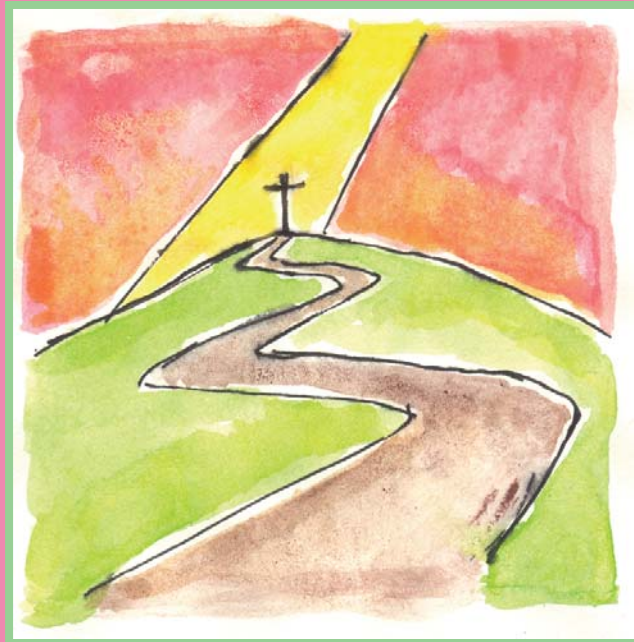


YEAR 2 BOOK 2

JUNIOR 2

Student Workbook



THEME:

True God and His Salvation

Student Devotional—Gaining Christ

“Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ” (Phil 3:8).

How sure are we of our place in heaven? For some of us, the answer is an adamant “no doubt.” But for the rest of us, the question is indeed a valid inquiry we do not know how to answer. Perhaps we have not received the promised Holy Spirit yet, or perhaps a sinful lifestyle still has bondage over us. No matter what the true answer is, let us then ask ourselves, “What in my life am I willing to give up and consider rubbish in order to gain Christ?” For it is only through emptying ourselves that we may be filled with Christ and the assurance of salvation.

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”

2 Timothy 4:7

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3. Psalms 11-15
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5. Psalms 21-25
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7. Psalms 31-35
8. Psalms 36-40
9. Psalms 41-45
10. Psalms 46-50
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12. Psalms 56-60

YEAR 2 BOOK 2

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True God And His Salvation

UNIT THEMES:

unit 1: God

In this section, we will study the various qualities of the true God. The students will learn that our God is everlasting, merciful and truthful. He is the one who created the world and everything in it. He is omnipotent, omnipresent and omniscient. He is a God set apart from others because He is the one and only.

Through these lessons, the students will be encouraged to remember who God is and what He means to them. More importantly, they should ponder how they can be made more into His likeness. It is easy to get caught up while living in

this world. We have different responsibilities and obligations. It's difficult to find time to just think about God and nothing else. But it is also during those times of devotion that we can truly connect with Him and know what He wants for us. Let's use these lessons to steer the students in the right direction.

unit 2: Salvation

In this unit, we will cover the topic of salvation. We will explore what salvation means and how it has been fulfilled over time. We will also look at how a believer should lead his or her life while waiting for the Lord's second coming.

Through these lessons,

the students will come to recognize that Jesus Christ is the Savior of this world and in the kingdom to come. They will also be reminded of their role in God's plan of salvation and be encouraged to preach the gospel.

unit 3: The Church

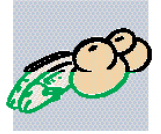
In this last set of lessons, the focus will be on the church. More specifically, we will look at the spiritual church of God: what it is, the significance and the qualifications that make it the true church. We will also study the mission of the true church and the roles of the believers in completing that mission. Lastly, we will be introduced to the history of the True

Jesus Church in the United States to help the students get a better understanding of how the church is guided by the hands of God as it grows and expands.

Through these lessons, the students will be able to recognize the importance of the church in God's plan of salvation. They will realize that it is not just a mere building or a place of worship but in fact, plays a significant role in the last days. They will be challenged to think about how to lead their lives faithfully and be witnesses to God and the church.

MEMORY VERSES FOR NOVEMBER, DECEMBER, JANUARY

- 1.** "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." (Jn 4:24)
- 2.** "And be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness." (Eph 4:23-24)
- 3.** "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse." (Rom 1:20)
- 4.** "The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good." (Prov 15:3)
- 5.** "And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!" (2 Tim 4:18)
- 6.** "(God), who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began." (2 Tim 1:9)
- 7.** "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Rom 5:8)
- 8.** "We constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of His calling, and that by His power He may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith." (2 Thess 1:11)
- 9.** "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)
- 10.** "Those who sow in tears shall reap with joyful shouting." (Ps 126:5)
- 11.** "...the whole building, being joined together, grows into the holy temple in the Lord." (Eph 2:21)
- 12.** "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify Your father in heaven." (Mt 5:16)



WARMUP: WHAT IS THE FIRST **WORD** THAT COMES TO YOUR **MIND** WHEN YOU THINK OF THE WORD “**GOD**”?

PART1: GOD IS SPIRIT

God's Spirit is beyond the material world. It is not limited by space and time; it has no shape, size, weight, color or scent.

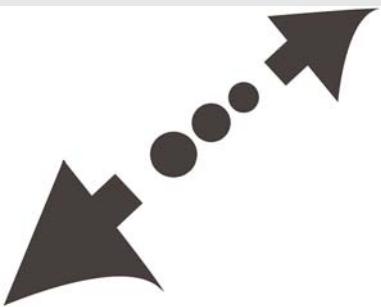
- The Spirit cannot be seen with the naked eye (Lk 24:36-40; 1 Tim 6:16).
- We worship God with spirit and truth (Jn 4:24).
- God's Spirit is omnipresent. God fills the Heaven and the Earth (Jer 23:24; Eph 1:23). Therefore, those who recognize God as a spirit should constantly pray to Him and seek His help.



PART2: GOD IS EVERLASTING

Every one of us has a beginning. We were all born from our parents and each of us will have an end because we will all pass away. But God has no beginning and no end.

- God has been in this universe even before the beginning. We know that everything created in the universe must have a creator. That creator is God (Heb 2:10).
- God will be forever because He has neither beginning nor end (Heb 7:3). He is immortal (1 Tim 6:16) and has everlasting life (Gen 21:33; Deut 33:27).



PART3: GOD IS THE ONE AND ONLY

Our God is the one and only Lord (Deut 6:4; Mark 2:29; 1 Tim 2:5; 1 Cor 8:6; Jas 2:19). He is the only true God in many places (Gal 3:20; Rom 3:30; Jude 24; Jn 17:30). There are also people in the world who spend an enormous amount of time worshiping other kinds of idols, things that have taken the place of God in their hearts. If we are to worship the Lord in spirit and truth, then we cannot continue to love the world and its treasures, including the “lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life” (1 Jn 2:15-17).



1

Describe some of the characteristics of the Spirit of God.

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2

How can you best describe God's "foreverness"?

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3

What are some of the idols in this world that may be putting a barrier between God and men?

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4

Read Jeremiah 10:1-16 closely. Write down the differences between the true God and false gods.

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5

Food for thought:

The idea of the Trinity is commonly accepted by the Roman Catholic Church and most other Christian denominations. In the Trinity, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit can exist separately. The idea originated from the Lord Jesus' command: "Go, therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" (Mt 28:19). Believers in the Trinity do not necessarily believe that there are three gods. They believe that there is one God in three forms (Jn 10:30, 14:9-10, 17:21-22). The three forms have the same godliness, status, and glory. They also have the same unlimited power. Thus, they combine to become one God. Although people who argue for the Trinity do not believe that there are three gods, they do not deny the Bible's recording that describes the coexistence of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Thus, the term, "Trinity" was coined to describe the unique characteristics of God. In fact, no matter if a person believes the Trinity or the "three separate bodies of God," the idea of the One True God remains. However, because the Trinity involves the idea of three separate beings, we cannot endorse the theory.



Truth-Seekers

At some point in time, each of us will encounter a truth-seeker, whether a friend or a relative. Although we would all prefer to find a pastor or some other adult to speak to them, that isn't always a possibility. Besides, Jesus Christ commanded us to all spread the gospel and so it is our duty to be equipped with the necessary knowledge. Think about how you would explain the concept of the One True God to truth-seekers by looking at the following questions.

What is the best approach to explain to an atheist that there is a God?

Is it wise to be familiar about other religions so that we will be better able to counter their questions? Do you know anything about any other religion? If so, share your knowledge with the rest of the class.

Questions To Think About

What is the best approach to explain to someone who is religious (i.e., a Buddhist, a Catholic) that there is only one true God?

Is it ever okay to say to someone that he is a sinner and that he needs to repent as a means to preaching the gospel? Why or why not? Is there a better way to say the same thing?

*In the Bible, it records that God made us in His **image**. Have you ever thought about what that **really** means?*



A Holy God

a. The Holy Lord hates uncleanness.

Biblical examples: _____

b. We cannot see God unless we are holy.

Biblical examples: _____

c. God wants us to be holy.

Biblical examples: _____

A Just God

a. God's judgements are fair. He will come to judge the earth with righteousness.

Biblical examples: _____

b. God wants us to treat everyone with equality. Since God is just, those who walk with Him must also be just.

Biblical examples: _____

A Kind and Loving God

a. Everything He has made contains His love.

Biblical examples: _____

b. God especially loves those who fear Him.

Biblical examples: _____

c. God wants us to love each other.

Biblical examples: _____

A Truthful God

a. God's truth is holy and remains forever.

Biblical examples: _____

b. God's truth is solid.

Biblical examples: _____

c. We should firmly believe in God's promises.

Biblical examples: _____



1.

Why is it important to pursue after holiness?

2.

What does it mean to treat people with equality?

3.

The Bible says that God loves those who fear Him. What does it mean to fear Him? What should our attitude be? What should our actions reflect?

4.

Describe one concrete thing that you have done this past week to show love towards one other person.

5.

How do we know that God's words are true and believable?

6.

Which of the four characteristics we studied today do you feel is the hardest to attain? Why?

7.

Find four people in the Bible who best personify each of the four characteristics discussed today (i.e. someone who is truthful, someone who is just, etc.) and explain your reasons for choosing these people.

Jot down one positive characteristic about the person whose name appears at the top of this page.



Name:

A series of ten horizontal dashed lines provided for writing a response to the prompt.



part one: God

“IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD, AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD, AND THE WORD WAS GOD...ALL THINGS WERE MADE THROUGH HIM, AND WITHOUT HIM NOTHING WAS MADE THAT WAS MADE.” (JN 1:1, 3)

“FOR BY HIM ALL THINGS WERE CREATED THAT ARE IN HEAVEN AND THAT ARE ON EARTH, VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE, WHETHER THRONES OR DOMINIONS OR PRINCIPALITIES OR POWERS. ALL THINGS WERE CREATED THROUGH HIM AND FOR HIM.” (COL 1:16-17)

“FOR EVERY HOUSE IS BUILT BY SOMEONE, BUT HE WHO BUILT ALL THINGS IS GOD.” (HEB 3:4).

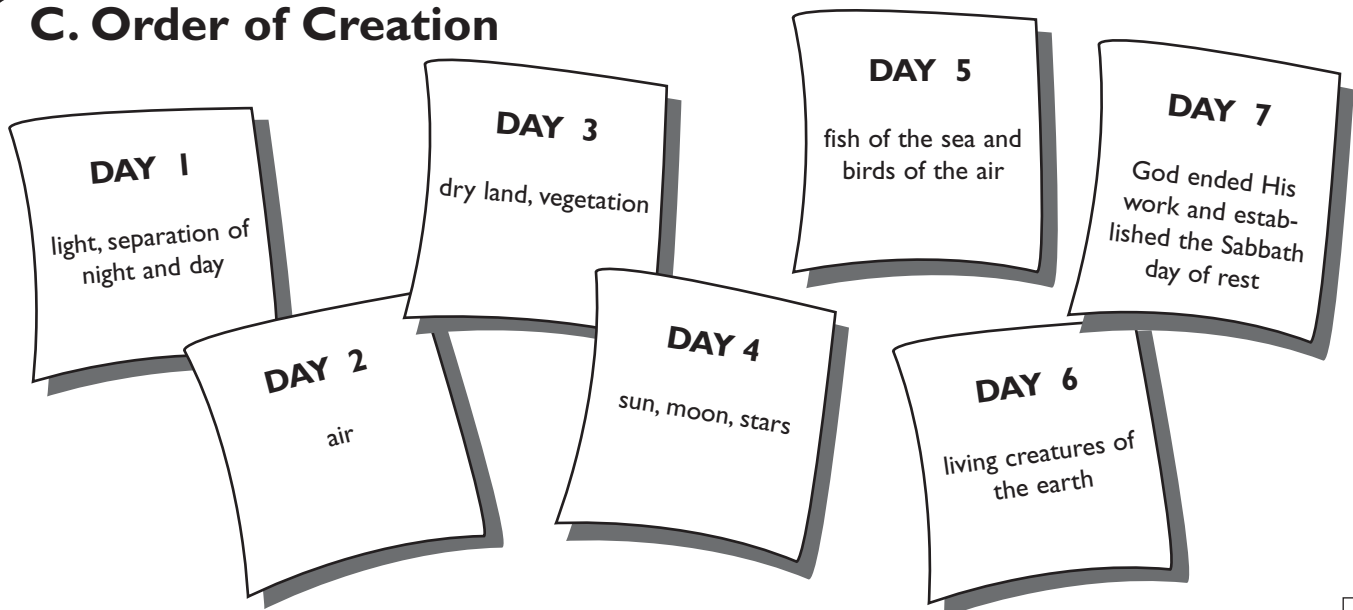
A. Reasons for Creation

- a. God created all things to display His wisdom, power and glory.
- b. God created all things so that man would be able to enjoy wonderful days

B. How Creation Took Place

- a. According to God's will (Rev 4:11)
- b. Through God's Spirit (Gen 1:2; Ps 104:30)
- c. By God's word (Heb 11:3; Gen 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20; Ps 33:6, 9)
- d. Out of the invisible (Heb 11:3)
- e. By God alone (Is 44:24, 45:7)

C. Order of Creation





parttwo: God Protects and Rules

God has not only created the world, but protects and reigns over all He has created. The Bible says, "The LORD has established His throne in heaven, and His kingdom rules over all" (Ps 103:19, 135:6). Let's take a look at what God protects and rules over.

A. The Seasons, the Sea, the Wind and Vegetation

- a. God upholds all things by the word of His power (Heb 1:3).
- b. God keeps the seasons in place (Gen 8:22; Ps 104:99).
- c. God has assigned the sea its limit (Jer 5:22; Prov 8:29).
- d. The wind is His messenger (Ps 104:4; Ex 14:21, Num 10:31).
- e. God takes care of the grass and the flowers of the field (Mt 6:28-30).

B. The Animal Kingdom

- a. God feeds the beasts and the young ravens (Ps 147:9, 104:14, 20-22).
- b. God sends springs to quench the thirst of the beasts (Ps 104:10-11).
- c. He makes homes for the wild goat, badger and eagle (Ps 104:18; Job 39:27-28).
- d. He feeds the birds of the air (Mt 6:26).
- e. Not one sparrow falls to the ground apart from God's will (Mt 10:29).

C. Nations

- a. God rules over the nations (Ps 22:28, 66:7).
- b. He makes nations great and destroys them (Job 12:23; Jer 10:10).
- c. He sets boundaries of the peoples (Deut 32:8; Acts 27:26).
- d. He removes and raises up kings (Dan 2:21, 4:17, 5:19-21).
- e. He revealed political change through the dream of a statue (Dan 2:27-35).

D. A Person's Life

Case Study: King David

Notes: _____



PIECING IT ALL TOGETHER...

1

List two reasons why God created the world.

2

Without looking at the Bible, write down the order of creation. Is there any way the order could have been different and creation still be kept the same?

3.

Provide an example from the Bible of a person whose footsteps were dictated by God. What happened in this person's life that tells us God protects and rules over us?

4.

Usually, when we think about how we came to be in this world, we think of our parents, the people who gave birth to us. Often we forget that it was God who created humans and gave us the chance to live. If you had to prepare a short note of thanks to God, what would you include?

3 The Creation and Reign of the True God



Once upon a time, an atheist was arguing with a Christian. The atheist asked the believer many questions.

"Did you ever see God?" he asked.

"No," said the Christian.

"Did you ever smell God?"

"No," said the Christian.

"Well then," said the atheist, "How can you be so sure that there is a God?"

Without answering the atheist, the Christian asked a few of his own questions.

"Have you ever seen your brains?" the Christian asked.

"No," replied the atheist.

"Well, have you ever smelled your brains?"

Again the atheist answered no.

The Christian asked one last time, "Do you believe that you have any brains?"

Although we may laugh at this story, if we really had any brains we know that there is no other conclusion other than the fact that there is God. We may not be able to smell or see Him. Even John has said, "No one has seen God at any time" (Jn 1:18). But He has revealed Himself to us through His creation. There are so many things in this world that are shouting out to us that God has given us what we need and He continues to look after us. Actually, if we were to take a closer look, we would be able to see some pretty interesting facts concerning the world around us. Below is a collection of some tidbits. See how much you already know and how much surprises you.

The Animal Kingdom

1. The largest bird is the African ostrich. It can rise up to nine feet tall and can weigh 345 pounds. One of its eggs can weigh almost 4 pounds.
2. The fastest animal is the peregrine falcon. It can fly at 217 miles per hour. On land, the cheetah has the quickest speed at almost 70 miles per hour (the typical speed of a car on the freeway).
3. The animal with the longest gestation period is the African elephant, at 660 days (that's almost two years!). One of the shortest is the opossum, at 13 days. But the trade-off to such a short gestation period is that their life span is only for about one year.
4. The koala needs to sleep on average 22 hours per day.

The Human Body

1. There are about 60,000 miles of blood vessels connected to the heart, enough to wrap around the world almost two and a half times.
2. Besides the skin, the liver is the largest organ, weighing about 1,560 grams (the brain comes a close second at about 1,200-1,400 grams).
3. In ten years, a human heart beats about 368 million times, pumping over 6 million gallons of blood. That's enough to fill 522 tank trucks!
4. A resting adult breathes about twelve times each minutes, taking in about 2,620 gallons of air each day. In an average life span, that's about 70 million gallons of air.

Lands and Seas

1. Mt Waialeale in Kauai, Hawaii sees rain up to 350 days per year.
2. The largest desert is the Sahara, located in North Africa. It is 3,500,000 square miles in area, over 24 times the size of Japan.
3. The largest island country in the world is Indonesia, at 735,358 square miles.
4. The deepest point in the deepest ocean is in the Pacific ocean (Marianas Trench), measuring at a little over 35,000 ft or 10,000 m. That would be 29 times the height of the Empire State Building.

God has indeed created some interesting and wonderful things. Although some people go through life without thinking too much about it, there is no way we breathe the way we do or koalas sleep that many hours unless God has planned it that way. If any one aspect was to come to an imbalance, the world would be in chaos. Whether we recognize it or not, we need to remember that God treats every one of His creations in a special way. Only when we acknowledge Him will He direct our paths (Prov 3:5-7) and find that strength and love that no one else can offer.





▶ Turn to Hymn 314, "How Great Thou Art". After singing through it once, think about the lyrics and how wonderful and marvellous our Lord God really is. If you had to pick one thing, what amazes you most about God and His power?

The Omniscient God

- A. God sees the actions of people.
- B. God hears the words we say.
- C. God knows the heart of man.

Notes: _____

The Omnipotent God

- A. Creation.
- B. People.
- C. Other things.

Notes: _____

The Omnipresent God

- A. Above all people (Eph 4:6).
- B. Among all men (Eph 4:6).

Notes: _____



GOD
omniscient
omnipotent
omnipresent

#1 Provide an example to show how Jesus Christ is an omniscient God.

#2 Provide an example to show how Jesus Christ is an omnipotent God.

#3 Provide an example to show how Jesus Christ is an omnipresent God.

#4 Have you ever really stopped to think about the fact that Jesus Christ knows everything that you do, say or think? How does that make you feel? Has it at any one time affected the way you behave? Explain your answer.

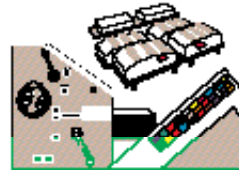
GREAT PEOPLE



There have been many great people (as considered by most) in our time. Take a look at the list provided and read about their lives, summarized in brief. If you had to vote, who would you consider the greatest person? If you have someone in mind who is not on this list (and there are many out there, i.e. more recent figures like Bill Gates), feel free to add it on but be ready to explain your reasons. The people are listed in no particular order.

1. Johannes Gutenberg (1394?-1468)

Gutenberg developed the printing press in the 1430s. Although the Chinese had movable type for centuries before Gutenberg, they used it for silk printing, not book printing. Copies of Gutenberg's first major project, the Bible, survive today.



2. Martin Luther (1483-1546)

Martin Luther nailed his Ninety-five Theses to the door of Wittenberg's castle church on October 31, 1517. His paper denounced the many sins that had crept into Christianity and started a reformation that lasted for a century and a half.



3. Galileo Galilei (1564-1642)

Galileo built the first astronomical telescope, discovered the craters of the moon, and revealed the laws of bodies in motion.



4. Wilbur (1867-1912) and Orville Wright (1871-1948)

Although they were not the first to invent the airplane, the Wright brothers were the first to fly a powered, manned airplane. Weighing in at 750 pounds, including the pilot, the plane flew into history on December 17, 1903, and stayed in the air for 59 seconds.



5. Louis Pasteur (1822-1895)

Pasteur theorized that germs attack the body from the outside. In fact, his name graces milk and juice cartons for his pasteurization process, which safeguards drinks and foods by killing harmful germs with heat. He also developed many vaccines that have saved countless lives.



6. Thomas Edison (1847-1931)

Edison patented the electric light bulb, the phonograph and the movie projector.



7. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

When Mozart was twelve, he wrote his first opera. Before his death at age 34, he created dozens of concertos, operas and symphonies that have been performed and enjoyed by many over and over again for the past two centuries.



8. Alexander Fleming (1881-1955)

Fleming was the one who discovered penicillin, a drug that has saved countless lives. He shared a Nobel prize in medicine with Harold Florey and Ernst Chain, who developed the antibiotic for mass production in the early 1940s. Their work created the most important series of drugs ever—antibiotics.

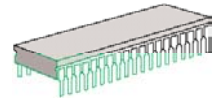


GREAT PEOPLE (CONT'D)



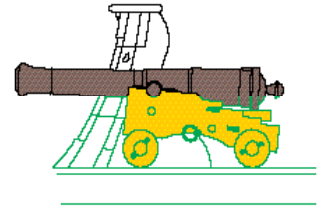
9. John Eckert (1919-1995)

Although John Muchly conceived the Electrical Numerical Integrator and Computer (ENIAC) to calculate artillery trajectories for the U.S. Army, it was Eckert who built it. It weighed thirty tons and contained 18,000 vacuum tubes and 70,000 resistors. Thus the computer age was born.



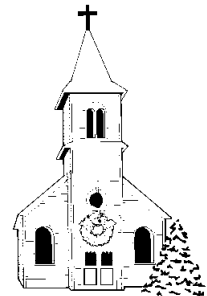
10. Peter the Great (1672-1725)

Posing as a sergeant, Peter the Great traveled through Holland, England and Austria in 1697-1698 and took note of all the great technological innovations of those countries. Then he went back home and launched a program to create Russia's first navy and modernized its military. He even designed some of the guns himself. He is known as the czar who built Russia into a great power.



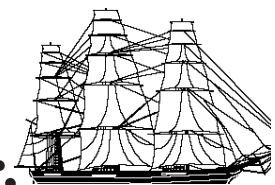
11. Francis of Assisi (1181-1226)

Assisi was the founder of the Franciscan Order. After a long illness, he turned to religion and decided to follow Jesus Christ's example of living in poverty. He began to preach and care for the sick and begged for his food daily. As his reputation spread, he attracted followers who wanted to share his life. They settled near a leper colony at Assisi, Italy, where they lived in huts. Two years after his death, he was made a saint.



12. Christopher Columbus (1451-1506)

Columbus was the most famous explorer of his time. He discovered the "New World" of the Americas. At first, he traveled west, hoping to reach Asia by crossing the Atlantic but instead he landed in the islands of the Caribbean. On his three subsequent trips, he explored more of America, not realizing he had not reached Asia.



The people mentioned above were all famous for one reason or another. Perhaps they were scientists who revolutionized the world or great leaders who unified lands. Or it could be they were just artists who brought us much enjoyment. No matter what the reason, many people consider them great because had it not been for them, the world might not be as we know it today. But as great as these people were, how do they compare to God, the greatest Creator of all? Why is it that we are quick to praise people for their great achievements and inventions when it is God who has given them the talent and provided all that is needed for them to "discover"? If it weren't for God, there would be no universe, much less anything else we are enjoying today. In what way do you appreciate the greatness of God?

Bible Background



More than two thousand years ago, God found a virtuous virgin according to His plan of salvation. After she became betrothed to Joseph, she conceived through the Holy Spirit before marriage. When Joseph became worried about Mary's pregnancy, God sent an angel to tell him, "Do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife...she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name **JESUS**, for He will save His people from their sins.' So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet..." (Mt 1:18-25). From this passage, we can see that Jesus Christ was the center of salvation. He was the one to fulfill the plan of salvation and save man from the hand of Satan. In the past four lessons, we learned about God's characteristics, creation, and magnificence. In the next few lessons, our theme will be God's salvation.

JESUS CHRIST IS THE SAVIOR OF THIS WORLD

A. Saving People from the Clutches of Sin

Rom 5:8
Rom 7:18, 24
1 Cor 15:54
2 Cor 1:9-10

B. Saving Man from the Bondage of the Law and Sin

1 Cor 15:56
Gal 4:4-6
Rom 5:15
Rom 6:23

JESUS CHRIST IS THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD TO COME

A. The Kingdom of Heaven

1. It is the spiritual kingdom of God. It is incorruptible and undefiled.
2. It is a place that does not fade away and is a place filled with the glory of God.
3. It is a place of everlasting peace where we will forever be with our Heavenly Father.
4. Like a tabernacle (Rev 21:1-8).
Like a great city (Rev 21:9-27).
Like a garden (Rev 22:1-5).

B. Entrance into the Heavenly Kingdom

All who believe in the gospel will be taken up into the kingdom of heaven (2 Tim 4:18).

**1.**

How has Jesus Christ saved us from the clutches of sin?

2.

What does it mean that we live under grace and not under the bondage of sin and the law?

3.

Use two images to describe what the kingdom of heaven is like. Use the Bible to support your answer.

4.

Why do you think that in addition to the earth, the heavens as we know it now will also be destroyed? Think about how this "old" heaven compares to the "new" heaven.

5.

Have you really thought about what will happen to you after you die? How important is it to you to be able to enter into God's heavenly kingdom? How can you strive to make that happen?

“God Touched Me”

Vuthy Nol-Mantia—Boston, Massachusetts, USA

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I testify. I was born in Cambodia, and I came to the United States in 1981, when I was nine years old. From 1975 to 1979 there was a genocide in Cambodia: out of 6 million people, 3.5 million died during those years. Every day, people died from starvation or execution—even my relatives and my loved ones. I always asked myself, what kind of God created people, and then allowed them to die like that? How can this God be a good God? Can't He see that all these people are dying?

After I came to this country, I started having nightmares. It was the same nightmare every night. Five evil spirits would grab me: two of them would tie my hands, two of them would tie my feet, and one would choke me. I was so afraid of going to sleep. Growing up, I worked two or three jobs because I didn't want to sleep. All this time, I was so fearful and lonely. When I read the Buddhist sayings that the world is full of suffering, I really believed it. I had been seeking the truth and looking for God all my life, but I still felt so lonely in my heart. I said to myself, “Life must be better than this.” In college, I went to parties where I saw people dancing, drinking, and having so much fun. I said, “Wow, this is what happiness is, huh?” So during my first and second years in college, I went out and I drank and I danced. When I went to parties, I would get up on the stage and dance like crazy. People would yell my name, “Vuthy! Vuthy!” But I couldn't find happiness. Finally, I said to myself, “This isn't the way.” I almost flunked out of school my sophomore year. When I realized what was happening to me, I settled down a little bit during my junior year, but I still felt so lonely. I thought that maybe, when I get out of college, I'll get a job and make some money, and that will make me happy. But after I graduated and got a good job, my heart still felt empty.

I was still constantly searching for the truth all this time, but without any success. For a while I went to a Christian church, where I was baptized for the first time. But God didn't move me and I didn't see God in that church, so I left. After that, my mother took me to a Greek Orthodox church where I was baptized the second time. But I fell asleep every time I went there, because they spoke in Greek and I couldn't understand what they were saying.

After I left this second church I said to myself, “Forget it, God doesn't exist.” I just focused on working at my agency. One of the women who worked there belongs to the True Jesus Church. One day she saw my Bible on my desk and asked me to attend a Bible study. I thought, “Why not, I have nothing to lose,” and went to the Bible study. At the end, when they knelt down and prayed in tongues, I was really scared. One of the sisters must have been pray-

ing for me, because the next week I couldn't wait to go to Bible study. At that meeting, I felt God move me. I started going to Bible study, and then I started to attend church services regularly. I felt that God was there, even though we gathered in only a prayer house. I started to pray sincerely every night because I felt the movement of God. Every biblical teaching that I learned and followed came true.

One night when I was sleeping, God's power came over me and said, “Vuthy, get up and pray.” So I said, “Okay,” and I started to pray. I said, “Hallelujah,” and this power came into me, and I started to speak in tongues. I started to weep from joy because I felt so much love and mercy from God. This was the first time I felt joy in my heart, and I knew it was from God. During that prayer God made me realize what kind of a person I was, and all the sinful things I had done in my high school and college years. While I was praying, God moved me to say, “Turn to 1 Peter.” I didn't even know where 1 Peter was in the Bible. So I got up, switched on the lights, and turned to 1 Peter, chapter 1. As I was reading, the words of God came alive, almost like they were three-dimensional. Every word came to me like it was living, and it really touched me.

A few days later, my nightmares came back again. I hadn't had those nightmares in a couple of years. They were the same five spirits, and this time they were choking me especially hard. I couldn't breathe, I couldn't yell, I couldn't scream. But I said, “In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ,” and they left. I asked the brothers and sisters in church why I still had nightmares despite having received the Holy Spirit. They asked me if I had any idols in my house. I did have a little gold Buddha head, and they told me that I had to throw it away. So in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I flushed it down the toilet.

The next night I had another nightmare, but this time there was only one spirit. This big, black spirit was choking me, and I couldn't see its face. It really scared me because this was something new. I said, “In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ,” and I started choking the spirit back. I turned the spirit over on my bed, and I saw that its face was corroded and full of worms. Then suddenly, it disappeared. Again I asked the sister at church why I still had these nightmares. I didn't know what was causing them; I didn't think I had anything else in my house. She said that I should check again. So I searched and searched, and finally I found another Buddha head that my mom had given me a long time ago. I had forgotten that it was in my jewelry box. So again in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I flushed it down the toilet.

After I was baptized in the True Jesus Church, I started to tell my father about God. My father is seventy-three years old. Ever since he was a young man in Cambodia, he has always practiced witchcraft. It was known all over town that no one could kill him by shooting or stabbing





him. When I was a child I felt proud of this, but I didn't really believe it. When my family came to the U.S. in 1981, we were terribly mistreated. Our house was burned down twice. The second time, my father went outside and started fighting with the arsonists. One of them tried to hit my father with a baseball bat, but my father put his hand up and broke it in half. After that, I started to believe that my father really did use witchcraft. The first time my father went to a Christian church after he came to America, he became so sick that he almost died. His "spirit master" of witchcraft warned him that he would kill him if he continued to go to church. So from 1981 until 1999, my father never went to church.

In June 1999, I went fishing with my father. By then, I'd been regularly attending services in the True Jesus Church. I really believed that God exists and I felt His love. So I said to myself, "This is a great opportunity for me to talk to my father about God." I told him, "I've never asked you to do anything in my entire life. But I've found God, and I want you to come to church only five times. If after five times you don't feel anything, you don't ever have to come back." He agreed, "Okay son, I'll do it for you." That same night, my niece was in my father's room. Suddenly, she started screaming, "Grandma, grandpa, someone's trying to kill me!" My father looked around and there was no one there. Then he realized that it was his spirit master again. He told me about it the next day, but I told him not to worry because God is all-powerful, and only He can take away life.

The next Friday at Bible study, I asked the brothers and sisters what I should do about all the Buddhism paraphernalia in my father's room. They advised me to pray and to remove it, but who would dare go into his room and remove all of it? My father wouldn't do it, and I didn't have enough faith to do it myself. So the only thing we could do was pray. Thank God, my father came to church that Saturday. After the prayer, I asked him how he felt. He said,

"I felt cold and full of chills." I thought, that doesn't sound right. Sure enough, I found out that he was wearing a big Buddha head around his neck. So I told him, "That's the problem, you need to get rid of that. You need to get rid of all the other things in your room, too, if you really want to pray to God." So with God's help, my father removed all his Buddhism paraphernalia (including his necklace), and he began to pray every night.

The next Sabbath, my father came to church and knelt down to pray again. I had never described to him what the Holy Spirit felt like. After the prayer, he said that he felt this tingling all through his body, and it felt really good. I really thanked God. During that same week, my father's left leg began to hurt so badly that he couldn't even walk. He didn't understand why this was happening to him. On the way to church he said to me, "If your God is the true God, let Him heal my leg." So I thought, "We have him, Lord." My father is a man of his word. I knew that all we would have to do was to have faith and pray, and God would heal him. His leg hurt for a week, and then one night he woke up crying from the pain. The minute he got up, he felt this power from his foot all the way to his knee, and he was able to walk. He called and told me about it, and I was so joyful. The brothers and sisters at church had prayed really hard for him.

On our way to the next Sabbath service, he told me, "Son, I will follow your faith; I have already told your mother that I will follow your faith and follow your God." I really thank God. My father has practiced Buddhism all his life, just like his grandparents and great-grandparents before him. For him to believe in God and come to church is a miracle. Now my father, mother, and brother are attending Sabbath services regularly. God's love and mercy is beyond my imagination. When we pray with sincerity and faith, everything is possible through God. May all the glory and praise be unto our Lord Jesus.

Questions to Think About

1. *In which ways did this brother receive salvation on earth?*
2. *How do we know that this brother feels hope for eternal life in heaven?*
3. *Do you think it is easier for an atheist or a person who practices another religion (i.e. Buddhism) to convert to Christianity? Explain your answer.*



warm up

Have you ever made a promise that you couldn't keep? What were the reasons behind your breaking this promise? Was it intentional or not?

prophecy

prophecies in the old testament

1. *God to the serpent and Adam and Eve (Gen 3:14-15)*
2. *God to Abraham (Gen 22:16-18)*
3. *Jacob to his sons (Gen 49:1-10, Isa 9:6)*
4. *The saints of old in Psalms (Ps 89:27, 29)*
5. *God through the prophet Jeremiah (Jer 23:5-6)*
6. *God through the prophet Micah (Mic 5:2)*
7. *God through the prophet Isaiah (Isa 52:10)*

how salvation has been fulfilled since the beginning of time

fulfilled

1. ***Abraham's Descendants Are Chosen***
His holy nation is established and His people chosen.
2. ***The Holy Spirit Establishes the Apostolic Church***
In the New Testament, God sent salvation to all those who believed in Him.
3. ***The True Church in the End Times***
Today as we have the Holy Spirit, members of the True Jesus Church have the responsibility of preaching the gospel to all the earth.



what's your response?

Pick two of the Old Testament prophecies and describe how they have been fulfilled in God's plan of salvation.

#1

Why do you think God chose Abraham as our forefather? Why was it necessary to pick someone or some race?

#2



#4

Actually, God did build up the True Church of the end, but this time in the east. How much do you know about the history of the True Jesus Church established in mainland China in 1917?

Do you think there is some significance in picking the Israelites as the chosen race? What if God had chosen the Chinese a long time ago? Would that have changed anything?

#3



A pretty woman was serving a life sentence in prison. Angry and resentful about her situation, she had decided that she would rather die than to live another year in prison.

Over the years she had become good friends with one of the prison caretakers. His job, among others, was to bury those prisoners who died in a graveyard just outside the prison walls. When a prisoner died, the caretaker rang a bell, which was heard by everyone. The caretaker then got the body and put it in a casket. Next, he entered his office to fill out the death certificate before returning to the casket to nail the lid shut. Finally, he took the casket onto a wagon to take it to the graveyard and bury it. Knowing this routine, the woman devised a plan to escape and shared it with the caretaker. The next time the bell rang, the woman would leave her cell and sneak into the dark room where the coffins were kept. She would slip into the coffin with the dead body while the caretaker was filling out the death certificate. When the caretaker returned, he would nail the coffin shut and take it outside the prison, with the woman and the dead body in it. He would then bury the coffin. The woman knew that there would be enough air for her to breathe until later in the evening when the caretaker would return to the graveyard under the cover of darkness and dig up the coffin, setting her free. The caretaker was reluctant to go along with this plan but since he had become good friends with the woman over the years, he agreed to help her.

The woman waited several weeks before someone in the prison died. She was asleep in her cell when she heard the bell. She got up, picked the lock of her cell and slowly walked down the hallway. She was near-

ly caught a couple of times. Her heart was beating fast. She opened the door to the darkened room where the coffins were kept. Quietly, in the dark, she found the coffin that contained the dead body and carefully climbed into the coffin. She pulled the lid shut to wait for the caretaker to come and nail the lid shut. Soon she heard the footsteps and the pounding of the hammer and nails. Even though she was very uncomfortable in the coffin with the dead body, she knew that with each nail she was one step closer to freedom.

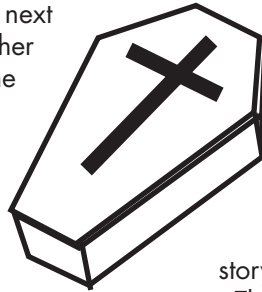
The coffin was lifted onto the wagon and taken outside to the graveyard. She could feel the coffin being lowered to the ground. She didn't make a sound as the coffin hit the bottom of the grave with a thud. Finally, she heard the dirt dropping onto the top of the wooden coffin. She knew it was only a matter of time until she would be free at last.

After several minutes of absolute silence, she began to laugh. She was free! She was free! Feeling curious, she decided to light a match to find out the identity of the dead person. To her horror, she discovered that she was lying next to the dead caretaker. The final scene faded to black as you heard the woman screaming.

Typical of Alfred Hitchcock movies, this story has an unexpected ending, albeit an unhappy one. This woman thought that she had everything figured out and could escape her fate in the prison cell. However, after all her careful planning, she only came to discover that she could not escape death. Although this story is just fiction, it does serve to remind us that no matter how hard we try, we don't have control over sin and death. The only way to freedom and true salvation is through God alone. Only He can offer us eternal happiness. In addition, this lesson has taught us that God has the best plan laid out, one that can not be ruined or unexpectedly changed. Our salvation is guaranteed so long as we choose to walk on the heavenly path.

The Coffin

(This story comes from an episode of an old "Alfred Hitchcock Presents" television show.)



Questions to think about...

- 1) This story has taught us that we can never make a plan that has no holes in it. However, there are things we can do to ensure that we stay on the pathway to heaven. What are you presently doing to make sure of that?
- 2) Do you ever feel like this woman, that you need to take matters into your own hands? Do you find it difficult to rely on God to solve your problems, no matter how great or small? Why or why not?



warmup

A wife and the children were dressed and ready to leave for church one cold winter morning. They urged the father to go with them, for they loved him. The man snapped back, "Not me. I don't believe in that religion stuff." For many years, the man's wife had been trying to tell him about Jesus Christ and the salvation He offers, how God's Son had become a human being in order to show us the way to heaven. But each time, the man refused to go. The family left for church and the man was all alone in his cozy country home. As he looked outside at the snowy scene, he turned to warm himself by the fire. But as he turned, he caught a glimpse of two cats walking slowly past his window. "They must be freezing," the man thought. He put on his coat and opened the door. The blast of cold air sent a shiver down his spine. He called for the cats to come inside with him but his voice only seemed to scare them away. By the time the man took a few steps toward them, the cats had run away. It was too late. "Well, I did everything I could," the man muttered to himself. "What else could I have done? Maybe if I could become a cat, then I could tell and show them. They would have to believe me then, unless they were fools." Just as he reached the door to his house, the church bells rang in the distance. The man paused for a second to listen. Then he went inside by the fire and began to weep.

Salvation Fulfilled Through Christ

- Jesus Christ is the beginning of the gospel
- No salvation except through the Lord Jesus
- Atonement for sin through blood
- Salvation fulfilled on the cross
- Remember the cross
- Draw near to God

Salvation Is For Everyone

- God's salvation is for all creation regardless of gender, age or race, whether in poverty or in prosperity.
- Salvation is a gift from God. We receive this gift in faith. We do not choose God, but God chooses us.
- Salvation was freely given to us. It is not by our deeds or wisdom, but by the grace of God. Therefore, we have no reason to boast.
- In faith and accompanied with action, we receive this salvation from God.
- Steps toward salvation are as follows: believe in the Lord Jesus, repent, baptize into Jesus Christ and seek after the promised Holy Spirit.
- True believers should have holy love and pray for all people to receive salvation.
- Those of us who have received grace from our Lord should seize every opportunity to spread the good news.



answer these questions

Give biblical support that Jesus was the beginning of the gospel.

1

How was salvation fulfilled on the cross?

2

How is Jesus Christ's blood able to wash away our sins?

3

Describe four ways Jesus Christ suffered in agony while being crucified.

4

What does salvation represent to you on a personal level?

5

Have you ever thought about what you might say to someone in order to preach the good news? If not, now is a good time to think about it. What would you include that would be most important? Are there any particular Bible verses that would be helpful? Can you think of anyone that could benefit from listening to your words now?

6

We know that we should pray for everyone in this world to receive salvation. But how can we go about it so that our prayers are really meaningful and effective?

7

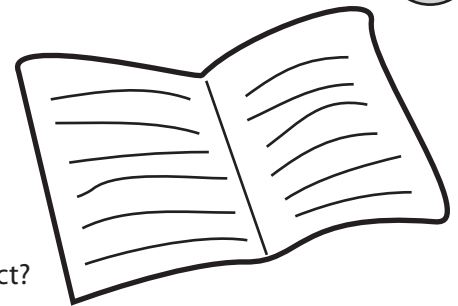
KNOW YOUR DOCTRINES



We all know the importance of salvation. If we are already a believer, then we should feel blessed. But there are still many people in the world who have yet to know who God really is. Although we may not have the opportunity every day to spread God's message of love, we should be prepared when the chance presents itself. Take a moment and look at the questions below. Do you know the answers to these basic doctrines and understandings about God? If not, now is the time to brush up on your knowledge so that you will always be ready to preach the good news!

1. Name the ten basic doctrines or articles of faith.
2. What are the four main sections of the Old Testament?
3. What does the apocalypse refer to?

4. What does it mean when we say Jesus Christ is the incarnation of God?
5. What are the necessary steps for salvation?
6. What is sin?
7. What is the biblical way of water baptism?
8. How can we explain that water baptism is not just a symbolic act?
9. What does the word sacrament mean?
10. Name five ways the Holy Spirit plays a role in our lives.
11. What is the significance of using only one bread during Holy Communion?
12. Why will Jesus Christ come again? What is His purpose?





What would you spend your time doing if you **knew** that Jesus Christ was going to come again in *one week*? What if it were going to happen in **one month**?

How about **one year** or *a decade*?

a study in 2 Thessalonians:

Ch. 1: Witnesses of Persecution

- a. great faith
- b. suffering for the kingdom of God
- c. the oppressors will be punished
- d. be determined

Ch. 2: Standing Firm in Hope

- a. do not be deceived
- b. the man of lawlessness
- c. standing firm in hope

Ch. 3: Maturity in Faith

- a. prayer
- b. daily living
- c. be loving

two problems:

#1: Misunderstandings Concerning the Last Days

Many of the believers in Thessalonica thought that Jesus Christ was going to come again in their lifetime. In fact, some people were impersonating Paul and spreading false teachings concerning the last days (2 Thess 2:1-3).

#2: Incorrect Attitudes

As a result of the believers' misunderstandings, some people decided to quit their jobs and wait for Jesus Christ to return. But instead of making themselves useful, they ended up living off others.

Correct Understanding:

Correct Attitude in Daily Living:

awaiting your response

1

Why do you think God has not revealed the exact time of Jesus Christ's return?

2

Why do you think some believers quit their jobs and loafed around?

3

What do you think is the most important message of Paul's second letter to the Thessalonians?

4

What are some of the correct attitudes we should have while waiting for the Lord's second coming?

5

Remember the list you made at the beginning of the lesson. Is there anything on it you would add or delete now? Why or why not?

Strike a Healthy Balance



If every day, you had \$86,400 deposited into your bank account, what would you do with it? You could use it any way you wanted to, the only stipulation being whatever you had left over at the end of the day could not be saved up for the following day. That means that every day you check your account, you will have \$86,400 but you would have to use it up every day in order to maximize your benefits. Some of you might be thinking that it would be best to withdraw all the money so that you could just store it up as cash. That's smart, but what if that option wasn't available? Then we would really think twice about how we could use the money to our advantage. In fact, we do have that kind of money in our possession every day. Each day has 86,400 seconds. But just like the bank account, you can't store up time. If you waste it, it can not be saved for the next day. If we really think about it, time is just as precious as looking at \$86,400. The Thessalonians thought so too, only they didn't use their time wisely. In fact, they weren't the only ones.

More recently in history, in the late 1990s, many cults and religious orders truly believed that Jesus Christ was going to come again because of the year 2000. Some of you may remember a certain cult that lived in Waco, Texas, U.S.A. The people who belonged to this religious sect obviously held some wrong beliefs to begin with, since one man was their leader and many of the women



were his wives. In the end they killed themselves, thinking they were on their way to heaven. There was also another Chinese sect who called themselves the Gateway to Heaven (also located in Texas). They thought that Jesus Christ was going to come again soon and judge the world. Many of the believers sold their homes, quit their jobs and just basically waited for the clock to tick away. But the millennium came and went and nothing happened. Although we don't hear much about them today, it makes us wonder what was going through their minds then and what they are thinking now.

These people were not that different than some of the Thessalonians, in the respect that they held some wrong attitudes concerning the second coming of Christ and how they chose to spend their time waiting. We may not know that exact date but we do know that it is coming soon. But soon could mean tomorrow or next year or even the next millennium. Our concept of time is not that of God's. Basically, we don't know. But that doesn't mean that we should sell our homes and just wait or do the opposite, living our lives freely and not worry about God at all. What we really need to do is to strike a healthy balance. We know that there are 86,400 seconds at our disposal every day. What we do with it can either glorify God or not. At this point in your lives, the best way to use your time is to strike a healthy balance between faith and school. We listed some things we would do if we knew the world was going to end next month. Obviously school would not be all that important. But since we don't know and shouldn't guess when the Lord will come again, we need to work hard at our academics in the meantime. Even getting good grades can bring glory to God. Can you think of some ways it can glorify God? At the same time, we need to be able to hold on strong to our faith. Although it is not always easy to do, we need to pray and read the Bible on a regular basis. Many of you are thinking about college and leaving home is a very real option. How can you ensure that you can balance your faith and school work in such a way that best shines for God?

The way we choose to spend even one second of our lives is important to God. When we can strike a healthy balance and truly live for God, then we will reap the rewards of the heavenly kingdom.





A. The Definition of Church

The English word for "church" originated from the Greek word "kyriakon doma," which means "house belonging to the Lord." This seems to suggest that the church is just simply a place of worship. The actual Greek word used in the New Testament is "Ekklesia," which refers to the Christian believers themselves. This shows that the original meaning of the term "church" was the Christians, as opposed to merely a place of worship.

B. The Significance of the Church

- a. The church is the true vine in which the believers are branches. Believers are to abide in the vine in order to bear much fruit (Jn 15:1-6).
- b. The church is the fold of the Lord. All believers will be in one flock and belong to one shepherd (Jn 10:1-18).
- c. The church is the kingdom of God, and the house of God. Believers are the members of the household of God, and the fellow citizens of the heavenly kingdom (1 Tim 3:15; Eph 2:18-19; Heb 12:22).
- d. 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).

C. The Qualifications for a Spiritual Church

- a. A spiritual church must be built on the foundation of the truth.
- b. A spiritual church must have the abidance of the Holy Spirit (Eph 1:13; Gal 4:6; Rom 8:9,16).
- c. A spiritual church is accompanied by many signs and wonders.

List Bible verses and examples of these points below:

Notes:

Notes:



Take notes for these frequently asked questions about our church.

Why is our church called the True Jesus Church?

Lined writing area for the first question.

The church of the apostolic times was the true church but it did not have a name. Why should the true church today establish a name? Does a name even have any significance?

Lined writing area for the second question.

part 2: The True Jesus Church

faq

How can God be so narrow minded as to save only one church and to reject all others who love Him just as much?

Lined writing area for the third question.

If the True Jesus Church really is the true church, then why does it have such a small membership?

Lined writing area for the fourth question.



questions regarding the true church:

start

Is it necessary to join a church after believing in Jesus Christ? Is the church directly related to salvation?

How does one choose a church? What are the qualifications for the church of God?

truth

What is the relationship between the Holy Spirit and the church? Must a church have the Holy Spirit?

On a scale of 1 to 10 (with 10 being the most convicted), how strongly do you feel you are in the true church, that this is the only church that will save? Explain your reasons.



Hallelujah, in the holy name of Jesus Christ I bear testimony. I originated from a Buddhist family. In the past, neither had I ever heard of Jesus Christ nor read the Bible. But I knew that there was a God. So whenever I met any difficulties and had any requests, I would pray to the Chinese deities. At every religious festival my family would prepare a lot of food. So I had the concept that eating food already offered to idols would bring me peace. In reality, that is not the case. When I was ten, my family visited my grandmother in Perak, Malaysia. It was then that we were introduced to a Chinese Taoist Sect and were persuaded by our grandmother to believe in it. My first contact with the true church started after I graduated from high school and began to study English in college.

I met Brother Yong from the True Jesus Church. At that time, his own faith was not good; he smoked, used swear words, was ill-tempered and did not attend service at all. He did not tell me that he was a Christian. On one occasion, on discovering my religion he remarked that that god I worshiped was false. In March 1993, both of us enrolled for a university program in Sabah. In college we met Brother Louis Laiu who was our classmate. During one of the lunch breaks, we sat at the same table and during our conversation, we discovered that Yong and Louis were both from the True Jesus Church. From then onwards, Louis encouraged us to attend church services. I remembered the first time I went to the church in Likas, KK, Sabah. During the prayer, the tongue-speaking frightened me off and I felt the impulse to run. However, out of respect for others, I stayed. From then on, every time I attended any service, I always hoped that it would end quickly because I did not understand the truth and I became increasingly bored. Every time when Louis tried to explain the truth to me, I

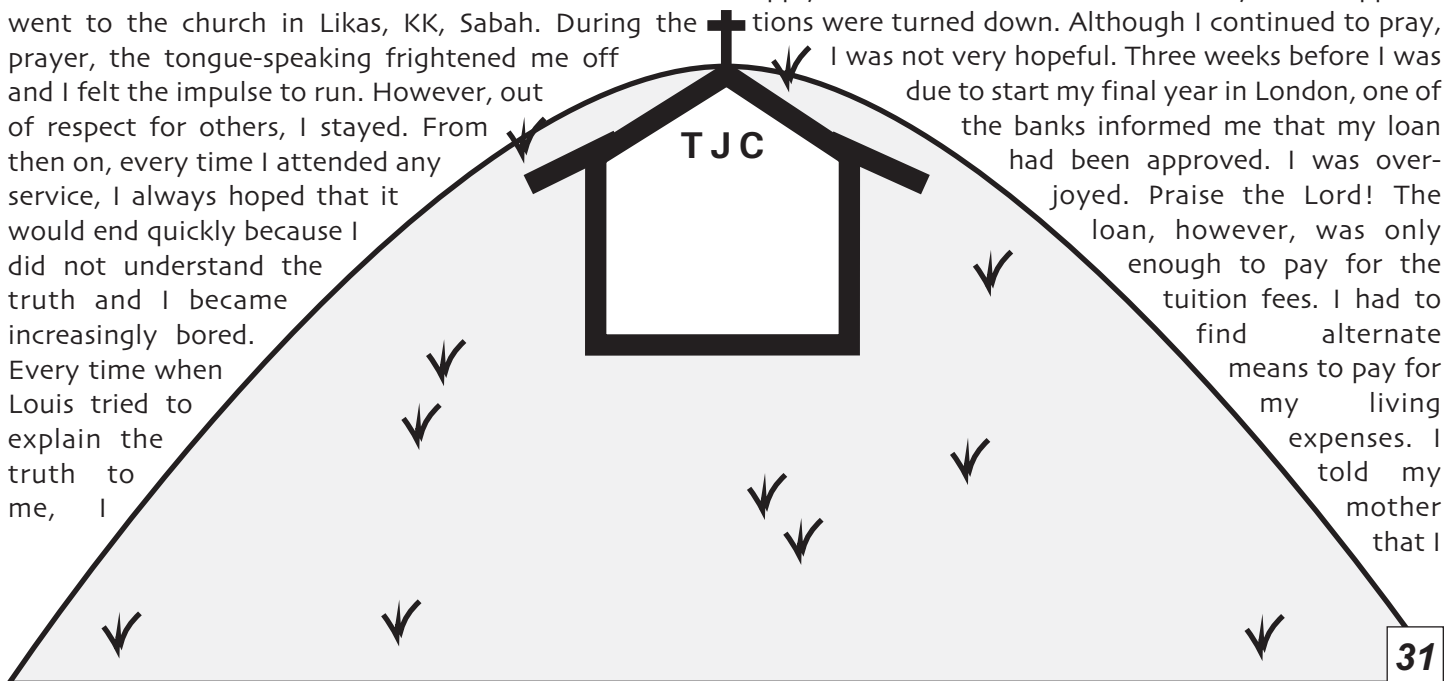
HOW I CAME TO THE
TRUE CHURCH

--ivy siah

would ask many difficult questions to challenge him and put him off. I held the concept that all of us were worshiping God, albeit in different ways. I would not slander or discriminate against other religions. Prior to my conversion to Christianity, I was a religious teacher at the Taoist Sect. One Sunday, I was teaching the children at the temple as usual. After classes, Yong came to take me home and told me that he had to send his aunt to the church for the spiritual convocation. We had to make a trip to the church first. We attended the service. During the prayer, Yong asked me to go forward and ask for the Holy Spirit. I asked the Lord to forgive my sins and grant me salvation and eternal life. Miraculously, not long after, I began to vibrate and tears streamed down my cheeks uncontrollably. I felt

strange and tried to stop, which I did. Later, some believers told me that I had been moved by the Holy Spirit. I kept this experience to myself. When I resumed praying later on, I encountered the same experience. Whenever I felt lonely, empty and helpless, there was always a source of strength like a warm current filling, comforting and soothing me. The emotions I felt at the same time were beyond description. Around that same time, my family could not afford to send me overseas to complete my final year of college but with the Lord's help, the impossible became the possible. The principal of my college knew of my plight and encouraged me to apply for loans from the banks. All my initial applica-

tions were turned down. Although I continued to pray, I was not very hopeful. Three weeks before I was due to start my final year in London, one of the banks informed me that my loan had been approved. I was overjoyed. Praise the Lord! The loan, however, was only enough to pay for the tuition fees. I had to find alternate means to pay for my living expenses. I told my mother that I





needed 32,000 Ringit (Malaysian dollar) but she prepared 45,000 Ringit for me. At the time, the value of the Ringit took a plunge and what she prepared for me was just sufficient to cover my expenses. From this I learned that “God’s grace is sufficient for me,” as the scriptures tell us that we should “seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and the rest will be added unto us.” Under the guidance of God, I successfully completed my bachelor’s degree. In December 1997, the London church held its first Evangelistic Training Camp. One week before that I was staying in the church on the Sabbath day as usual. On that night, I dreamt that I came to a temple and in it was an idol. The whole atmosphere was engulfed in smoke. A giant mosquito flew into the idol’s ear, seemingly to bring a complaint against me. At once, the countenance of the idol changed and it grew bigger and flew towards me. I clasped my hands together and said, “Hallelujah! In the name of Jesus I pray...” Before I could finish, I woke up. I was in deep fear and immediately prayed in silence. I could not understand the significance of the dream then. One week later, several sisters and I were sleeping in the sister’s dormitory. At night, I had another dream. I saw a huge wall and a black shadow came forth from the wall. It wore a black robe and had a long beard. It said to me, “I am god!” I said to myself, “God? Is this what God looks like?” I always thought He was holy and white. At that time, I wanted to pray but I could not. I struggled to wake up from my sleep. Suddenly, I heard a loud boom sound. I woke up and I was very frightened and again I prayed. The next day, I told Yong about my dream and on questioning me, he found out that I still had a talisman in my handbag. I immediately approached a deacon who removed the talisman in the name of Jesus Christ. On the first day of

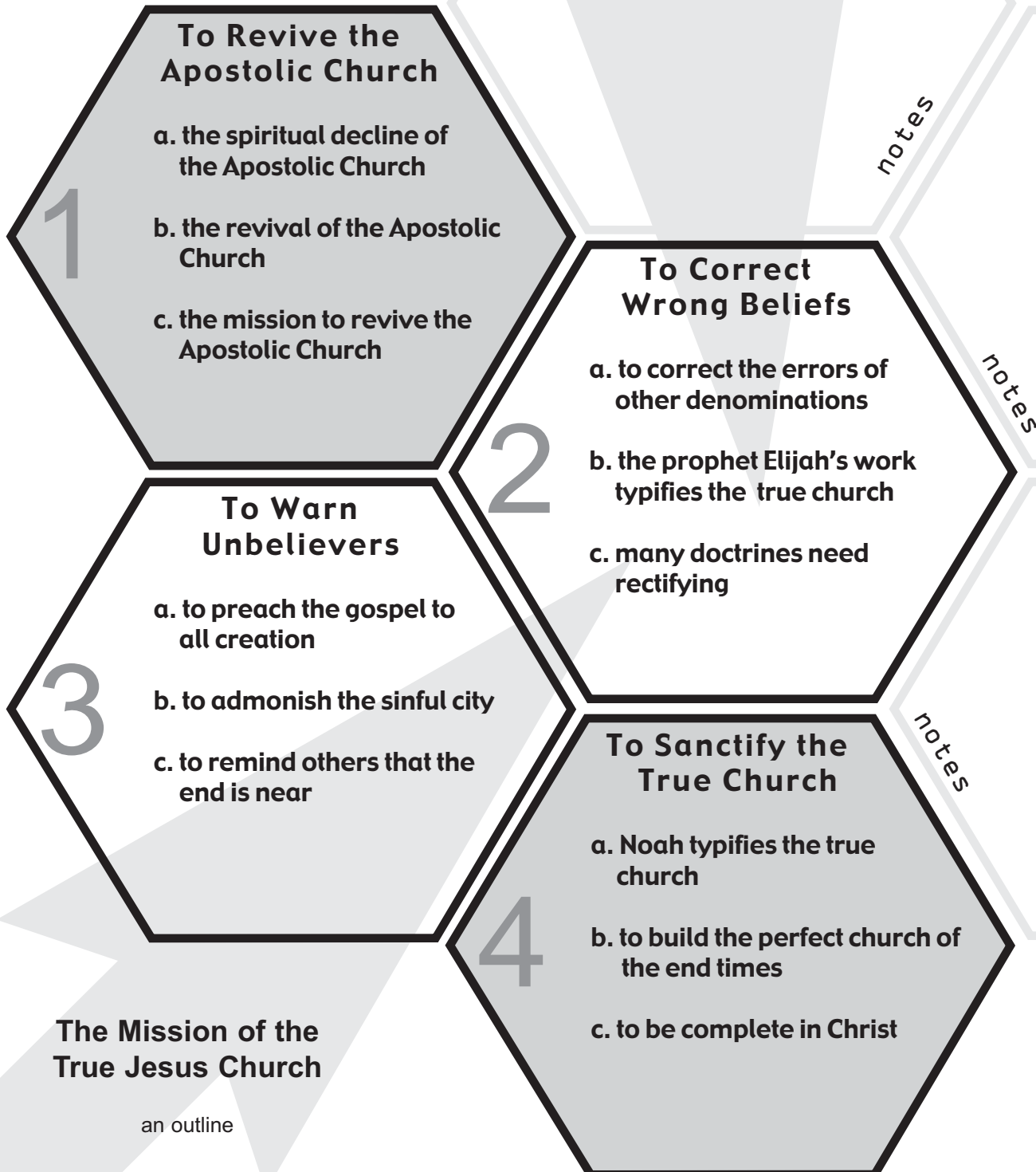
the spiritual convocation, I was greatly moved by the Holy Spirit. During the prayer session on the last day, I prayed earnestly, asking God to forgive my sins. Suddenly, I recalled my unrefined attitude towards my father and I became very remorseful. If I could not even respect my father, how could I worship the heavenly Father? I continued to beg for forgiveness. Then I felt a power coming from above. The Holy Spirit filled me and I started to speak in tongues. I was at a loss for words to describe the joy I was experiencing. On February 8, 1998 I was baptized. I was the only baptismal candidate that day. The weather was gloomy and it was windy that morning. I felt very cold and asked the preacher if I could postpone the baptism. He turned down my request. All I could do then was ask the Lord for courage. After the prayer, as everyone was preparing to sing hymns, the clouds parted and the sun shone right on us. It gave me hope of becoming a new person. Everyone was deeply moved by the scene. I am only an ordinary person and yet God allowed me to receive such a great blessing. God loves me and I deeply believe that He also loves my family. My mother had an operation and because of the prayers offered by the brethren, she experienced a speedy recovery. Although I have only believed in Jesus Christ for a short time, the little things in my life have allowed me to feel His abiding presence, guidance and protection. My greatest wish is for my family and friends to believe in Jesus Christ and receive eternal life. I thank God for guiding and choosing me and allowing me to experience Him—the only most high, true and living God. I thank Him also for allowing me to finally see the truth that there is only one ark, and only one way to salvation. May all glory be ascribed to the Lord. Amen.

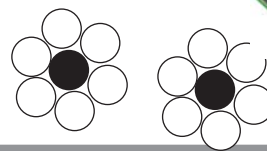
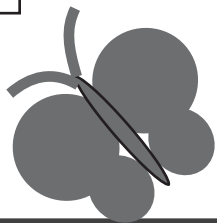
Questions to Think About...

1. Many of you were baptized as children so it is hard to “feel” like this sister did when she came to know God on her own. But have you ever had any kinds of experiences where you felt like this member, knowing that God loves you and chose you for His own?
2. This testimony has reminded us of how important it is to pray with God’s Spirit. He reveals and teaches us more than we can possibly imagine. Do you know someone who does not have the Holy Spirit yet? Remember this person in your prayer so that he or she may feel the power of God too.



It is easy for us to look to the ministers and pastors of the church to spread the gospel of peace and joy. After all, it is their job. But in fact, Jesus Christ commanded all His disciples to preach the truth. "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mk 16:15). Everyone of us has the responsibility to share the good news. That is why it is important for us to know the mission of the True Church. Only when we live every day with the Lord Jesus' commission in mind can we truly live Christ-like lives. In this lesson, we will look at the four great missions of the church: to revive the apostolic church, to correct wrong beliefs, to warn the unbelievers and to sanctify the church.





What are four great missions of the true church?

How urgent do you feel it is to warn other people of the coming of the judgment day? On a scale of 1 to 10 (with 10 being most urgent), explain your answer.

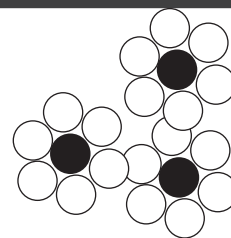
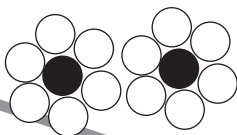
List two doctrines that are being incorrectly preached today that need rectifying. Do you have enough biblical knowledge to preach to other people the Truth regarding these doctrines?



What does it mean to you to sanctify the church? If you are not sure, here are some references to help you: Eph 4:11-16, Rev 19:7-8, 21:1-27.

What caused the early church to gradually lose the abidance of the Holy Spirit?

What can you do specifically to revive the apostolic church? Correct the wrong beliefs? Warn the unbelievers? Sanctify the church?





our mission

When we tried to put the puzzle pieces together earlier (see Warm-Up section), each piece, no matter how small, was important. Similarly, although each of the missions of the true church seem overwhelming and hard to achieve on our own, when every believer puts in their effort, the pieces will come together. The problem is that usually we depend on other people to do the work because we think we are not knowledgeable enough or talented enough. After all, the pastor is the one being paid to preach and minister, and there are many adults in the church who are more experienced. But the fact is that doing any kind of work for God is our duty and responsibility, not just something we want to do when we feel capable of doing it. In 1 Corinthians 12:7-11, it describes very clearly that we are all “ministers” because we have all been given gifts to use. In Paul’s letters, he lists some of the gifts: wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing powers, prophecy, discernment, tongues, interpretation, administration, leadership, teaching and miracles. As we read through the list, most of us automatically think, “There is no way I am going to prophesize or perform miracles.” But saying that we don’t have any of these gifts doesn’t mean we are being humble. Actually, it’s telling God that what He says isn’t true, that we don’t have any of the gifts He says He has given us. It’s possible that we are in the process of developing those talents or we just keep pushing it aside because we feel inadequate, lazy or just too young.

Questions to Think About...

1. *What might some of your spiritual gifts be? If you don’t know, how can you find out?*
2. *What if you don’t like the gifts that you have or if it seems like everyone else has better ones?*
3. *If you could get more involved in the Junior 2 class or youth ministry, what would you change or add?*

...

The church is always saying that the youth or the children are the future. Although that is true, it is more accurate to say that the children are the church’s present. Otherwise, we will always put off serving God because we think we are just too young or inexperienced. Think about the things that you can do today for the church. More importantly, think about how to motivate yourself so that you don’t have to wait for someone else to invite you to get involved. That is the true spirit of serving God.



Churches:

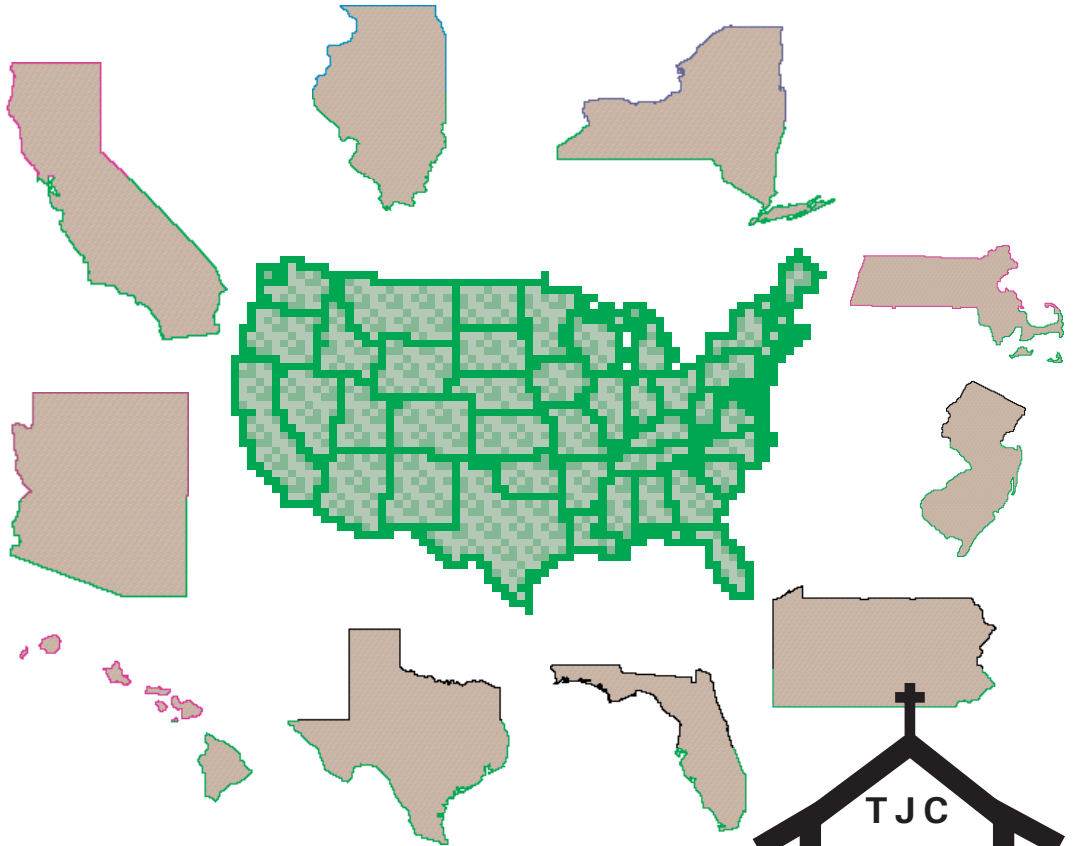
USA

Honolulu, Pacifica, Elizabeth, Baldwin Park, El Monte, Garden Grove, Houston, Queens, San Jose, Phoenix, Dallas, Irvine, Philadelphia, Chicago, Tampa, Canoga Park, Cerritos, Hillsborough

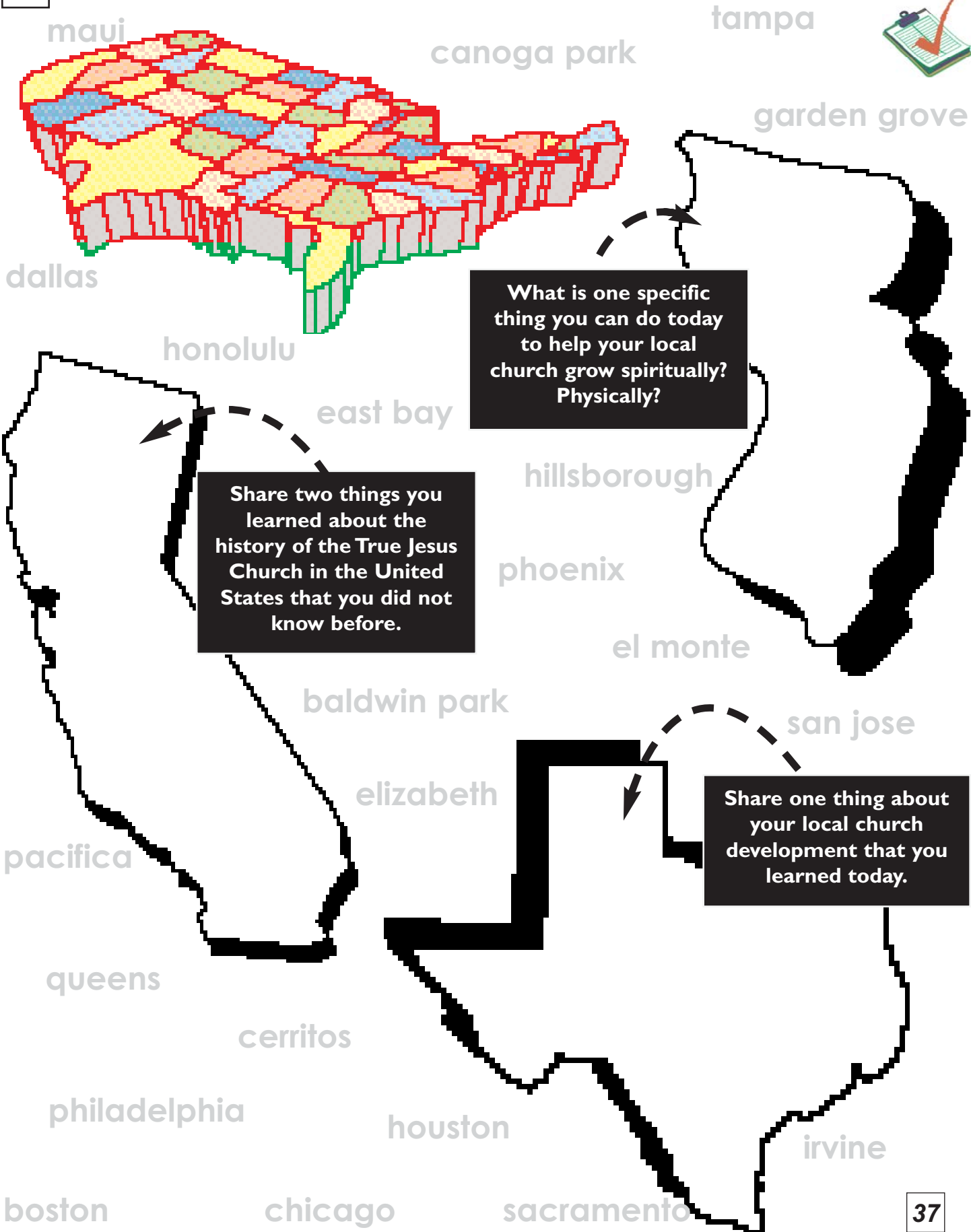
Prayer Houses:

Maui, Boston, Sacramento, East Bay

Jot down items in your own church's history that you did not know here.



Jot down neat historical details of the other churches here.



**hymn quote:**

Share your faith, share the peace and joy you know.

Share the light in a world of darkness.

Share the truth that can set all people free.

Be the love of God, let Him live in you and me.

share your faith: Paul

Let's take a look at some of Paul's qualities that at first glance seem to prevent him from serving God, but were used by God in the end to spread the good news.

- he was a fanatic
- he was stubborn
- he was well-educated

Notes: _____

share the light: Jesus

Sharing the light means shining in places of darkness. We know that this world is full of darkness. But it is especially bleak for those who seem to have no hope. Jesus Christ understood that in order to fulfill God's work, He had to shine the light. 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)

share the truth: Philip

Although there are not many passages in the Bible that specifically refer to Philip (the evangelist chosen as one of the first seven deacons, Acts 6:5), the few that are mentioned teach us a lot about what is important when sharing the truth.

- he was sensitive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit
- he evangelized one-on-one
- he was not prejudiced about whom he preached to

Notes: _____

be the love of God

- God's love is forgiving
- God's love is beyond measure and will never run out
- God's love is sacrificial

Notes: _____

Love



share your faith...

Share two traits that Paul possessed that seemed to prevent him from serving God but were later used to spread the gospel.

Explain how Jesus shared the light while in this world.

Describe what the love of God is like.

Why was Philip a good evangelist? List two qualities and support your answer.



transformed

God has interesting ways to use people to do His work, as we have found out from this lesson. Sometimes, it's hard for us to imagine that we can do work for God too. Maybe we think we are too immature or have too many "bad" qualities for God to even bother using us. Even if that were the case, God can transform us into a usable vessel, just as He changed Saul into one of the most successful missionaries. For example, He can turn our addictions into a thirst for God's truth. Or transform our lust for things in the world into a passionate love for lost people. Whatever the case, only God can make it happen. But we also need to know this and believe it. If we keep telling ourselves that there is no way God could ever change or use us in a way that is important, we aren't letting God in to do His work. As Saul was transformed, he became obedient and did not resist the Lord Jesus. Similarly, we must also be "transformed by the renewing of [y]our minds" (Rom 12:2).

Think about the following questions:

1. Is there a "bad" quality that you possess that you think might be hindering you or preventing you from fully participating in God's work? For example, you might possess a lot of anger or you are too involved with school to put God first. How can you let God transform this quality into something useful?
2. Do you have a sense right now that God wants to change you more deeply than you've allowed Him to? Share your thoughts. If you feel that God does want to use you but you aren't sure how to accept His will or 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 evangelism involves and how can you ensure that you keep getting closer to that level?

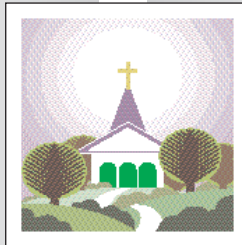
Do the people around you see that you are a follower of the Lord Jesus? There have been many testimonies where the parents or family members of new believers object to their coming to church. But because of the believers' transformation and unwavering faith, demonstrated through their love, the objections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

I got baptized when I was 16 years old. It seemed so long ago but the memory still remains. My parents are worshipers 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 ever 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 and 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 and 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 to enter 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 got 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 2 Peter 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 3 years. Every week, I was either hit or scolded at. 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 on-going 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 fervently 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 puts his lamp under the 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 I couldn't even 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 to 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!

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

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?*

It is extraordinarily easy to waste time, extraordinarily easy to waste a day, and ultimately, extraordinarily easy to waste a **life**.

What does it mean to gain Christ Jesus, our Lord?

1. *Honestly ask yourself and examine your life to see if you are still in the bondage to sin. In other words, are you still battling with a number of sinful habits?*
2. *Don't delay! Don't waste another day. Begin to make a change today. Remember, every breath we breathe is a gift from God!*



"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking,
correcting and training in righteousness."

2 Timothy 3:16

J2 YEAR 2 BOOK 2

General Assembly of the True Jesus Church

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