

THE TRUE CHURCH

JUNIOR 1 YEAR 2 BOOK 4



Teacher's Guide and Student Handouts

The Importance of the Truth in the Church

Passages: As listed in the lesson.

Memory Verse

“And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.”
(1 John 5:20)

Knowledge of God's Will [God's Word]	Knowledge of God [God's Divine Nature]	Good Work [Behavior]
1. God wants us to realize our purpose as the true church. 2. God's true church has a special mission.	God is true and the source of all truth.	Pursue, prize, protect, and preach the truth that God has revealed to the church.

Overview

Events and Spiritual Teachings

- A. The Church Is Special to God
- B. Defining the Truth
- C. Pursue, Protect, and Spread the Truth
- D. Discerning the Truth

Life Application

- 1. Seeking Out the Truth of God's Word
- 2. Witnessing the Truth in Our Lives

Memory Verse

Conclusion: God's purpose and mission for the church is found in the truth, and this mission requires that the church remain steadfast in the truth.

Events and Spiritual Teachings

A. The Church Is Special to God

In the Old Testament, God chose Abraham and his descendants for Himself, and separated the Israelite nation from the other people of the earth (Lev 20:26). In the New Testament, Jesus' followers eventually built up the apostolic church after the Holy Spirit's descent. Hundreds of years later, the same Spirit descended once again and built up the true church that we know today. Like the Israelites and the apostles, we have been separated by the Lord to be His special and holy people. But what makes our church so special is not any particular trait of its members, but the fact that the Lord Jesus loved the church so much that He gave His life for her.

We must understand that as God's chosen people, we need to treasure our status and special purpose in this world. 1 Peter 2:9–10 says of us, "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy."

God's Special Mission for the Church

Before we knew God, we lived in darkness. Someone who is in darkness has no direction. They don't know where to go, or if there is even a destination to go towards. Jesus once said, "He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life" (Jn 8:12). The Greek word for darkness here, *skotia*, refers to one who dwells in ignorance of divine things. The word is associated with both wickedness and punishment in hell. The truth within the Bible teaches us not only that we exist in sin – a fact that many are unaware of – but also how to escape from the death that sin leads to. It is the light that leads us to eternal life.

Jesus calls us the "light of the world" (Mt 5:14). He commanded us, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Mt 5:16). Once we come to know God, we must live in the light and proclaim the truth of God to others.

The Pillar and Ground of the Truth

For the True Jesus Church, truth is fundamentally important. Without the truth, the church is merely another human organization or a social club. Paul describes the house of God as "the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Tim 3:15). The true church and its body, the members, have been chosen by God to serve as witnesses to the truth.

Throughout history, God specially chose and called out particular people to be holy to Him and serve as His witnesses. From Abraham, Moses, and the twelve tribes of Israel, to the judges, kings, prophets, and the apostles of the New Testament – all could be considered part of God's special people. Some of these people were able to obtain God's promises and blessings. Others, unfortunately, could not fulfill their calling and failed. Today, the church is made up of many different types of people. And like those in the Bible, none of them are perfect or without sin.

Today, unbelievers may criticize the church as hypocritical because our lives do not perfectly show God's truth. The lives of our members may even be contrary to what the church preaches. Such hypocrisy can hinder the church, both in its internal and evangelical work. Therefore, we must strive to learn from

those who failed their calling in the Bible, and instead do our best to follow God’s will. When we do, we reflect His character and live out God’s truth.

Our purpose in the true church, then, is not to arrogantly proclaim that “I am more special because God chose me,” but to chase after God Himself, because if we do not know God or His ways, how can we call ourselves His chosen church? When we diligently seek Him out, our lives serve as an active testimony of God and His truth. Only then can our church serve as the “pillar and ground of the truth.”

B. Defining the Truth¹

To be the pillar and ground of the truth, we must first understand what the “truth” refers to. We all know the meaning of the word, but in the context of life, it is not so easy to define. In the world around us, “truth” is something flexible – it is personal, and often malleable. People choose their own truths. What they believe depends on what they watch in the media, hear from political or social leaders, or read from different authors. Whether it is science, faith, or morality, everyone’s personal “truths” differ from person to person and change from day to day. The truth in the world around us is defined by personal feelings or perspectives. It is not absolute.

So how do we define the truth? According to the Bible, its definition is simple: God Himself is truth, and by extension, His words are also truth (Heb 6:18). So, how is this different from the truth of the world around us? Overall, God’s truth has three characteristics:

1. God Is the Source of All Truth

Consider what we know of the laws of the universe, the way our bodies work, and the nature of the earth we live on. All of these exist because God declared and made them the way they are. Without God, the truth would not even exist. James wrote, “Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth” (Jas 1:18). With His word, all things came into existence, including the truth itself. So, if God is truth, then the truth that our church follows must be from God, not from ourselves or from human reasoning.

2. God’s Truth Never Changes

God’s truth is different because He never changes. Scripture says, “For I am the LORD, I do not change” (Mal 3:6). He is the same “yesterday, today, and forever” (Heb 13:8), and His words, too, can never be changed (1 Pet 1:23–25). But in this world, morals, cultural norms, and politics shift from generation to generation. The world around us is constantly changing because unlike God, all things in it eventually die. Only God’s truth is eternal, and it never changes to meet human standards. He has been, and always will be, holy and true (Jas 1:17).

3. God’s Truth Is Good

The third characteristic of God’s truth is that it reveals who God is and all of His goodness. Jesus once said, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God” (Mt 19:17). Paul called God’s truth, “the truth that leads to godliness” (Tit 1:1 NIV). This is because the truth teaches us more about God and how we can reflect Him in our lives. When we learn to reflect God in our lives, we will be able to serve as effective witnesses for Him, and our church will eventually become a

¹ For a deeper understanding of this section, refer to J1 Year 2 Book 2 Lesson 5 – *God Is Truth*

pillar and ground of the truth.

In summary, the truth that the church must live out and represent is God's eternal truth. Unlike the world around us, it never changes, and it leads to the goodness of His salvation. The church is the pillar and ground of the truth only because she grounds herself upon Jesus Christ (1 Cor 3:11; Eph 2:19–22). Therefore, for the church to do a good job of reflecting the truth, she must come to know God Himself. This requires us to think a little bit more about God's character, and how He wants us to act in our daily lives.

C. Pursue, Protect, and Spread the Truth

Without the truth, our worship of God is worthless (Jn 4:24). If, on the one hand, we say we bow down and pray to God, yet, on the other hand, act however we want – even against God's will – then we aren't worshipping God in truth. Knowing the truth and following the truth are two separate things. There are many scholars who know the words of the Bible inside and out, and we ourselves may know the doctrines of True Jesus Church, but it's never good enough just to know God's word. Once we know the truth, we have to choose whether we will follow the truth. With this in mind, the church has a few important duties when it comes to the truth.

1. Pursue and Prize the Truth (Jer 29:13; Prov 2:1–5)

Hosea 6:3 says, "Let us pursue the knowledge of the LORD." Have you ever really wanted something? For example, perhaps you have begged your parents to buy you something in the past. Maybe you worked hard on a test for the sake of a promised reward or prayed hard for the Holy Spirit during a student spiritual convocation. When we want something, we pursue it. It has to do with our personal passion and our love for whatever we are pursuing. Let's read Proverbs 2:1–5.

To seek the truth "as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures" means to understand the real value of the truth. As God's chosen, we must prize the truth more than the things of the world. When we pursue and treasure it, God will give us wisdom and help us understand the knowledge of God that leads to eternal life.

2. Protect and Guard the Truth (Gal 1:6–12)

It is important for us to protect the truth that God has given us. We need to ensure that the truth we have received is never changed. There are two important ways for us to do this. The first is to defend ourselves against false prophets and teachings, so that we – and the church – do not stray as the apostolic church eventually did. The second is to ensure that we do not simply pick and choose which parts of the Bible we want to uphold in our lives.

It is common enough for Christians – both within our church and in other churches – to follow only the commandments that they find convenient to follow. For example, we may keep the Sabbath but fail to honor our parents. But if we only keep and protect the commands that we like, the truth that the church received from God will very easily slip away from us. The smallest things that we think are unimportant for our faith may be the same things that Satan uses to attack us and hinder our faith. Unless we protect and guard the truth, we will eventually lose it.

3. Spread the Truth (Acts 10:42; 2 Cor 4:3–6)

The commandment that is easiest for us to forget is the commandment to share God's love with

others. God has commanded us to “proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light” (1 Pet 2:9), and “to open their eyes, in order to turn them 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). Whether we testify of His grace through our actions or actively invite our friends and family to come to church, we need to remember to put effort into sharing what God freely gave to us: His truth that leads to salvation.

D. Discerning the Truth

A key aspect of both prizing and protecting the truth is the ability to discern the truth. In order to become the pillar and ground of the truth, being able to discern the truth is an ability that we must cultivate. So how do we discern the truth? Let’s read Philippians 4:8–9:

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

These verses describe what we should meditate on. In other words, they describe the things of God. What are the characteristics listed here? (*True, noble, just, pure, lovely, of good report, virtuous, praiseworthy, taught and exemplified by the apostles.*) When trying to discern the truth, we need to first ask if what we hear is any of these things. If not, then we know that it is not the truth. We need to remember that the truth is a reflection of God’s character, which is noble, pure, and holy. Most importantly, the truth is a reflection of God’s love, because God is love (1 Jn 4:8, 16).

Of course, it isn’t always easy to discern the truth, especially because false teachings may even come from within our own church. But when we develop our spiritual wisdom, we can fulfill our duty of discerning and revealing God’s truth to the world (2 Tim 3:15–17).

Check for Understanding

- 1. What does it mean to be the “pillar and ground of truth”?** It means to know God and His ways, and to diligently seek Him out so that our lives can serve as an active testimony of God and His truth.
- 2. How do we define truth according to the Bible? How is this different from the world around us?** God Himself is truth, and by extension, His words are also truth. It is different because God is the source of all truth; it never changes, and God’s truth is good.
- 3. What actions must we take once we know the truth?** We must pursue and prize the truth, protect and guard it, and lastly, spread it.
- 4. What are the characteristics of God’s truth according to Philippians 4:8–9?** True, noble, just, pure, lovely, of good report, virtuous, praiseworthy, taught and exemplified by the disciples.

Life Application

1. Seeking Out the Truth of God’s Word

When we want to get to know a person better, we often try to gather as much information about that person as possible. For example, if we are studying a famous leader like George Washington for a school assignment, we might do a web search to learn information. Or if we want to get to know one of our

friends better, we will usually spend a lot of time talking and doing things together with them. Our relationship with God is the same. It takes dedicated time and an active pursuit.

Apart from communicating with God directly in prayer, the Bible is our best resource for learning about who God is. So, if we really want to know God better and come to understand the truth, we have to treasure the Bible. But reading the Bible is not just something we do to check off our “to-do list.” We read it so that we can know and understand what God wants us to do in real life.

Today, it is always easier to spend countless hours on worldly entertainment such as movies, games, or social media. But these are always short-lived in our lives; we always move on from them because they are transient and temporary. But the things of God are everlasting and more fulfilling. When we spend time seeking out the truth in God’s word, we will receive lasting rewards. Do you pursue the truth in the Bible? Why, or why not?

2. Witnessing the Truth in Our Lives

God gave the church the truth so that it could be a witness for the truth. As Jesus Christ said, no one lights a lamp to put it under a basket (Mt 5:15). We could share many things about God and His truth, but the most important truth we can share is the truth that leads a person to receive salvation in Jesus Christ (Rom 1:16; Eph 1:13).

There are many ways to share the truth of God with others. First, we must consider our behavior. Do you spend an excessive amount of time on your phone? Or do you spend time listening to a friend in need or making someone happy through an act of kindness? If we act like an unbeliever who does not have or know the truth, then it’s as if we never knew the truth to begin with. What is your behavior like at home? With your friends? With your family? To become a light in this world requires changing our mindset and making deliberate choices to show God’s love in our behavior.

Besides our actions, the gospel of salvation must be communicated with our words. Whether the person we share the truth with accepts or rejects our message, at the very least, we need to open our mouth to give the person an opportunity to receive the truth (Rom 10:14). We can think about a few things to help us as we preach:

- a. It seems obvious, but in order to share the gospel, we first have to be willing to share. Many Christians today do not want to share because they are unsure, shy, or perhaps “don’t know how to share.” At times, it is true that we don’t know how, or are unable to figure out the best time, to share with others. It’s alright to be unsure, but we must also be wary of using it as an excuse not to evangelize. It takes courage to share, and time to learn how. But to learn how, we must at least try. With time, effort, and purposeful preparation, sharing can become easier for us.
- b. Second, we need to rely upon God to open up the way to share the truth (2 Cor 2:12). When a door has been opened to share the gospel, it only means God has provided us an opportunity. It doesn’t mean we won’t face any obstacles or opposition (1 Cor 16:9). But we cannot let this discourage us. God can open up a person’s heart to receive the truth (Acts 16:14), so we must rely on God all the more, and simply do our own part as best we can.

So, evangelism requires these two important things: First, we must have a great desire to share. Second, we must realize that we cannot evangelize with our own strength and wisdom. When we rely on the Lord for wisdom and strength, God will help us live the truth in our lives and open opportunities for us to share His gospel.

Memory Verse

“And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.”
(1 John 5:20)

Meaning

God’s truth is fundamental to the very life of the church. The church is born of God and God’s truth, but the world lies under the influence of Satan. Jesus came to reveal the truth so that the church could better understand God and fulfill its special mission and purpose. As followers of Jesus, we must understand that God’s purpose and mission for the church is found in the truth, and that this mission requires that the church remain steadfast in the truth.

Conclusion

God’s purpose and mission for the church is found in the truth, and this mission requires that the church remain steadfast in the truth. But to remain steadfast in the truth requires that we grow in spiritual wisdom, able to discern, pursue, and protect the truth even while we spread it to the world. When we do so, with God’s help, our church can truly become the pillar and ground of truth.

Lesson 1 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. Why is God's truth so important to our church?
As followers of Jesus, we must understand that God's purpose and mission for the church is found in the truth, and this mission requires that the church remain steadfast in the truth.
2. "I write so that you may know how you ought to _____ yourself in the _____ of _____, which is the _____ of the living God, the _____ and _____ of the _____." (1 Timothy 3:15)
conduct, house, God, church, pillar, ground, truth
3. Why do unbelievers call our church hypocritical? What does hypocrisy do to the church?
Because our lives do not perfectly show God's truth. The lives of our members may even be contrary to what the church preaches. Hypocrisy hinders the church, both in its internal and evangelical work.
4. What does it mean to "pursue and prize" God's truth?
It means to seek it "as silver" and to search for it as a "hidden treasure." This means to understand the true value of the truth and to prize it more than the things of the world.
5. Do you pick and choose parts of the Bible to follow and to ignore? Explain how.
Personal answers.
6. How can you be a better witness to the truth in your personal life?
Personal answers.

The Importance of the Holy Spirit in the Church

Passages: As listed in the lesson.

Memory Verse

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

Knowledge of God's Will [God's Word]	Knowledge of God [God's Divine Nature]	Good Work [Behavior]
The Holy Spirit wants to establish and empower the true church for God's work.	1. God is Spirit. 2. God will dwell within and fill the church with His Holy Spirit.	1. Worship God in Spirit. 2. Submit to the Spirit to allow Him to empower us.

Overview

Events and Spiritual Teachings

- A. The Holy Spirit's Purpose Within the Church
- B. Surrendering to God's Spirit
- C. Worship God in Spirit

Life Application

Strengthening the Holy Spirit's Presence in the Church

Memory Verse

Conclusion: The Holy Spirit wants to establish and empower the true church to do God's work. We must pursue the Spirit in faith, worship God in Spirit, and surrender to the Spirit to do God's work.

Events and Spiritual Teachings

A. The Holy Spirit's Purpose Within the Church

The presence of the Holy Spirit is evidence of God's abidance in the church (Jn 14:16–18; 1 Jn 3:24). Without His abidance, the church cannot accomplish anything for God. But with the Holy Spirit, the church can do many mighty works for Him (Jn 15:4–6). Paul prayed that God would grant the church, “according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man” (Eph 3:16). He understood that the Holy Spirit strengthens and empowers us.

Although the Holy Spirit is often described as a “power,” it's important to understand the Holy Spirit is not simply an impersonal “force,” like electricity or gravity, but is God Himself. So, the Spirit is not an “unthinking” power. Instead, the Spirit expresses God's heart, character, and will. The Spirit has many important functions in the church. The Holy Spirit:

1. Reveals the truth to us (1 Cor 2:10, 14).
2. Gives us God's wisdom and revelation (Isa 11:2; 1 Cor 2:13).
3. Teaches, guides, and counsels us (Jn 14:26; Acts 15:28).
4. Convicts us of our sin (Isa 4:4; Jn 16:8).
5. Helps us overcome fleshly desires (Rom 8:13; Gal 5:16–25).
6. Gives us direction in our service for God (Mt 4:1; Acts 11:28–29).
7. Purifies and sanctifies us (Acts 15:8–9; 1 Pet 1:22).
8. Grants the authority to forgive sins (Jn 20:22–23), and imparts spiritual life (Rom 8:11).
9. Helps us bear spiritual fruit (Gal 5:22–25), and fills us with God's love, strength, and godly fear (Eph 3:16–19; Isa 11:2–3).
10. Testifies of our status as God's children and heirs of His promises (Rom 8:15–17; Gal 4:6–7).
11. Seals us to guarantee God's promises to us (2 Cor 1:21–22; Eph 1:13–14).

To summarize all of these different works, God's Spirit is given to the church to establish and empower the church to do God's work. And when the church does His will, God is glorified.

The Spirit's Empowerment

Following God's will is not always easy. Let's read Zechariah 4:7. “Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain! And he shall bring forth the capstone with shouts of ‘Grace, grace to it!’ ” Zerubbabel was a leader among God's people when they returned from exile. He faced many obstacles in rebuilding the temple, such as the people's reluctance (Hag 1:2). This verse refers to these obstacles as a “great mountain.”

We can also face difficulties in building up the church today. There may be a “great mountain” blocking our way. At the time, God encouraged Zerubbabel, saying, “Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit” (Zech 4:6). He wanted to tell him this: repairing and rebuilding the broken temple is not a matter of human ability, but is done through the empowerment of God's Spirit. The same is true for us.

In the face of overwhelming obstacles, we often try to use our own abilities or knowledge to solve the problem. Sometimes we turn to others for help. But then we may realize that neither ourselves nor those around us have the necessary power or abilities to solve our problems.

While we must certainly try our best, we must learn to first rely on God. With God's help, the great mountain shall become a plain!

B. Surrendering to God's Spirit

Today, Jesus is no longer physically on earth. But He gave an important promise before He ascended to heaven. Jesus told His disciples, "I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you" (Jn 14:18). He was not only promising that He would resurrect after His death, but also that He would send the promised Holy Spirit. His disciples obediently waited in Jerusalem, and on the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended for the first time in history and established the apostolic church (Acts 2:1–4; 10:45–47).

God wants to fill His church with His Spirit and dwell within it (Eph 1:22–23; 3:19). He wants to show His presence to His people. He did so in the Old Testament by filling His temple with His glory and presence (2 Chr 7:1–3). But while God's temple in the Old Testament was physical, in the New Testament, our bodies have now become the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 6:19). Jesus promised, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him" (Jn 14:23).

When the Spirit dwells in each of us, He is also able to dwell within the church. But we first need to allow the Spirit to dwell within us. The Holy Spirit may establish and empower the church, but we, as the body of Christ, must prepare our hearts and surrender ourselves to Him. Peter wrote, "[Be] clothed with humility, for 'God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.' Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time" (1 Pet 5:5–6).

Scripture reminds us, "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption" (Eph 4:30). One of the most serious sins we can fall into is resisting the Holy Spirit (Acts 7:51). When we resist the Holy Spirit, God cannot work in our hearts or in the church. So, the idea of surrendering to God is very important in our worship. If we are unable to submit and surrender ourselves to God, we will be unable to please the Lord (Prov 3:5–6).

C. Worship God in Spirit

1. A Sincere Heart that Follows God's Will

Jesus said, "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth" (Jn 4:24). What does it mean to worship God in Spirit? In the Bible, our spirit often represents our inner heart (Ex 35:21; Ps 34:18). The first basic teaching of "worship in spirit" means to worship God sincerely from our heart (Phil 3:3) and not only as an outward show for others to see. For example, to truly be God's chosen people as the Israelites were, our heart to serve God must not be a mere show or act in front of others. Let's read Romans 2:28–29. When we serve the Lord inwardly, we are spiritually circumcised and marked as one who belongs to God.

For example, when we do something for others, we must have the right spirit. If we do any work without having the heart, we will often do what we call a "halfway" or "messy" job. For instance, after we finish our meal, we may want to leave right away and have fun with our friends. We know we should clean up after our mess, but since we want to play, we do a quick job just to show others that we did something. But this work is without spirit because our heart was only set upon having fun, not upon our

responsibility to clean up. We must learn to worship God sincerely, from the heart.

A second basic teaching of worshipping in the spirit is to worship according to God's will. The Bible encourages us to walk according to the Spirit and to be led by the Spirit (Rom 8:4, 14). This means that to worship in the Spirit, we must be led according to God's will, not our own. To truly worship in spirit means to act with righteousness according to God's will (Rom 8:9–10).

For example, if a friend invites us to a party on the Sabbath, we may be tempted to skip church worship and enjoy the party. Yet, we know the Bible teaches us to remember the Sabbath and keep it holy, and not to forsake assembling together (Heb 10:24–25). We may make an excuse, saying, "It'll just be this once," or "I'll keep the Sabbath in my heart and still go to the party to enjoy myself." But if we worship God without following His will, we cannot say we worship God in Spirit and truth, because our actions contradict God's command.

2. Pursuing the Spirit in Faith

Because God is Spirit, we cannot see Him with our physical eyes (Jn 1:18), making Him seem very far away. We may think: "God is Spirit and doesn't really see or care about us." In reality, because He is Spirit, He is able to dwell within us. Whenever we may think God doesn't care, we simply need to kneel down and pray to understand that He does. Since we can't see God physically, we need to pursue the Holy Spirit by faith. Galatians 3:14 tells us that Christ has redeemed us, "that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith."

If we feel like God is far away or that we can't reach Him, there may be a simple reason: we never asked God to fill us with His Spirit in faith. How do we show a lack of faith in asking for God's Spirit to fill us? For example, if we pray infrequently, or never pray at all for God's abidance, can we honestly say we are seeking the fullness of God's Spirit? If we only seek after the pleasures of this world, can we expect God's presence to fill us? If, before we even kneel down to pray, we feel like God doesn't care about us, can we really say we trust God and His love for us?

Faith means having trust and hope in something that we cannot see (Heb 11:1; 1 Pet 1:6–9). Just because we cannot see God does not mean He is not there. Very often, God is waiting for us to seek after Him so that He can reveal Himself. He is waiting for us to seek Him out in spirit and truth. He is waiting for us to show our faith in His promises. When we do so, He will reveal Himself to us and fill us with His Spirit.

3. Relying on the Spirit

To worship God in Spirit, we must trust in His Spirit to guide us and to help us. But when we trust in God's Spirit to accomplish God's will, it does not mean that we can become lazy and indifferent. There's a big difference between being complacent or lazy in God's work, and trusting God to accomplish it.

When David faced Goliath, David did not just think: "Well, God Himself can defeat Goliath. I'll just sit back and relax to see what God does." This would be an example of being lazy in God's work. Instead, David prepared what he could to face Goliath, such as

his staff, his sling, and five smooth stones (1 Sam 17:40). God helped David defeat Goliath because David put forth his own courage and effort, in addition to trusting in God's power.

Relying on God's Spirit to empower us to do God's work may seem very abstract or even contradictory, since we must still try to finish God's work to the best of our ability. But as we work, our focus should be on God's power, not on our own. When we face obstacles, we should not worry or be anxious, but trust God to open the way for us according to His good will and simply make the best decisions that we can. As humans, we cannot influence people, nature, or the turn of events before us. But God has the power to do so. When we know and trust in this, we can learn to rely on His power to help us accomplish His work.

Ultimately, when we have faith and trust in God, the result is that we are filled with His Spirit, which is the key to empowering the church. This is why praying in the Spirit is so important. When we have God's full abidance and power working in the church, no task we face will be too difficult. The reason for our great confidence is not because of our own power, but because we have God's Spirit and grace upon us. As a result of our trust and God's abidance, the church will be built up according to His will.

Life Application

Strengthening the Holy Spirit's Presence in the Church

How can we increase the Holy Spirit's empowerment of the church? Each of us as its members have our own duty to seek out the fullness of the Spirit not just for the church, but also for ourselves – this is how the church can be empowered. If we want to feel His presence and power in the church, we need to submit ourselves fully to Christ and be faithful to His work.

When we fail to align our lives with God, and instead love our sin more than God, we make ourselves an enemy of God (Jas 4:4–5). In the process of loving and pursuing the things of this world over Christ, we push God away and ignore the Holy Spirit. The Lord gave Zechariah an important message to encourage His people during the rebuilding of the temple. He said, "Return to Me [...] and I will return to you" (Zech 1:3). To strengthen the Holy Spirit's presence in the church, we have duties to uphold as its members. So, what are my duties as a True Jesus Church member?

God has given us salvation out of His love and grace alone. It is important to know that from the moment we have been baptized, we belong to God. Our covenant with Him, however, is a two-way relationship. The Lord gave us His life, and it is only right that we return the same love through our obedience and faith. There are a few main duties we must fulfill as God's children:

1. Pray

The truth is, the deeper we go into prayer, the more strength we'll have, and the deeper we go into God's presence, the more we know His ways and His will. The mark of a true Christian is found in his personal relationship with God through prayer. When we pray daily, it shows that we're living for Christ, and that we are continually depending upon the power of the Holy Spirit to live in us and guide us. Let's encourage one another to build up our relationship with God through prayer. To do this, we can:

- **Often withdraw to pray:** "So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed" (Lk 5:16).
- **Pray for everything:** "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God" (Phil 4:6).
- **Pray according to God's will and He will hear us:** "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us" (1 Jn 5:14).
- **Have faith in God:** "So Jesus answered and said to them, 'Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, "Be removed and be cast into the sea," and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them' " (Mk 11:22–25).

2. Seek the knowledge of the truth

Colossians 3:16 teaches us to let the word of God dwell in us richly. If we do, we can "overcome the wicked one" (1 Jn 2:14). The Holy Spirit will lead us into understanding the truth when we pray and ask for understanding. Ask yourself the following questions:

- How much time do I spend meditating on the word of God daily?
- How much time do I set aside to read church publications?
- How much time do I spend listening to online sermons?
- Do I take notes while listening to the weekly sermon?

3. Attend weekly services

As members of Christ's body, we have the responsibility to attend church services regularly. Hebrews 10:24–25 states, "And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, and not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching." This is actually a fundamental responsibility as a church member. If we do not attend, we stand to lose much, including our place in the heavenly kingdom.

4. Show affection and brotherly love to one another

It is easier to do this task when you're in a smaller church. But in a big church, it will take some time to get to know people you don't know. Let's read Romans 12:9–16. If we show love and affection to one another collectively and look for ways to care for our fellow members, we are fulfilling our duties.

5. Serve the Lord in whatever area we can

No matter what skills we have, we must serve the Lord in whatever area we can. Even if we are too young, or do not have any particular skills, we all have the ability to pray. It is important to pray for God's work and His church, to intercede for our brethren, and to ask God to send more workers for His harvest (Mt 9:38; Eph 6:19). We can also serve one another and do our best to live in peace, maintaining the unity of the church.

6. Strive to enter God's kingdom with God's virtues

We need to make every effort to "add to [our] faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love" (2 Pet 1:5–7). If we do these

things, we will never stumble, and “an entrance will be supplied to [us] abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Pet 1:11).

Discussion: How are we doing based on this list? Are we fulfilling our duties as church members to help empower the church with the fullness of God’s Spirit?

Memory Verse

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

Meaning

The Holy Spirit empowers the church to do God’s work, which includes witnessing for Christ in every place, starting with those around us and expanding to the end of the earth. Our witness of Christ to others can be through our good conduct or by preaching the gospel of salvation.

Check for Understanding

- 1. What is the Holy Spirit’s presence in the church evidence of, and why is this important?**
The presence of the Holy Spirit is evidence of God’s abidance in the church. Without His abidance, the church cannot accomplish anything for God. But with the Holy Spirit, the church can do many mighty works for Him.
- 2. How can we summarize the work of the Holy Spirit within the church?** God’s Spirit is given to the church to establish and empower the church to do God’s work. And when the church does His will, God is glorified.
- 3. Why is it important that the Spirit dwells in each of us?** That means He is also able to dwell within the church.
- 4. How do we worship God in Spirit?** By having a sincere heart that follows God’s will, pursuing the Spirit in faith, and by relying on the Spirit.
- 5. How can we increase the Holy Spirit’s empowerment of the church?** Each of us as members of the church have the duty to seek out the fullness of the Spirit, not just for the church, but also for ourselves.
- 6. What are a few of the main duties we must fulfill as God’s children?** Pray, seek the knowledge of the truth, attend weekly service, show affection and brotherly love to one another, serve the Lord in whatever area we can, and strive to enter God’s kingdom with God’s virtues.

Conclusion

The Holy Spirit wants to establish and empower the true church to do God’s work. We must pursue the Spirit in faith, surrender to the Spirit to do God’s work, and worship God in Spirit with a sincere heart. When we do so, we strengthen the Spirit’s presence in the church, and God will empower the church to do His will and glorify His name.

Lesson 2 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. How can we witness Christ to others?
We can witness Christ to others through exhibiting good conduct or by preaching the gospel of salvation.
2. What is the Holy Spirit's presence in the church evidence of? Why is this important?
The presence of the Holy Spirit is evidence of God's abidance in the church. Without His abidance, the church cannot accomplish anything for God. But with the Spirit, the church can do many mighty works for Him.
3. How does the Spirit dwell within the church?
When we first allow the Spirit to dwell within each of us.
4. What is necessary to worship God in Spirit?
A sincere heart that follows God's will, pursuing the Spirit in faith, and relying on the Spirit.
5. Which of our main duties as God's children do you need to improve on? How can you improve on that duty? Come up with a plan to follow this week.
Personal answers.

The History of True Jesus Church (I)

Passages: Deut 11:16–17; Mt 23:15; 3:3; Col 1:27; 1 Cor 3:4–7; Tit 3:5–6; 2 Thess 2:13; Rom 8:13

Memory Verse

“Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor. For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, you are God’s building.” (1 Corinthians 3:8–9)

Knowledge of God’s Will [God’s Word]	Knowledge of God [God’s Divine Nature]	Good Work [Behavior]
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. God inspired and directed His workers to establish the church in China.2. The Holy Spirit taught the early workers the correct doctrines of baptism and of the Sabbath day.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. All of us were chosen by God to be saved and to serve His purpose in accordance with His will.2. The Holy Spirit dwells within us to help us follow God’s will.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To be an effective worker for God, we must pursue the Spirit’s power and guidance.2. Remember that God gives the increase, not His workers.

Overview

Events and Spiritual Teachings

- A. Understanding Our Church History – The Pentecostal Movement in China
- B. The Birth of Our Church
- C. The Early Childhood of the Church
- D. Beyond China
 - 1. Taiwan (1926)
 - 2. Singapore (1927)

Life Application

- 1. The Work of the Holy Spirit
- 2. God Gives the Increase
- 3. Establishing God’s Church in a Foreign Land

Memory Verse

Conclusion: The early workers were able to serve the Lord effectively because they relied on the power of the Holy Spirit and trusted in the guidance of the Lord. They were able to serve His purpose because of the power given to them by the Spirit.

Events and Spiritual Teachings

(Teachers: A Google Earth Pro file is available as a supplement to this lesson. It is easy to set up and a good way to engage your students. Simply download the .kmz file, go to Google Earth Pro (<https://www.google.com/earth/versions/>), and import the .kmz file. If using Google Chrome, you may need to toggle import abilities via the settings menu. As an alternative, see Figure 1: Map of relevant locations in China.)

Introduction

Many people do not find history interesting. However, it is important for us to understand the connections between the past and present. By examining the beginnings and growth of our church, we will gain a deeper and richer knowledge of God’s work. Learning about the history of our family teaches us more about our own identity. In the same way, learning about the history of the church will give us a better understanding of God’s will for the church and how it impacts our faith today.

(Teachers: This lesson is based on an adapted translation from the anniversary publication, “30 Years of Preaching in Taiwan,” published by the Taiwan General Assembly in 1956.)

After the Acts of the Apostles

Despite the works of the Holy Spirit and the fervency of the disciples in apostolic times, the churches quickly deviated from the original teachings in the centuries that followed. Many preached their own doctrines, even going so far as to create their own versions of the Bible and institute their own sacraments based on worldly practices. As a result, the Holy Spirit departed, fulfilling the prophecy, “[And] He shut up the heavens so that there be no rain” (Deut 11:16–17). There were no positive changes until the 16th century, when a Christian named Martin Luther initiated church reform.

Luther urged a return to the Bible as the source of truth. Despite his efforts, several denominations arose from Christianity, each preaching their own doctrines and causing much interdenominational strife. Jesus condemned this mentality, saying, “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves” (Mt 23:15). However, this reform eventually paved the way for the spread of the gospel in China, and the apostolic church of the early days was finally revived on the Gregorian calendar date of January 2, 1918¹, in the form of the True Jesus Church.

A. Understanding Our Church History – The Pentecostal Movement in China

Do you know when and where our church was first established? How did the Spirit begin the work? Many specific details of our church history have unfortunately been lost to time, but we know enough to understand just how much God has guided our church into existence.

The Lord arranged several factors that led to our church’s formation, but we can trace our history to two key roots: the Pentecostal movement, which had reached China in 1907; and the Apostolic Faith Church, an extension of the Pentecostal movement that was first established in Shanxi Province in 1911. Other Apostolic Faith churches were later established in Beijing, in part because of Elder Peterson. He and a Western missionary with the Chinese name of Mo Lizhi published newsletters in which they stressed the importance of receiving the Holy Spirit, speaking in tongues, and the second coming of Christ.

¹ According to the Lunar calendar, this would have been the twentieth day of the eleventh month, 1917 (See Manna Issue #84, p. 2).

The Pentecostal movement had a role similar to John the Baptist's, serving as "[the] voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; make His paths straight' " (Mt 3:3). The movement paved the way for the true church, as all the early pillars of the True Jesus Church were affiliated with the Apostolic Faith. This includes Ling-Sheng Chang, Paul Wei, and Barnabas Chang. It was to these workers that God had begun to "make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Col 1:27).

Ling-Sheng Chang, originally a deacon of the Presbyterian Church, came into contact with the Apostolic Faith Church in 1909. Miraculously, his son, Boquan Chang, received the Holy Spirit. This prompted Ling-Sheng to pray fervently until he, too, received the Holy Spirit at home. Of particular note is that through the Holy Spirit's revelation, Ling-Sheng began to observe the Sabbath day in accordance with the truth.

Meanwhile, in Beijing, 1916, Paul Wei had fallen critically ill, but despite consulting many doctors over three months, was only healed through prayer and the laying of hands within the Apostolic Faith Church. As a result, he baptized into the church and eventually received the Holy Spirit during a family service above his fabric store in Beijing. Elsewhere, Barnabas Chang, a farmer and antique dealer, came to believe when Ling-Sheng preached in his village in Shandong Province. He received the Holy Spirit on a hill when he was returning home from his farmyard, and began theological training under Ling-Sheng a few years later, in 1915. With this, God began to pave the way towards the true church.

B. The Birth of Our Church

The Holy Spirit set in motion several key events in 1917. Paul Wei received a revelation from the Lord about the truth, giving him the understanding that he needed to leave the Apostolic Faith Church. He was also commanded by God to fast and pray for thirty-nine days. During this period, he was guided by the Holy Spirit to be baptized in accordance with the Bible. This occurred on May 26, 1917. The Lord then appeared before him twice: once when he raised his face from the river, and again when he approached the forest beyond the shore.

Paul immediately began to preach in the name of the Correctional Church of All Nations, True Jesus Church. Later that year, the name became shortened when he received permission from the local police headquarters to register his textile warehouse as the official premises of the "True Jesus Church."

The Lord brought together two key workers for His church in 1918 when Ling-Sheng Chang traveled to Tianjin and met Paul, having heard of someone who also preached the correct Sabbath day. It was here that the Spirit gave Ling-Sheng the power to rectify incorrect doctrines, and the two began to work together. Barnabas Chang joined the group in 1919. However, Paul died that same year, leaving others, including his son, Isaac Wei, to continue the work of preaching the gospel.

C. The Early Childhood of the Church

The church grew rapidly after its establishment. Isaac Wei and a fellow member, Ke-Xin Ye, preached and established churches in northern China, while Ling-Sheng and Barnabas preached in southern China. Ling-Sheng eventually retired to his hometown, but Barnabas continued traveling. As a result, Thomas Kuo and Silas Lin, formerly Seventh Day Adventists, came to believe. Together, the three preached in Xiamen and Zhangzhou. There, the Lord paved the way to the gospel in Taiwan, when several Taiwanese Presbyterians were converted in 1925.

Aside from the first three-month theological training seminar, 1926 marked three major organizational changes. First, forty by-laws were passed. Second, the church's headquarters were established in

Nanjing. Its purpose was to centralize all the churches, both inside and outside of China, and establish future doctrine. Third, the official newsletter for the church headquarters, “Holy Spirit Times,” was created. With these changes, the church became more formally organized and united. Much later, in 1945, the term “Church Headquarters” was changed to “General Assembly.”

Unfortunately, Barnabas strayed from the truth when he was sent to support overseas churches. He began to proclaim himself as the church’s founder. As a result, the headquarters began to review the church’s history. Unhappy with this action, Barnabas established his own headquarters in Hong Kong and ordained himself General Bishop. He then began hindering the work of the true church. Despite many calls to return, he refused to listen and was thus excommunicated. Although Barnabas faltered, the church work continued to flourish under the Spirit’s guidance, spreading to nearby countries and beyond.

D. Beyond China²

The gospel’s establishment was only the beginning. The workers were not content with remaining in China. The Spirit gave them the wisdom and courage to spread the gospel beyond its borders. Today, let’s learn about how the gospel arrived in Taiwan and Singapore.

1. Taiwan (1926)

In 1925, several Japanese-educated Taiwanese youths accepted the truth in China. Many Presbyterians accepted the truth that they brought back to Taiwan, so they asked for assistance from the church in China. After clarifying their purpose with the Japanese colonial government in Taiwan on March 4, 1926, the missionary team that was sent traveled all over Taiwan, holding large outdoor evangelical services with audiences of 200–400 people. In the first baptism on March 10th, sixty-two were baptized. In just forty days, God allowed the team to baptize over 100 people, establish three churches, and transform the Christian community in Taiwan.

By November 1926, headquarters for the Taiwanese churches, the Taiwan Church Branch, was established. In 1956, its name was changed to the True Jesus Church General Assembly in Taiwan. Since the First World Delegate’s Conference in 1967, Taiwan has also become home to the International Assembly of the True Jesus Church.

2. Singapore (1927)

In 1925, an elder from the True Jesus Church in Fujian, China, went to Singapore to preach the gospel. That December, five were baptized. In February of 1926, another elder from Fujian joined him in Singapore. Many believers they baptized later became important workers in church development, and by August of 1926, the membership in Singapore had reached fifty.

In January of 1927, a third elder from Fujian also traveled to Singapore and preached in a school called Chung Teck. Fourteen members came to believe and began meeting in the upper room of a shop house that belonged to a brother. One month later, on February 27, 1927, the first True Jesus Church in Singapore was established on 11 Kinta Road.

Life Application

1. The Work of the Holy Spirit

² Additional infographic can be found in Manna Issue #84, p. 28.

If we study the history of the church more deeply, it is inevitable that we will also find hundreds of miraculous testimonies, all tied into the growth and development of the church. For example, the following are brief summaries of eyewitness testimonies that can be found in the 30th anniversary book published by the Taiwan General Assembly in 1947.³

- **Resurrection in Hebei Province:** A widow who was a True Jesus Church member witnessed a dead woman in her thirties being placed into a coffin. The widow immediately prayed with power from on high, crying out, "In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I ask you to get up!" The dead woman immediately resurrected. She praised God, and the entire village came to believe.
- **Resurrection in Hena Province:** Upon hearing about the healing power of God, four sons sought out the church's help regarding their recently passed, sixty-five-year-old mother. They invited a deaconess from the church to pray for their mother, and they all prayed for two hours. It was then that their mother rose from the dead, understanding that she had died and resurrected. News of the miracle spread, and the village came to fear God.
- **Healing in Wang Hang:** A cripple of twenty-four years was carried to two workers preaching in the city. The Holy Spirit told one of the workers that should he be baptized, he would be healed. Upon being asked, the cripple agreed to be baptized, so the workers found a suitable site, whereupon they took the man into the water, told him to bow his head, and then cast out Satan in the name of the Lord. The evil spirit immediately left, and the workers promptly baptized him. The man then lifted his head, rose to his feet, and walked.
- **Healing in an unrecorded location:** A mute man was willing to be baptized, but an evil spirit within him insisted that his head needed to face up during baptism. Two workers baptized him in accordance with the Bible, with his head bowed, his whole body immersed, and in the name of the Lord Jesus. Immediately, the evil spirit left. When he came back to shore, he spat something out from his mouth and, filled by the Holy Spirit, began to sing a spiritual song.

God's Amazing Protection

(The following is an abbreviated version of a testimony from *Manna*, Issue #84.⁴)

In 1946, the church in Nan'ao, Yilan County was under great persecution. A certain church spread rumors that the True Jesus Church was a cult and should be exterminated. The church was targeted two times a week, often in the middle of a sermon. When the persecutors came, they would ring a bell so that the brothers and sisters would know they were coming. Nevertheless, none left their seat, and all refused to deny Jesus Christ.

The attackers would push the members to the ground, grab them by the hair or ears, and hit their heads. They would beat them with a stick and step on them until they passed out. They also targeted the church's minister, brutally beating him until he passed out. Despite this, he continued to minister every day, and the Nan'ao believers were undeterred in their faith.

³ *True Jesus Church 30th Anniversary Commemoration Special Edition*, (Taiwan: True Jesus Church, 1947), ch. 14 pp./ N2–N3, N6.

⁴ "In Retrospection and Reflection: One Hundred Years of Spiritual Grace", *Manna Issue #84* (USA: True Jesus Church, 2017), <http://ia.tjc.org/elibrary/ContentDetail.aspx?ItemID=36259&langid=1>, pp. 5–6.

One Sabbath, an angel appeared to the brethren during a service at Nan'ao, and told them, "Violent attackers will come to persecute you today. I will lead all of you to another place. Do not return home to pack, just bring your Bible and hymnbook. Come, follow me." The angel brought them to a broken hanging bridge that had been marked as unsafe and off-limits. He said to those behind him, "Pay attention to where I put my feet; if you step where I do, you'll be safe." Not long after, their pursuers came after them. But they were afraid to cross the rickety bridge and gave up their pursuit.

In all of these testimonies, we can clearly see the work of the Holy Spirit, whose powerful presence and guidance are evident. The early workers were able to witness for Christ because of the divine power and truth that they received from the Holy Spirit. Their service was effective not only because they had the Spirit within them, but also because they sought the Spirit's strength and power each day. It is easy to forget that receiving the Holy Spirit is only the first step in our spiritual journey. Our work for the Lord is only effective when we seek out and rely on His power to guide us and aid us. When you serve the Lord, how much do you rely on Him? Do you turn first to His Spirit for strength to do His work?

2. God Gives the Increase

The early workers certainly laid down much of the groundwork for our church, but they were nonetheless still human, and served only as vessels for God. Their lives teach us of the mighty deeds that can be done with God's power, but also warn us that even workers who are strong in the truth may fall. Sometimes, we may admire certain workers for their service to God or their insight into the truth, but when we choose to follow God's workers instead of God Himself, we have already lost the truth.

Let's read 1 Corinthians 3:4–7. Paul expressed the danger of forgetting that God's workers are only human who simply serve as vessels for God's power. The same is true of the early church workers, our workers today, and, of course, of ourselves. Have you ever admired or even idolized a member for their church work? How do we remind ourselves that their work is from God, and for God alone? Have you ever felt that you should be praised for your own service in church? How can we keep our hearts humble?

3. Establishing God's Church in a Foreign Land

(Teachers: Due to time constraints, you may want to give this to your students as a homework project over the following two weeks; this activity is also included in Lesson 4. You may need to coordinate with other teachers. If you choose to do this during class and the students do not have their own devices, you will need to provide each group with a laptop or tablet with Internet access for research.)

The goal of this activity is to help students understand the various logistical and spiritual considerations involved when preaching, and to learn the basics of planning in evangelism. Optional: Divide students into groups of three or four. Collaboration may be difficult if you are giving this to your students as homework, although it would be in and of itself a good lesson on one of the difficulties of establishing a church abroad!)

We learned today how believers established churches in brand new places. But the story doesn't end there. There are still many countries in the world today that have not received the gospel. If you were asked to help evangelize in another country, how would you approach such a mission?

The Rules:

- a. Each group has ten years to establish a thirty-person church.

- b. Pick a country that currently does not have a True Jesus Church. Assume that you do **not** have fluent command of the language of that country.
- c. Perform a background check on the country. Answer the following questions:
 - What is the main language?
 - What are the major ethnic groups?
 - What is the main religion?
 - What are three major obstacles in preaching in this country?
 - Pretend that you are about to immigrate to the country to establish a church. What would you need? Make a list of ten things you need to prepare for immigration (for example, savings, language, working skills).
- d. Come up with a plan for establishing a church in this foreign land. Include:
 - How to overcome language difficulties
 - When and where to start family services
 - How to preach to more people
 - When to apply for prayer house status
 - Who to ask for assistance
 - Needed materials or manpower
 - How many people you would have to bring per year to reach your target goal
- e. Allow each group ten minutes to share their plan. Is it feasible? Why or why not?

Check for Understanding

1. **What two key roots can we trace the history of our church back to?** The Pentecostal movement and the Apostolic Faith Church.
2. **What key doctrines did the Spirit reveal to Ling-Sheng Chang and Paul Wei?** The proper way to observe Sabbath and the correct mode of water baptism in accordance with the truth.
3. **How did the Lord pave the way for the gospel in Taiwan?** When Barnabas, Thomas, and Silas preached in Xiamen and Zhangzhou, several Taiwanese Presbyterians were converted.
4. **What major events occurred in 1926?** The first three-month theological training seminar in Nanjing; three organizational changes: forty by-laws were passed, the church headquarters were established in Nanjing, and the “Holy Spirit Times” was created.
5. **Why were the early workers able to serve so effectively?** Because they sought out the Spirit’s strength and power each day. Our work for the Lord is only effective when we seek out and rely on His power to guide us and aid us.

Memory Verse

“Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor. For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, you are God’s building.” (1 Corinthians 3:8–9)

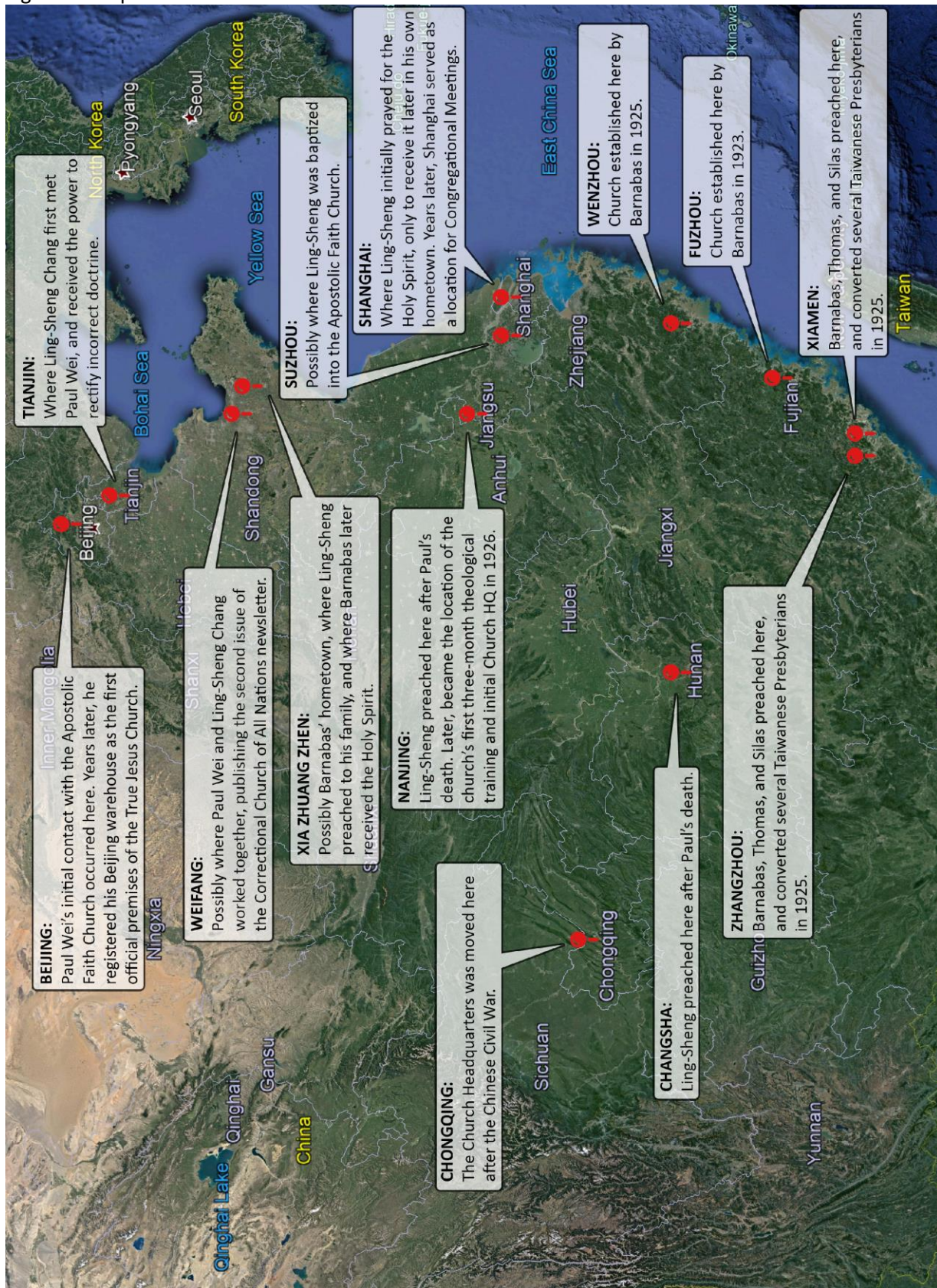
Meaning

It may feel like we cannot do as much, or that we may never be able to match the amazing acts of faith that the early workers performed, but in truth, we are all equal workers, merely vessels for God’s use. Each of us will receive our own reward according to the labor that we have done for God. We simply need to be willing to put forth the effort to do our part in planting and watering God’s church. When we do, God’s work will flourish under His hand through us!

Conclusion

The early workers of our church all had very different strengths, characteristics, and weaknesses. But they were able to serve the Lord effectively because they relied on the power of the Holy Spirit and trusted in the guidance of the Lord. They willingly submitted to the Spirit's revelations and were able to serve His purpose because of the power given to them by the Spirit.

Figure 1: Map of relevant locations in China



Lesson 3 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. What does this verse teach us about our labor for God?
We are all equal vessels for God's purpose, and will receive our own reward. We simply need to put forth the effort to do our part in planting and watering God's church. When we do, God's work will flourish under His hand through us!
2. What are two key roots that we can trace our church history back to?
The Pentecostal Movement in China, and the Apostolic Faith Church.
3. "To them God _____ to make _____ what are the _____ of the _____ of this _____ among the Gentiles: which is _____ in you, the _____ of _____." (Colossians 1:27)
willed, known, riches, glory, mystery, Christ, hope, glory.
4. What key doctrines did Paul Wei and Ling-Sheng Chang receive from the Holy Spirit?
The proper way to observe Sabbath and the correct mode of water baptism in accordance with the truth.
5. Why were the early workers able to serve God so effectively?
Because they not only had the Spirit within them, but also sought out His strength and power every day. Our work for the Lord is only effective when we seek out and rely on His power to guide us and aid us.
6. Describe a time when you witnessed the work of the Holy Spirit, either in your life or in the life of someone close to you.
Personal answers.

The History of True Jesus Church (II)

Passages: Acts 13:47; Rom 8:11; Zech 4:6; Eph 6:8; Col 1:9; Eph 1:15–17; Col 3:2; Mt 6:19–21; 2 Tim 4:10; Acts 15:37–39; Gal 6:9; Acts 14:15

Memory Verse

“Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.” (2 Timothy 4:2)

Knowledge of God’s Will [God’s Word]	Knowledge of God [God’s Divine Nature]	Good Work [Behavior]
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the gospel spread to numerous countries beyond China.2. The Holy Spirit will perfect the true church.	God is truth, and He guides His believers into all truth.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Rely on the Holy Spirit to help us preach and develop the church.2. To become a worker for God, set our minds on things above, maintain a spirit of persistence, and keep a humble heart.

Overview

Events and Spiritual Teachings

- A. West Malaysia, Sabah (1927)
- B. Indonesia (1941)
- C. Japan (1946)
- D. South Korea (1948)
- E. United Kingdom (1972)
- F. France (1983)
- G. Germany (1985)
- H. Africa

Life Application

1. Relying on the Holy Spirit
2. Whom Does God Use in His Work?
3. Establishing God’s Church in a Foreign Land

Memory Verse

Conclusion: We need to continue the work of developing the true church by building up and relying upon the Holy Spirit within us. When we set our minds on things above, maintain a spirit of persistence, and keep a humble heart, our work for Him will bear fruit with His blessing.

Events and Spiritual Teachings

Introduction

(Teachers: You may want to prepare a map as supplementary material for this lesson, such as a world map poster, Google Maps, or an atlas. This will help your students visualize the spread of our churches within a global context. Manna Magazine Issue #84¹ has a helpful world chart that you may also refer to; it also includes countries not included in the scope of this lesson.)

See Figures 1 and 2 for a basic timeline of our church establishments within the context of world history. Note that the timeline only includes churches that are covered in these lessons.)

God commanded us to preach the truth to the ends of the earth as early as Old Testament times. The Acts of the Apostles quotes Isaiah 49:6, saying, "For so the Lord has commanded us: 'I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, that you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth' " (Acts 13:47). For the apostles, the "ends of the earth" was Europe, and Paul obeyed the word of God by traveling all the way to Spain to preach. But where are the "ends of the earth" for us today?

Last week, we learned about how the gospel spread to Taiwan and, from there, to Singapore. These two were only the beginning. Over the past fifty years, the True Jesus Church has spread to every continent in the world. But we can hardly cover the history of the church in every single country in one lesson! Instead, we will focus on the four general periods of church expansion into the following territories, in chronological order:

1. East Asia (Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong)
2. Southeast Asia (Malaysia, Indonesia)
3. Europe (U.K., France, Germany)
4. Africa (Nigeria, Liberia, Ghana)

(Teachers: Note that the Americas, Australia, and New Zealand will be covered in Lesson 5. Since each lesson is organized by time and region, some countries will inevitably be omitted. For supplementary material, you may choose to look up additional information on specific churches. Testimonies of some church histories can be found online at www.tjc.org. The website also includes contact information for regional churches.)

A. West Malaysia, Sabah (1927)

The gospel spread from Singapore to Sabah through literary evangelism. One brother, deeply moved by the copy of the Holy Spirit Times sent to him by a friend, traveled to Singapore to seek out the True Jesus Church there. He received the Holy Spirit three days after his baptism on January 11, 1927, and later brought others with him to preach the gospel in Sandakan, where the first True Jesus Church in Malaysia was established. During World War II (1941–45), the Japanese army occupied the entire region of Southeast Asia, forcing the believers to disperse and go into hiding when the situation worsened. Despite this, they kept their faith and continued family services. After the war, the believers gradually returned and resumed services. In 1952, the Sabah church was officially registered.

B. Indonesia (1941)

¹ Issue #84 can be found here: <http://ia.tjc.org/elibrary/ContentDetail.aspx?ItemID=36259&langid=1> or in the list of pdfs on <http://mannamagazine.com/pdfs/Forms/AllItems.aspx>.

The history of our Indonesian church began when, after living in Indonesia for some time, one non-believer returned to his birthplace in Fujian. There, he contracted a serious illness and became an invalid for six months. His mother traveled from temple to temple to no avail, until finally his aunt visited and encouraged him to attend services at the True Jesus Church. He agreed and was carried to the church on a stretcher. He stayed for twenty-eight days, praying until the Lord showed mercy and healed him. He and his mother both were baptized, and towards the end of 1932, he returned to Mukasa (now Jung Pandang) in South Sulawesi, Indonesia.

While working in Jakarta, he eventually met with another brother, also originally from China, who offered his house as a place of worship for the twelve members already in Jakarta. A few months later, the two brothers rented a house with a front section for worship and a back section for the physically ill, to whom they evangelized. The members held a steadfast faith, truly believing that the Lord could heal the sick, and their membership steadily grew with God's guidance. In 1941, the first True Jesus Church in Indonesia was established, and by 1952, they received permission from the government to establish branch churches across the country.

Our Indonesian church is unique in that the Indonesian General Assembly opened a school in Jakarta in 1970. It was named the Kanaan Christian School and offered education to the general public, from kindergarten to high school. Today, there are about 3,000 students in the school's three branches. Its teachers and students are required to attend Sabbath services, and students receive two hours of religious education every week from the Indonesian General Assembly. As a result, many teachers, parents, and students have become fervent believers in Christ.

C. Japan (1946)

The first Japanese members came into contact while Taiwan was still a Japanese colony. It was in Taiwan that some of the first members, including one brother who was later ordained as a minister to preach to the Japanese people in Taiwan, came into contact with the truth. In 1941, five Japanese Pentecostal ministers traveled to Taiwan to observe our church and discuss doctrine. Two of them accepted the truth and brought the gospel back with them to Japan. There, they changed their Pentecostal church into the True Jesus Church, adopting the doctrine and sacraments of the true church, and re-baptizing their members in accordance with the truth.

Since educated Taiwanese were fluent in Japanese at the time, Taiwanese church workers were able to assist in the newly established Japanese churches. A theological seminar was held in Tokyo in 1942. Unfortunately, one brother who helped to bring the gospel to Japan left the truth, but the seminar led another truth-seeker to Taiwan in October 1942, where he baptized into the church and eventually became a preacher there. When Japan lost control over Taiwan, he was sent back to Japan, where he helped to establish churches in Nanjyou and Jyohe, and houses of prayer in Tokyo, Idare, Ueda, and Haken. Taiwan continued to communicate with and support the Japanese churches, despite the changing political situation. Finally, in October 1963, the Japanese General Assembly was formed.

D. South Korea (1948)

Like Taiwan, Koreans were educated in Japanese during the Japanese occupation, making it relatively easier to spread the seeds of the gospel from Japan to Korea. In July 1941, one truth-seeker visited the True Jesus Church in Japan. During his visit, he received the Holy Spirit and was baptized. Not long after, another Korean truth-seeker also received the gospel in Japan. In January 1945, he brought the truth back with him to South Korea, preaching to members of the Presbyterian church. Three years later, the

True Jesus Church was established in Korea, in August 1948. The two members preached all over Korea, establishing churches, and a year after the First National Delegates Conference in April 1950, the Korean General Assembly was formed.

E. United Kingdom (1972)

The first seeds of the True Jesus Church reached the United Kingdom in 1950, when Malaysian brethren began moving to the U.K. for study and work. Later, in the 1960s, a large influx of church members arrived from regions within Hong Kong, specifically the New Territories and Ap Chau. The newcomers were mostly single brothers seeking a better life through hard labor and meager wages. Isolated from each other and their families, they became sheep without a shepherd (Ezek 34:5–6). Their faith remained cold until 1972, when God led several workers from Taiwan and Malaysia to gather and encourage the members. As a result, service was held for the first time, and houses of prayer were established in Sunderland and Newcastle.

To assist with church development, thirteen members were ordained as deacons and deaconesses in Newcastle in 1975. In Edinburgh, the members rapidly increased in number from a mere twenty to over 200, while Newcastle reached over 400 people. Finally, under the guidance of God, the first True Jesus Church building in the U.K. was purchased in Newcastle and dedicated on July 12, 1976. More than seventy infants and adults were baptized on that joyous occasion. Edinburgh and Sunderland soon followed suit, dedicating new church buildings in May and July of 1979, respectively. Under God's grace and guidance, other churches throughout the country rapidly grew in membership, and up until the end of 1992, a total of seven churches and one house of prayer were established with a cumulative membership of 1,656.

F. France (1983)

The gospel of the True Jesus Church reached mainland Europe in 1977, when a deacon and two brothers began holding services together. Membership increased through immigration and conversion, and the prayer house was officially registered with the French Authority in 1983. The current Véritable Jésus Église building outside Paris was then purchased in 1992 and dedicated in 1994. Unlike our other churches in the western hemisphere, the Véritable Jésus Église in Paris decided early on to use French as the main sermon-delivery language. As a result, the church has been able to reach out to native French speakers. Today, 70% of the members are first generation church members. Paris church is also one of the most ethnically diverse of our churches in the west.

G. Germany (1985)

Family services began in Germany when two Taiwanese brothers arrived there in 1979. Membership slowly grew as brothers and sisters joined them from Taiwan. With the help of workers from the U.K., the first Spiritual Convocation on the European Continent was held in 1980. Afterwards, annual Spiritual Convocations in Heidelberg were held for the entire European Continent. Eventually, bi-annual Spiritual Convocations were also held exclusively for German-speaking areas.

Starting in 1982, services became more consistently held in a brother's rented room in Heidelberg. Membership increased through conversion, and the first baptism in Heidelberg was performed in 1984. In 1985, the house of prayer in Heidelberg was established and in 1987, registered under the name of Wahre Jesus Gemeinde. The location for their services changed several times, until they purchased an apartment in 1992, used solely for church purposes. From 1984 to 1991, members preached across various locations in Germany and developed three other service locations in the German-speaking areas

of Rhineland, Hamburg, and the combined areas of Salzburg and Vienna in Austria.

H. Africa

1. Nigeria (1978)

A member of the Mount Zion Church of Jesus Christ in Nigeria came into contact with the Taiwan General Assembly in 1976. Later, during a visit to the United States, he was baptized in the Kern River in Bakersfield, California, 1978. Upon returning to Nigeria, he introduced the truth to members of his old church. Some believed and were baptized. The following year, two True Jesus Church workers were invited to Africa to discuss the truth with board members of the Mount Zion Church. As a result, a second group of 322 people were baptized in 1979. God worked with them, and there were many miracles and wonders.

2. Liberia (1985)

In 1981, the International Assembly sent members to Liberia where they distributed pamphlets titled "Words of Life" during their transit at the airport. Two years later, during his flight to Liberia, one of our preachers met a businessman from Ghana. They discussed the truth, and the businessman was baptized three days later. The church sent workers to continue preaching in Liberia, and they eventually conducted a baptism at Buchanan. A church was later established in Liberia in 1985.

3. Ghana (1985)

After his baptism in Liberia, the same businessman returned to Ghana the same year and preached the truth to his friends, opening a way for the gospel. He preached the truth in his hometown in Port Harcourt, baptized new believers, and helped to establish the church there. In 1985, church workers went to preach in the capital city of Accra and other places in Ghana. They baptized about forty people and established another church.

Life Application

1. Relying on the Holy Spirit

We may find preaching to our friends a difficult task. How can I touch the hearts of my friends and family? How can I explain to them the importance of the gospel? No matter how we seek the answers to these questions, we must remember that it is the Spirit who gives life. Paul wrote, "But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you" (Rom 8:11). Our own answers to these questions will fall short, but we can lead others to salvation "not by might nor by power, but by [His] Spirit" (Zech 4:6).

The mighty power of the Holy Spirit can be illustrated most clearly in His initial descent on the Day of Pentecost. Peter, who once denied Jesus three times, delivered a powerful sermon that led to around 3,000 newly baptized members, a far greater number than those who had ever followed Jesus during His time on earth. Centuries later, the Spirit returned in China and once again worked powerfully, building up the true church from the limited number of workers in the early church. But the power of the Spirit can only come about through prayer.

a. Praying for Ourselves

Learning to rely on the Spirit, especially when evangelizing, is a process. There will be moments when we are required to answer difficult questions. But that simply means we must study

Scripture all the more and pray daily for ourselves, so that we can build up our wisdom and knowledge of the Lord. Developing our strength in the Lord will feel like an uphill struggle at times, but Paul encourages us, writing that “whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord” (Eph 6:8). When we rely on the Spirit’s power to help us grow in our wisdom of Him and to do His good work, He will reward us.

b. Praying for Our Church Leaders

In the previous lesson and in today’s lesson, we learned about workers who contributed greatly to the church’s growth and also about some who fell away from the truth. From those on our local church board to the workers of the G.A. and the I.A., it is easy to forget that the leaders of our church are only human. We may not be able to help them personally, but when we dedicate time to pray for them, the Spirit will hear our prayers. So, it is important that we “do not cease” in praying for our church leaders (Col 1:9), in giving thanks for them, or in asking for God to give them the “spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him” (Eph 1:15–17). Then, we will see God’s power manifest not only in our lives but also in our church.

2. Whom Does God Use in His Work?

Having occurred in a different time period, the testimonies and miracles of the church’s early growth demonstrate God’s power in ways that are very unlike what we see today. But our church of the past and the present share a common element: good and faithful workers for Christ, whom the Spirit uses for His mighty works.

There were many early workers who contributed to the rapid growth of the true church. But how were these people chosen by God? The early workers of our church all had different strengths, characteristics, and weaknesses. What set them apart from others and allowed God to use them to the fullest in spreading the joy of His grace? How do we also strive to become someone worthy to do His work, to serve Him, and ultimately to be blessed by Him for seeking to fulfill His kingdom?

a. A mind that is set on things above (Col 3:2)

The early workers sought after God every moment of their lives. To be effective servants for God, our daily activities should be centered on the knowledge that there is more than just the “here and now.” Serving ourselves here and now will only profit us in this lifetime, but when we serve God, we lay up for ourselves everlasting treasures in heaven (Mt 6:19–21). No matter how busy our days are, we need to set our hearts and minds on the eternal promises of God.

Revelation 5:8 tells us that the prayers of the saints are collected in heaven, as golden bowls full of incense. To set our minds on things above, we need to examine our prayers: What and who are we praying for? How much time do we spend in prayer? Are our prayers set on God’s work, or on our material desires? It isn’t wrong to pray for our physical needs, but God loves those who seek His kingdom first. Let us ask God to help us set our minds on things above.

b. A persistent spirit

The Bible has examples of promising workers who gave up before completing their duty, such as Demas and John Mark (2 Tim 4:10; Acts 15:37–39). It is easy to become discouraged when serving God. We may even shorten our prayers because we are tired or because our minds are focused on our problems. We fail to rely on God’s power and mercy. We forget to rely on His strength.

Paul encouraged the Galatian members, saying, “And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart” (Gal 6:9). God delights in those who persevere and are not easily discouraged from serving Him. As long as a worker does not grow weary in doing good, then God will strengthen them. We need to persistently seek Him out in our prayers and serve Him with determination.

c. A humble heart

When we do a lot of work, it is easy to become proud of what we have done. In the Acts of the Apostles, Barnabas and Paul stopped the people of Lystra from sacrificing to them, crying out with alarm, “Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you, and preach to you that you should turn from these useless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them” (Acts 14:15). They understood that the miracles they performed were not from their own power but God’s.

In the same way, in whatever we do for the Lord, great or small, we must remember that both our service and the service of those around us are a result of God’s power, not of our own skills, knowledge, or abilities. When our servitude is marred by our pride, we no longer serve God but ourselves. As long as we rely on God with a heart of humility, our work for Him will bear fruit with His blessing.

3. Establishing God’s Church in a Foreign Land

(Teachers: If this was not given as a homework project the previous week but instead given during this lesson, you will need to provide each group with a laptop or tablet with Internet access for research if students do not have their own devices. If it was given the previous week, then use this opportunity to allow students to continue their research or to present what they have put together. You may need to coordinate with your fellow teachers ahead of time.)

The goal of this activity is to understand the various logistical and spiritual considerations involved when preaching and to learn the basics of planning in evangelism. Optional: Divide students into groups of three or four. Collaboration may be difficult if you are giving this to your students as homework, although it would be in and of itself a good lesson on one of the difficulties of establishing a church abroad!)

In these past two weeks, we have learned how believers established churches in brand new places. But the story doesn’t end there. There are still many countries in the world today that have not received the gospel. If you were asked to help evangelize in another country, how would you approach such a project?

The Rules:

- a. Each group has ten years to establish a thirty-person church.
- b. Pick a country that currently does not have a True Jesus Church. Assume that you do **not** have fluent command of the language of that country.
- c. Perform a background check on the country. Answer the following questions:
 - What is the main language?
 - What are the major ethnic groups?
 - What is the main religion?

- What are three major obstacles in preaching in this country?
 - Pretend that you are about to immigrate to the country to establish a church. What would you need? Make a list of ten things you need to prepare for immigration (for example, savings, language, working skills).
- d. Come up with a plan for establishing a church in this foreign land. Include:
- How to overcome language difficulties
 - When and where to start family services
 - How to preach to more people
 - When to apply for prayer house status
 - Who to ask for assistance
 - Needed materials or manpower
 - How many people you would have to bring per year to reach your target goal
- e. Allow each group ten minutes to share their plan. Is it feasible? Why or why not?

Check for Understanding

1. **What event in the New Testament illustrates the power of the Holy Spirit most clearly?** The day of His initial descent, when Peter delivered a powerful sermon that led to around 3,000 newly baptized members.
2. **How can we see the Holy Spirit's power centuries later?** When He worked to build up the true church from the limited number of workers in the early church to our church of today.
3. **How do we continue this work?** We need to continue relying on the power and presence of the Holy Spirit to help us, by praying both for ourselves and for our church leaders.
4. **What are three characteristics of someone God uses for His work?** Someone whose mind is set on things above, who has a persistent spirit, and who has a heart of humility.
5. **How do we maintain a heart of humility?** By remembering that both our service and the service of those around us are a result of God's power, not of our own skills, knowledge, or abilities.

Memory Verse

"Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching." (2 Timothy 4:2)

Meaning

1. To be "ready in season and out of season" means that we must always be equipped with the word of God. Opportunities to preach to others may be fleeting – once the moment passes, it is gone forever. But if we have spent time deeply studying the word of God, we already have it in our hearts and minds. As a result, we will be ready for that moment, no matter when or where it may come.
2. The word of God can be used for four different tasks: to convince, rebuke, exhort, and teach. All of these are valuable tools, not only when inviting others to see Christ, but also in those times when we evangelize by taking a stand for the gospel and defending the truth.

Conclusion

With the power of the Holy Spirit, the gospel has spread and established itself across so many different countries. But the mission that the Lord gave us is still far from complete. We need to continue the work of developing the true church by building up and relying upon the Holy Spirit within us. When we set our minds on things above, maintain a spirit of persistence, and keep a humble heart, our work for Him will bear fruit with His blessing.

Figure 1: True Jesus Church Within World History: Asia (East and Southeast)

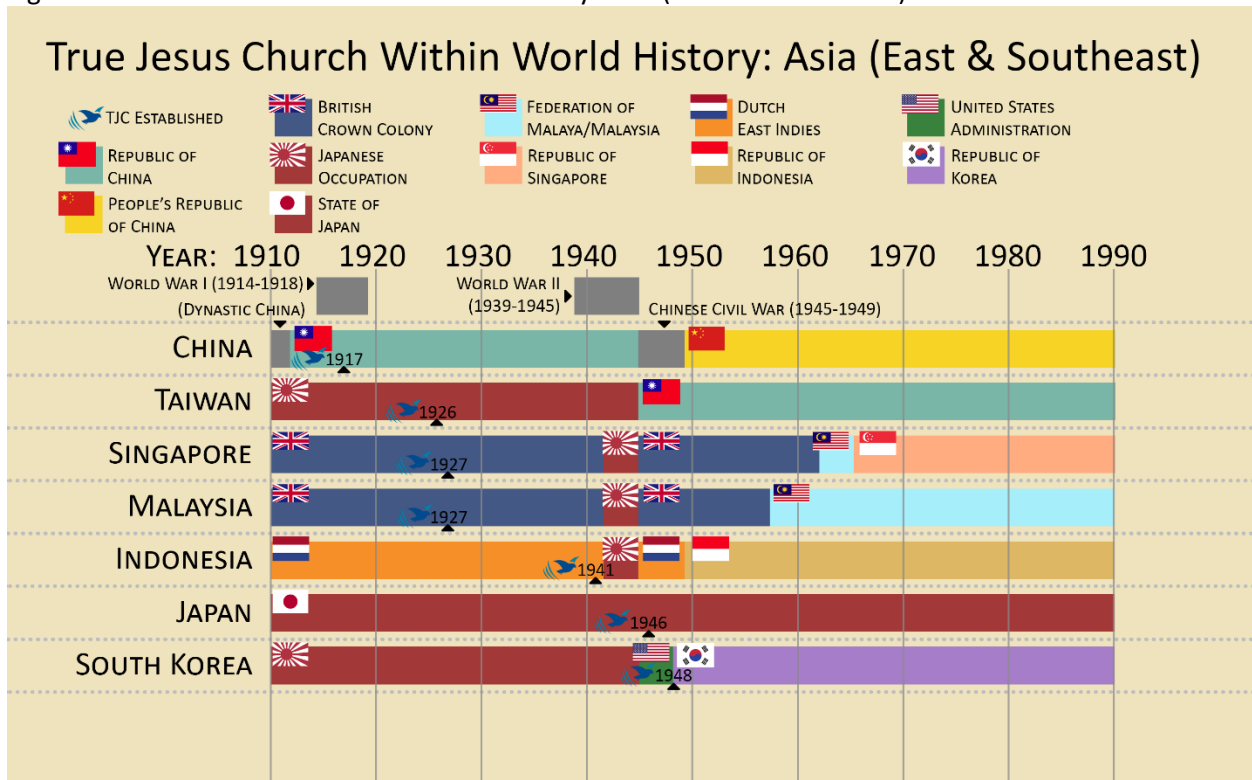
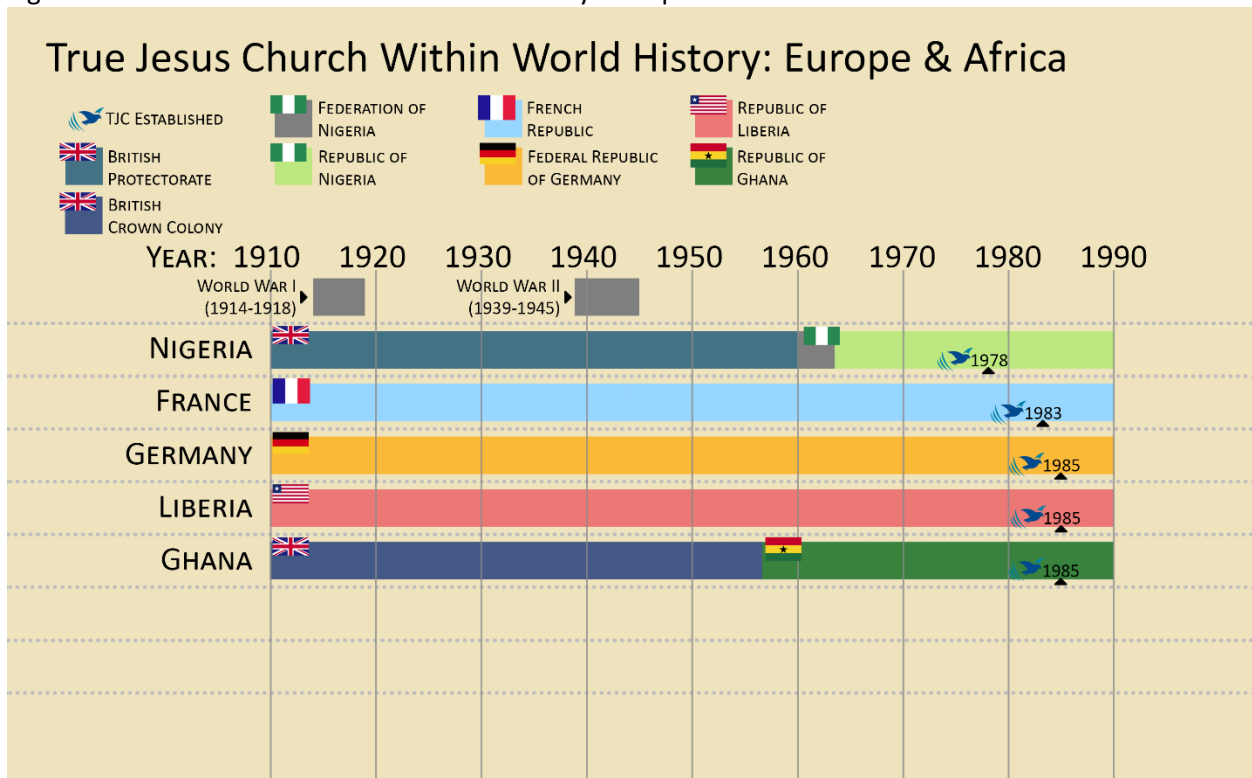


Figure 2: True Jesus Church Within World History: Europe and Africa



Lesson 4 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. What does it mean to be “ready in season and out of season”?
It means that we must always be equipped with the word of God, ready to preach to others at any time or any moment.
2. “And let us not grow _____ while _____, for in due _____ we shall _____ if we do not _____.” (Galatians 6:9)
weary, doing good, season, reap, lose heart
3. Why is it so important that we pray for our church leaders?
It is easy to forget that the leaders of our church are only human. When we dedicate time to pray for them, we will see God’s power manifest not only in our lives, but also in our church.
4. What are three characteristics of those God uses for His work?
Those with a mind set on things above, a persistent spirit, and a heart of humility.
5. Why is it so important to maintain this kind of heart?
When our servitude is marred by our pride, we no longer serve God, but ourselves.
6. Of the three characteristics, which do you need to work on the most? Why, and how will you do so?
Personal answers.

The History of True Jesus Church (III)

Passages: 2 Cor 10:3–6; Jn 7:38; Isa 37:31; Jer 17:7–8; Mt 6:24, 31–34; Ps 1:1–3

Memory Verse

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15)

Knowledge of God’s Will [God’s Word]	Knowledge of God [God’s Divine Nature]	Good Work [Behavior]
1. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the gospel was spread to numerous countries beyond China. 2. The Holy Spirit will complete His work of perfecting the true church.	God is truth.	Remain in the truth by letting our faith take root and by nourishing our faith.

Overview

Events and Spiritual Teachings

- A. United States: Hawaii Region (1931)
- B. United States: Mainland Regions (1969)
- C. Canada (1971)
- D. South America: Argentina (1983)
- E. Australia (1982)
- F. New Zealand: Christchurch (1989)
- G. Fiji (1994)

Life Application

- 1. Remaining in the Truth
- 2. The Establishment of Our Local Church

Memory Verse

Conclusion: When we choose to remain in Christ, He will bless us, and our spiritual lives will grow. We must let our faith take root and nourish our faith so that our spiritual lives will bear fruit for God.

Events and Spiritual Teachings

Introduction

(Teachers: Since the lesson is organized by time and region, some countries will inevitably be omitted. For supplementary material, you may choose to look up additional information on specific churches. Testimonies of some church histories can be found online at www.tjc.org. The website also includes contact information for regional churches. As a class activity (see Life Application), teachers may even encourage students to research the history of their local church and exchange information with the Junior 1 class of another church.)

God prepared various servants for the different stages of His kingdom expansion. These workers dedicated their gifts and labor in unity to help lay the foundation for the holy work and organization of the church. One of the most important aspects of their work, however, was their determination to stay with Christ and to pursue the truth wherever they were.

Last week, we studied an overview of the global spread of the gospel throughout Asia, Europe, and Africa during the early 1900s. Today, we are going to focus on the Americas, Australia, and New Zealand.

A. United States: Hawaii Region (1931)

We will begin with the Hawaii region, which received the gospel at around the same time as Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia. Like Sabah, the gospel came to the Hawaiian Islands through literary evangelism. A doctor from Honolulu believed and received baptism in Shanghai in 1930. She mailed a copy of the Holy Spirit Times to her hometown, and her friends and relatives became interested in the truth, with one even traveling to Shanghai to receive baptism. The sister realized the importance of evangelism, and in May of 1930, relinquished her medical practice to return to Honolulu and preach the gospel. Many came to believe, and the Church Headquarters sent workers to Honolulu to continue the missionary work.

Unfortunately, over time, one of its deacons changed their mode of baptism, using a cistern instead of living water. In 1949, upon returning to her hometown and discovering this, a deaconess gathered dedicated members of the True Jesus Church to reorganize themselves. It was not until many years later that they were able to assume the name of True Jesus Church, when the deacon who had instituted the change in baptism finally agreed that the two groups had no connection with each other. From 1950, the Lord kept the re-established church intact, despite having virtually no contact with other churches.

In 1974, a new chapel was purchased in Honolulu, and in 1978, a house of prayer was established on the island of Maui. Family services also began on the island of Kauai from 1989. A pivotal moment in the history of the Honolulu church came when it rejoined the United States General Assembly in 1994. The Lord showed the church a vision of seven candles lined up by the pulpit, with six together and one set apart. The members took it as a sign that God wanted His church to be unified as one body and were strengthened by the Lord's grace and mercy. As of Fall 2018, there are 217 members registered in the Hawaii District.

B. United States: Mainland Regions (1969)

It wasn't until 1967, after the first World Delegates Conference, that the Spirit began to move in the mainland United States. Two U.S. delegates, greatly inspired by the conference, began to gather members together to spread the gospel, holding family services and sharing the truth with friends and family. Despite the size of the continent, the response was overwhelming. Members flew or drove to

meeting places, sometimes driving over ten hours. The strength of their faith and their thirst for the truth brought them together as a driving force for Christ. Many were students with backgrounds in biblical studies, and they brought with them new momentum to the holy work.

In 1976, the first National Delegates Conference was held in El Monte, California, during which the Evangelical Coordination Council was established to mobilize the holy work in the country. Although there were no full-time ministers at first, thanks to God's guidance, by 1986, three full-time ministers were added to the ministry. That same year, the United States General Assembly was established.

1. East Region

The East Region consists of nine churches and two remote area fellowships. In 1967, family services began in New York City. The primary service location moved to New Jersey, and membership continued to increase. In 1978, the Elizabeth church in New Jersey was dedicated to God. In Boston, the first family service was held in 1979 and continued periodically. As families grew larger and more members attended Boston-area universities, the frequency of family services also increased. By 1999, the Boston house of prayer was formed, and a chapel was purchased in 2001.

As membership increased, more local churches were eventually established in the East Region: Queens church in New York, Philadelphia church in Pennsylvania, Hillsborough church in New Jersey, and Tampa church in Florida. There are also services held in Washington D.C., North Carolina, and Miami, Florida. As of Fall 2018, there are 1,092 registered members in the East Region.

2. Southwest Region

Family services in Phoenix, Arizona, began in 1983. As membership increased, a chapel was eventually established. In Southern California, they began earlier in 1968. In 1980, membership was over 100, and a chapel was purchased in Garden Grove in 1982. By 1985, there were 131 members in El Monte and 186 in Garden Grove. More local churches were later established in Southern California, including Irvine, Baldwin Park, Cerritos, and Canoga Park churches. In 2007, the San Diego house of prayer was established. As of Fall 2018, there are 1,371 members in the Southwest Region among eight churches, one house of prayer, and three remote area fellowships.

3. Northwest Region

The Northwest Region consists of five churches and one remote area fellowship. Pacifica church was the first local church established in the mainland United States in 1969. A few families and students met every Sabbath, traveling long distances to worship together. After moving around several locations, a chapel was finally purchased and dedicated in 1985. Local churches in San Jose and Sacramento, as well as houses of prayer in East Bay and Seattle, were also established. As of Fall 2018, there are 545 members registered in the Northwest Region.

4. Central Region

The Central Region consists of three churches and two remote area fellowships. Chicago church began when a deaconess moved to Chicago to join her children in 1979, resulting in seven members gathering for worship services. A chapel was later purchased in Chicago and dedicated to God in the year 2000. In Houston, the first spiritual convocation was held in 1981. After two years, land was purchased, and a chapel was built and dedicated to God. A local church was also

established in Dallas after more members moved to the area. Remote area fellowships meet regularly in Austin, Texas, and St. Louis, Missouri. As of Fall 2018, there are 394 registered members in the Central Region.

C. Canada (1971)¹

Family services on the east coast began as members immigrated into the region, and later on, in 1971, the Toronto house of prayer was established. The Lord brought more brothers and sisters to join them, and the first baptism was performed in 1975. Later, as more members from different countries immigrated to Toronto, an apartment was purchased and dedicated for services in 1977.

Unfortunately, due to noise complaints in 1980, the Toronto brethren began a four-year period of wandering, holding services in rented halls. In 1984, they purchased a building previously owned by the Hungarian Pentecostal church. Around 1992, however, a larger building was needed, and after several years of searching and planning, the members bought a piece of land and built the present-day Toronto church, dedicating it in July 1996.

Elsewhere, a steady increase of immigrants, mainly from Hong Kong, Malaysia, and Taiwan, brought a growth of members in various locations across Canada from the 1970s to 1990s. In the 2000s, believers from China followed in large numbers to settle in the country, and with God's guidance, churches across Canada were established one by one in Toronto (1971), Vancouver (1988), Edmonton (1990), Calgary (1994), and Montreal (1994). As of 2017, there are 867 registered members across the country.

D. South America: Argentina (1983)²

Thanks to God's guidance and power, the gospel seed has grown throughout Central and South America, with four houses of prayer, one church, and one point of worship as of 2015. We will focus on Argentina church, which began when True Jesus Church members, primarily from Taiwan, began immigrating into the continent. They started monthly family services in 1983, and two years later, a member's house was established as a house of prayer in 1985. Membership continued to grow, and in 1989, a bigger house was purchased for worship. Later, in 1991, the True Jesus Church was registered with the government. The year 1992 marked the first spiritual convocation in Argentina, and the Coordination Center for South America was established. God blessed the church, and due to substantial member growth, a factory building was purchased in 2000 and later dedicated in 2007. As of 2017, there are 564 registered members.

E. Australia (1982)

Worship services in Melbourne and Sydney began around 1982 and consisted of students and immigrants from Southeast Asia and Hong Kong. With the immigration of believers from Taiwan, a church in Brisbane was established in 1994. Some believers from Sydney moved to Perth, and services began there in 1997. Darwin's place of worship was established in 2001, when East Timorese brethren in Melbourne preached to their friends and relatives, while home services in Adelaide began in 2005. Between brethren immigrating from other countries and the church's internal growth, membership in Australia steadily grew, with very multicultural congregations. The Australia Coordination Board was legally constituted in 2010 and began coordinating training and evangelical work throughout Australia.

¹ Manna Magazine Issue #76, "The True Jesus Church in Canada" (USA, June 2015, True Jesus Church, IA Department of Literary Ministry) <http://ia.tjc.org/elibrary/ContentDetail.aspx?ItemID=31592&langid=1>.

² Manna Magazine Issue #80, "Our Churches in Central and South America" (USA, June 2016, True Jesus Church, IA Department of Literary Ministry) <http://ia.tjc.org/elibrary/ContentDetail.aspx?ItemID=33517&langid=1>.

At the point of writing, there are five churches registered with the Australian Coordination Board, with two in Perth, one each in Melbourne and Sydney, and one in Brisbane. There is also one house of prayer in Adelaide, one place of worship in Darwin, and a handful of believers in Hobart, Tasmania, and Roxby Downs in South Australia. In total, Australia has 1,002 registered members as of 2017.

F. New Zealand: Christchurch (1989)

Members from the Taiwan church immigrated to Christchurch, New Zealand in 1989. Although they had arrived separately, they immediately commenced family services each Sabbath, and the number of members remained around ten until 1991. That year, God opened the door of evangelism, and many truth seekers came to attend family services of their own accord. However, they asked various questions that placed enormous pressure on the members, and as such, the members put greater effort into praying, studying, and learning the teachings of the Bible. This led to a revival of the members' excitement and desire for God's word, and their faith was edified and strengthened in love and truth.

That same year, 1991, the International Assembly and the Southeast Asia Evangelical Centre took responsibility for the growth of the Christchurch house of prayer. Although preachers could only visit every four to five months, the growth of the house of prayer was slow but steady, with miracles and signs that proved that what the church preached was correct and true. The members' homes could no longer accommodate all of the brethren, so in 1992, the church decided to rent a school hall as a place of worship. As a rented area, however, it had its inconveniences, so they searched for a permanent solution.

The brethren eventually found a location which was ideal in size and facilities for a church building. The price was incredibly cheap for its size and location, but it was well outside of their budget. However, thanks to God's grace and the love of members around the world, the Christchurch brethren were able to purchase a building. The church was dedicated in 1994, and in 1996, the congregation applied and received permission from the International Assembly to be established as a church. As of 2017, there are 465 registered members in Christchurch and Auckland combined.

G. Fiji (1994)

The seed of the gospel was first sown in Fiji in the year 1994, and in 1995, the first house of prayer was established in Lautoka. The Australian Coordination Board took responsibility for the pastoral work, and in the year 2000, another house of prayer in Suva was established through door-to-door evangelism. For several years, members volunteered to visit and help develop the church, and services were held in the homes of various members. The church continued to grow when members from Fuqing, China, immigrated to Fiji, and from 2011–2017, the Fiji members refocused on evangelical work. It was not until 2017 that the True Jesus Church in Fiji finally obtained approval from the government after two years of waiting and was officially registered as a religious group. As of 2018, there are approximately thirty-five baptized members spread across five locations in Suva, Navua, Nadi, and Lautoka.

Life Application

1. Remaining in the Truth

Today, we learned about many places across the world in which the gospel took root and grew. In all of these, there is a familiar story: members who move to a new country but are nonetheless determined to stay in the truth. Unfortunately, there are also many brethren who are pulled away by the desires and distractions of the world. In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul reminded them that "though we walk in

the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh.” Each day is a spiritual battle to cast down “every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God” and to bring “every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ” (2 Cor 10:3–6).

If you were to move away from home, would you keep attending Sabbath services at church? Would you continue to pray each day, out of your own choice? No matter where we go or who we live with, when we choose to remain in Christ, “out of [our] heart[s] will flow rivers of living water” (Jn 7:38). We will be blessed by God and become a blessing for those around us, bringing others to life and light. Our spiritual lives will grow. But how do we stay in the truth?

a. Let Our Faith Take Root

Isaiah 37:31 says, “And the remnant who have escaped of the house of Judah shall again take root downward, and bear fruit upward.” To grow and bear fruit in our spirituality, we must first spread our roots downwards. But how do we do this? Let’s turn to Jeremiah 17:7–8. To become a “tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river,” our tree of faith needs to be rooted in our trust and hope in the Lord. To trust and hope in the Lord means to understand that He is taking care of us, and that He knows what is best for us. It means taking comfort in the hope that He is always watching over us (Mt 6:31–34).

When you need to make decisions about your future, do you prioritize your own interests, or do you trust in God’s guidance? When your family has to let go of a big opportunity because of church, do you have the hope that God will provide? When we learn to trust Him every day and hope in His guidance for every decision, big or small, we are letting our faith take root downwards.

b. Nourish Our Faith

Did you know that different flowers require different types of plant food? Plants that are given incorrect plant food can wither because they have been given the wrong nutrients. If we fill our hearts with the desires of this world, our faith will, in turn, wither and die (Mt 6:24). As children of God, we need to nourish ourselves with the correct food. Let’s read Psalm 1:1–3. The best way to nourish our faith is by meditating on God’s law day and night.

When we seek a deeper understanding of God’s will, we gain a greater understanding of His character, especially His love for us. As a result, we will learn to treasure His word in our hearts and take delight in His law. By nourishing our faith with knowledge of the Lord, our spiritual lives will bear fruit like a tree planted by the waters, and our leaves will not wither even when faced with tribulation. Even in a “year of drought,” whether physical or spiritual, we will not be anxious nor cease from bearing fruit (Jer 17:8).

2. The Establishment of Our Local Church

(Teachers: To help with this project, you may want to gather some materials beforehand, such as any books or articles, online or printed, that contain information on your local church.)

Do you know the origins of your own church? Do you know what kind of difficulties the members faced when growing and developing a worship service for your region? What kinds of decisions did they have to face at the time? How did God guide your local church into what it is today?

For this project, we are going to try and research the history of our own church. This may require time outside of class, spent asking other members or researching online. Gather your materials, and try to find as much information as you can, such as the following:

- The starting date for services in this region.
- Where the first members originally came from – were they immigrants? Locals who were converted?
- When and how membership began to grow.
- Any difficulties or trials the members may have faced.
- Any significant dates in the history of your church. When was the first baptism? Spiritual convocation? If applicable, when did you purchase the building currently used for services?

Once you have gathered an overview, put together a poster with a timeline of events, highlighting any important dates or events.

Memory Verse

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15)

Meaning

1. It is easy to forget God’s presence in our daily lives, but we must be diligent in our faith so that the day we present ourselves before the heavenly throne, we will be approved by God. To be an approved worker, one who “does not need to be ashamed,” our decisions each day need to be based on His will. When we stand before God’s judgment, will our conscience be clear?
2. To misinterpret the truth, either deliberately or by mistake, is a very grave sin. If one day we work for God in a remote region or become a worker or RE teacher in our local church, it is vital that we handle the truth correctly, without twisting or manipulating it to suit our needs. To do so, we must learn to open ourselves to God’s will and seek out the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, so that we can understand the Bible’s meaning more clearly.

Check for Understanding

1. **What is a common story in the origins of all the churches that we learned about today?** Members who move to a new country but are nonetheless determined to stay in the truth.
2. **What is one of the dangers we face when we move away from home?** The danger of being pulled away by the desires and distractions of the world.
3. **How do we grow and bear fruit in our spirituality?** We must first spread our roots downwards and let our tree of faith be rooted in our trust and hope in the Lord.
4. **What does it mean to trust and hope in the Lord?** It means to understand that He is taking care of us, and that He knows what is best for us. It means taking comfort in the hope that He is always watching over us (Mt 6:31–34).
5. **What is the best way to nourish our faith?** As children of God, we need to nourish ourselves with the correct food. The best way to nourish our faith is by meditating on God’s law day and night.

Conclusion

When we determine to stay in the truth, God will bless us, and our spiritual lives will grow. To stay in the truth, we must let our faith take root by trusting in Him and nourish our faith by gaining a greater

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understanding of His character. Then, no matter where we go in the future, our spiritual lives will bear fruit for God, like a tree planted by the waters.

Lesson 5 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. How do we rightly divide the word of truth?
We must learn to open ourselves to God's will and seek out the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, so that we can understand the Bible's meaning more clearly.

2. " _____ is the man who _____ in the LORD, and whose _____ is the LORD. For he shall be like a _____ by the _____, which _____ out its _____ by the _____." (Jeremiah 17:7–8a)
Blessed, trusts, hope, tree, planted, waters, spreads, roots, river.

3. How do we remain in the truth?
By letting our faith take root, and by nourishing our faith.

4. How do we let our faith take root?
By trusting in God every day and hoping in His guidance for every decision we make, big or small.

5. What happens when we nourish ourselves with the correct "food" for our faith?
By nourishing our faith with knowledge of the Lord, our spiritual lives will bear fruit like a tree planted by the waters, and our leaves will not wither even when faced with tribulation.

6. Share a time when you prioritized your own interests over God's guidance.
Personal answers.

The Doctrine of Water Baptism

Passages: Tit 3:5; Jn 3:5; Rom 6

Memory Verse

“And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.” (Acts 22:16)

Knowledge of God’s Will [God’s Word]	Knowledge of God [God’s Divine Nature]	Good Work [Behavior]
1. Understand the significance of water baptism. 2. Know the correct mode of water baptism.	God is our Savior.	1. Defend against misconceptions by rooting ourselves in God’s truth. 2. Learn to live a new life in Christ.

Overview

Events and Spiritual Teachings

- A. The Purposes of Water Baptism
- B. Water Baptism According to the Bible
- C. Requirements of the Baptist and Baptizand
- D. How Is John the Baptist’s Baptism Different from Water Baptism Today?
- E. Misconceptions About Water Baptism

Life Application

- 1. Defending the Truth
- 2. A New Life in Christ

Memory Verse

Conclusion: After we are baptized, our sins are washed away, and we gain a new life in Christ. Through water baptism, our path to salvation is opened, and one day, we can hope to enter the kingdom of God.

Events and Spiritual Teachings

Introduction

Starting today, we'll be studying some of the basic doctrines of our church, beginning with water baptism. Baptism can be a difficult topic to discuss with other Christian believers because of the many different beliefs regarding how and why we ought to be baptized. Some Christian churches accept it as necessary for salvation, while others consider it merely a symbolic ritual. The methods also differ wildly from church to church. Some variations include sprinkling water, using bath or tap water, partial immersion, or facing upwards while baptizing. If we study the Bible closely, however, it clearly states to us how and why we ought to baptize.

A. The Purposes of Water Baptism

1. To have our sins washed away

"[Not] by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit[.]" (Tit 3:5)

The most important purpose of water baptism lies in how our sins are washed away, allowing us to receive God's precious salvation. It is a washing of regeneration and renewal, meaning that we are reborn and given a new life through water baptism. In Acts 22:16, Ananias tells Paul to "arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord." From this verse, we can see the link between baptism and having our sins washed away, the main purpose of water baptism.

2. To be reborn and receive a new status as a child of God

"For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus." (Gal 3:26)

Water baptism allows us to be reborn again as a child of God. Our old selves are crucified on the cross with Jesus Christ, so that we are no longer slaves to sin. We have gained a new life in Jesus Christ. This is why we have a new status as a child of God after water baptism, and why we need to live a life that is free of sin.

3. To enter His kingdom and be saved

"Jesus answered, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.'" (Jn 3:5)

Jesus Christ told Nicodemus that he needed to be born of water and of the Spirit in order to enter the kingdom of God. Of Spirit, because God is Spirit, and so that we can enter His kingdom. Of water, so that we are reborn as citizens of God's kingdom and a part of the body of Christ. We are no longer under Satan's control and condemned to death! We have been saved and are now able to enter the kingdom of God.

B. Water Baptism According to the Bible

1. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ

"Then Peter said to them, 'Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'" (Acts 2:38; cf. 19:5; 8:16)

Jesus Christ has commanded us to baptize in His name, so before baptizing each individual, the

baptist must say, "In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ." Acts 4:12 mentions how it is through His name that we are saved. There is no other name that has the power to give us eternal life.

2. With head bowed

"So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, 'It is finished!' And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit." (Jn 19:30; cf. Rom 6:5; Ps 40:12)

We are baptized in the likeness of Jesus' death. The Bible only records one thing that Jesus Christ did before He died on the cross: He bowed His head (Jn 19:30). This was a deliberate action that Jesus Christ performed right before He gave up His Spirit. Since we have been commanded to be baptized into the likeness of His death, then this means that we must bow our heads down when receiving water baptism.

3. With full immersion

"So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him." (Acts 8:38; cf. Mt 3:16; Jn 3:23; Rom 6:4)

Water baptism symbolizes the death and burial of Jesus Christ. During a burial, the whole body is buried; there is no part of the body that is left exposed. Also, the original Greek word for baptism, *baptize*, means "to immerse," or "to submerge." The Bible does not record that the disciples baptized through the sprinkling of water. They baptized using full immersion.

4. In natural, living water, such as seas, rivers, or springs

"He will again have compassion on us, and will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea." (Mic 7:19)

Living water refers to water that is found in nature, such as rivers, oceans, and lakes. Jesus Himself was baptized in the Jordan River. In John 3:23, John "was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there." Furthermore, the Bible does not record any instances of a baptism taking place in a man-made pool or water source. Therefore, when we perform water baptism today, we do so in oceans or rivers.

C. Requirements of the Baptist and Baptizand

1. The baptist must have been baptized and cleansed in order to perform water baptism (Ex 29:4; Acts 22:16)

In the Old Testament, Aaron and his sons first had to cleanse themselves before performing their priestly duties, such as offering sacrifices. And in the numerous examples of baptism in the Acts of the Apostles, the disciples were the only ones who baptized others in each instance. When God called Paul, Ananias was sent specifically to preach the gospel to and baptize him.

2. The baptist must have received the Holy Spirit and be sent by the church to perform water baptism (Rom 10:15; Jn 20:21–23)

The Holy Spirit must be present at the water baptism in order for it to be effective. Therefore, the baptist must have the Holy Spirit. Today, the person performing the baptism is usually a minister or elder who has been sent by the church.

3. The baptizand must repent of their sins and believe that their sins will be washed away after water baptism (Acts 2:38)

The person receiving baptism, known as the baptizand, has to believe that water baptism will wash away their sins. In Acts 2:38, Peter told the people that before receiving baptism, the first thing they must do is repent. This means that before we can be baptized, we must first have a repentant heart. It is also important that after baptism, we have the determination to live a holy life (Heb 6:4–8). We have been made new through the blood of Jesus Christ and should no longer continue sinning, as it would make the sacrifice of Jesus Christ vain.

D. How Is John the Baptist’s Baptism Different from Water Baptism Today?

Before Jesus Christ was crucified on the cross, John the Baptist was already baptizing people “in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins” (Mk 1:4; Lk 3:3). In which case, wasn’t John’s baptism the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins?

Before we answer this question, let’s turn to Acts 19:4–5. “Then Paul said, ‘John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.’ When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.” Through these verses, we know that the baptism of repentance refers to the baptism of John the Baptist. However, the Bible records that after the disciples learned that they had only been baptized in the baptism of repentance, they were baptized again in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Before Jesus Christ died on the cross, John’s baptism was effective for the remission of sins, similar to how the Israelites offered sacrifices to atone for their sins. However, after Jesus Christ died on the cross, God’s salvation plan was complete. We no longer require sacrifices or John’s baptism of repentance, but are saved through water baptism in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. From this, we can see that there is a key difference between these two baptisms: it is the blood of Jesus Christ that saves us.

E. Misconceptions About Water Baptism

1. “Water Baptism is only a symbol of our faith and isn’t necessary for salvation. We just need to believe to be saved!”

It is important for us to remember that believing in Jesus Christ is only the first part. If we truly believe in Jesus Christ, then we will also obey His words and teachings in the Bible. It is true that by God’s grace, we are saved through our faith, but at the same time, a faith that has no deeds is dead. As a result, true faith and belief is followed by actions that demonstrate it. For example, Abraham believed in the words of God, and he demonstrated this belief by following God’s instructions to him. In the same way, water baptism is necessary for salvation because Jesus Christ commanded us to do it.

2. “Babies don’t need to be baptized because they don’t know what it means to believe or to repent for their sins.”

We were born in sin (Ps 51:5), so even babies need to receive water baptism. In the Old Testament, children were always included in God’s covenant with His people. For example, God commanded Abraham to circumcise all the males, including children, in his household as a symbol of their covenant. In the New Testament, Jesus Christ Himself called the little children to Him (Lk 18:16). Crossing the Red Sea prefigures water baptism, according to 1 Corinthians 10:1–2. Children were among the Israelites as they crossed the Red Sea and, in the same way, were able to be freed from slavery in Egypt.

Though children may be too young to make the conscious decision to receive water baptism, they are still able to receive the grace of God. There are many instances when children were

healed of their illness through the belief of their parents. Today, children need to be baptized so that they can have their sins washed away and be freed from the bondage of this world.

There are many other misconceptions that other Christians may have in regard to the mode of water baptism. Some believe that a person must be baptized with their head facing up. Others believe that water baptism can take place in a swimming pool or by the sprinkling of water. However, when we look in the Bible, we can see that the truth of water baptism is shown very clearly. Today, through studying the purpose and correct mode of water baptism, we are able to gain a deeper understanding of God’s grace and His salvation. May He continue to open our hearts and eyes to His truths and help us to be even more rooted in the doctrine of water baptism.

Check for Understanding

1. What are the purposes of water baptism?

- a. To have our sins washed away
- b. To be reborn and receive a new status as a child of God
- c. To enter His kingdom and be saved

2. How is water baptism performed according to the Bible?

- a. Baptize in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 2:38; 19:5; 8:16)
- b. With the head of the baptizand bowed and facing downward (Rom 6:5; Jn 19:30; Ps 40:12)
- c. The baptizand is fully immersed (Mt 3:16; Jn 3:23; Acts 8:38; Rom 6:4)
- d. Water baptism is done in natural, living water, such as seas, rivers, or springs (Mic 7:19)

3. What are the requirements of the person performing water baptism and the baptizand?

- a. The baptist must have been baptized and cleansed in order to perform water baptism (Ex 29:4; Acts 22:16)
- b. The baptist must have received the Holy Spirit and been sent by the church to perform water baptism (Rom 10:15; Jn 20:21–23)
- c. The baptizand must repent of their sins and believe that their sins will be washed away after water baptism

4. How is John the Baptist’s baptism different from water baptism today?

Before Jesus Christ died on the cross, John’s baptism was effective for the remission of sins, just like how the Jews could offer sacrifices as a way to atone for their sins. However, after Jesus Christ died on the cross, the salvation plan was completed, and we are now saved through water baptism.

Life Application

1. Defending the Truth

Using the verses provided, come up with a defense against each argument. You can use additional verses as well.

Argument		
Jesus Christ commanded us to baptize “in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Mt 28:19). How can you say we need to baptize “in the name of Jesus”? Shouldn’t we follow what Jesus Christ has commanded us?	Water baptism is only symbolic and not necessary for salvation.	Water baptism can be performed in a pool.
Supporting Verses		
Acts 2:38; Jn 16:13; Acts 4:12	Acts 22:16; Jn 3:5; Tit 3:5	Mic 7:19; Acts 8:38; Zech 13:1

Possible Response		
<p>When Jesus Christ said to baptize “in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,” He was not commanding us to use those exact words during water baptism. In the New Testament, the disciples would baptize in the name of Jesus Christ. The disciples understood that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit were only titles and that the name of all three of these was Jesus Christ. There is only one name under heaven by which we are saved, and that name is Jesus Christ. His death on the cross opened the way of salvation for us, and His blood washes away our sins during water baptism.</p>	<p>Water baptism is not simply a way to show our belief in Jesus Christ; it is a way for us to be reborn and have our sins washed away. Though we are saved by God’s grace, true faith means obeying and living out God’s commandments, for faith without deeds is dead. Jesus Christ has commanded us to be baptized, and we must be baptized to enter the kingdom of heaven.</p>	<p>Water baptism must take place in natural, living water. In every biblical example, baptism was performed in natural water sources, such as rivers, seas, and oceans. During the time of the apostles, the disciples were baptized in rivers and other natural bodies of water. Jesus Christ Himself was baptized in the Jordan River. Micah 7:19 even mentions how God will cast our sins into the sea. From this, we can see that water baptism must take place where there is natural water.</p>

2. A New Life in Christ

Through water baptism, we have been made reborn in the Spirit and are alive in Christ. With this new change in status before God, we should live a life pleasing to Him. So how exactly can we live a new life in Christ?

a. Be dead to sin (Rom 6:11–12)

To have a new life in Christ means to become “dead to sin.” This means leaving our sinful habits behind us. Let’s take a moment to think about the bad habits that we can’t seem to let go of. Do we say words that we shouldn’t say? Or do we do have an unhealthy addiction to harmful media? Because we have found a new life in Christ, we have been given the freedom to no longer be bound, but we need to make the choice to leave these bad habits behind.

b. Be an instrument of righteousness (Rom 6:13)

Having a new life in Christ also means becoming an instrument that God can use for His good will. For example, we can serve other members at church. At home, we can help our parents with chores, and at school, we can share the gospel with our friends. There are many things that we can do to fulfill the will of God so that we can be an instrument of righteousness.

c. Set our minds on the things above (Col 3:1–2)

Because we have a new life in Christ, our life is not only limited to what we see before us in our daily lives. Rather, we have a higher calling and a hope of salvation in heaven. Because of this, we can also entrust our worries to our God in heaven and learn to give our burdens to Him. This means that when we face difficulties and challenges in our lives on earth, we can still experience peace knowing that God is taking care of us, and remain focused on what He wants to focus on: the spiritual, rather than the physical.

Having a new life in Christ is a blessing and a priceless gift that we have been given. It is so important that we cherish this new life that has been given to us and that we live a life that is pleasing before God and man.

Memory Verse

“And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.” (Acts 22:16)

Meaning

Ananias said these words to Paul when God sent him to preach to Paul and call Paul to be a witness for God. We can see that before Paul could serve, he needed to have his sins washed away and gain a new status before God. This verse teaches us that water baptism washes away our sins. This is a key purpose of water baptism and one of the reasons why we need to receive water baptism.

Conclusion

Through studying the doctrine of water baptism, we are able to gain a deeper insight into the importance of water baptism. After we are baptized, our sins are washed away, and we gain a new life in Christ. Through water baptism, our path to salvation is opened, and one day, we can hope to enter the kingdom of God. This is a grace that we should not take for granted. As we continue on our spiritual journey, let us always remember the importance of water baptism and how it opens the way for us to become a child of God.

Lesson 6 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. What aspect of water baptism is the memory verse evidence of?
It is evidence that water baptism is necessary to wash away our sins.
2. Why must we be baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ?
It is through His name that we are saved; there is no other name that has the power to give us eternal life.
3. Why must the baptist have received the Holy Spirit?
The Holy Spirit must be present at the water baptism in order for it to be effective.
4. What kind of life must we live after being baptized, and why?
We must have the determination to live a holy life (Heb 6:4–8). We have been made new through the blood of Jesus Christ and should no longer continue sinning, as it would make the sacrifice of Jesus Christ meaningless.
5. A friend has just asked you what baptism is and why we need it. What would you say, in your own words?
Personal answers.

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

Passages: Eph 1:13; Jn 3; Rom 8

Memory Verse

“In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.” (Ephesians 1:13)

Knowledge of God’s Will [God’s Word]	Knowledge of God [God’s Divine Nature]	Good Work [Behavior]
1. The Holy Spirit is vital to our salvation. 2. The evidence of receiving the Holy Spirit is speaking in tongues.	God is Spirit.	Be aware of misconceptions related to receiving the Holy Spirit.

Overview

Events and Spiritual Teachings

- A. The Importance of the Holy Spirit
- B. The Evidence of Receiving the Holy Spirit
- C. Common Misconceptions About Receiving the Holy Spirit

Life Application

Defending the Truth

Memory Verse

Conclusion: The Holy Spirit identifies us as children of God, and He is a promise of our inheritance in heaven. Although there are many misconceptions regarding the Holy Spirit, once we become rooted in this biblical truth, we will be able to defend and stand firm in this important doctrine.

Events and Spiritual Teachings

Introduction

Today, we'll be continuing our studies of the basic doctrines of our church by studying the Holy Spirit. How many of us have received the Holy Spirit? (*Allow students to answer.*) How many of us have experienced, either personally or indirectly, the power of the Holy Spirit, such as His transformative power? (*Allow students to share with the class.*) Today, we'll be learning about the importance of the Holy Spirit, the evidence of the Spirit in the Bible, and ways we can defend against some common misconceptions regarding the Holy Spirit.

A. The Importance of the Holy Spirit

1. *The Holy Spirit is the guarantee of our heavenly inheritance (Eph 1:13)*

The Holy Spirit is evidence of our inheritance in heaven. We can think of receiving the Holy Spirit as receiving a voucher that makes us eligible to receive a prize, although we still have to earn and redeem the prize. In the same way, the Holy Spirit is proof of God's promise to us and the heavenly kingdom that we will inherit.

2. *The presence of the Holy Spirit during water baptism allows us to be reborn (Jn 3:5)*

In John 3:3, Jesus Christ tells Nicodemus that to "see the kingdom of God," a person must be "born again." Clarifying His words further, Jesus Christ tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and the Spirit in order to enter the kingdom of God. It is the presence of the Holy Spirit during water baptism that allows the baptism to be effective. If another church baptizes in the exact same way but does not have the presence of the Holy Spirit, that baptism has no effect and does not allow the person being baptized to be "born again." This is why it is crucial for the Holy Spirit to be present during water baptism.

3. *The Holy Spirit bears witness that we are children of God (Rom 8:16)*

The Holy Spirit is a sign of our adoption because with Him, we become a child of God. This special status sets us apart from the world because we no longer belong to it. With the Spirit, we are instead able to call God our Father, and as His children, we have hope of a home in heaven.

4. *The Holy Spirit quenches our spiritual thirst (Jn 4:14; 7:37–39)*

In this passage, Jesus Christ shared the wonderful news of living water with a Samaritan woman. Those who drink this living water will never thirst and can receive everlasting life. This living water is the Holy Spirit, and He is able to quench our spiritual thirst. To be spiritually thirsty means to feel as if we are always lacking something, an empty feeling that we may try to fill with our hobbies or entertainment. Though we may try to fill our hearts with the things of this world, the only thing that is able to fill that emptiness in our heart is God's presence and His spirit dwelling in us.

5. *The Holy Spirit helps us to bear the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22–23)*

Bearing the fruit of the Spirit means exhibiting characteristics or behaviors that glorify God. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Those who are filled with the Holy Spirit will naturally display these characteristics. When we do, others will see Jesus Christ in us, and we will glorify God.

6. *The Holy Spirit is our Helper in our walk of faith (Jn 14:26)*

The Holy Spirit guides us and helps us to live the way God wants us to live. Through the Holy Spirit, we can understand the teachings in the Bible and also receive comfort in times of trouble. He is our constant companion, there to support us in whatever way we need.

7. *The Holy Spirit can give us power to transform our lives (Acts 1:8)*

The Holy Spirit empowers us with the boldness and wisdom to preach the gospel and serve the Lord. He also gives us the strength to overcome any sins in our life so that we no longer fall under their control. In Ephesians 3:16, Paul prayed for the church to be strengthened through God's Spirit. Today, the Holy Spirit gives us the power to live our lives the way God wants us to live.

B. The Evidence of Receiving the Holy Spirit

The only evidence of receiving the Holy Spirit is speaking in tongues. Let's look at examples in the Acts of the Apostles.

1. *The disciples receive the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1–4)*

The first record of the evidence of the Holy Spirit is in Acts, chapter 2. Obedient to Jesus' instructions, the disciples were all praying in an upper room in Jerusalem. "Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance" (vv. 3–4). During this time, there were many Jews and devout men in Jerusalem because of Pentecost. These people heard the disciples speaking in tongues but were confused because each heard them speaking their language.

Imagine standing in a crowded room with 120 people who are all talking simultaneously. It would be difficult for us to be able to hear ourselves talking, much less be able to hear what others are saying! However, the people nearby were able to hear the disciples distinctly speaking in their own native languages. This event was truly a miracle from God which teaches us that there is audible evidence when a person receives the Holy Spirit.

2. *Cornelius and his household receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 10)*

The second record of this evidence is in Acts, chapter 10. The Bible describes Cornelius as a devout man who feared God and gave alms generously (v. 2). However, Cornelius was also a Gentile, and in those days, Jews and Gentiles did not associate with each other. But because of the vision that God showed him, Peter went against social norms and preached to Cornelius and his household.

As Peter spoke, "the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word" (v. 44), and they began to "speak with tongues and magnify God" (v. 46). When Peter heard them speak in tongues, he proclaimed, "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" (v. 47). Peter knew that Cornelius and his family had received the Holy Spirit because they spoke in tongues just as the disciples did.

3. *The disciples in Ephesus receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 19:1–7)*

Lastly, we can see another similar occurrence in Acts, chapter 19. Paul traveled to Ephesus and met some disciples who had only received the baptism of John the Baptist. After Paul baptized them in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, he laid hands on them and the Holy Spirit came upon them, at which point they began speaking in tongues (v. 6).

From these three examples, we can see how receiving the Holy Spirit is evidenced by speaking in tongues. The act of speaking in tongues was not a singular event that happened only when the Holy

Spirit fell upon the disciples on the Day of Pentecost. Rather, it was the crucial key that the apostles used to determine whether or not a person had received the Holy Spirit.

C. Common Misconceptions About Receiving the Holy Spirit

1. *“We receive the Holy Spirit when we believe in Jesus Christ.”*

Many mainstream Christians believe that they receive the Holy Spirit once they proclaim and believe Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. However, we can see from the Bible that believing in Jesus Christ and receiving the Holy Spirit are two separate events. Let’s look at the example of the disciples in Ephesus once again.

When Paul spoke to the disciples in Ephesus, he asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” The disciples responded, “We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit” (Acts 19:2). The disciples in Ephesus believed in Jesus Christ but had not received the Holy Spirit yet. It was only after Paul baptized them in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and laid hands on them that they received the Holy Spirit (Acts 19:5–6). This event teaches us that we do not immediately receive the Holy Spirit upon believing in Jesus. Our initial acceptance and belief that Jesus Christ is God is a separate event from receiving the Spirit.

2. *“We receive the Holy Spirit when we are baptized.”*

Many Christians believe that we receive the Holy Spirit when we are baptized. However, the Bible clearly records that receiving water baptism and receiving the Holy Spirit are two different events. Acts 8 records the example of Simon, who used to practice sorcery in the city of Samaria. The Bible tells us that he came to believe and was baptized, but he had not received the Holy Spirit yet (Acts 8:13–20). From this, we can see that we are not guaranteed to receive the Holy Spirit upon receiving water baptism.

3. *“Exhibiting virtues of the fruit of the Holy Spirit means that we have the Holy Spirit.”*

Another misconception that many Christian denominations have is that those who bear the fruit of the Spirit have the Holy Spirit. It is true that He is able to transform us and enable us to bear the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22–23). However, exhibiting good virtues does not necessarily mean that we have the Holy Spirit.

The Bible described Cornelius as one who “feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always” (Acts 10:2). He was kind and did many good deeds, but it was not until Peter came to his house to preach the gospel that the Holy Spirit fell upon Cornelius and his household (Acts 10:44). From this, we can see that even if a person is virtuous or does good deeds, this does not mean that the person has the Holy Spirit.

Check for Understanding

1. **Name five reasons why the Holy Spirit is important.**

- a. The Holy Spirit is the guarantee of our heavenly inheritance.
- b. The Holy Spirit allows us to be reborn and enter the kingdom of heaven.
- c. The Holy Spirit bears witness that we are children of God.
- d. The Holy Spirit quenches our spiritual thirst and gives us eternal life.
- e. The Holy Spirit helps us to bear the fruit of the Spirit.
- f. The Holy Spirit is our Helper in our walk of faith.
- g. The Holy Spirit can give us power to transform our lives.

2. What is the evidence of receiving the Holy Spirit? Provide biblical support.

The evidence of receiving the Holy Spirit is speaking in tongues (Acts 2:1–4; 10:44–46; 19:1–7).

3. Do we receive the Holy Spirit when we believe? Explain and provide biblical support.

No, the disciples in Ephesus believed in Jesus Christ but had not received the Holy Spirit yet (Acts 19:2).

4. Do we receive the Holy Spirit when we are baptized? Explain and provide biblical support.

No, Simon the sorcerer believed and was baptized but had not received the Holy Spirit yet. He even offered to buy from Peter the power to give the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:13–20).

5. If we exhibit biblical virtues, does this mean that we have received the Holy Spirit? Explain and give biblical support.

No, Cornelius was a God-fearing man and did many charitable works, but he did not have the Holy Spirit until Peter visited him in his house and shared the gospel (Acts 10:2–3, 47).

Life Application

Defending the Truth

Now that we have learned the biblical truth regarding the Holy Spirit, the next step is to learn how to defend the truth of the Holy Spirit. Read each argument and the three verses provided for each argument. How would you use the provided verses to defend against the argument? Feel free to use other verses if needed.

Argument 1

The baptism of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost was a singular event that would not be repeated. The Holy Spirit was given only once, on that day, and has been in all the believers ever since.

Bible Verses: Acts 8:14–17; Acts 10:44–47; Acts 19:5–6

Possible Response

In the Acts of the Apostles, we can see the Holy Spirit descending time and time again upon different people:

- In Acts 8:14–17, the Holy Spirit came down on the believers in Samaria after Peter and John laid hands on them.
- In Acts 10:44–47, Cornelius and his family received the Holy Spirit after Peter preached to them.
- In Acts 19:5–6, the disciples in Ephesus received the Holy Spirit after Paul baptized them in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and laid hands on them.

From this, we can see that even after the Day of Pentecost, many believers received the Holy Spirit, which means that the Holy Spirit’s descent was not a singular event but can happen again.

Argument 2

Only those who have received the Holy Spirit can say “Jesus is Lord” (1 Cor 12:3), so any person who says “Jesus is Lord” must have received the Holy Spirit.

Bible Verses: Acts 8:12–16; Acts 19:2; Jas 2:17–18

Possible Response

The Bible records many instances where even those who did not have the Holy Spirit were able to acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord.

- One example can be found in Acts, chapter 8. When Philip went to preach in Samaria, there were many that came to believe. In Acts 8:12, it mentions that Philip preached concerning the kingdom of

God and the name of Jesus Christ. The people in Samaria, who did not have the Holy Spirit, were baptized after acknowledging that Jesus Christ was Lord (Acts 8:15–16). This event clearly shows that even an individual who has not received the Holy Spirit can acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord.

- Another example is recorded in Acts 19. The apostle Paul traveled to Ephesus and found some disciples there. These people were called disciples because they followed and believed in Jesus Christ, but they had not yet received the Holy Spirit. Paul even clearly asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” (Acts 19:2), to which they replied that they had not even heard of the Holy Spirit. Thus, simply because a person says, “Jesus is Lord,” does not mean that they have the Holy Spirit.

Argument 3

If an individual has love or faith, or bears the fruit of the Holy Spirit, or works mightily for God, it means that the individual is filled with the Holy Spirit.

Bible Verses: Acts 10:1–2; Acts 18:24–28; Gal 5:22–25

Possible Response

Although a person filled with the Holy Spirit can be a virtuous person, a virtuous person does not necessarily have the Holy Spirit. We see this in the example of Cornelius (Acts 10). He was a God-fearing man and even gave alms to the poor, but he did not receive the Holy Spirit until Peter preached to him. Another example is Apollos (Acts 18:24–28). He was a fervent man, knowledgeable in the Scriptures, who “taught accurately the things of the Lord,” but he knew nothing about the Holy Spirit until Priscilla and Aquila preached to him. As a result, we cannot say that those who are virtuous or well-versed in the Bible have the Holy Spirit.

Testimony

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I testify. Today, I'm going to share about my experience receiving the Holy Spirit and how the Holy Spirit has worked in my life.

Although I don't remember being too clear on what the Holy Spirit actually was, I distinctly remember how much my group members and I at SSC yearned for it. Our counselors encouraged all of us to pray hard for the Holy Spirit, since none of my group members had received it yet. It felt like we were all in this together, and we all had the same attitude that we couldn't leave this SSC without receiving it.

After two days of praying hard to receive the Holy Spirit, my group members and I started to feel a little discouraged. It wasn't until the Tuesday afternoon prayer that the pastor encouraged us to pray for our group members instead of just for ourselves because God really looks at our heart when praying to Him. If God sees that we're praying for something that we want so badly, how much more will He give it to us if we pray that our group members receive it as well. And so with that attitude, we all knelt down to pray, and by the grace of God, a couple of us received the Holy Spirit in that prayer. By the end of the spiritual convocation, seventeen of us received it in total. I don't remember the actual experience of receiving the Holy Spirit all that clearly, but I remember after the prayer session ended, three pastors came up and asked me the exact same question of how I felt during that prayer.

In my middle school and high school years, I also experienced the guidance of the Holy Spirit in my life. And, especially after being given more responsibilities in holy work at church, the guidance of the

Holy Spirit was even more evident. As I started to serve more, however, more interpersonal conflicts arose. There was one older sister that I grew up looking up to who started to put me down quite often, and because of that, almost every interaction that I had with her became heated. I realized that the reason our interactions got heated was because of our pride and unwillingness to back down. There was one time in particular when I really took offense to a remark she made to me. I remember anger building up inside of me, but something was stopping me from letting my anger out at her. I had everything that I wanted to say to her in my mind, but for some reason, I just couldn't get it out. Later on, thinking back on this incident, I realized that it was the Holy Spirit that was working in me and helping me be more of a peacemaker.

If we want the Holy Spirit to abide with us each day of our lives, we have to remember to work on it daily. One verse that really rings true for me in my experience of how the Holy Spirit has worked in my life is Romans 8:26. "Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." This verse shows us that even at our weakest times and especially when we don't know what to pray for, the Holy Spirit abides with us and prays for us. And, even though we don't deserve it, God understands our weaknesses and promises us the gift of the Holy Spirit.

– Anonymous

Discussion

- In this testimony, how did the Holy Spirit work?
- How have you experienced the abidance of the Holy Spirit?
- How has the Holy Spirit transformed you?

Memory Verse

"In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise." (Ephesians 1:13)

Meaning

1. This verse outlines the process of receiving salvation. First, we have to hear the gospel, then we must believe it. After we believe, then we must trust that God will give us the promised Holy Spirit, which is a sign of our salvation.
2. Receiving the Holy Spirit is how we are sealed and saved. Receiving the Holy Spirit allows us to be sure of our inheritance in heaven. The Spirit is proof that we are part of God's chosen people and that we have hope for a place in God's kingdom.

Conclusion

The Holy Spirit is important to our lives and our salvation. He identifies us as children of God, and He is a promise of our inheritance in heaven. Though there are many misconceptions that other Christians have about the Holy Spirit, it is important for us to understand clearly that the only evidence of receiving the Holy Spirit is speaking in tongues. Once we become rooted in this biblical truth, we will be able to defend and stand firm in this important doctrine.

Lesson 7 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. According to the memory verse, what is the process of receiving salvation?
First, we have to hear the gospel and believe it. After we believe, then we trust that God will give us the promised Holy Spirit, which is a sign of our salvation.
2. Pick two ways the Holy Spirit is important, and explain each in your own words.
See Section A.
3. How do we know that we do not receive the Holy Spirit the moment we believe or are baptized?
See Section B.
4. What is the most important aspect of the Holy Spirit to you personally, and why?
Personal answers.

The Doctrine of the Sabbath

Passages: Gen 2:1–3; Ex 16:23; 20:8–11; Deut 5:12–15

Memory Verse

“Moreover I also gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between them and Me, that they might know that I am the LORD who sanctifies them.” (Ezekiel 20:12)

Knowledge of God’s Will [God’s Word]	Knowledge of God [God’s Divine Nature]	Good Work [Behavior]
The Sabbath is a day of rest for us to remember God’s work and salvation.	God is our Creator.	Keep the Sabbath with a joyful and thankful heart by worshipping and doing good works for God and man.

Overview

Events and Spiritual Teachings

- A. The Origin of the Sabbath Day
- B. The Purposes of the Sabbath
- C. Keeping the Sabbath
- D. Misconceptions About the Sabbath

Life Application

Finding Joy and Thanksgiving on the Sabbath

Memory Verse

Conclusion: Though keeping the Sabbath is a commandment, it is also a blessing given to help us remember God’s work in our lives and how He saved us from the bondage of this world. He wants us to experience true rest today as we look forward to our eternal rest in heaven.

Events and Spiritual Teachings

A. The Origin of the Sabbath Day

Being instituted at the time of creation, the Sabbath is the oldest commandment that we follow! In the beginning, after six days of creation, God rested on the seventh day. Being God, He hardly needed to rest, but He did this out of love for His creation, in order to set a day of rest for us. Through this act, God established the Sabbath, blessing and sanctifying it (Gen 2:1–3). Now, we are able to receive blessings from the Lord through the Sabbath Day.

Although God established the Sabbath at the time of creation, it was not a commandment until He led the Israelites out of the land of Egypt and commanded His people to observe the Sabbath through the gathering of manna. Manna would appear for six days, but on the seventh day, there would be none in the field (Ex 16:23, 26–27). This was to train His people to learn how to keep the Sabbath.

B. The Purposes of the Sabbath

1. *For our rest (Mk 2:27)*

Although keeping the Sabbath is a commandment from God, the Sabbath was created for us to enjoy. On the Sabbath, we are able to rest from our busy week. It is on this blessed day that we can find not only physical rest but also spiritual rest. As we worship together with our fellow brothers and sisters, we can experience peace and joy in the Lord.

2. *To remember God's creation (Ex 20:8–11)*

God created everything around us in six days before resting on the seventh day and blessing it. When we keep the Sabbath today, we are remembering the wonderful work that our Creator has done. Everything that we see and touch in this world has been created by His hand. Without Him, nothing would exist. As we worship God on the Sabbath, we can remember and thank Him for all the things that He has created for us in this world.

3. *To remember God's salvation (Deut 5:12–15)*

In Deuteronomy 5:12–15, God told the Israelites that keeping the Sabbath is a way for them to remember how He delivered them from slavery in Egypt. For us today, we can remind ourselves of God's mercy and how He saved us from the bondage of sin. We are no longer under the control of Satan but are now a part of God's kingdom. This is a blessing that we should always remind ourselves of.

4. *To give us hope for our eternal rest in heaven (Heb 4:1–11)*

The Sabbath is not just for us to remember God's creation and salvation. It also prefigures the eternal rest that we will receive in heaven. In keeping the Sabbath, we can remember the eternal rest that is our hope for the future. This is the true rest that we seek.

C. Keeping the Sabbath

Today, we keep the Sabbath under grace, which is different from how the Jews observed it in the Old Testament. For example, the Jews were not able to do any work, such as lighting a fire, and those who broke these commandments were even put to death (Ex 35:3; 31:12–14). Today, we do not follow the same Old Testament laws because Jesus Christ fulfilled all the laws, and through Him, we are now able to understand the true purpose of the Sabbath. So, how do we observe the Sabbath while keeping to its true purpose?

1. *We can observe the Sabbath with a joyful heart (Isa 58:13–14)*

The Sabbath lets us worship God together with other members. It is also a time of fellowship and sharing. So, we must observe the Sabbath with a heart of joy and thanksgiving. Going to church on Saturdays should not only be a routine or habit; the Sabbath should be a day that we look forward to during our busy week. We must evaluate our hearts and minds and consider the mentality we have towards keeping the Sabbath. Are we just going to church out of obligation or habit? Or do we really look forward to this blessed day?

2. *We can do holy work on the Sabbath (Jn 7:23)*

We are able to serve God and other members on the Sabbath. Our service to God is not limited to attending worship services but also includes serving our brothers and sisters. Leading hymns or cleaning the restrooms are just two of the various holy works that we can do on the Sabbath.

3. *We can join in fellowship with other members (Acts 2:46)*

Just as the apostolic church continued with “one accord” daily in the temple, we can also enjoy fellowship with brothers and sisters on the Sabbath. This does not mean that we can neglect our service or worship. Rather, a fellowship is an opportunity to bond while doing good works to help other people in need. There are many ways we can enjoy a good fellowship on the Sabbath with our brothers and sisters, such as visiting sick members or volunteering at local charities.

4. *We can save people on the Sabbath (Mk 3:4)*

Apart from serving and doing good deeds on the Sabbath, we can also preach and share the gospel with the people around us. Saving souls is important work that we can do on the Sabbath. We can pass out flyers in the neighborhoods around church or invite our friends to worship with us. God has given us many opportunities to save souls, but we need to gather the courage to reach out.

From these different examples, we can see that there are many things we can do to fully enjoy the Sabbath. Sometimes, we only focus on the things we cannot do, such as attend parties or join club events. However, it is even more important for us to realize the wide range of activities that we can do on this holy day. It is not a day of restrictions, but a day of true freedom in the Lord. We can lay aside our worries for the day and enjoy being in the presence of God with our brothers and sisters.

D. Misconceptions About the Sabbath

1. *“Jesus Christ abolished Mosaic law, so we no longer need to keep the Sabbath.”*

Even if Jesus Christ had “abolished” Mosaic law, the command to keep the Sabbath would not have been abolished because it existed at the time of creation, long before Moses’ time (Gen 2:2–3). Today, we no longer keep Mosaic law because Jesus Christ has fulfilled God’s salvation plan and saved us by grace (Mt 5:17–19). But we still keep the Ten Commandments, of which one is to keep the Sabbath.

2. *“The majority of Christians worship on Sunday so that must be the correct day to worship.”*

Sunday observance was not instituted by God. After the time of the apostles, the day on which Christians observed the Sabbath slowly changed over time. The first change instituted worship on both Sunday and Saturday. Religious leaders of the time deemed Sunday to be the Lord’s Day and the day that Jesus Christ resurrected. Eventually in A.D. 321, Constantine, the Roman emperor, decreed Sunday to be a holiday and outlawed work. In A.D. 364, the council of Laodicea decreed that all Christians would not rest on the Sabbath like the Jews did, but would instead observe the Lord’s Day, Sunday.

It is important for us to remember that the Sabbath is not something man can change. It is a day that God has made holy and blessed as a day of rest. The commandment of God is not something we can choose or change at our own convenience. If it were something that we could choose, then it would not be a commandment but a suggestion.

3. *“Jesus Christ and His apostles never taught the followers to keep the Sabbath.”*

It is true that the New Testament does not directly tell us to keep the Sabbath. However, it is important to note that Jesus Christ, His disciples, and the apostle Paul observed the Sabbath (Lk 4:16; 23:56; Acts 13:14; 17:2). From this, we can see that keeping the Sabbath did not have to be newly taught because the Jews had been observing it for hundreds of years. It may not have been taught in the New Testament, but this does not mean that it was not kept or that we no longer have to keep the Sabbath.

Check for Understanding

1. **When was the Sabbath instituted?** From the time of creation, God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh day.
2. **When did keeping the Sabbath become a commandment of God?** While the Israelites were in the wilderness, they were given the command to “remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy” as the fourth commandment in the Ten Commandments. They practiced it through the gathering of manna, which would come down the first six days but would not appear on the Sabbath.
3. **What are the purposes of the Sabbath?**
 - a. For our rest (Mk 2:27)
 - b. To remember God’s creation (Ex 20:8–11)
 - c. To remember God’s salvation (Deut 5:12–15)
 - d. To give us hope for our eternal rest in heaven (Heb 4:1–11)
4. **How can we observe the Sabbath while keeping true to its purpose?**
 - a. We can observe the Sabbath with a joyful heart
 - b. We can do holy work on the Sabbath
 - c. We can fellowship with other members
 - d. We can save people on the Sabbath
5. **Why do we not worship on Sunday?**

The change to move worship from Saturday to Sunday was a man-made change and not according to the commandment of God. Keeping the Sabbath is part of the Ten Commandments.

Life Application

Finding Joy and Thanksgiving on the Sabbath

Though keeping the Sabbath is a commandment from God, the Sabbath is a day that God has given to us so that we can rest from our worries and find peace and joy. It is a day of blessing, but sometimes it can be difficult for us to truly enjoy it. There may be many things that worry or distract us. We may feel exhausted from our busy week at school or frustrated that we are missing out on opportunities to hang out with friends or participate in extracurricular activities. Today, let us think about some practical steps we can take to fully enjoy the Sabbath.

1. **Prepare our hearts**

There are many ways we can prepare our hearts before we come to church and observe the Sabbath. We can take a break from social media or other distractions, such as games or schoolwork.

This can help to calm our hearts and prevent our minds from wandering when we come to church. Oftentimes, our brains are so wired from our busy week that it is good to take the time to calm down our hearts and minds. Proverbs 4:23 tells us that we need to guard our heart, “for out of it spring the issues of life.” So, we must really think about what we do before coming to church to observe the Sabbath. Another way we can prepare our hearts is to spend time to reflect on our week. Were there any special blessings you received from God? Were there any lessons that you learned? You can write down these blessings and share them with brothers and sisters.

Discussion

1. What did you do today to prepare your heart for the Sabbath?
2. What else can you do to prepare your heart for the Sabbath?

2. Watch what we say on the Sabbath

This is something that we can easily do on the Sabbath. When we chat with our brothers and sisters on the Sabbath, we can use this time to talk about topics related to our faith, such as any blessings we have received. Though we may not talk only about God on the Sabbath, we must be mindful of the topics that we talk about. In this way, we can edify and encourage one another with our sharing. Since we only see our brothers and sisters once a week, this is a good opportunity for us to strengthen our relationships as the body of Christ.

Discussion

1. What did you talk about today during the Sabbath?
2. What is one spiritual blessing you can share about?

3. Watch what we look at on the Sabbath

We need to be mindful of the things we look at on the Sabbath. In the Bible, it tells us that the “lamp of the body is the eye” (Mt 6:22–23). When our eyes are good, then our body is filled with light. On the other hand, when our eyes are bad, then our body is filled with darkness. In the same way, our eyes influence our body and mind. As we keep the Sabbath, it is important for us to think about what we are looking at on this sanctified day. Are we looking at things that are able to put peace in our heart and help us think more about God? Or are we looking at things that distract us?

Discussion

1. What did you look at today on the Sabbath?
2. What are things that we can look at on the Sabbath?

4. Spend more time in the presence of God

During the week, we can be quite busy with schoolwork and our families, but the Sabbath is a day that we can dedicate to God. We can spend a little more time in prayer by going to church early to pray or we can also meditate on His words throughout the day. As we look around at the things He has made, we can thank Him for all that He has done and all that He has provided. It can be very easy to forget about what God has done for us, but on the Sabbath, we can take some time to remind ourselves.

Discussion

1. Did you spend time in the presence of God today on the Sabbath?
2. What can you do to spend more time in the presence of God on the Sabbath?

Overall Discussion Questions

1. Did you feel that you kept the Sabbath today according to God's commandment?
2. What changes can you make to keep the Sabbath as God intended?

Testimony

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I testify.

God showed me the importance of keeping the Sabbath holy through an experience that I had while going on a family trip. My family and I had been planning this road trip to Utah for months. The plan was to leave our home Friday evening so that we would arrive in Utah in the morning. We would then spend the day sightseeing. It was about 10:00 AM when we finally arrived at the first state park. The canyons were beautiful to behold, and we found a lookout point that we wanted to see. After parking the car, my mom gave me the keys to the car to put in my purse. We spent about thirty minutes at this lookout point and around 10:30 AM, we headed back to our car.

I remember unlocking the car so that everyone could get in and then I went to use the restroom. After returning from the restroom, I couldn't find the keys to the car. We took everything out of our car and looked through everyone's bags. However, the key was nowhere to be found. After about thirty minutes of frantic searching, we still couldn't find the keys. It was now 11:00 AM and starting to get very hot, so we decided to leave our car first and go to our campsite to rest. Thankfully, there was a park ranger nearby that was willing to help us carry all of our belongings to our campsite. My dad went with the ranger to our campsite, but since the rest of us could not fit in the ranger's car, we had to take the bus.

As we were sitting on the bus to our campsite, all of us were repentant. My mom looked at all of us and said, "I believe God wanted us to keep the Sabbath." When we got to our campsite, we set up camp and made lunch. All of us were very down because we were worried about how we were going to tow the car and how much new car keys were going to cost. Since I was the one who lost the car keys, I felt especially guilty. However, after some time, we decided to sing hymns and worship at our campsite. After we finished, I went to rest in the tent for a bit. As I was resting, my mom suddenly yelled! She was looking in her backpack and found the car keys inside. All of us were relieved and praised God for His mercy. As we were all discussing the incident, we realized that we lost the keys around 11:00 AM and we didn't find them until 3:00 PM, which was the time that we would have had service at church.

As a family, we really learned the importance of keeping the Sabbath and how highly God views this day. From that vacation onward, my family always makes it a point to keep the Sabbath no matter where we are. May all the praise and glory be unto His holy name.

– Anonymous

Memory Verse

"Moreover I also gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between them and Me, that they might know that I am the LORD who sanctifies them." (Ezekiel 20:12)

Meaning

The Sabbath is a way for us to remember God and what He has done for us in our life. It is a sign of His love for us, and by observing it, we glorify God and show others that we are the people of God.

Conclusion

Through understanding how the Sabbath has been created for us, we are able to observe it with the correct attitude and mentality. Though keeping the Sabbath is a commandment, it is also a blessing given to us to help us remember God's work in our lives and how He saved us from the bondage of this world. He wants us to experience true rest, and as we continue to keep the Sabbath day, we have hope for our eternal rest in heaven.

Lesson 8 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. What is the purpose of the Sabbath, and how do we benefit from observing it?
It is a way for us to remember God and what He has done for us in our life. It is a sign of His love for us, and by observing it, we glorify God and show others that we are people of God.
2. How did God train the Israelites to observe the Sabbath?
Through the gathering of manna. Manna would appear for six days, but on the seventh day, there would be none in the field (Ex 16:23, 26–27).
3. What is the Sabbath day a prefiguration of?
It prefigures the eternal rest that we will receive in heaven.
4. Why is it incorrect to observe the Sabbath on Sunday?
Because Sunday observance was not instituted by God. Over time, the day on which Christians observed the Sabbath was changed. But the commandment of God is not something that we can choose or change at our own convenience.
5. Do you keep the Sabbath day according to God's commandment? Why or why not?
Personal answers.
6. After today's lesson, how can you improve the way you keep the Sabbath day in the future?
Personal answers.

The Doctrine of Footwashing

Passages: Jn 13:1–17

Memory Verse

“If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.”
(John 13:14)

Knowledge of God’s Will [God’s Word]	Knowledge of God [God’s Divine Nature]	Good Work [Behavior]
1. Footwashing is an important sacrament performed in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. 2. We must receive footwashing to have a part in Jesus.	This sacrament reminds us of God’s unfailing love.	1. Keep our feet clean through sanctification in the Spirit and the truth. 2. Guide our footsteps on the path of God’s word by standing within His house and loving our brethren.

Overview

Events and Spiritual Teachings

- A. Footwashing and Its Establishment
- B. The Spiritual Significance of Footwashing
- C. The Teachings Behind Footwashing
- D. Criteria for Footwashing

Life Application

Living in Holiness

Memory Verse

Conclusion: Though we may receive the sacrament of footwashing only once in our lives, our feet need to continue following in the footsteps of love, forgiveness, humility, and servitude that have been left behind by Jesus Christ.

Events and Spiritual Teachings

A. Footwashing and Its Establishment

You've probably seen footwashing performed after each water baptism in church, but do you remember when it was first performed and established? Just before Jesus Christ was betrayed by Judas and sentenced to death before the Jewish council, He shared an evening meal with all of His disciples. The Gospel of John records this beautiful act of the Lord Jesus Christ in chapter 13. The Lord "rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded" (Jn 13:4–5).

Can you imagine our Lord Jesus Christ, the highest of all Kings, Lord and Creator of all, setting aside His robe and humbly washing each of the disciples' feet? He even washed the feet of Judas, who would soon betray Him. Jesus then taught His disciples that he "who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean" (Jn 13:10).

Jesus gave us an important instruction: after we have been baptized, we must accept footwashing and understand its spiritual effect when it is performed. Then, we will be completely clean. Footwashing is not simply a symbolic action. It is a sacrament, meaning:

- Jesus Christ Himself set the example;
- Jesus Christ commanded His disciples to do likewise; and
- It carries the spiritual effect of salvation.

Therefore, to have a part with Jesus and His salvation, we need to accept footwashing after baptism. But what does Jesus Christ mean by "completely clean" in John 13:10? And what are the spiritual effects of footwashing? First, let's examine the spiritual significance behind footwashing.

B. The Spiritual Significance of Footwashing

Footwashing is, physically, a simple act. However, there is a much deeper meaning behind this sacrament. In the same way that Holy Communion is so much more than simply eating and drinking, footwashing has greater spiritual significance and intent behind the action of washing one's feet.

1. Jesus Christ set the example for us

Washing one's feet for comfort or hygiene was quite common. Either water was offered to the guest, or the slave of the host washed the guest's feet (Gen 18:3–5).¹ However, despite being both Teacher and host, Jesus Christ "rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded" (Jn 13:4–5). By washing His students' feet with His own two hands, Jesus Christ broke tradition and set a new example for us to follow.

2. It was commanded by Jesus Christ

After Jesus Christ washed His disciples' feet, He commanded them, "For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you," and, "If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them" (Jn 13:15, 17). The fact that this command came with a blessing shows how

¹ TJC Department of Literary Ministry, *Bible Study Guide: John*, (Malaysia: True Jesus Church, 2012), https://bsg.tjc.org/tjc_bsg_lesson/john-23/?guide_id=49, "Did You Know...?".

important it is. Just as our Master washed the feet of sinners, we who follow Him are called to do likewise.

3. It is required for salvation

Peter at first refused to permit Jesus to wash his feet, to which the Lord Jesus replied, “If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me” (Jn 13:8). Hearing this, Peter immediately turned right around and asked Jesus to also wash his head and hands. From Peter’s reaction, we can see how important it is to have a part with Christ. But what does it mean to “have a part with Christ”? The original Greek word for “part,” *méros*, means a share or division in something. God is offering us a portion of His grace, promises, salvation, and heavenly inheritance.

C. The Teachings Behind Footwashing

Aside from its spiritual effects, footwashing also offers us teachings that we can and ought to apply to our daily lives. We may only require footwashing once after our baptism, but the intention behind the act should stay with us for the rest of our lives as God’s chosen.

1. Love and forgiveness

By personally washing the feet of His students, Jesus Christ demonstrated how much He “loved His own who were in the world.” He truly “loved them to the end” (Jn 13:1). Today, we are also loved as disciples of Christ. Therefore, as recipients of God’s love, we should serve and love one another (Jn 13:34). Jesus Christ tells us, “This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you” (Jn 15:12).

It is significant to us that the Lord also washed the feet of Judas Iscariot. Jesus Christ already knew that Judas was the one who would soon betray Him (Jn 13:2). He also knew that this betrayal would lead Him to a painful death on the cross—an outcome even Judas himself was likely unaware of. Yet Jesus still washed Judas’ feet, showing both to him and to us the depth of His love and forgiveness.

2. Humility and servitude

Jesus Christ had a clear sense of purpose when He came to earth. He knew that “the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many” (Mk 10:45). He did not appear as a man to be glorified or exalted in this world, but “made Himself of no reputation,” and instead “humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross” (Phil 2:6–8). His very birth as a human in this world was an act of humility and service for mankind.

By washing their feet, Jesus Christ not only reminded the disciples of His mission, but also taught them to follow His example of servitude and humility. He said, “If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet” (Jn 13:14). In the same way, we should follow Jesus Christ’s example and serve those around us with love and humility.

D. Criteria for Footwashing

1. Recipients of footwashing:

- a. Must be properly baptized according to the Bible.
- b. May receive the sacrament of footwashing only once.
- c. Must be determined to follow the teachings related to footwashing. For example, the person must be resolute in maintaining holiness and living a life of humility.

2. Those who wash the feet of others:

- a. Must perform the footwashing in the name of Jesus Christ.
- b. Represent the Lord Jesus Christ during the footwashing. Therefore, the one performing the washing must have a sense of humility as he pours water into a basin, washes the believers' feet, and wipes their feet with a towel.
- c. Should only try to wash the feet of those who are of the same gender, out of holiness.

When someone receives the sacrament, a brother- or sister-in-Christ performs the footwashing, but in spirit, it is our Lord who washes our feet.

Check for Understanding

1. **Where is footwashing recorded in the Bible?** The Gospel of John, chapter 13.
2. **What is the spiritual significance of footwashing?** Jesus Christ set the example for us; it was commanded by Jesus Christ; and it is required for salvation.
3. **What are the teachings behind footwashing?** Love and forgiveness; humility and servitude.
4. **Why should footwashing be seen as an important doctrine, even though it is only recorded in one gospel?** Footwashing is important, as it pertains to our salvation. Even though it is only recorded in one gospel, we need to partake in this sacrament because Jesus said, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me" (Jn 13:8).
5. **What are the criteria for those who perform and receive footwashing?** (See *Section D.*)

Life Application

Living in Holiness

Our feet reflect our lifestyle and our faith because the path which we direct them to go greatly affects our spiritual lives. Do your feet carry you to church each week? Or do they carry you elsewhere on Sabbath day? Do they carry you towards an act of service for the Lord, or do they carry you towards temptation? We may receive footwashing only once in our lives, but our feet need to continue following in the footsteps left behind by Jesus Christ.

1. Are Your Feet Clean?

We learned that to "have a part" with Jesus Christ (Jn 13:8) means to receive a portion of His glory and His heavenly inheritance. But the Bible also says, "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?" (1 Cor 6:9). To have a part of our inheritance with Jesus, we must also have a part in His lifestyle. This means following in His footsteps by imitating Him and striving to be clean and holy.

When we are baptized and undergo footwashing, we are being cleansed of our sins by "the washing of water by the word" (Eph 5:26). Knowing this, we must now walk appropriately, so that we can present ourselves before God as "holy and without blemish" (Eph 5:27).

a. Sanctified by the Spirit

Sin is a serious matter to God that brings shame to our Lord Jesus. He loves us so much that He was willing to give Himself up (Rom 8:32) and pay a great price to save us from sin. Imagine His sadness when we walk right back towards what He died to save us from! But how do we remain holy when we live in a society filled with temptations, immorality, and godless values?

Once our feet have been washed, we need to make a conscious effort to separate ourselves

from our old ways and make the determination to keep our feet as clean as possible. To act out this determination, we need the help of the Spirit. Peter wrote that it is the Spirit that sanctifies us (1 Pet 1:2). When we determine to ask God through the power of the Holy Spirit to overcome sin, He will give us the strength to live in holiness, to abstain from living in an immoral world, and to walk as a separate people.

b. Sanctified by the Truth

Striving to become clean and holy requires more than our determination. Due to our sinful natures, we need God's help. In His prayer for His disciples, Jesus Christ asked God to "sanctify them by Your truth" (Jn 17:17). Likewise, when we obey the truth through the Spirit, we purify our souls (1 Pet 1:22). The Bible is so much more than words on a page. It reflects our sins so that we can correct our errors and learn to walk in holiness. Therefore, to keep our feet clean, we must root ourselves firmly in the word of God, so that we are continually sanctified by the truth.

2. Where Are Your Feet Taking You?

To continue following in Jesus' footsteps, we must learn to choose the correct path. But since the road of life is often foggy and unclear, we need a proper light to help us find the correct way. The Bible tells us that God's word is "a lamp to [our] feet and a light to [our] path" (Ps 119:105). If we follow God's word and choose our path according to it, we'll be able to avoid the wide, dusty roads and stick to the narrow path to heaven.

a. Stand Within the House of the Lord

To have a part with Jesus Christ means to be a part of His body, which is the church. One psalmist wrote, "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go into the house of the LORD.' Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem!" (Ps 122:1-2). It is important that our feet are standing within Jerusalem, which is our church today. When we worship in Jesus' name as one body, God dwells among us.

Let's read Hebrews 10:24-25: "And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching." When we stand within the house of the Lord with our brethren, we lift each other up, and "stir up love and good works" in each other. By surrounding ourselves with our brethren in Christ, we encourage both ourselves and each other to strive for the Lord and to grow in faith together.

b. Love Our Brethren

The footsteps that Jesus left for us to follow are immersed in the greatness of God's love. Jesus exemplified the love of God right up to His death and beyond. John 13:1 says, "Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end." This is the full extent of the Lord's unfailing love: He loved them to the end. After we receive footwashing, we need to love others with the same love. We need to walk in Christ's love.

Walking in Christ's love is like walking in a pair of sensible shoes. Just as good shoes shield our feet from dirt and pebbles, Christ's love keeps our spiritual feet from sin and danger. Love is the mark of a Christian. However, if we say we love God but don't love our church members, the love of God is not in us (1 Jn 4:20). "Love and good works" (Heb 10:24) do not just occur on their

own or in our words alone. We must actively guide our feet towards loving our brethren.

So, how do we love our brethren? At times, other members may become tired or unsteady on their feet, making it easy for them to lose focus and wander off to dangerous or unnecessary detours. When this happens, we who are stronger in Christ are there to get them back on track. It is a degree of the highest love when we show our brethren patience and gentleness, regardless of their personality or character. When we do so, we are walking in Christ's love.

c. Share the Gospel

Paul wrote that "all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself'" (Gal 5:14). The greatest act of love that we can show is bringing the gospel to others. By sharing the gospel with unbelievers, we can leave imprints that clearly show the glorious love of our Creator! "And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!'" (Rom 10:15).

Memory Verse

"If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet."
(John 13:14)

Meaning

This is our Lord's command to us. Since He has set the example by washing His disciples' feet, we need to do likewise to one another. In doing so, we exhibit the love and humility of Jesus Christ. Furthermore, only by doing so will we have a part with Him in eternity.

Conclusion

We may receive the sacrament of footwashing only once in our lives, but our feet need to continue following in the footsteps left behind by Jesus Christ. We need to learn to live out the love and forgiveness that Jesus Christ exemplified during His lifetime and adopt a Christ-like attitude of humility and servitude. When we think of how Jesus humbly served throughout His lifetime, remember that He commanded us to do likewise and that we are blessed if we follow in His example.

Lesson 9 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. What characteristics does Jesus want us to follow with the act of footwashing?
He wants us to exhibit the same love and humility that He demonstrated with footwashing.
2. "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go into the _____ of the LORD!' Our _____ have been _____ within your _____, O Jerusalem!" (Psalm 122:1-2)
house; feet; standing; gates
3. What is a sacrament?
A sacrament is an example set by Jesus Christ and something that we must do in order to carry the spiritual effect of salvation.
4. Name at least three important life applications that we should follow after we receive footwashing. Explain each in detail.
*Be sanctified by the Spirit; be sanctified by the truth; stand within the house of the Lord; love our brethren; and share the gospel.
See Life Application section for details.*

The Doctrine of the Holy Communion

Passages: Mt 26:26–28; Lk 22:19; Jn 6:53–55; 1 Cor 11:17–26; 29:31; Ex 12:21–27; 22:26; 1 Jn 5:16–17; 6:63; 2 Cor 5:15; 1 Pet 4:1–2

Memory Verse

“Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed.” (John 6:54–55)

Knowledge of God’s Will [God’s Word]	Knowledge of God [God’s Divine Nature]	Good Work [Behavior]
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Holy Communion is an important sacrament.2. Remember the Lord’s death and partake of the Holy Communion in order to have life in Christ and be resurrected on the last day.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. God is truth.2. God is life.3. God is power.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Determine to live for Christ.2. Determine to live a holy life.3. Prepare for the second coming.

Overview

Events and Spiritual Teachings

- A. The Sacrament of the Holy Communion
- B. Materials Used in the Holy Communion
- C. Holding the Holy Communion
- D. Restrictions of the Holy Communion
- E. The Spiritual Transformation of the Holy Communion

Life Application

1. What Happens After I Receive the Holy Communion?
2. Testimony: “Blessings Upon Blessings”

Memory Verse

Conclusion: After partaking of the Holy Communion, let us make the determination to keep ourselves pure and holy in order to proclaim Jesus’ death and live a life worthy of His calling. When He comes back again, we’ll be united with Him forever in the heavenly kingdom.

Events and Spiritual Teachings

A. The Sacrament of the Holy Communion

Do you remember what defines a sacrament? (*This was taught in the previous lesson. Allow students to answer if they can.*) A sacrament is defined as follows: (1) It is a practiced instituted by the Lord Jesus Himself; (2) Jesus explicitly commanded His disciples to practice it; and (3) it is directly related to our salvation. Sacraments carry the spiritual effect of salvation, making them a vital part of our faith. Today, we'll study the sacrament of the Holy Communion. Let's read 1 Corinthians 11:23–26.

For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

1. The origin of the Holy Communion

a. Established by the Lord Jesus Christ (Mt 26:26–28)

Before the Lord Jesus was crucified, He sat down and ate the Passover dinner with His disciples. During this "last supper," Jesus Christ blessed the bread and gave it to His disciples as His body. Then, He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it as His blood, describing it as the "blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins" (v. 28).

b. Commanded by the Lord Jesus (Lk 22:19)

At the last supper, Jesus Christ also commanded the disciples to remember Him through future communions. He told them, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

c. Example of Jesus Christ's disciples (1 Cor 11:17–26)

After Jesus' death, the apostles continued to observe and teach the Lord's Supper. From Paul's letter to the Corinthians, we can see how important these communions were and how carefully they were held in the apostolic churches.

2. The purposes of the Holy Communion

a. To remember the love and death of Jesus Christ

In the Old Testament, the purpose of the Passover was to remind the Israelites of God's deliverance (Ex 12:21–27). Similarly, the Holy Communion in the New Testament reminds us of God's grace and salvation, as well as of the suffering and death that Jesus Christ endured for us. Paul wrote, "For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes" (1 Cor 11:26). The Holy Communion helps us to truly understand the full dimension of His love for us, and when we do, we will not want to sin.

b. To have the life of Christ, eternal life

Even before the last supper, Jesus Christ predicted His death and claimed:

Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood

abides in Me, and I in him.

(Jn 6:53–54, 56)

Today, we eat and drink the bread and juice that are spiritually transformed into His flesh and blood after the consecration, in order to take part in Christ. Through the Holy Communion, Jesus Christ lives in us and we in Him. When Jesus Christ returns, we will be resurrected and given eternal life.

B. Materials Used in the Holy Communion

1. Unleavened bread

Leaven is a substance that causes fermentation in dough or batter, such as yeast or baking powder. Adding any type of leaven makes dough rise or expand. The Lord commanded the Israelites to eat unleavened bread during Passover (Lev 23:4–9) as a sign of being God’s chosen people, separated from the world. Consequently, whoever ate leaven during the seven days of Passover was “cut off from the congregation of Israel” (Ex 12:19). The Bible uses leaven to represent sin (1 Cor 5:8), false teachings (Mt 16:6, 12), and hypocrisy (Lk 12:1).

Following the Passover custom, our communion bread today is unleavened bread, made of flour and water. Because it stands for the pure and holy body of Christ, no other flavoring is added. Also, only one communion bread may be used because there is only one body of Christ. Just as Paul said, “For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread” (1 Cor 10:17).

2. Grape juice

During the last supper, Jesus Christ used the fruit of the vine (Mt 26:28–29). Following His example, we use grape juice, or the fruit of the vine, as our communion drink. We do not use wine, since it is fermented by yeast, and yeast represents sin in both the Old and the New Testaments (1 Cor 5:6–8).

C. Holding the Holy Communion

1. Begin in the name of Jesus Christ

The Bible says, “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him” (Col 3:17). Jesus Christ also promises that “where two or three are gathered together in [His] name, [He is] there in the midst of them” (Mt 18:20). Therefore, we begin the Holy Communion in the name of Jesus Christ. The minister then offers a consecrating prayer. After this, the single piece of unleavened bread is broken and given to the congregation, followed by the consecration and partaking of the grape juice.

2. Remember the death of Jesus Christ

Since one purpose of the Holy Communion is to “proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes” (1 Cor 11:26), it should have the solemnity of a funeral. As we repeat the last supper, we should remember the grief, suffering, and death that the Lord endured for our sake. We should remember His agony in the garden of Gethsemane; His pain as He was mocked and whipped by soldiers; and the intense physical and spiritual suffering He bore as the consequences of our sin.

3. Examine ourselves, repent, and let go of our grudges

Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will

be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

(1 Cor 11:27–29)

We must examine our deeds, motivations, and thoughts to see if we have sinned against anyone. Then, ask God to forgive our sins and determine to live a new life, so that we can shine the light of the truth for the Lord.

4. Give thanks, and partake of the bread and juice

Imitating the Lord Jesus' example, we give thanks and eat the bread before giving thanks and drinking the juice (Mt 26:26–27). We also thank the Lord for giving His life for our salvation.

D. Restrictions of the Holy Communion

1. Baptism required

In the Old Testament, no foreigners could participate in the Passover meal (Ex 12:43). Likewise, today, those who are not baptized into Jesus Christ's name cannot partake of the Holy Communion. Because the body of Christ is holy, a person must wash away his sins through water baptism before joining in the communion meal.

2. Repentance of sins

Before we partake of the bread and the cup, we must first examine ourselves. We repent of our sins, so that we do not become one who "eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body" (1 Cor 11:29–31). If we have committed a sin that leads to death, we must also refrain from partaking of the Holy Communion (1 Jn 5:16–17).

3. One location

During the original Passover meal, each family stayed in their own house for the night (Ex 12:22). In apostolic times, the believers gathered together when they shared the communion bread (1 Cor 10:16–17). Likewise, we should keep the Holy Communion in one location. If the location is at church, no bread or juice should be taken outside of the church premises.

4. No leftover bread and juice

Following Passover regulations, none of the communion meal should remain until the next day (Ex 12:10). Also, to show respect for Christ, we must be solemn even when finishing the leftover bread and juice after the communion ceremony.

E. The Spiritual Transformation of the Holy Communion

1. More than just symbolism

Jesus Christ said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you" (Jn 6:53). He also said, "My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed" (Jn 6:55). From this, we can see that partaking of the communion bread and juice has a direct relationship with our salvation.

2. A spiritual transformation

What causes the bread and juice to turn into the body of Christ? By faith, we believe that a spiritual transformation takes place when we consecrate them. Jesus Christ said, "I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the

bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world” (Jn 6:51). He also said, “It is the Spirit who gives life [...]. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.” (Jn 6:63). Although the bread and juice remain the same physically, once consecrated, they are spiritually transformed into the body and blood of Christ through God’s promise and power.

When we partake of the Holy Communion, we must do so with holiness and solemnity in order to fulfill its purpose and spiritual meaning. Hebrews 6:6 tells us that Christians who do not repent and continue to sin “crucify again for themselves the Son of God.” This means that every time we deliberately sin and do something that we know is wrong, we cause our Lord Jesus to suffer all over again. Once was enough for our Lord and Savior. After partaking of the Holy Communion, let us make the determination to keep ourselves pure and holy in order to proclaim Him and live a life worthy of His calling. Then, when He comes back again, we’ll be united with Him forever in the heavenly kingdom.

Check for Understanding

- 1. What was the origin of the Holy Communion?** During the “last supper,” Jesus Christ blessed the bread and gave it to His disciples as His body. Then, He took the cup, gave thanks and gave it as His blood (Mt 26:26–28).
- 2. What are the purposes of the Holy Communion?** To remember and proclaim the death of Jesus Christ (1 Cor 11:26); to obtain eternal life (Jn 6:53).
- 3. What do the unleavened bread and grape juice represent?** The bread represents Jesus’ body which has no sin, being separated and chosen; the grape juice represents His blood, shed for us on the cross.
- 4. Name some restrictions regarding the Holy Communion.** The person partaking of it must first have received water baptism (Ex 12:43) and repented of their sins (1 Cor 11:29–31); if we have committed a sin that leads to death, we must also refrain from partaking (1 Jn 5:16–17). It must be held in one location (Ex 12:22). There must be no leftover bread and juice (Ex 12:10).
- 5. What spiritual transformation occurs during the Holy Communion?** The bread and juice being used in the Holy Communion remain the same physically, but once consecrated, they are spiritually transformed into the body and blood of Christ through God’s promise and power.

Life Application

1. What Happens After I Receive the Holy Communion?

1. Remembrance and Proclamation of the Lord’s Death

a. Remembrance

The very first Holy Communion took place during the Passover meal. The purpose of the Passover was to save the Israelites from the angel of death, through the blood of the sacrificial lamb. In the same way, Jesus’ blood has freed us from our slavery to sin and death. When Jesus said, “This is My body,” and “This is My blood,” He was referring to Himself as the Passover lamb (1 Cor 5:7). He is truly the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (Jn 1:29). Thus, when we hold the Holy Communion in “remembrance,” we are remembering:

- How the Lord Jesus Christ was betrayed
- How Jesus broke the bread, and later gave His body to be broken
- How Jesus suffered on the cross and shed His blood so that we can live
- The new covenant that we have now obtained
- Jesus’ promise that we will drink this fruit of the vine in the kingdom (Mk 14:25)
- His grace, love, and power through the Holy Spirit

- His words

b. Proclamation

To proclaim the Lord's death means to teach the world about His sacrificial love, death, and resurrection, and about how we have been saved by the blood that He shed on the cross. It means following His commandments and remembering the Lord's death, so that we can proclaim and receive the future that He has promised to us. We need to spread His saving grace and love for mankind, until the day Christ comes again.

2. Live Out the Divine Covenant

Remembering the Lord's death is not simply the act of recalling His death on the cross. The purpose of this remembrance is to renew our determination to do everything "to the glory of God" (1 Cor 10:31). Why do we need to have such determination? Jesus Christ "died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again" (2 Cor 5:15). Jesus referred to the blood in the Holy Communion as the "blood of the new covenant." According to this agreement with God, we must determine to live for Jesus Christ. We must strive to "walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God" (Col 1:10).

a. Live a holy, sinless life

After partaking of the unblemished body and blood of Christ, we should strive to live holy lives by removing all sin from our thoughts, words, and actions. That's what it means to live for Jesus Christ. "Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened" (1 Cor 5:7). With the help of the Holy Spirit, we should aim to be like Christ and keep away from "the lusts of men" (1 Pet 4:1-2).

b. Abide in His word and Spirit

To live out the divine covenant, we need to live in Christ every day. This means setting aside time to read God's word every day, as well as praying to be filled with the Holy Spirit. When we do so, just like branches receiving nutrients from the vine, we will bear good fruit. If we constantly pray in the Spirit, we will be strengthened and become more and more like Him, as "he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him" (1 Cor 6:17).

c. Love One Another in Unity

Paul wrote, "The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread" (1 Cor 10:16-17). Conflict or division is contrary to the spirit of the Holy Communion. As members of the same body, we should love and help one another (1 Cor 12:20-27). The Bible tells us that "the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love" (Eph 4:16). Let's determine to practice self-sacrifice and truly love one another deeply, from our hearts. To do this, we must lay aside our interests and pray for the unity of His body.

3. Prepare for the Second Coming

Jesus Christ stated, "Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day" (Jn 6:54). Hence, the Holy Communion is a reminder for us to store up our treasures in heaven and prepare for the second coming of Christ.

2. Testimony: “Blessings Upon Blessings” (Excerpt)¹

I received the Holy Spirit during the last prayer of a local Spiritual Convocation, after partaking the Holy Communion for the first time. During the entire sacrament, tears flowed down my cheeks. At the beginning, I tried to hide it, since grown men aren't supposed to cry. But toward the end I couldn't help it. I asked myself, “Did the Lord Jesus go through so much pain just for me? Was it I who caused the Lord Jesus so much suffering? Was I important enough for Him to be tortured, disgraced, and crucified?”

When we knelt down to pray, I saw a vision. I saw the impression of two men. One of the men was beating the other. He was hitting him and kicking him down to the floor, but the other man never fought back. Every time the man was beaten, he fell down to the floor. Then, he would get back up just to be beaten down again. In my vision, I took a closer look at the man that was doing the hitting, and I realized that that person was me! It wasn't long before I realized that the other person was Jesus Christ.

I saw His eyes, and in them I saw His pain and suffering. I asked myself, “Am I beating the Lord Jesus? Am I just like the Roman soldiers who whipped, beat, and mocked the Lord Jesus?” In my vision I pleaded, “Stop beating Him!” and “Why don't You just stay down? Stop getting up!” But I saw myself beating Him relentlessly. I kept pleading and pleading. Eventually, I just fell to my knees, closed my eyes, and wept bitterly. I knew it was I who hurt Him; I who caused Him pain. Every time I pushed Him away or disobeyed Him, it was like a punch or a kick to Him.

While I was weeping, I felt two arms around me, holding me. I was filled with warmth, as though I had finally found my home. During this, I suddenly felt my tongue begin to roll. Like a dam bursting open, I felt the love and power of the Holy Spirit flow and rush to every part of my body.

– Mike Yuan, Canoga Park, California, USA
Manna 45: A Life of Servitude

Student Activity

(Teachers: Give the students five minutes to reflect on and write down ways in which they have intentionally or unintentionally hurt Jesus Christ. Ask them to share some of the things they have written. Discuss some things they can do to stop hurting Jesus Christ. As a conclusion, ask each student to write a short paragraph on how they can make their lives more worthy of the Holy Communion.)

Memory Verse

“Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed.” (John 6:54–55)

Meaning

1. When we partake of the unleavened bread, we are partaking of His body spiritually.
2. When we drink of the grape juice, we are drinking His blood spiritually.
3. The bread and juice are His spiritual food and drink. When we partake of the Holy Communion, we have life in Him, and on the last day, we'll be resurrected.

¹ The full testimony can be found in Manna #45:

Mike Yuan, “Blessings Upon Blessings”, *Manna Magazine* 45 (2007): 11, accessed September 25, 2020, <https://tjc.org/elib-single-item-display/?type=pub&langid=1&parentid=1059&itemid=5626>.

Conclusion

Hebrews 6:6 tells us that Christians who do not repent and continue to sin “crucify again for themselves the Son of God.” This means that every time we deliberately sin or do something we know is wrong, we cause our Lord Jesus to suffer all over again. Once was enough for our Lord and Savior. After partaking of the Holy Communion, let us make the determination to keep ourselves pure and holy in order to proclaim His death and live a life worthy of His calling. When He comes back again, we’ll be united with Him forever in the heavenly kingdom.

Lesson 10 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. According to the memory verse, why must we partake of the Holy Communion?
To obtain eternal life, and be raised on the last day.
2. What is a sacrament?
A sacrament is an example set by Jesus Christ and something that we must do in order to carry the spiritual effect of salvation.
3. Name three ways we should live out the divine covenant. Explain each.
 - a. *Live a holy, sinless life: After partaking of the holy and unblemished body and blood of Christ, we should strive to live holy lives by removing all sin from our thoughts, words, and actions.*
 - b. *Abide in His word and Spirit: To live out the divine covenant, we need to live in Christ every day. This means setting aside time to read God's word every day, and praying to be filled with the Holy Spirit.*
 - c. *Love one another in unity: Conflict and division is contrary to the spirit of the Holy Communion. We should practice self-sacrifice, and learn to truly love one another deeply, from our hearts. To do this, we must lay aside our own interests and pray for the unity of His body.*
4. Do you think you are prepared for the second coming? Why or why not?
Personal answers.

The One True Church and Its Mission

Passages: Acts 20:28; Rev 5:9–10; Jn 3:5; 10:1–18; 15:1–6; 20:22–23; 1 Cor 12:13; Gal 3:27; 1 Tim 3:15; Eph 2:18–19; Heb 12:22; Mt 18:17; Lk 10:16; 1 Pet 3:20–21; Lk 17:26–27; Jer 10:10; Deut 12:5, 11

Memory Verse

“On that day I will raise up the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down, and repair its damages; I will raise up its ruins, and rebuild it as in the days of old.” (Amos 9:11)

Knowledge of God’s Will [God’s Word]	Knowledge of God [God’s Divine Nature]	Good Work [Behavior]
1. The true church is the only church that offers salvation. 2. The true church must have the truth, the Holy Spirit, and signs and wonders. 3. The mission of the True Jesus Church is to correct fallen churches and guide the world into salvation.	1. God is truth. 2. God is Spirit.	Have a firm conviction that our church is the true church.

Overview

Events and Spiritual Teachings

- A. The Significance of the True Church
- B. The Qualifications of the True Church
- C. The True Jesus Church
- D. The Mission of the True Church

Life Application

- 1. Do I Know Why I Believe in the True Church?
- 2. Testimony: How God Called Me to His True Church

Memory Verse

Conclusion: It is important to maintain a strong conviction in the fact that our church is the true church, established by our Lord to be the new apostolic church and to guide the world into salvation.

Events and Spiritual Teachings

A. The Significance of the True Church

The Greek word used for “church” in the New Testament is *ekklēsia*, which means “an assembly that is called out.” The church has been called out by God, redeemed and sanctified through the precious blood of the Lord Jesus (Acts 20:28). In the Old Testament, people were circumcised in order to become the children of God (Gen 17:9–14). In the New Testament, people believed, repented, and baptized in the Lord in order to become a part of Christ’s body. But today, with so many different Christian denominations, what makes our own church distinct? Today, we will look at what makes the true church the only church that offers salvation.

The Spiritual Church of God

For some, the church is a place for social gatherings. Others believe that any church is acceptable, as long as their beliefs align. But according to the Bible, the church is the body of Christ. “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all” (Eph 4:4–6). This passage talks of many “ones”! There is only *one* body, and God has only *one* church, with *one* truth.

With the believers’ salvation at stake, Paul didn’t hesitate to condemn false teachings, saying, “But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed” (Gal 1:8). Even if he himself turned away from the gospel, he would also be condemned (Q&A, 120).¹ The significance of the church, therefore, lies in the truth that it preaches. Let’s look at a few other ways the Bible describes the significance of the church.

1. The church is the true vine in which the believers are branches. Believers must abide in the vine in order to bear fruit (Jn 15:1–6).
2. The church is the fold of the Lord. All believers will be in one flock and belong to one shepherd. Those who are in the fold are the Lord’s sheep and will have abundant life (Jn 10:1–18).
3. The church is the kingdom and house of God. The believers are therefore members of the God’s household and fellow citizens of the heavenly kingdom (1 Tim 3:15; Eph 2:18–19).
4. The church has the power to retain or forgive sins. To obey the church is to obey the Lord (Lk 10:16; Jn 20:22–23).
5. The church is the ark of the last days which will save all nations, so that we may enter the new heaven and new earth (1 Pet 3:20–21; Lk 17:26–27).

The Lord Jesus is both the head of the church and the Savior of its body (Eph 5:23). Its members have been called out of the world to walk on a journey of faith as a family (1 Cor 12:26), and to enjoy a special relationship with God. The church isn’t a place for socializing, or a place where the truth can be loosely interpreted according to one’s needs. It is the body of Christ, the ark of the last days. Just as Noah followed God’s exacting instructions, the true church must follow the qualifications set by the Bible.

B. The Qualifications of the True Church

The Bible defines three essential characteristics of a true and spiritual church, to set it apart from other secular organizations.

1. **It must be built on the foundation of the truth (Mt 16:18; Eph 2:19–20; 1 Tim 3:15).**
 - a. A false gospel cannot save humanity from sin (Gal 1:6–9; 2 Jn 9–11).
 - b. The true church must be built upon the teachings of Jesus Christ, the apostles (Mt 16:18),

¹ Q&A on the Basic Beliefs, (USA: True Jesus Church, 2000), p. 120.

and the prophets (Eph 2:19–20); it should not teach beyond what is written in the Bible (1 Cor 4:6).

- c. It must be faithful to the Bible and not follow the traditions of men, such as Christmas and Easter (cf. Mt 15:8–9; Rev 22:18–19).

2. It must have the abidance of the Holy Spirit (Eph 1:13; Gal 4:6; Rom 8:9).

- a. The church is the body of Christ and the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit (Eph 1:22–23; 1 Cor 3:16).
- b. The apostolic church was built by the Holy Spirit. Likewise, the true church of the last days was rebuilt by the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1–4; Joel 2:23, 28–29).
- c. Only the church with the Holy Spirit is sent by God and has the authority to forgive sins (Mt 16:18–19; Jn 20:21–23).
- d. The abidance of the Spirit is evidenced by the speaking of tongues (Acts 2:1–4; 10:44–47; Rom 8:26–27).

3. It is accompanied by signs and wonders.

- a. The Lord Jesus performed miracles to glorify the name of God, to give grace to the people, and to testify that He is Christ (Jn 3:1–2; 9:1–3; 10:24–25; 11:1–4; 20:30–31).
- b. God confirms His presence through the signs and wonders that accompany His workers (Mk 16:15–20; Acts 14:3; 1 Cor 2:4).

C. The True Jesus Church

Although we know the significance and qualifications of the true church, it is still difficult for anyone seeking after the truth to know which is the right church to go to. After all, there are hundreds of churches out there, and every church claims to save people. That is why it is important for us to understand why the True Jesus Church is the true church of the end days. This is the only way we can stand firm in our faith and remain in God’s house until the very end.

Why is our church called the True Jesus Church?

After disappearing, the Holy Spirit descended once again in China as the latter rain, and in 1918², the True Jesus Church was established. Today, the church is primarily an assembly for worship and should strive to defend the name of Jesus Christ. In light of this, the name “True Jesus Church” has profound meaning and significance.

1. “But the LORD is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King” (Jer 10:10). The word “true” refers to God, for God is true (Rom 3:4). This shows that the church belongs to the true God.
2. “But you shall seek the place where the LORD your God chooses, out of all your tribes, to put His name for His dwelling place; and there you shall go” (Deut 12:5). The true church should bear the precious name of Jesus, the name of God. Jesus Christ is also the head of the church, and the church is His body (Eph 5:23; 1:22–23; Col 1:18, 24). Having been purchased by the blood of Jesus Christ, the church belongs to Him and should therefore bear His name (Acts 20:28; Mt 16:18).
3. “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser” (Jn 15:1–5). Those who have been called by God make up the church, which is the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:27).

D. The Mission of the True Church

² According to the Lunar calendar, this would have been the twentieth day of the eleventh month, 1917 (See Manna Issue #84, p. 2).

Historically, heresy and political powers distorted the gospel once entrusted to the saints. About twenty to thirty years after the ascension of Jesus Christ, some members began to desert the church for a different, distorted gospel of Christ (Gal 1:6–9; 2 Cor 11:4). Even Jude had to warn the saints to contend earnestly for the faith (Jude 3). Apostle John’s messages to the seven churches in the Book of Revelation tell us that the apostolic churches were degrading. The Holy Spirit finally stopped descending upon the church after the third century because it deviated too far from the truth.

God later revived His church, giving His workers the Holy Spirit and an understanding of the true gospel. They began preaching the truth of salvation from the heart of China, and signs and miracles from the Spirit confirmed the truth that the church preached. In accordance with God’s grace, the promised Holy Spirit had once again showered down to revive His church at the end times. God raised up the True Jesus Church to preach the way to salvation.

1. Correct the fallen churches.

With so many different denominations and offshoots of Christian beliefs in the world today, it is only natural that there are a large number of doctrines that are contrary to the Bible. Here are a few examples of existing doctrines in other churches that need to be rectified:

- a. Most churches preach that there is no correlation between water baptism and salvation. It is considered only a formality for joining a church with no connection to salvation. Many churches that do baptize do so in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. They may baptize either by the sprinkling of water or by full immersion, but facing upward.
- b. Instead of regarded as a sacrament, footwashing is widely regarded as a lesson of humility, or is seen simply as a Jewish custom, and therefore believed to be unrelated to salvation.
- c. It is common for other churches to use wine and pieces of leavened bread or biscuits for the Holy Communion. Also, while we understand that the unleavened bread and juice are spiritually transformed after consecration, there are a variety of beliefs regarding the sacrament, such as:
 - *Transubstantiation* (Catholic Church): After giving thanks, the bread and grape wine transform materially into the physical body and blood of the Lord Jesus.
 - *Consubstantiation* (Lutheran Church): The physical body and blood coexist with the bread and the grape wine.
 - *Symbolism* (Zwingli/Reformed Church): The bread and cup remain the same after giving thanks. They only symbolize the flesh and blood of Jesus Christ. They believe that the Lord Jesus could not have given His flesh and blood to His disciples to eat and drink since He was not yet crucified when He gave thanks for the bread and cup.
- d. Many churches believe that all believers automatically receive the Holy Spirit, and that speaking in tongues is only one of the gifts of the Spirit, not a sign of His presence.
- e. Most churches do not observe the Sabbath but attend church on Sundays, which is the resurrection day of Christ, because they believe that Sabbath observance is a commandment imposed only upon the Old Testament Jews. But we know that the apostles observed the Sabbath, and that the Lord did not come to abolish the Law, but to fulfill it (Mt 5:17–20).
- f. Christmas, Easter, and other festivities established by other churches are based on human traditions instead of the Bible. Knowing this, we do not celebrate them.

At present, many Christians, as well as many churches, are like the lost sheep of the house of Israel. They may be zealous for God, but they do not follow the truth found in the Bible. Therefore, it is our duty to spread the true message to them and pray that the Holy Spirit moves and leads them back to the same fold in the Lord (Jer 23:3–4; Jn 10:16).

2. Proclaim the gospel to every nation (Mk 16:15–16).

“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy” (2 Tim 3:1–5; cf. Ezek 7:5–9, 25–27). The Lord Jesus will come to judge all people (Jas 5:9; Mt 24:32–34), and yet the world is immoral, violent, and more corrupt than during Noah’s time, drunk with worldly pleasures and sinful acts. It is our obligation to preach to the world that the end is near.

3. Attend to members’ needs (Jn 21:15–17).

The church needs to raise up the faith of the members by strengthening its body through continual devotion to prayer, mutual encouragement, and study of the Scriptures. Let’s read Romans 12:10, 13–18.

Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, [...] distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

4. Transform into the perfect bride of Christ.

In preparing for the Lord’s second coming, the church needs to make herself ready. Besides preaching the gospel to the world, the church must also devote herself to the building and perfecting of its members, thus fulfilling the Lord’s entrusted mission. The true church has to be perfect and complete before the day of the Lord’s coming (Rev 21:1–2).

Check for Understanding

- 1. What significant aspect of our church makes it different from others?** The significance of our church lies in the truth that it preaches.
- 2. Name three ways the Bible describes the significance of the church.** The true vine; the fold or flock of the Lord; the kingdom of God; has the power to retain or forgive sins; the ark of the last days.
- 3. What are the qualifications of the true church?** It must be built on the foundation of the truth; must have the abidance of the Holy Spirit; and must be accompanied by signs and wonders.
- 4. Why is our church called the “True Jesus Church”?** The word “true” refers to the true God, for God is true; Jesus is the head of the church, which was purchased by His blood; and those who have been called by God make up the church, the body of Christ.
- 5. Name three important missions of the True Jesus Church.** Correct the fallen churches; proclaim the gospel to every nation; attend to members’ needs; transform into the perfect bride of Christ.

Life Application

1. Do I Know Why I Believe in the True Church?

More than 2,000 years after the Holy Spirit came pouring down on the Day of Pentecost and the church was established, there are so many Christian churches out there claiming to be right in terms of their understanding about the knowledge of the gospel. As a member of the True Jesus Church, we may know

the sacraments and the doctrines. But ask yourself: do I have the true conviction that what I believe is correct? This is vital to our faith, because our convictions influence our decisions, and in turn, affect our lives. There are three main convictions that we must hold. For each, ask yourself: Do I have these convictions? If not, am I striving to attain them?

- a. **First Conviction:** Our church is established by the Lord. The same Spirit that descended as the “early rain” and established the apostolic church (Acts 1:8; 2:1–13) has now descended as the “latter rain” and established the new church (Deut 11:14; Joel 2:23, 28–31).
- b. **Second Conviction:** Our church is the revived true church of the apostolic days. Evidence of the chosen church of God can be seen in three things: the presence of the Holy Spirit (Rom 8:9), the presence of wonders and miracles (Mk 16:17–20; Acts 14:3), and a truth that is in accordance with the Bible (Gal 1:6–9; Eph 2:19–20).
- c. **Third Conviction:** The true church must strive to fulfill the same conditions as in the days of the apostles (Amos 9:11). This means we must have:
 - The same Holy Spirit (Eph 4:4; 1 Jn 4:1–3).
 - The same doctrines (Eph 2:19–20; 4:4–5).
 - The same power (Acts 1:8; 5:12–16).
 - The same holiness (Acts 5:1–11, 25–29).
 - The same love (Acts 2:41–47; 4:32–37).

2. Testimony: How God Called Me to His True Church³

I was formerly a member of a church called the Twelve Disciples Church. My conversion to the True Jesus Church was an amazing event for which I will always be thankful.

DRIVEN OUT OF MY FORMER CHURCH

One Saturday in 1991, January 19th to be precise, the pastor of the Twelve Disciples Church told me that he wanted me to be in charge of the church in West Africa, and that meant that I would need some supernatural powers. He asked me to sleep under a cross that night, and he would wake me up at 2 a.m. to send me to the Densei River in the eastern part of Ghana to receive the “powers.” I slept very soundly that night. At 9 a.m. the following morning, I was awakened by the ringing of a bell. It was the bell calling all the members of the church to gather.

Much to my surprise and bafflement, the pastor ordered the elders of the church to drive me out of the premises in five minutes. When I asked for the reason, he explained that during the night, two angels appeared to him in a vision, tied him up, and flogged him. In fact, the garments he wore that morning had bloodstains on them. He said that the angels warned him not to touch me or have anything to do with me because God had prepared me to work as a minister in a certain true church in the town. At that time, I did not have the slightest inkling what this true church was about.

THE DREAM OF THE TRUE CHURCH

Later in the day, I visited my parents at their residence. It was a tense situation, as the pastor had created a high level of enmity between me and my parents. Nevertheless, I spent some time resting in their house. As I lay down in my parents’ house, I had a dream.

³ Daniel Awutey, “How God Called Me to His True Church”, *Manna Magazine* 52 (2007): 5, accessed October 21, 2019, <https://tjc.org/elib-single-item-display/?langid=1&itemid=10648&type=pub>.

I was taken to a place beyond my ability to describe. There was a very big throne, and someone was sitting on it. I could only see his back. A rainbow was around his head. Then I heard a strange voice from the throne, which was like the sound of many waters. I could not comprehend that language. Suddenly, I saw a dove coming out of the throne towards me. It put three separate rainbows on my head, waist and feet. I then saw myself on a very high mountain. I saw a very old man there, the ruler of the mountain, who spoke to me. His voice was like the sound of many waters, like the first voice I heard.

He had a staff and a scroll in his hand. He removed my shirt and put on a new white garment on me. He also fastened my waist with a yellow belt, and he gave me his pair of shoes to wear on my feet. He then handed me the staff and scroll that were in his hand and he ordered me to eat the scroll. As my mouth touched the scroll, I began to understand the sound that came out of his mouth. The ruler of the mountain then told me I had to go back to my town to look for the True Church.

As I turned to go, I saw a large billboard that had an inscription in French—“Véritable Jésus Église” (True Jesus Church) and “Samedi – Samedi – Samedi” (Saturday – Saturday – Saturday). The inscriptions were surrounded by shimmering stars. At that point, I woke up from the dream.

PART OF THE TRUE CHURCH

The next day, I went out to look for the True Jesus Church, and I actually found it. It looked exactly like the structure I had seen in my dream. Even the way the members behaved coincided with what I saw in the dream. Four months later, I was baptized in the name of Jesus into the true church.

During the baptism I saw that the water was full of blood. From the day of my baptism, my body started to heal itself from the effects of a serious accident I had many years earlier. One day in 1978, I had been walking in the jungle with my father, who was a tree cutter. In Ghana, they burn the trunk after the trees are cut down. While I was walking, I fell into a pit. Under the pit was a charcoal fire, which melted my feet and burned my lower body. I became unconscious and woke up three days later in the hospital.

At the time, the doctor said that they needed to cut off both of my legs because of the severe burns. But God touched the doctor’s heart to make an announcement for help. The President of Ghana visited me in the hospital and offered to pay all the medical bills. I spent three years in the hospital and my health was poor, but my legs were not amputated. The doctors told me I would have to live with four problems: severe migraines, epilepsy, blindness, and the inability to have children.

I suffered with all these problems until I was baptized in TJC. Now, many years later my body has healed completely, even though I still bear scars from the severe burns. I thank God for healing me and blessing me with four children.

Two weeks after the baptism, I had a dream in which I saw a hand carrying the words “ÉTERNEL” (eternal), and I heard a voice asking me to read what I saw. When I tried, I felt my tongue fall into my stomach. The voice then told me to repeat the word “Hallelujah.” As I did, I felt that my tongue rolled back into my mouth, and I started praying like the other members. I woke up from the dream and began to pray. I realized I was filled with the Holy Spirit and was praying in tongues.

I have been so joyful ever since, and I thank the Lord for revealing His true church to me. Now I'm a full-time worker and enjoy every minute of it. I no longer live for myself but for the Lord who saved me and gives hope for eternal life. Praise and thank God!

- Daniel Awutey, Hahoe, Ghana, Africa
Manna 52: Spiritual Renewal

Memory Verse

"On that day I will raise up the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down, and repair its damages; I will raise up its ruins, and rebuild it as in the days of old." (Amos 9:11)

Meaning:

God's covenant with David is that his descendants would always sit on his throne (2 Sam 7:12-16). On "that day," God will raise and restore the kingdom to its glory. Before the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, before the eternal rule of God's kingdom, His plan is to raise up His church. The Bible refers to the apostolic church as the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down. But in the end times, He will rebuild it. From this verse, we therefore understand that our mission is to rebuild the early apostolic church.

Conclusion

It is important to maintain a strong conviction in the fact that our church is the true church with a truth in accordance with the Bible, established by our Lord to be the new apostolic church and to guide the world into salvation. With this in mind, as the body of Christ, we can help our church grow into the perfect bride of Christ by building up its members in Christ and devoting ourselves to the truth that separates us from the other churches in the world.

Lesson 11 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. According to the memory verse, what is our mission as the church of the end times?
God's plan is to raise up His fallen church before the eternal rule of His kingdom; therefore, our mission is to rebuild the early apostolic church.
2. "But you shall seek the _____ where the LORD your God _____, out of all your tribes, to put His _____ for His _____ place; and there you shall go." (Deuteronomy 12:5)
place, chooses, name, dwelling
3. What are three characteristics of the true church?
The true church must be built on the foundation of the truth; the true church must have the abidance of the Holy Spirit; the true church is accompanied by many signs and wonders.
4. What three convictions do we need to hold?
 - a. *Our church is established by the Lord.*
 - b. *Our church is the revived church of the apostolic days, with a truth in accordance with the Bible.*
 - c. *The church must strive to meet the same conditions as in the days of the apostolic church.*
5. Read Romans 12:13–18. Which of these do you do? Which do you not? How can you improve in attending to your church members' needs?

Share Your Faith

Passages: Acts 20:28; Rev 5:9–10; Jn 3:5; 1 Cor 12:13; Gal 3:27; Jn 15:1–6; Jn 10:1–18; 1 Tim 3:15; Eph 2:18–19

Memory Verse

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)

Knowledge of God’s Will [God’s Word]	Knowledge of God [God’s Divine Nature]	Good Work [Behavior]
1. The Bible teaches us how to share the faith, light, and truth of God. 2. The Bible teaches us what it means to share our faith through our good works.	1. God is light. 2. God is truth.	Allow God to transform us into His vessel by sharing our faith, sharing the truth, and doing good works.

Overview

Events and Spiritual Teachings

- A. Share Your Faith – Paul
- B. Share the Light – Jesus Christ
- C. Share the Truth – Philip
- D. Share Your Faith Through Good Works – Cornelius and Lydia

Life Application

God Can Transform Us into His Vessel

Memory Verse

Conclusion: God has commanded all of us to love not only God but also the people around us. The single greatest way to really share this love is by sharing the truth and the light of Christ through a transformed life.

Events and Spiritual Teachings

Introduction

When we own something of great value, we tend to want to tell others about it. Do we feel just as compelled about spreading God's word? Jesus Christ clearly told us in Acts 1:8 that we are His witnesses. It is a mission of the true church, so we have the responsibility to share our faith. However, do we share our faith because Jesus Christ commissioned us to, or do we truly feel the grace that God has given us? Do we have a deep understanding of how important it is to share this grace with others? When we understand and treasure the grace that God has given us, we are more willing to share the same peace and joy that is obtained through the precious truth. Let's take a look at several people who treasured the grace God gave them and study how God used them to share their faith in different ways.

A. Share Your Faith – Paul

Saul was picked by God to spread the gospel to the Gentiles. But he didn't start out as a zealous worker for God. In fact, Saul was so famous for his persecution of Jesus' followers that Ananias worried about God's command to baptize him (Acts 9:13–14), and the members in Jerusalem "were all afraid of him, and did not believe that he was a disciple" (Acts 9:26). But God chooses each person for specific reasons. Saul's qualities, for example, seemed to prevent him from ever becoming a follower of Christ. But God put these very same qualities to use for His purpose. Let's take a look at these seemingly conflicting qualities.

1. He was a fanatic

Before his conversion, Saul was determined to arrest Christians and persecute them in any way possible. He gave his approval when Stephen was stoned to death (Acts 8:1), and even asked the high priest for permission to imprison believers as he saw fit (Acts 9:1–2). Although Saul was incredibly zealous in his work, it was a severely misplaced zeal. The Lord Jesus was able to transform this fanaticism into an undeterred faith that lasted to the end of Paul's life. After his conversion, he preached tirelessly, making many missionary trips to spread the word of God.

2. He was persistent

Saul was quite persistent when it came to what he believed was the right thing to do (Acts 8:3). When we are stubborn, it is usually hard for us to submit to God's will. However, after Saul's conversion, he allowed the Lord Jesus to turn his hard-nosed personality into something very valuable: Paul became one of the most resilient missionaries. Despite death threats, shipwrecks, and imprisonment, he never gave up.

3. He was well educated

Saul was educated as a Pharisee under a highly respected teacher, making him a very knowledgeable person. Of course, his understanding of God was incorrect, and it seemed impossible for him to accept Jesus Christ as his Savior. But on the road to Damascus, his understanding was literally transformed by the Lord (Acts 9), and his education was put to excellent use for the Lord (Acts 9:22; 23:6–7). Today, many well-educated people often have a difficult time accepting God because belief is based on faith, not on what they logically know or can prove. But from Paul's example, we see that God can use even the most educated and logical personalities to share His message of love and salvation.

After Paul experienced God's transformation, he felt compelled to share his newfound faith at any cost. Even qualities that seemed to be in the way of God's work were transformed into useful gifts for the

Lord. Let's read what Paul wrote about his transformation:

And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry, although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

(1 Timothy 1:12–15)

God can use some extreme personalities and unexpected people for His work! Despite Paul having proclaimed himself as the chief of all sinners, God turned his skills into mighty assets in preaching the gospel.

B. Share the Light – Jesus Christ

“Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.’” (John 8:12)

We all know why Jesus Christ was sent to serve. Unlike Paul who was later converted, the Lord Jesus came into this world with one mission in mind: to do the work that God sent Him to do. There were many people who were unhappy with those He associated Himself with. But Jesus Christ pointed out that healthy people do not need a doctor. It is the sick who are in need of healing, and His mission was to help the sick: those rejected or looked down upon by society, who had no hope. People who really needed Him. Let's take a look at some of the people He shared the light with:

- Tax collectors (Lk 19:1–10)
- Prostitutes (Lk 7:36–50)
- Lepers (Lk 5:12–16; 17:11–19)
- The physically handicapped (Mt 20:29–34; Mk 7:31–37; Lk 5:17–26)
- The demon-possessed (Mk 9:14–20; Lk 4:31–37; Lk 8:26–33)

All these people have one thing in common: they were rejected by society. But more importantly, they needed the hope and light of life. We know that this world is full of sin, the darkness that leads to death. But it is especially bleak for those who seem to have no hope. Jesus Christ understood that God's work meant shining the light of life for these people.

Many of us tend to make quick judgment calls as to who can or cannot be saved. We may believe that it is useless to preach to a strong Buddhist or to someone who is an alcoholic, for example. But Jesus Christ shows us that God's salvation transcends social norms and prejudices. Our job is not to judge, only to plant the seeds, because where the gospel ends up growing is up to God, not us.

C. Share the Truth – Philip

Although there are not many passages in the Bible that mention Philip, the few that do offer important lessons about how to share the truth. Let's read Acts 8:26–38.

1. He was sensitive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit

“Then the Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go near and overtake this chariot.’ So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’” (Acts 8:29–30). We often believe that we need a certain personality in order to be able to preach the gospel. But we can learn from Philip that the determining factor is whether we are

sensitive to the movement of the Holy Spirit. We can ask God to help us keep our ears and eyes open for anyone who may need to hear the message of salvation, whether they are people we know or chance encounters in our lives.

2. He evangelized one-on-one

“And [the eunuch] said, ‘How can I, unless someone guides me?’ And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him” (Acts 8:31). It is not always easy to preach to another person. There seem to be many barriers: language differences, lack of courage, or lack of biblical knowledge, for example. We also hesitate to preach to strangers or to people of other faiths, or are too busy with work and family. But one-on-one evangelism is the most effective way to bring someone to the Lord. Because Philip spoke face-to-face with the eunuch, he was able to directly answer his questions concerning the passage in Isaiah. And it was those answers that moved the eunuch to request baptism. Spending time with someone personally gives us the opportunity to share testimonies and make Jesus Christ real, more than a distant message preached on the pulpit.

3. He preached without prejudice

Before meeting the eunuch, Philip had successfully taken the gospel to the Samaritans, a people whom the Jews normally hated and disdained (Jn 4:9; Acts 8:5–8). And when Philip saw that the Holy Spirit had moved him to preach to an Ethiopian of high status, he did not hesitate (Acts 8:27). Today, we often convince ourselves that certain people can’t be preached to for various reasons. And once we have made that determination, we don’t bother preaching to them. But we really do not know who is hungering for God’s salvation, so we should not hold on to personal prejudices about the people around us. God is the one who determines when any one person can be converted, no matter who this person may be.

D. Share Your Faith Through Good Works – Cornelius and Lydia

A genuine Christian is someone who shares their faith through their good works. After we are baptized, we should practice doing “good works” (Tit 3:1), share with others (Eph 4:28), and meet “urgent needs” (Tit 3:14). Paul wrote in Galatians 6:10 that when “we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.” Let’s look at two examples in the Bible of those who shared their faith through their good works.

1. Cornelius

Cornelius was a centurion stationed in Caesarea, the capital of Rome. He was the captain of around 80–100 soldiers, and had the huge responsibility of enforcing the law. Yet the Bible tells us that he was a God-fearing man who always prayed. He was full of good works and gave alms generously (Acts 10:1–8). By giving alms, he was being generous towards the poor, showing his impartiality or lack of prejudice. His household also joined him by praying and seeking God. His acts of service, devotion, and fervent prayers became “a memorial before God” (Acts 10:4). God saw his genuine love and the longing of his heart, and as a result, saved Cornelius and his household. So we can see that Cornelius’ faith showed in the following good works:

- He was a worshipper of God, and a devout man before the Lord saved him and his household.
- He gave alms generously to the people.
- He prayed to God always.

2. Lydia

Lydia came from Thyatira, a rich town known for its trade and purple dye (Acts 16:11–15). She was a seller of purple cloth in Philippi, and she attended prayer meetings in the city. She had not been saved yet when she met Paul and Silas, but she listened to the gospel and her mind and heart were opened. She immediately entrusted her life to God and was baptized, along with her family, making Lydia and her family the first European converts to accept Jesus Christ. She even provided a place for Paul to have a temporary home (Acts 16:15). So, in summary, we can see her faith in these good works:

- She was a devout worshipper before the Lord saved her and her household.
- She honored the Sabbath by worshipping with a group of other women.
- She opened her heart to accept the gospel as it was preached by Paul.
- She showed hospitality by insisting that Paul and Silas come to stay at her home.

Both Cornelius and Lydia accepted God’s sovereignty and salvation. But they also showed their faith through their good works, both before baptism and after receiving Christ into their lives. Both had a heart that was open to the gospel, and showed their faith through their works! Do you know that we are also God's partners in the ministry, just like Cornelius and Lydia? When we help those in need, we become more like Christ. Jesus Christ was a sacrificial giver because He gave His very life for us! His life on earth teaches us that the most Christlike thing we can do is to show our faith through good works.

Proverbs 11:25 teaches us: “The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself.” Luke 6:38 also teaches us, “Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.” One of the ways we can show our faith is through our good works. As Cornelius and Lydia demonstrated, God blesses those who are generous with others. Both the giver and receiver are able to receive God's precious salvation.

Check for Understanding

1. **What were Paul’s three qualities that at first glance seemed to prevent him from being qualified to serve God, but were ultimately used by God for His purpose?** He was a fanatic; he was persistent; and he was well educated.
2. **Name a few types of people whom Jesus reached out to, whom society rejected or looked down upon.** Tax collectors; prostitutes; lepers; the physically handicapped; the demon-possessed.
3. **What three things can we learn from Philip’s evangelism?** He was sensitive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit; he evangelized one-on-one; he preached without prejudice.
4. **What kind of good works did Cornelius do that became “a memorial before God”?** His constant prayers, his pursuit of God, and his generous alms for the people.
5. **In what ways did Lydia share her faith through her good deeds?** She was a devout worshipper who honored the Sabbath; she opened her heart to accept the gospel; and she showed great hospitality towards Paul and Silas.

Life Application

God Can Transform Us into His Vessel

Sometimes, it’s hard for us to imagine what kind of work we can do for God. Maybe we think we are too immature or have too many “bad” qualities for God to even bother using us. But from this lesson, we learned that God uses all sorts of people in interesting and unexpected ways. God can transform us into

a usable vessel, just as He changed Saul into one of the most successful missionaries.

For example, God can turn our addictions into a thirst for God's truth or transform our materialism into a passionate love for lost people. Whatever the case, only God can make it happen. But we also need to believe in His transformative powers. If we convince ourselves that there is no way God could ever change or use us, we aren't letting God in to do His work. During Saul's conversion, he became obedient and did not resist the Lord Jesus. Similarly, we must also be "transformed by the renewing of our minds" (Rom 12:2). Think about the following questions.

1. Do you have a "bad" quality that is hindering or preventing you from fully participating in God's work? For example, you may get angry easily or are too involved with school to put God first. How can you let God transform this "bad" quality into something useful?
2. Do you have a sense that God wants to change you more deeply than you've allowed Him to? Share your thoughts. If you feel that God wants to use you, but you aren't sure how to accept His will or to submit to it, what's the next step you should take?
3. Do you feel like there is something you need to sacrifice in order to be able to work for God?
4. What do you think sharing the gospel involves, and how can you ensure that you keep getting closer to that level of evangelism?

Testimony—Sharing My Faith in a Whole New Way

Do the people around you see that you are a follower of the Lord Jesus? There have been many testimonies where the parents or family members of new believers object to their attendance at church. But because of the believers' transformation and unwavering faith that is demonstrated through their love, the objections slowly subside. Let's read the following testimony together.

I was baptized when I was 16 years old. It seems so long ago but the memory still remains. My parents are worshippers of ancestors, to a small degree. However, when I was introduced to the True Jesus Church, the work of God was working so mightily within me that I wanted to get baptized and be a Christian. The day I got baptized is one I will never forget. The weather was so cold, and the water was freezing, but because of the love of God, that didn't stop me. I wanted to be fully cleansed from my past sins and be called a child of God. My parents were so busy working that they didn't attend my baptism. They didn't oppose my decision to become baptized, so I thought they approved of my choice to be a Christian.

After I got baptized, persecution came. My parents stopped me from going to church and wanted me to refrain from church worship. But the more they opposed, the more I wanted to attend church services. Therefore, secretly, I went with other church sisters. Thankfully, God gave me the precious Holy Spirit one week after my baptism, so I didn't feel so alone and without power. On a few occasions, I was late coming home after the church service, and my parents shut the door and forbade me from entering the house. Not only was I left outside in the cold for about one hour or so, (I got baptized in October), my parents would start saying very nasty words about going to church. Many times, I was hit and abused with whatever objects my parents could pick up around the house because of my religious convictions.

One time, I had received so many wounds all over my body, I was crying inside my room. My parents had already left the room and gone to sleep. But I was still weeping, not knowing why I was treated in this manner. I opened up the Bible and strangely enough, I turned to 1 Peter 4:12-13 and started to read a passage. It said, "Dear children, do not feel astonished about the trial that you are going

through as if something strange is happening to you. But rejoice, knowing that your suffering is a glorification to God.” Right then and there, I felt like my heavenly Father was speaking and comforting my wounded soul. I told myself that I needed to be strong in order to preach the good news to my parents.

The persecution went on for about three years. Every week, I was either hit or scolded. My parents even threatened to disown me. Some days, I would go to school looking like a cat who had been in an all-night brawl. Sometimes I would be dressed in long sleeves and long pants and my schoolmates would wonder why I was wearing my winter clothes even when the weather was so hot. I will never forget those days. But even with the ongoing persecution, thank God that He gave me the Holy Spirit to strengthen me. I knew I had to do something so that my parents could see the love of God. I prayed and asked God to give me His love—the unconditional love that I needed to show to my parents.

Week after week, I received more revelation from God through prayers. The message was always delivered loud and clear—more of God, less of me. How could I show more of God and less of me? I concluded that God wanted me to show my obedience and love to my parents by caring for them, listening to their problems and needs, helping them out in the shop (they had their own business), and studying more diligently at school. This was the best way to demonstrate to them why I felt so strongly about going to church: the love of Christ, manifested in me.

It was not easy, but I felt that with the help of God, the tasks didn’t seem so burdensome and hard to carry out. God said explicitly that we need to show love and our good deeds in front of everyone. We should be the light of this world. After all, no one hides his lighted lamp under a table. We need to shine like stars in the universe. Even though there were some weeks I couldn’t go to church, I knew it was only temporary. Even though I missed a lot of good sermons, I knew God was going to move my parents’ hearts and allow me to go to church again in the future.

Sure enough, God’s grace is abundant. Three years went by very quickly. My parents no longer persecuted my faith. They saw something within me that even I couldn’t explain in words—the love of God. I wanted God to transform me when I began my new faith even though the persecution was taking place. And He did! He transformed me into someone who has a lot more patience, a lot more love, and a lot more obedience. And the strange thing is that my parents saw me in a new light—a Christian, a child of God. I truly praise God for helping me and enabling me to show God’s love to my parents. May all glory be unto His name!

– P. Wong, Toronto Church

Note: The writer’s parents received the amazing grace of God through water baptism nine years after. They are in the fold and enjoy God’s grace and blessings every day!

Discussion

1. Even though this sister was severely persecuted, how was she able to maintain her faith?
2. What kind of a transformation did you see in this sister’s life?

Memory Verse

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)

Meaning

Jesus calls Himself the “light of the world” (Jn 8:12) and the “light [that] shines in the darkness” (Jn 1:4–5). Like Him, we are the light of the world, and we must not hide that light under anything. But how can we let people see this light? Through our good works. The light of Jesus shines through us when our actions and our works reflect His divine nature. The phrase “good works” also refers to our deeds, actions, and attitude. When people see our “good works,” they see Jesus, and as a result, they give glory to our Father in heaven.

Conclusion

We know how much God loves us when we remember how He sent His Son to die for us on the cross. God has commanded all of us to love not only God but also the people around us. The single greatest way to really share this love is by sharing the truth and the light of Christ through a transformed life. We can show others kindness, patience, gentleness, and self-control in all that we do. May God give us the wisdom and strength to carry out His will and share our faith through our good deeds.

Lesson 12 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. How do we let our light shine before men?
The light of Jesus shines through us when our actions and our works reflect His divine nature.
2. What qualities did Paul have that the Lord transformed for His purpose?
He was a fanatic; he was persistent; he was well educated.
3. "I say to you that likewise there will be more _____ in heaven over one _____ who _____ than over ninety-nine _____ persons who need no _____." (Luke 15:7)
joy, sinner, repents, just, repentance
4. What is the importance of evangelizing one-on-one?
Personally spending time with someone gives us the opportunity to answer questions directly, testify, and make Jesus Christ real, more than a distant message preached on the pulpit.
5. Consider how we can share our faith through our good works. Describe a time when you deliberately chose to perform a good deed and showed your faith as a result.
Personal answers.
6. What do you think you need to sacrifice or change to be able to share your faith better?
Personal answers.

Junior 1 Year 2 Book 4 Review

Memory Verses

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

exhort	understanding	Teacher	dividing	repair
longsuffering	workers	sealed	glorify	Me
rebuild	eternal	Spirit	light	promise
tabernacle	heard	raise	heaven	baptized
wash	washed	feet	calling	reward
diligent	salvation	drink	approved	power
Lord	last	life	Judea	Samaria
Holy	good	true	sanctifies	food
ready	waiting	plants	Sabbaths	raise
sign	word	know	ashamed	one

Acts 22:16	1 Corinthians 3:8–9	1 John 5:20	Ephesians 1:13
Acts 1:8	Amos 9:11	John 13:14	Ezekiel 20:12
Matthew 5:16	John 6:54–55	2 Timothy 4:2	2 Timothy 2:15

1. "And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an _____, that we may _____ Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the _____ God and _____ life." (_____)
2. "But you shall receive _____ when the _____ has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all _____ and _____, and to the end of the earth." (_____)
3. "Now he who _____ and he who waters are _____, and each one will receive his own _____ according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow _____; you are God's field, you are God's building." (_____)
4. "Preach the _____! Be _____ in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, _____, with all _____ and teaching." (_____)

5. "Be _____ to present yourself _____ to God, a worker who does not need to be _____, rightly _____ the word of truth." (_____)

6. "And now why are you _____? Arise and be _____, and wash away your sins, _____ on the name of the _____." (_____)

7. "In Him you also trusted, after you _____ the word of truth, the gospel of your _____; in whom also, having believed, you were _____ with the Holy Spirit of _____." (_____)

8. "Moreover I also gave them My _____, to be a _____ between them and _____, that they might know that I am the LORD who _____ them." (_____)

9. "If I then, your Lord and _____, have _____ your _____, you also ought to _____ one another's feet." (_____)

10. "Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal _____, and I will _____ him up at the _____ day. For My flesh is _____ indeed, and My blood is _____ indeed." (_____)

11. "On that day I will raise up the _____ of David, which has fallen down, and _____ its damages; I will _____ up its ruins, and _____ it as in the days of old." (_____)

12. "Let your _____ so shine before men, that they may see your _____ works and _____ your Father in _____." (_____)

Multiple Choice

1. ____ : Which of the following was a key factor in establishing the early True Jesus Church?
 - a. The Pentecostal movement in China
 - b. The Apostolic Faith Church
 - c. The movement of the Holy Spirit
 - d. All of the above

2. ____ : In the spreading of the gospel, what is a common thread in the origins of many churches?
 - a. The members who moved to new regions were determined to stay in the truth.
 - b. The members who moved to new regions had the gift of evangelism.
 - c. The members who moved to new regions understood the local culture and language well.
 - d. None of the above

3. ____ : Which is not a requirement when performing water baptism?
 - a. The baptism must be performed in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - b. The person receiving baptism must kneel in the water and pray.
 - c. The person receiving baptism must bow their head.
 - d. The baptism must be performed in living water.

4. ____ : Which is true of the Holy Spirit?
 - a. Upon believing in Jesus Christ, a person receives the Holy Spirit.
 - b. Upon receiving water baptism, a person receives the Holy Spirit.
 - c. A person who exhibits the fruit of the Holy Spirit has the Holy Spirit.
 - d. A person who has received the Holy Spirit can speak in tongues.

5. ____ : Which of the following is not a requirement when holding the Holy Communion?
 - a. The person partaking of the Holy Communion must have been baptized according to the Bible.
 - b. The person partaking of the Holy Communion must first repent of their sins.
 - c. There must be no leftover bread or juice the next day.
 - d. None of the above

6. ____ : Which of the following is not a requirement of the true church?
 - a. It must be built on the foundation of the truth.
 - b. It must have the abidance of the Holy Spirit.
 - c. It must have the word "true" in the name.
 - d. It must be accompanied by signs and wonders.

7. ____ : Why were the members in Jerusalem afraid of Paul at first?
 - a. He was a persistent fanatic.
 - b. He had persecuted the followers of Jesus Christ.
 - c. He had been educated as a Pharisee.
 - d. None of the above

The Three Sacraments

1. Which three sacraments do we observe in the True Jesus Church?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____

2. Which three criteria does a sacrament require?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____

3. For each sacrament, write down where the Bible records that Jesus Christ first set the example, as well as how He set the example. Then, write down the teachings and purposes behind the sacrament.

Where and how did Jesus Christ set the example?	Teachings/Purposes	How is it related to salvation?
Water Baptism		
Footwashing		
Holy Communion		

Short Answer

1. How do we define truth according to the Bible? How is this different from the world around us?

2. What is the Holy Spirit's presence in the church evidence of? Why is this important?

3. Why were the early workers in the True Jesus Church able to serve God so effectively? Why is it important that we pray for our church leaders?

4. What kind of "food" do we need to nourish our faith with? What happens when we nourish ourselves with this food?

5. How is John the Baptist's baptism different from water baptism today?

6. Why is it incorrect to observe the Sabbath on Sunday? Where did the concept of Sunday observance originate?

7. Why is our church called the "True Jesus Church"? What are the qualifications of the true church?

Junior 1 Year 2 Book 4 Review Answer Key

Memory Verses

1. "And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life." (1 John 5:20)
2. "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8)
3. "Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building." (1 Corinthians 3:8-9)
4. "Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching." (2 Timothy 4:2)
5. "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15)
6. "And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord." (Acts 22:16)
7. "In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise." (Ephesians 1:13)
8. "Moreover I also gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between them and Me, that they might know that I am the LORD who sanctifies them." (Ezekiel 20:12)
9. "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet." (John 13:14)
10. "Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed." (John 6:54-55)
11. "On that day I will raise up the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down, and repair its damages; I will raise up its ruins, and rebuild it as in the days of old." (Amos 9:11)
12. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

Multiple Choice

1. ____ : Which of the following was a key factor in establishing the early True Jesus Church?
 - a. The Pentecostal movement in China
 - b. The Apostolic Faith Church
 - c. The movement of the Holy Spirit
 - d. All of the above**
2. ____ : In the spreading of the gospel, what is a common thread in the origins of many churches?
 - a. The members who moved to new regions were determined to stay in the truth.**
 - b. The members who moved to new regions had the gift of evangelism.
 - c. The members who moved to new regions understood the local culture and language well.
 - d. None of the above
3. ____ : Which is not a requirement when performing water baptism?
 - a. The baptism must be performed in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - b. The person receiving baptism must kneel in the water and pray.**
 - c. The person receiving baptism must bow their head.

- d. The baptism must be performed in living water.
4. ____ : Which is true of the Holy Spirit?
- Upon believing in Jesus Christ, a person receives the Holy Spirit.
 - Upon receiving water baptism, a person receives the Holy Spirit.
 - A person who exhibits the fruit of the Holy Spirit has the Holy Spirit.
 - A person who has received the Holy Spirit can speak in tongues.***
5. ____ : Which of the following is not a requirement when holding the Holy Communion?
- The person partaking of the Holy Communion must have been baptized according to the Bible.
 - The person partaking of the Holy Communion must first repent of their sins.
 - There must be no leftover bread or juice the next day.
 - None of the above***
6. ____ : Which of the following is not a requirement of the true church?
- It must be built on the foundation of the truth.
 - It must have the abidance of the Holy Spirit.
 - It must have the word "true" in the name.***
 - It must be accompanied by signs and wonders.
7. ____ : Why were the members in Jerusalem afraid of Paul at first?
- He was a persistent fanatic.
 - He had persecuted the followers of Jesus Christ.***
 - He had been educated as a Pharisee.
 - None of the above

The True Gospel Spreads

<i>Year</i>	<i>Location</i>
1917	<i>China</i>
1926	<i>Taiwan</i>
1927	<i>Singapore</i>
1927	<i>West Malaysia, Sabah</i>
1931	<i>Hawaii, United States</i>
1941	<i>Indonesia</i>
1946	<i>Japan</i>
1948	<i>South Korea</i>
1969	<i>Continental United States</i>
1971	<i>Canada</i>
1972	<i>United Kingdom</i>
1978	<i>Nigeria</i>
1982	<i>Australia</i>
1983	<i>Argentina</i>
1983	<i>France</i>
1985	<i>Germany</i>
1985	<i>Ghana</i>
1985	<i>Liberia</i>
1989	<i>New Zealand</i>
1994	<i>Fiji</i>

The Three Sacraments

1. Which three sacraments do we observe in the True Jesus Church?

- a. Water baptism
- b. Footwashing
- c. Holy Communion

2. Which three criteria does a sacrament require?

- a. Jesus Christ Himself set the example
- b. Jesus Christ commanded His disciples to do as He did
- c. It carries the spiritual effect of salvation

3. For each sacrament, write down where the Bible records that Jesus Christ first set the example, as well as how He set the example. Then, write down the teachings and purposes behind the sacrament.

Where and how did Jesus Christ set the example?	Teachings/Purposes	How is it related to salvation?
Water Baptism		
<p>Jesus Christ received water baptism in the Jordan River, a body of living water. "When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water" (Mt 3:13-17). "So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, 'It is finished!' And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit" (Jn 19:30).</p>	<p>To have our sins washed away: Our sins are washed away, allowing us to receive God's precious salvation. It is a washing of regeneration and renewal, meaning that we are reborn and given a new life through water baptism.</p> <p>To be reborn and receive a new status as a child of God: Water baptism allows us to be reborn again as a child of God. Our old selves are crucified on the cross with Jesus Christ, so that we are no longer slaves to sin.</p>	<p>"Jesus answered, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God' " (Jn 3:5).</p>
Footwashing		
<p>Jesus Christ "rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded" (Jn 13:4-5).</p>	<p>Love and forgiveness: Jesus Christ washed even the feet of Judas Iscariot, who would betray Him.</p> <p>Humility and servitude: "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet" (Jn 13:14).</p>	<p>"If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me" (Jn 13:8). God is offering us a portion of His grace, promises, salvation, and heavenly inheritance.</p>
Holy Communion		
<p>During the "last supper," Jesus Christ blessed the bread and gave it to His disciples as His body. Then, He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it as His blood, describing it as the "blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins" (Mt 26:26-28).</p>	<p>To remember the love and death of Jesus Christ: "For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes" (1 Cor 11:26); "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me" (Lk 22:19).</p>	<p>"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him" (Jn 6:53-54, 56).</p>

Short Answer

1. **(Lesson 1) How do we define truth according to the Bible? How is this different from the world around us?**

God Himself is truth, and by extension, His words are also truth. It is different because God is the source of all truth; it never changes, and God's truth is good.

2. **(Lesson 2) What is the Holy Spirit's presence in the church evidence of? Why is this important?**

The presence of the Holy Spirit is evidence of God's abidance in the church. Without His abidance, the church cannot accomplish anything for God. But with the Spirit, the church can do many mighty works for Him.

3. **(Lessons 3, 4) Why were the early workers in the True Jesus Church able to serve God so effectively? Why is it important that we pray for our church leaders?**

They not only had the Spirit within them, but also sought out His strength and power every day. Our work for the Lord is only effective when we seek out and rely on His power to guide us and aid us. It is easy to forget that the leaders of our church are only human. When we dedicate time to pray for them, we will see God's power manifest not only in our lives, but also in our church.

4. **(Lesson 5) What kind of "food" do we need to nourish our faith with? What happens when we nourish ourselves with this food?**

We must nourish our faith with the knowledge of God's word, so we must meditate on God's law day and night. By nourishing our faith with the knowledge of the Lord, our spiritual lives will bear fruit like a tree planted by the waters, and our leaves will not wither even when faced with tribulation.

5. **(Lesson 6) How is John the Baptist's baptism different from water baptism today?**

Before Jesus Christ died on the cross, John's baptism was effective for the remission of sins, just like how the Jews could offer sacrifices as a way to atone for their sins. However, after Jesus Christ died on the cross, the salvation plan was completed, and we are now saved through water baptism.

6. **(Lesson 8) Why is it incorrect to observe the Sabbath on Sunday? Where did the concept of Sunday observance originate?**

Sunday observance was not instituted by God. The commandment of God is not something that we can choose or change at our own convenience. Religious leaders of the time deemed Sunday to be the Lord's Day and the day that Jesus Christ resurrected. Eventually, Constantine, the Roman emperor, decreed Sunday to be a holiday and outlawed work. Years later, the council of Laodicea decreed that all Christians would not rest on the Sabbath like the Jews did, but would instead observe the Lord's Day, Sunday.

7. **(Lesson 11) Why is our church called the "True Jesus Church"? What are the qualifications of the true church?**

The word "true" refers to the true God, for God is true; Jesus is the head of the church, which was purchased by His blood; and those who have been called by God make up the church, the body of Christ. The true church must be built on the foundation of the truth; must have the abidance of the Holy Spirit; and must be accompanied by signs and wonders.