

tain people reflected what was most important to them. For example, the Lord Jesus' choice (Lk 4:1-12); Joshua's choice (Josh 24:14-15); Paul's choice (Phil 3:7-8). Ask students to look again at their answers and have them question themselves why they have made such choices and explain what the Bible says about these choices (C.f. Mt 6:19-21, 24-34, 1 Jn 2:15-17).

Q.16-19

Encourage students to preach the word of God wherever they go (1 Cor 9:16, 17). They should be reminded that the most effective form of preaching is not so much what is being said but what is demonstrated in daily life. You can also share your own experiences on personal evangelism (C.f. Phil 2:15,16, 1 Pet 3:15-16).

Q.20

Remind students that our lives in this world are short and temporary. Students may not yet fully realize the brevity of life, but they need to be reminded of who they are and their purpose here on earth. Philippians 3:20 tells us that we are citizens of the commonwealth in heaven (C.f. Eph 2:19), and our goal in life is to enter heaven (C.f. 1 Cor 15:19).

Q.21

"The law and the prophets were until John; since then the good news of the kingdom of God is preached, and every one enters it violently" (Lk 16:16). From this verse, we learn that only those who strive can enter the kingdom of heaven (C.f. Lk 13:24). Those who enter it violently are those who make the utmost effort in denying themselves and changing their ways to conform to God's will.

REFLECTION & PRAYER



Like us, Eli had his merits and weaknesses. Unfortunately, Eli did nothing to change his weaknesses and that of his sons. He responded to them mildly, but took no further action and was thus punished by God. Let us examine our faith, mend our ways and rise from our complacency.

Lesson 13

Review

Lesson Aim

- 1) To learn from the merits of biblical characters and take warning from their failures.
- 2) To learn that we have to undergo a series of steps of transformation before reaching salvation.

R E V I E W

In this quarter we have looked into characters that represent the course of our spiritual life— from the time of our conversion when we take our first step of faith to maturation. Our salvation does not terminate with rebirth for we have a whole life ahead of us. Throughout our lives, we need to ensure spiritual growth, to pursue after transformation and newness in Christ. This also means purging ourselves from the ways of the world, old habits, and unbiblical concepts. With constant renewal, we will achieve maturation. We will bear fruits of peace, joy and harmony, even in old age. Such a life will not only bring blessings to the household of God but ensures our future salvation.

Lesson 1: Abraham

1. What is faith?

The body of truth which constitutes the whole Christian message (Jude 3).

A belief in the Lord Jesus and His redemptive plan.

Faith encompasses a complete confidence and trust in God.

Faith is believing every single word and promise that is written in the Bible about what God is, what He has done, is doing and will do for His saints.

2. How did Abraham manifest his faith when God called him from Ur?

He departed from Ur not knowing where he was to go.

He had to travel a long distance.

He had to leave his country, kindred and father's house.
He departed from Ur having not yet received the promised land.

3. What was the most important lesson drawn from the incident when Abraham was instructed to offer Isaac?

Abraham feared God (Gen 22:12).

4. Why is it difficult to obey God's word?

We are afraid of suffering; We cannot put down our own will; We lack faith in God; We don't understand the reason or logic; We don't understand the truth or the will of God.

5. How can we learn to obey completely?

Ask God to increase our faith and understanding of Him.
Rely on the Holy Spirit to put to death the nature of the flesh which prevents us from minding the things of God.
To be humble and submit to the will of the Spirit.

Lesson 2: Zacchaeus

1. Zacchaeus shows us the kind of response and attitude that we should have when responding to God's calling. What are they?

Grabbed hold of opportunity; Pursued the Lord; Had an earnest desire; Faced problems with courage

2. What does true repentance mean to you?

"Repent" in Greek is metanoia, which means "a change of heart and life, a change of life direction." A person who repents turns from his old ways to wholeheartedly commit himself to doing the will of God.

Lesson 3: Cornelius

1. What does it mean to fear God?

It means to have respect and reverence for God and to feel in awe of His majesty and power. To fear God is to recognize Him for who He is; holy, almighty, righteous, pure, all knowing, all-powerful, and all wise. Seeing God in this light, we see ourselves for who we are; sinful, weak, frail and needy. To fear God is to gladly submit and choose God's ways in all things and to keep His commands. Proverb 8:13 says, "The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil." Because we know that God is just and merciful, and detests all evil, we need to keep ourselves holy by abiding by His laws.

2. What relationship does the effectiveness of prayers have with our daily con-

duct?

The effectiveness of our prayers comes as a result of changing ourselves to meet God's will. Our behavior affects our prayer just as prayer affects our behavior. The Bible tells us that even the prayer of one who does not heed God's law is an abomination in His eyes. Aside from asking God to grant our requests, we must be determined to live by God's principles. If we are friends with the world (Jas 4:4), if we possess sin (Ps 66:18), or have incorrect motives - all these will affect our prayers.

Lesson 4: Naaman and Gehazi

1. What aspects of Naaman's behavior are typical of those who are seeking the truth?

He turned to God upon reaching an impasse; Relied on wealth or own ability; Filled with pride; Preconceived ideas.

2. What failings did Gehazi have?

Living in blessing but not appreciating it; Did not care for God's glory; Listened to the stirrings of his heart; Lost discernment

Lesson 5: Daniel and His Three Friends

1. What things did Nebuchadnezzar do for the youths?

They were taught the letters and language of the Chaldeans.
They were employed in the king's palace.
They ate and drank of the king's food and wine.
Daniel and his three friends were given Babylonian names.

2. What was Nebuchadnezzar's ulterior motive for treating the youths so well?

Superficially, Nebuchadnezzar's deeds were acts of kindness and compassion. On a spiritual level however, his kindness was a way to assimilate the youths of Judah into a pagan culture. All this good treatment was a threat to their faith. By giving them different names, the king was making the youths forsake their former identity, and over time, forget their God and nation.

3. What lesson does that have for us today?

The youths recognized their spiritual identity. They knew clearly who they were and where they came from. They were aware of their environment and of the things that may jeopardize their faith. They recognized their purpose. They were there not to strive for a good future. Nor was it their purpose to indulge in the things of the flesh, or to fit in with the people of Babylon. Their purpose was to live a godly life and bring glory to God.

4. What steps did Daniel and his three friends take to retain their faith and identity?

Remained spiritually watchful; Made strong resolution; Ready to sacrifice themselves

Lesson 6: Simeon and Anna

1. How do we find out God's will in our lives?

The key to understanding His will lies in spiritual renewal in Jesus Christ. This is a process where we seek the likeness of Jesus Christ through His words, His Spirit and His love. The more we become like Jesus Christ, the deeper we can comprehend the heart of God. Those who conform to the world cannot understand the will of God (Rom 12:2).

2. What things should we wait for?

The Second Coming of Christ (2 Pet 3:12-13); The fulfillment of God's promises and blessings (Jer 29:10, 33:14); The down pouring of the Holy Spirit (Ac 1:4-5); God's deliverance (Is 33:2, 40:31); Justice (Prov 20:22); Salvation (Gen 49:18; Mk 13:13; Jer 3:25-26); Marriage (Ruth 3:18); For God to fulfill our plans and petitions (Ps 20:4); For Christ to form in us (Gal 4:19; Ps 25:5)

3. Name some reasons for fasting and praying.

To propagate the gospel; To increase in spiritual strength; To confess, repent and request the forgiveness of sins; To seek scriptural understanding

4. What are the correct attitudes we should have while we wait for God?

Wait in silence for the Lord; Continue to keep His commands; Use the waiting time profitably; Continue in prayer

5. What things will prevent us from waiting to the end?

Not seeing the solution to the problem; Focusing on the environment; Peer pressure; Lack of faith in God

Lesson 7: Isaac

1. Why is taking time out each day to meditate important?

When we are constantly surrounded by people, our hearts and minds focus more on the people around us and our environment than on God. When there is a lot of activity in our busy lives, we have little time to reflect and weigh matters. Consequently, we lose our sense of direction, become frustrated and prone to making mistakes. Therefore, we need to take time each day to think.

We need to reflect on ourselves; our actions, deeds and speech. We need to also meditate upon God's words.

2. Isaac was willing to give way to the herdsmen of Gerar. How can we cultivate this spiritual virtue?

Understand that God is in control

Be willing to sacrifice

Do not place emphasis on our rights or regard material gain too highly

Think of the positives

Be more far-sighted in thought

Lesson 8: Lot

1. How are Lot's choices reflective of people of this world?

Seek for comfort and luxury

Seek for success and power

Compromise with the world

Fail to emphasize on spiritual life

2. Contrast Abraham's and Lot's outlook on life.

Abraham's vision was not in this life. His mind was set on things above and he considered God in his decisions. Lot, on the other hand, had his heart set on the world. He pursued the comforts and pleasures of the world. In his decision-making, he had his own benefits in mind rather than God.

3. What does "value system" mean?

Basically our value system consists of all the things that we think is "right" or "wrong." Our values are built over a long period of time. Through the course of time and varying experiences, whatever we believe is right, necessary, or important becomes part of our value system. Once our values are established, they will affect our decisions and actions. It will also reflect in how we live our lives, spend our money, use our time (including spare time) and energies.

Lesson 9: Apollos

1. How did Apollos demonstrate his zeal for the truth?

Preached the word; Defended the truth ; Obeyed the truth

2. How can we defend the truth?

Know God's word well; Confront and stand up for the truth; Rectify and eradicate erroneous teachings

Lesson 10: Ezra

1. What three resolutions did Ezra make?

He resolved to learn the word of God.

He resolved to perform the word of God.

He resolved to teach the law of God in Israel.

2. Why did Ezra take such pains to calculate all the temple treasures?

By counting the vessels, Ezra made it known that every object used in temple service was set apart for God and were considered holy. Ezra teaches us to be meticulous when doing church work. We need to take special care of whatever God has entrusted to us. By giving a clear account of all the treasures, Ezra prevented possible future misunderstandings.

3. How did Ezra deal with the sins of the people?

Ezra fasted and prayed with great grief; He identified himself amongst the offenders; Ezra was very sensitive to sin; He did not compromise with sin, but removed the cause of sin courageously.

Lesson 11: Lydia

1. Although Lydia was a busy career woman, what aspects tell us that she did not neglect her spiritual life?

Lydia was a fervent worshipper of God; She observed the Sabbath; She took time out for God in her busy life; She welcomed visitors; She used her wealth and possession to help the ministry and God's servants.

Lesson 12: Eli

1. How did Eli fail as a priest?

Allowed the priesthood to fall to disrepute; Did not set his heart right before God; Did not choose a good successor

2. How did Eli fail as a parent?

Eli's sons showed contempt towards God; He failed to take severe disciplinary measures when needed; He loved his sons more than God.



“Whatever your task,
work heartily as
serving the Lord and
not men.”

(Col 3:23)

STICK TO YOUR GOALS

CHANGE SIMPLY FOR

THE SAKE OF CHANGE

ISN'T ENOUGH. YOU

NEED TO SEE CLEARLY

A DIRECT CONNECTION

BETWEEN THE

STRATEGY OR

PROGRAM AND YOUR

ASPIRATIONS FOR

YOUR STUDENTS!

Unknown

*“Be an example...of good deeds of every kind. Let everything you do reflect your love of the truth.”
(Titus 2:7)*