child had no control of his body; the spirit convulsed him and threw him into fire and water.
- 2. How did Jesus Christ cast out the evil spirits?** Through His spoken command (Mk 5:8; 9:25).
- 3. What were the two responses to Jesus Christ casting out the evil spirits from the man at Gadarenes?** The townspeople begged Him to leave, and the previously demon-possessed man begged to go with Him.
- 4. Why did Jesus Christ not allow the man at Gadarenes to follow Him?** He wanted him to go back to his people and testify about what the Lord had done for him.
- 5. How did the evil spirits recognize Jesus' authority?** They feared Him because they knew who He was, and they obeyed Him.
- 6. Why were the disciples unable to cast out the evil spirit?** They lacked prayer (Mk 9:29).

### *Life Application*

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#### **Finding True Freedom**

*"Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed" (Jn 8:36).*

As believers, we are continually engaged in a spiritual war. There are things beyond the physical world that we are unable to see. From the miracles recorded in the Bible, as well as the testimonies we see in church, we can see that the spiritual battle is a reality. Though evil spirits may not literally possess us today, we may still feel bound in other ways. Our addictions, guilt, negative emotions, or many other things can bind us internally. This internal bondage can be difficult to overcome on our own, but we must remember a crucial fact: We are not alone, and we do not have to suffer alone. We can turn to God for help, just as the father of the demon-possessed boy and the demon-possessed man at Gadarenes turned to Jesus.

So, how can we find true freedom in Christ today? Let us carefully study the following steps to find out.

#### **1. Identify our chains**

Before we can become free, we must first identify what is binding us. The two miracles we studied today have taught us that those who are possessed by an evil spirit suffer greatly. Bound by the evil spirits, they had no control over their bodies. Likewise, we may also have chains of our own. Some chains are easily identifiable; these are things that we know we should not do but cannot stop ourselves from doing. Apostle Paul once said, "For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice" (Rom 7:19). For example, we may know not to lie, but we still copy our friend's homework. Other chains are more hidden; we must be completely honest with ourselves before God in order to identify these chains.

Ask yourself: "What is binding me? Do I have the need to be seen as perfect in the eyes of others?" We must dig deep and look into our hearts to identify our chains clearly.

## **2. Have the desire and conviction to be free**

Once we have identified our chains, we must then find the motivation to break free. Elijah once asked the rebellious Israelites, "How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him" (1 Kgs 18:21). In the same way, we also have to make up our minds: Do we want to continue in the same pattern of sin, or do we want to make a change? Do we want to break free from our chains, or have we become too comfortable and accustomed to this lifestyle? If we do not have clear answers or any determination, then it will be difficult to break free. Our chains have a negative impact on our relationship with God because with God, there is no gray area. There is only right and wrong. If we choose to live with our chains, then we will never experience the joy that comes from having true freedom. Therefore, we must come before God with the determination to break free from the chains that bind us and make the resolution to remain free of them.

## **3. Bring our chains to Jesus Christ**

Once we have the determination to break free, we must then come before the source of transformative power, Jesus Christ. In desperation, the father of the demon-possessed boy searched tirelessly for a way for his son to be healed. He cried out to Jesus, asking Him to help him overcome his unbelief (Mk 9:24). Jesus Christ saw his heart and was able to free the boy from the unclean spirit. In the same way, we must go to Jesus with a sincere and convicted heart for the power to overcome Satan's bondage. He will respond to our contrite heart. John 8:36 says, "Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed." This is the promise that Jesus has given to us, so let us come boldly before Him with our chains so that He can help us to break free from them.

### **Discussion**

- What is one thing/some things that you feel bound by?
- How do you bring your chain(s) to Jesus Christ?
- Have you been able to break free from a chain through the power of Jesus Christ? If so, share your experience.

### **Testimony: Overcoming Evil Spirits**

*Since I was young, my family members, especially my mother, were devout Buddhists. There was a room in our home dedicated as a miniature temple for the different idols. My mother would also make us chant in front of the shrine every morning. However, though my mother was such a devout Buddhist, she never really felt peace in her heart.*

*In 1980, my family immigrated to the United States, and that is when my dad got in touch with one of his old colleagues who was a member of True Jesus Church. This brother invited us to join a family service that was being held at their home. My parents did not want to offend him, so they went to his home to join the service. During the concluding prayer of family service, my parents joined in the prayer. However, instead of praying to God, my mother prayed to Buddha.*

*The next morning, my mother began to hear a voice in her head that was talking to her. Thinking that it was a spirit from the temple, my mother felt honored to host it. However, over time, the spirit began to badmouth each member of the family. It caused many misunderstandings and arguments in our family. Slowly, my mother realized that this was not a good spirit, but an evil spirit. My parents*

*began to find help from famous monks and Buddhist temples. Each time, they would require us to pay large amounts of money, but the evil spirit still remained.*

*Over time, my mother's situation worsened because the evil spirit would not allow her to sleep. It would control her body, so that she would run around in the middle of the night, screaming and making sure that no one else slept. It also controlled what she would say and do. Even though my mother knew what she wanted to say or do, it was like she had no control over it.*

*This was a terrible time for my family. We sought help everywhere, but to no avail. One day, my mother remembered the Holy Spirit from the brother's family service. She contacted the brother and told him about her situation. The brother invited her to attend the spiritual convocation that was to begin the next day. My mother packed up her things and went to stay at church the next day.*

*On the first day, a pastor laid his hands on my mother, casting out the evil spirit by saying, "In the name of Lord Jesus, I cast you out!" Later in the day, another pastor also said the same phrase. From this repetition of the same phrase by two different pastors, my mother began to put her faith in God. That night, my mother began to panic because she was afraid the evil spirit would keep her awake. As she was thinking this, the next thing she knew, it was 7:00 AM the next morning. My mother could not believe it. It was the first time in over one year that she slept from night until morning.*

*Later in the week, the pastor asked my mother if she would be interested in getting baptized and she agreed to get baptized. That night before baptism, the evil spirit was angry and would not let my mother sleep. However, she relied on God and the next morning, she was baptized. After baptism, we never heard from the evil spirit again. God guided our family through a time when we had no hope to a time when we were able to find hope in Him.*

- Anonymous  
Adapted from *Saving Grace*

### **Memory Verse**

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"And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues." (Mark 16:17)

### **Meaning**

1. Jesus Christ has the authority to cast out demons because He is God Himself.
2. This ability to cast out demons is a sign that follows His believers. It is evidence of His abidance.
3. Today, we have the authority to cast out demons in His name because we are His believers and followers.

### **Conclusion**

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Jesus Christ is almighty and more powerful than any evil spirit. As we continue to fight the spiritual battle against Satan, let us go to Him and trust in His power to help us overcome our chains. Though we may be weak at times, when we have Jesus on our side, we have nothing to fear, as He gives us the strength to break free.

## Lesson 11 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. What does the memory verse tell us about the believers of God?  
*The ability to cast out demons is a sign that follows God's believers. It is evidence of His abidance. We as His followers have the authority to cast out demons in His name.*
2. What problem did the evil spirits cause for those who were possessed?  
*They caused the man in the Gadarenes to become wild, live in isolation, and harm himself. The child had no control over his body; the spirit would make him convulse and throw himself into fire and water.*
3. What were the two responses to Jesus Christ casting out the evil spirits from the man at Gadarenes?  
*The people feared what they did not understand and focused on the loss of their pigs, making them unable to see Jesus Christ for the Savior that He was. The man who had been cured had the opposite reaction and begged leave to follow Jesus despite his new ability to live a normal life after so many years of being possessed.*
4. Although not possessed by evil spirits, what are we in danger of being controlled by? What are the steps to overcoming these chains?  
*We are in danger of being controlled by things such as addictions, guilt, or negative emotions. First identify them, then have the desire and conviction to be free, and lastly bring our chains to Christ.*
5. Name some "chains" either you or people you know have been bound by, past or present.  
*Personal answers.*
6. Do you have any personal chains? What are some steps you will take to overcome them?  
*Personal answers.*

**Miracles over Death**

Passages: Mt 9:18–26; Mk 5:21–43; Lk 8:40–56; 7:11–17; Jn 11:1–45

*Memory Verse*

“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.’” (John 11:25)

<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. God is never late. 2. Jesus has power over life and death.	1. Jesus is the Messiah. 2. Jesus is the comforter. 3. Jesus is the conqueror.	1. Trust in the Lord. 2. Cast all your cares upon Him. 3. Never lose hope in God.

*Overview*

**Events and Spiritual Teachings**

- A. Miracles over Death
- B. Spiritual Teachings
  - 1. God has His way and His time.
  - 2. Jesus is the Messiah.
  - 3. Jesus is the comforter.
  - 4. Jesus is the conqueror.

**Life Application:** God Is Never Late

- 1. Trust in the Lord (Prov 3:5–6)
- 2. Cast all your care upon the Lord (1 Pet 5:7)
- 3. Never lose hope in God (Jer 29:11)

**Memory Verse**

**Conclusion:** Jesus can not only offer us resurrection after our death, but also has the power, compassion, and love to care for us while we live on this earth.

## Events and Spiritual Teachings

### Introduction: Jesus Is the Resurrection and the Life

Do you fear death? As humans, it is only natural for us to fear death, as God did not create us to die. He had eternity in mind for us from the beginning. We were meant to live forever, but sin and death entered the picture. Then Jesus came to the world to fulfill our hopes for eternal life. He gave us life when we were born, and He has the power to give it again at the resurrection.

#### A. Miracles over Death

Miracle	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Jesus raises Jairus' daughter to life*	9:18–26	5:21–43	8:40–56	
Jesus raises a widow's son in Nain			7:11–17	
Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead				11:1–45

\*See Year 1 Book 1 Lesson 8

The most profound of all the miracles Jesus performed during His earthly ministry are those where He resurrected the dead. The New Testament records three of these miracles: the raising of Jairus' daughter, of a widow's son, and of Lazarus. Today, we will focus on the latter two miracles.

#### 1. Raising A Widow's Son

The Gospel of Luke is the only gospel that records this miracle. Let us turn to Luke 7:11–17. Jesus "went into a city called Nain; and many of His disciples went with Him, and a large crowd" (v. 11). As they approached the town gate, the dead son of a widow was being carried out in an open coffin. Upon seeing the widow, Jesus had compassion on her and miraculously brought the young man back to life, returning him to his mother.

Let us ask ourselves the following questions:

##### a. How did Jesus come to perform this miracle?

First, He knew all the specifics of the case. He understood the circumstances surrounding the funeral procession. He knew that the deceased was a young man, the only son of his mother, and that she was a widow.

Second, He did not wait for anyone to request His help. Isaiah prophesied, "I was sought by those who did not ask for Me; I was found by those who did not seek Me" (Isa 65:1). Sometimes, God answers before we even call for help (Isa 65:24; Dan 9:20–23). What a special blessing that is!

Third, when He saw the widowed mother, Jesus had "compassion on her." His concern was apparent in His expression of mercy and tenderness. He said to her, "Do not weep," to comfort and encourage her. Even when performing the miracle and presenting her son, Jesus Christ did not use pretentious gestures. He simply touched the coffin and tenderly returned her son. It is clear that Jesus performed this act purely out of love and compassion for the widow, and for no other purpose than to help.

Fourth, Jesus Christ offered hope to the widow where none could be found. Her son was dead, and there was nothing anyone could do to change the situation. But God's power and love are



so great that even in such dire circumstances, there is always hope to be found in Christ (Lam 3:26; Jer 17:7).

**b. What was Christ's main purpose in performing this resurrection?**

Though the miracle caused fear in those who witnessed it, this fear turned into a deep awe for His compassion and power. As a result, Jesus Christ's renown among the people grew. However, His primary purpose was to glorify God. The people glorified God when they said, "A great prophet has risen up among us," and "God has visited His people" (v. 16). The tragedy in this situation is that, though a number of people looked upon Jesus as the promised prophet, few gave Him much devotion.

**2. Raising Lazarus**

Let us continue by studying John 11:1–45. John opens this passage with mention of a man named Lazarus being sick. Lazarus was the brother of Mary and Martha. This was a family that loved God and was loved by God, with whom Jesus had a special relationship. Their relationship, however, did not prevent tragedy reaching their home.

Sickness struck Lazarus, so the sisters sent word to Jesus. This was their desperate attempt to deal with a situation that was beyond their control. Jesus' response, however, was not to take immediate action. He said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it" (v. 4). He then did not immediately travel to Judea. Rather, He stayed where He was for two more days, and then told His disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." However, the disciples were hesitant to return because the Jews had attempted to stone Jesus the last time He was there. Still, Jesus remained resolute in His decision, as raising Lazarus was for God's glory.

Let's ask ourselves the following questions:

**a. Why did Jesus wait?**

The first clue is found in John 11:4. Jesus' response unveiled the purpose behind the problem and also proclaimed a promise: its purpose was to glorify, and the promise was that Lazarus would live.

When the disciples hesitated upon returning to Judea, Jesus told them why He needed to return: "Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up" (v. 11). His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps he will get well" (v. 12). His disciples once again misunderstood Him. So, Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead" (v. 14). He continued by telling the disciples: "And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, that you may believe. Nevertheless let us go to him" (v. 15).

This passage unveils another purpose to Jesus' decision. This miracle aids the disciples in their journey from doubt to belief when Jesus did the impossible and brought Lazarus back to life. When we feel like we have hit rock bottom, with no solution or end to our problem in sight, God never turns away! All we have to do is trust in His promises and wait on His answers to our prayers, for God never goes back on His word. Always remember: God's delay does not mean God's denial!

One last essential—yet not immediately noticeable—purpose to this miracle was its effect on the Jewish leaders. Lazarus' resurrection and the resulting increase in Jesus' followers spurred them into action; Jesus could not be permitted to work His miracles any longer (Jn 11:45–53). In

the end, despite their antagonism towards Christ, God turned the Jewish leaders' hatred towards His own purpose, resulting in Jesus' death and, ultimately, victory over death.

**b. What was Jesus' reaction when He saw Mary and the Jews weeping?**

When Jesus finally arrived at Bethany, Lazarus had been dead for four days. His death was now legally recognized. When Jesus saw Mary and the other Jews weeping, He was deeply moved within His heart and also began to weep (Jn 11:35).

Jesus wept as we weep. He shed tears as we shed tears. He was moved as we are moved. Our God is neither distant nor detached. We serve a God who came down and lived as a human so that He could meet us where we are. He worked, sweated, slept, and ate as we do. But He also hurt as we hurt. So, we must not be afraid to take our concerns to God. He is full of mercy and grace and understands our fears.

**c. How does Jesus express death to show that it is temporary (Jn 11:11)?**

As Jesus leaves for Bethany, He gives those around Him a different description of death, saying, "Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up" (Jn 11:11). To humans, death is final, but to Jesus it is merely temporary. Jesus Christ has power over life and death, and He was willing to resurrect Lazarus from death to glorify God and identify Himself as the Messiah, the Savior of mankind.

The lesson of this breathtaking miracle is that Jesus Christ can resurrect the dead, spiritually and physically. He brought Lazarus back to life, and He is able to revive the hearts and minds of those who are spiritually dead in sin.

**B. Spiritual Teachings**

**1. God has His way and His time.**

God follows His divine plan. Though it may not always seem like it, His healings and His miracles are never early or late. Many times, we feel as if God is running late or as if He, in the silence, has forgotten about us. That was how Mary and Martha felt. But Jesus was right on time according to His divine plan. Jesus deliberately chose to wait, to let Lazarus die, and to delay meeting the two sisters whom He loved dearly.

**2. Jesus is the Messiah.**

The Bible tells us that Martha ran to meet Jesus. Through the words she spoke, she seemed to have a deep understanding about Jesus.

*"Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" She said to Him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."*

(Jn 11:21–27)

This is the central focus of who He is—the Son of God, living and powerful, who does amazing work among us. Because Jesus is the Messiah, we have great hope! He is the Messiah, and as such, is the way, the truth, and the life.

### 3. Jesus is the comforter.

This miracle reveals so much of Jesus' heart and emotions. The Bible says, "Jesus wept" (Jn 11:35). He wept alongside the people He loved, and felt the same pain, agony, grief, and loss that his friends carried. This is evidence of the depth of His love. But our Lord does not merely sympathize with us. He also has the power to comfort. There are times when we do not understand God's plan and His purpose. But even so, God wants us to come to Him, whether in anger, tears, pain, or confusion. We can weep in front of God. We can pour out all our frustrations to Him. Just as He comforted Mary and Martha, He will comfort us, and we can be assured that although we may not understand what His plan is, He is still in control.

### 4. Jesus is the conqueror.

Upon Jesus' command, Lazarus walked out of the tomb, still wrapped in graveclothes. This miracle is proof of the power He wields over life and death and is merely a precursor to Jesus' own resurrection. Humans fear death; we struggle to avoid it in any way we can. But Jesus has already conquered death! He is the resurrection and the life, and He who believes in Him will live, even if our physical bodies die. After we are baptized and have received the Holy Spirit, we are saved from eternal death. Paul wrote, "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?" (1 Cor 15:55). Because of Jesus, death is not an end. There is eternal life.

### *Check for Understanding*

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1. **Did anyone request Jesus' help for the widow from Nain? How did He come across the widow and her dead son?** No one asked Jesus; He happened to see the funeral procession for the son upon approaching the gates to the town of Nain, with His disciples and His followers behind Him.
2. **Name three reasons Jesus chose to wait until Lazarus had died.** To glorify God; to aid the disciples in their journey from doubt to belief; and lastly, to spur the Jewish leaders into action against Him, so that He may eventually be crucified and resurrect.
3. **What was Jesus' reaction when He saw Mary and the Jews weeping? What does this teach us about God?** He wept as well. This teaches us that our God is neither distant nor detached; He lived as a human, and therefore knows what we are going through when we are in pain.
4. **How did Jesus refer to death in this passage?** He used a different description of death, saying that Lazarus was merely sleeping.
5. **Why is Jesus a conqueror?** He wields power over life and death, and in His own resurrection, conquered death for all of us, so that as long as we believe in Him, we will be given eternal life.

### *Life Application*

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#### **God Is Never Late**

Sometimes we may pray for a long time before receiving an answer. God's silence can lead us to question why He is not listening, or why His reply is taking so long. But we need to firmly believe in His will. He is still listening to our prayers and guiding us. But while we may want an immediate response from God, His timing is unlike ours; it is perfect and purposeful. God is never early or late in His actions. He is always on time.

While we are waiting for God's perfect timing, what should we do?

#### **1. Trust in the Lord (Prov 3:5–6)**

*"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."*

We may not be able to understand it, but God really has His own timing: “With the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day” (2 Pet 3:8). To trust in the Lord is to have faith that He will act in His own time and way. All we need to do is to obey His words and serve Him diligently. He has also promised that He will not allow any trial to be so great that we cannot bear it (1 Cor 10:13). He will never let us fall, as He promised in Psalm 55:22, “Cast your burden on the LORD, and He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved.”

## **2. Cast all your care upon the Lord (1 Pet 5:7)**

*“Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”*

God has not forgotten us in the midst of our troubles; He still cares for us even if we feel like we are completely lost. He is able and willing to be our strength and support mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. He has the power to take everything that threatens to overwhelm us and turn it to our benefit, but we must learn to bring our tribulations to Him and fully trust in His care.

## **3. Never lose hope in God (Jer 29:11)**

*“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.”*

Being a Christian does not mean that we will never experience tribulation or trials. During those times, when we feel unable to handle a situation or do not know how to solve a problem, we must not stop praying to God even when it feels like He is not listening. He already knows everything that has happened and will ever happen to us. Whatever He permits to enter the arena of our lives has a purpose, for He has promised that “all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose” (Rom 8:28).

### **Testimony**

*A fifteen-day-old baby boy had a fever. He was crying non-stop, and his belly was swollen and hard. The doctor diagnosed him with sepsis, pneumonia, and intestinal infection. The baby was admitted in the hospital for a few days without any improvements and continued to cry non-stop while vomiting any milk and water that he drank. The first-time father was immensely worried. The first-time mother was under tremendous stress, and on the verge of a breakdown. They immediately contacted a pastor asking him to pray for them. The pastor encouraged them to "rely on the Lord Jesus wholeheartedly."*

*The baby was later transferred to two different hospitals, where he was diagnosed with Hirschprung's disease, which is an obstruction of bowel movement resulting from the absence of nerves in some part of the colon. This disease causes children to vomit and also causes a swollen belly. After several days in the hospital, there was no improvement. The doctors decided that surgery was the only way to treat the baby's condition. The doctors told the parents to prepare money for the operation as there was no other treatment except surgery. But the baby's illness had taken a toll on the family's finances, and surgery would incur a sizable expense. After weighing all the factors, the parents determined to discharge their baby from the hospital and entrust him to the almighty Jesus. The doctor strongly opposed that decision because it would put the baby's life in danger. But the parents were adamant.*

*After he was discharged, they headed straight to church. The whole church prayed earnestly for the baby and miraculously, through everyone's prayers of intercession, the baby with an extremely swollen and hardened belly, and whose voice was lost from non-stop crying, started to calm down. On the day the baby was scheduled for baptism, the baby started to cry and develop a fever again. The parents were worried again until the pastor encouraged them not to give up. They finally allowed the baby to be baptized. After coming out of the water, when the pastor handed the baby to the mother, she heard her son release gas. When she was changing his clothes, she saw stools in his diaper. This was a miracle for a baby who had not had a normal bowel movement for many days. Through the grace of God, the baby finally received healing through water baptism.*

- Anonymous

### **Discussion**

- Which would you choose if you were the baby's parents: surgery or prayer?
- Have you ever experienced a time when God delayed in answering your prayers? If yes, share.

### **Memory Verse**

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"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.'" (John 11:25)

### **Meaning**

1. Jesus has power over both life and death.
2. Jesus is "the way, the truth, and the life" (Jn 14:6). This is the basis of our hope: that Jesus, the giver of life, can offer us resurrection, which is a reversal of death.

### **Conclusion**

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No other religion can offer the empty tomb of its founder. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is everything to Christianity. But even before conquering sin and death, Jesus clearly demonstrated His authority over life and death, a power that only God alone can claim. He not only offers us resurrection after our death, but also has the power, compassion, and love to care for us while we live on this earth. He has given us every reason to trust in His power, to place our hopes in Him, and to live a life that is fully reliant on Him, with hope and confidence for our eternity with Him in heaven.

## Lesson 12 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. What does the memory verse teach us about Jesus' power and purpose?  
*Jesus has power over both life and death. He is the way, the truth, and the life, and He is the basis of our hope in eternal life.*
2. How did Jesus come across the widow and her son? Did anyone request His help?  
*No one requested Jesus' help; rather, He came across the funeral procession as He, His disciples, and His followers were entering the main gate into the town of Nain.*
3. Name three reasons Jesus chose to wait until Lazarus had died before seeing him.  
*To glorify God; to aid the disciples in their journey from doubt to belief; and lastly, to spur the Jewish leaders into action against Him, so that He may eventually be crucified and resurrect.*
4. What does Jesus' weeping teach us about Him?  
*Our God is neither distant nor detached. We serve a God who came down and lived as a human so that He could meet us where we are. He felt pain as we do, and thus knows what we are going through, so we must never be afraid to take our concerns to God.*
5. We learned that God works in His own time. But what can we do while we are waiting for Him?  
*Trust in the Lord and have faith that He will act in His own time and way because He will never let us undergo a trial too great for us to bear.  
Cast all of our cares upon Him and learn to bring our tribulations to Him.  
Never lose hope in God because we know that everything He permits in our lives has a purpose.*
6. Have you ever felt like God was not listening to your prayers? After today's lesson, how will you act in the future if you feel this way again?  
*Personal answers.*

## Junior 1 Year 1 Book 2 Review

### Memory Verses

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

mysteries	abundance	day	die	Heal
fearful	hour	calm	Me	faith
faithful	heaven	humble	believes	care
signs	name	exalt	rebuked	resurrection
coming	healed	understanding	tongues	hand
ruler	noble	grace	given	patience
live	praise	brethren	joy	keep
good	least	calling	word	demons
sufficiency	glory	work	believe	King
inheritance	Watch	given	God	cares

Ephesians 1:18	Matthew 13:11	John 11:25	2 Corinthians 9:8
Luke 8:15	1 Peter 5:6–7	Matthew 25:23	Matthew 8:26
Matthew 25:13	Matthew 25:40	Mark 16:17	Jeremiah 17:14

1. "His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and \_\_\_\_\_ servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you \_\_\_\_\_ over many things. Enter into the \_\_\_\_\_ of your lord.'" (\_\_\_\_\_)
2. "\_\_\_\_\_ me, O Lord, and I shall be \_\_\_\_\_; save me, and I shall be saved, for You are my \_\_\_\_\_." (\_\_\_\_\_)
3. "\_\_\_\_\_ therefore, for you know neither the \_\_\_\_\_ nor the \_\_\_\_\_ in which the Son of Man is \_\_\_\_\_." (\_\_\_\_\_)
4. "The eyes of your \_\_\_\_\_ being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His \_\_\_\_\_, what are the riches of the \_\_\_\_\_ of His \_\_\_\_\_ in the saints." (\_\_\_\_\_)

5. "Therefore \_\_\_\_\_ yourselves under the mighty \_\_\_\_\_ of God, that He may \_\_\_\_\_ you in due time, casting all your \_\_\_\_\_ upon Him, for He \_\_\_\_\_ for you." (\_\_\_\_\_)
  
6. "But He said to them, 'Why are you \_\_\_\_\_, O you of little \_\_\_\_\_?' Then He arose and \_\_\_\_\_ the winds and the sea, and there was a great \_\_\_\_\_." (\_\_\_\_\_)
  
7. "But the ones that fell on the \_\_\_\_\_ ground are those who, having heard of the \_\_\_\_\_ with a \_\_\_\_\_ and good heart, \_\_\_\_\_ it and bear fruit with \_\_\_\_\_." (\_\_\_\_\_)
  
8. "And the \_\_\_\_\_ will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the \_\_\_\_\_ of these My \_\_\_\_\_, you did it to \_\_\_\_\_.'" (\_\_\_\_\_)
  
9. "And \_\_\_\_\_ is able to make all \_\_\_\_\_ abound toward you, that you, always having all \_\_\_\_\_ in all things, may have an \_\_\_\_\_ for every good \_\_\_\_\_." (\_\_\_\_\_)
  
10. "Jesus said to her, 'I am the \_\_\_\_\_ and the life. He who \_\_\_\_\_ in Me, though he may \_\_\_\_\_, he shall \_\_\_\_\_.'" (\_\_\_\_\_)
  
11. "And these \_\_\_\_\_ will follow those who \_\_\_\_\_: In My \_\_\_\_\_ they will cast out \_\_\_\_\_; they will speak with new \_\_\_\_\_." (\_\_\_\_\_)
  
12. "He answered and said to them, 'Because it has been \_\_\_\_\_ to you to know the \_\_\_\_\_ of the kingdom of \_\_\_\_\_, but to them it has not been \_\_\_\_\_.'" (\_\_\_\_\_)



## Multiple Choice

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1. \_\_\_\_ : In the parable of the wedding feast, why did the king ask his servants to bind the man and cast him into outer darkness?
  - a. The man was not willing to attend the wedding when he first received the invitation.
  - b. The man treated the king's servants spitefully.
  - c. The man was apathetic about the invitation when he first received it.
  - d. The man was not wearing a wedding garment.
  
2. \_\_\_\_ : In the parable of the workers in the vineyard, how did the landowner determine how much to pay each laborer?
  - a. He looked at how much effort each laborer put in.
  - b. He paid each laborer according to how he wished.
  - c. He counted how many hours each laborer worked.
  - d. He paid more money to those that did not complain.
  
3. \_\_\_\_ : In the parable of the talents, what happened to the third servant, who hid his talent in the ground, when the lord returned?
  - a. He was praised by his lord and made ruler over many things.
  - b. His talent was taken away from him, and he was cast into the outer darkness.
  - c. He was forgiven by his lord.
  - d. His lord asked the other servants to share their talents with him.
  
4. \_\_\_\_ : How did Jesus Christ heal the woman with a flow of blood?
  - a. She asked Him for help, and He healed her by touching her.
  - b. She cried out to Him from afar, and He spoke words of healing upon hearing her cry out.
  - c. She stayed in the crowd and touched His garment.
  - d. She hid far from Him and prayed with faith for His healing.
  
5. \_\_\_\_ : What makes the healing of the blind man at Bethsaida unique?
  - a. It is the only recorded event where Jesus spit on a person.
  - b. It is the only recorded event where Jesus healed a person in stages.
  - c. It is the only recorded event where Jesus purposely led a person away from a town to be healed.
  - d. All of the above.
  
6. \_\_\_\_ : How did Jesus Christ respond when someone asked Him to pay the temple tax?
  - a. He asked Peter to go fishing to find a piece of money in a fish's mouth.
  - b. He asked Peter to look in the common box for money.
  - c. He asked Peter to tell the tax collector that the Son of God does not need to pay the temple tax.
  - d. None of the above.
  
7. \_\_\_\_ : When the crowd warned blind Bartimaeus to keep quiet when Jesus Christ was passing by, how did Bartimaeus react?
  - a. He became upset with those around him and told them to be quiet.
  - b. He listened to their words and stopped crying out.
  - c. He did not heed their words and cried out even more.
  - d. None of the above.

*The Parable of the Sower*

Instructions: Fill out the chart with the four types of grounds described in the parable of the sower, the result of the seed being sown there, and the meaning.

Ground Type	Result	Meaning

*The Authority and Power of Jesus Christ*

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Instructions: Please write during which miracle Jesus Christ spoke these words.

<b>Spoken Words</b>	<b>Miracle</b>
"Go your way, your son lives."	
"Peace, be still!"	
"Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!"	
"Rise, take up your bed and walk."	
"Little girl, I say to you, arise."	
"Come out of the man, unclean spirit!"	
"Young man, I say to you, arise."	
"Lazarus, come forth!"	

*The Parables of the Heavenly Kingdom*

Instructions: Explain what each parable illustrates about the church.

<b>Parable</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
The parable of the mustard seed	
The parable of the leaven	
The parable of the hidden treasure	
The parable of the pearl	
The parable of the dragnet	

*Short Answers*

**1. What two warnings does the parable of the wheat and the tares teach us?**

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**2. What does the kingdom of heaven refer to in the parables of the heavenly kingdom?**

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**3. In the parable of the wise and foolish virgins, what does the oil represent? What can we learn from the fact that the oil could not be shared?**

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**4. In the parable of the sheep and the goats, why were the goats cursed by the Lord?**

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**5. What does Peter's attempt to walk on water teach us?**

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## Junior 1 Year 1 Book 2 Review Answer Key

### Memory Verses

1. "His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'" (Matthew 25:23)
2. "Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved, for You are my praise." (Jeremiah 17:14)
3. "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming." (Matthew 25:13)
4. "The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints." (Ephesians 1:18)
5. "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you." (1 Peter 5:6-7)
6. "But He said to them, 'Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?' Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm." (Matthew 8:26)
7. "But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard of the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience." (Luke 8:15)
8. "And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'" (Matthew 25:40)
9. "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work." (2 Corinthians 9:8)
10. "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.'" (John 11:25)
11. "And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues." (Mark 16:17)
12. "He answered and said to them, 'Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.'" (Matthew 13:11)

### Multiple Choice

1. \_\_\_\_ : In the parable of the wedding feast, why did the king ask his servants to bind the man and cast him into outer darkness?
  - a. The man was not willing to attend the wedding when he first received the invitation.
  - b. The man treated the king's servants spitefully.
  - c. The man was apathetic about the invitation when he first received it.
  - d. The man was not wearing a wedding garment.**
2. \_\_\_\_ : In the parable of the workers in the vineyard, how did the landowner determine how much to pay each laborer?
  - a. He looked at how much effort each laborer put in.
  - b. He paid each laborer according to how he wished.**
  - c. He counted how many hours each laborer worked.
  - d. He paid more money to those that did not complain.

3. \_\_\_\_ : In the parable of the talents, what happened to the third servant, who hid his talent in the ground, when the lord returned?
  - a. He was praised by his lord and made ruler over many things.
  - b. His talent was taken away from him, and he was cast into the outer darkness.**
  - c. He was forgiven by his lord.
  - d. His lord asked the other servants to share their talents with him.
  
4. \_\_\_\_ : How did Jesus Christ heal the woman with a flow of blood?
  - a. She asked Him for help, and He healed her by touching her.
  - b. She cried out to Him from afar, and He spoke words of healing upon hearing her cry out.
  - c. She stayed in the crowd and touched His garment.**
  - d. She hid far from Him and prayed with faith for His healing.
  
5. \_\_\_\_ : What makes the healing of the blind man at Bethsaida unique?
  - a. It is the only recorded event where Jesus spit on a person.
  - b. It is the only recorded event where Jesus healed a person in stages.
  - c. It is the only recorded event where Jesus purposely led a person away from a town to be healed.
  - d. All of the above.**
  
6. \_\_\_\_ : How did Jesus Christ respond when someone asked Him to pay the temple tax?
  - a. He asked Peter to go fishing to find a piece of money in a fish's mouth.**
  - b. He asked Peter to look in the common box for money.
  - c. He asked Peter to tell the tax collector that the Son of God does not need to pay the temple tax.
  - d. None of the above.
  
7. \_\_\_\_ : When the crowd warned blind Bartimaeus to keep quiet when Jesus Christ was passing by, how did Bartimaeus react?
  - a. He became upset with those around him and told them to be quiet.
  - b. He listened to their words and stopped crying out.
  - c. He did not heed their words and cried out even more.**
  - d. None of the above.

### The Parable of the Sower

Instructions: Fill out the chart with the four types of grounds described in the parable of the sower, the result of the seed being sown there, and the meaning.

Ground Type	Result	Meaning
Wayside	The <b>wayside</b> (hard ground) prevents the seeds from sprouting at all, so the seeds become nothing more than bird food.	The wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart, which means he hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it.
Stony places	The <b>stony places</b> provide enough soil for the seeds to germinate and begin to grow, but because there is "no	He hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, but the word has no root, so he can only endure for a while. When tribulation or persecution arises

	<i>depth of earth," the plants do not take root and soon wither in the sun.</i>	<i>because of the word, immediately he stumbles.</i>
<i>Thorny places</i>	<i>The <b>thorny places</b> allow the seeds to grow, but the competing thorns choke the life out of the beneficial plants.</i>	<i>He hears the word, but worldly cares and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word. He becomes unfruitful.</i>
<i>Good ground</i>	<i>The <b>good ground</b> allows the seeds to grow and produce much fruit.</i>	<i>He hears the word with a noble and good heart and understands it. He bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.</i>

### The Authority and Power of Jesus Christ

Instructions: Please write during which miracle Jesus Christ spoke these words.

<b>Spoken Words</b>	<b>Miracle</b>
"Go your way, your son lives."	<i>The healing of a nobleman's son</i>
"Peace, be still!"	<i>The calming of the wind and the sea</i>
"Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!"	<i>The healing of the demon-possessed boy</i>
"Rise, take up your bed and walk."	<i>The healing of a man at the pool of Bethesda</i>
"Little girl, I say to you, arise."	<i>The raising of Jairus' daughter</i>
"Come out of the man, unclean spirit!"	<i>The healing of the demon-possessed man in the Gadarenes</i>
"Young man, I say to you, arise."	<i>The raising of the son of the widow of Nain</i>
"Lazarus, come forth!"	<i>The raising of Lazarus</i>

### The Parables of the Heavenly Kingdom

Instructions: Explain what each parable illustrates about the church.

<b>Parable</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
The parable of the mustard seed	<i>The church begins small but grows large, resulting in false teachings entering into the church.</i>
The parable of the leaven	<i>False teachings completely permeate the church so that the truth is lost.</i>
The parable of the hidden treasure	<i>The gospel is once again found after being lost.</i>
The parable of the pearl	<i>The gospel is precious and more valuable than anything.</i>



The parable of the dragnet	<i>Judgment will come upon the church, and the good and wicked will be separated. The wicked will be burned in the fire.</i>
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### Short Answers

1. **(Lesson 2) What two warnings does the parable of the wheat and the tares teach us?**  
*First, we must be wary of the tares—works of Satan designed to deceive us and make us fall, such as false prophets, false Christs, and false teachings—living side by side with us. Second, God’s judgment will come soon, and it will not be pleasant, for the tares will be separated to be thrown into the fire, while the wheat will be preserved to shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father.*
  
2. **(Lesson 2) What does the kingdom of heaven refer to in the parables of the heavenly kingdom?**  
*It does not simply refer to the place in heaven, but to the place in our hearts. As the Bible implies, the kingdom of heaven is “within our hearts,” inferring that the kingdom of heaven is the church itself.*
  
3. **(Lesson 3) In the parable of the wise and foolish virgins, what does the oil represent? What can we learn from the fact that the oil could not be shared?** *The oil represents the Holy Spirit. The parable teaches us that we cannot rely on others, such as our parents, grandparents, or ministers to help us be filled with the Holy Spirit. Furthermore, we cannot wait until Jesus Christ comes to start preparing ourselves—by that time, it would be too late.*
  
4. **(Lesson 5) In the parable of the sheep and the goats, why were the goats cursed by the Lord?**  
*Unlike the sheep, the goats were those who did not serve their brothers and sisters in need. While they did not have evil intentions, their lack of action resulted in the neglect of the needy, and thus of Jesus Christ Himself.*
  
5. **(Lesson 6) What does Peter’s attempt to walk on water teach us?**  
*It teaches us to never lose sight of Jesus. Although his situation remained the same from the moment he stepped off the boat, he only began to sink because he stopped looking at Jesus. His fear was the evidence of his doubt in Jesus.*