

Recommended Lessons for Each Level

Elementary 2

1. Water Baptism
2. Abraham
3. Parents and Children

Junior 1 & 2

1. Water Baptism
2. Ephesians
3. Parents and Children
4. A Christian Family

Senior

1. Water Baptism
2. Ruth
3. A Christian Family
4. Marriage

A Word to the Instructors:

LESSON PLANS

We recommend the above lessons for each respective class level. If you would like to use lessons other than those recommended, please make appropriate modifications when necessary.

ASSIGNMENTS/QUIZZES

Please be reminded that the purpose of assignments and quizzes is NOT to keep your students busy. Rather, they serve as a tool to reinforce what you have taught them and a way to assess how much your students know about the subject. Therefore, be sure to give your students feedback, as soon as possible, on all the assignments and quizzes so that they may learn from their work.

QUESTIONS

Questions are provided at the end of each lesson. These are divided into three levels of difficulty. Questions in Level 1 are informational and students can usually find the answers from reading the text. Questions in Level 2 require some explanation. Questions in Level 3 involve analysis, comparison, or application. Depending on the class level you are teaching, you may use any combination of questions from each difficulty level. We advise that you assign more Level 1 and 2 questions to Elementary 2 students and more Level 2 and 3 questions for older students.

Every lesson can be tailored to a specific class depending on how you mix and match the questions.

GROUP DISCUSSION/ACTIVITY

We encourage the students to be involved in the class as much as possible through group discussions. If possible, you may ask other instructors or adult counselors to participate in the group discussions as well. Group reports or presentations can help your students remember the material better. At the same time, they provide opportunities to foster fellowship and cooperative learning.

If the group discussion or activity is not possible for any reason, you may modify it into an individual writing assignment.

C O N T E N T S

Introduction	i
Recommended Lessons	ii
I. Basic Doctrine	
WATER BAPTISM	1
II. Bible Character	
ABRAHAM	9
III. Bible Study	
RUTH	13
IV. Bible Study	
EPHESIANS	19
V. Christian Living	
MARRIAGE	29
VI. Christian Living	
PARENTS AND CHILDREN	33
VII. Christian Living	
A CHRISTIAN FAMILY	37

*“Therefore, if any one is in Christ,
he is a new creation;
the old has passed away, behold,
the new has come.”*

(2 Cor 5:17)

Hallelujah! Praise God for the new life that He has given us at the cost of shedding His precious blood. The moment we received baptism, we left our old self and began a new life which belongs to the One who paid a ransom for our sins. Thus, we call Jesus our “Lord” because we are no longer our own. However, how do we carry on with our new lives in an acceptable manner to God? The Bible supplies us with plenty of answers to this question. We hope that through each Student Spiritual Convocation, we can learn as much as possible concerning how to live for Christ.

About Book 6:

“Hear, my child, and be wise, and direct your mind in the way...The father of righteousness will greatly rejoice; he who begets a wise son will be glad in him.” (Proverbs 23:19, 24)

Who are your best friends? You may be listing off names of childhood buddies or college dorm-mates. Have you ever stopped to consider your family? A family is the basic unit that can serve as a firm foundation in all our relationships as well as provide nurture and support. Indeed, a happy home is a place where we should be able to find our best friends. In this web of relationships between a husband and his wife, parents and their children and brothers and sisters, we should be able to find people with whom we can play, cry, laugh, and pray with. The love and grace of Christ also allows us to belong to a large spiritual family of God, in which everyone shares a special

parent-child relationship with the Lord. He cares and protects us with unfailing love and this is the kind of love He wants everyone to imitate. The Bible contains many teachings about a wholesome family life. In this book, we will learn about families that are guided by the love of Christ. Hopefully, through these lessons, we can all find a friend close to home.

SIX-BOOK SERIES

Student Spiritual Convocation

Book 1

A Life of Prayers

Book 2

A Life of Love

Book 3

A Life of Servitude

Book 4

Living in the Words of God

Book 5

Living in Holiness

Book 6

Family Life

All Bible quotations are in RSV.

I. THE ORIGIN OF WATER BAPTISM

A. PREFIGURATIONS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

1. Noah and his family were saved during the flood (I Pet 3:20-21; Gen 7:17-20).
2. The Israelites received circumcision in accordance with their covenant with God to become his chosen people (Gen 17:12-13; Ex 12:43-44, 48-49; Gal 3:27-29).
3. The crossing of the Red Sea by the Israelites (I Cor 10:1-2; Isa 43:16; Ex 14:19-22).
4. The rules regarding clean and unclean things (Lev 15:5-13,16; 16:26,28; 17:15-16).
5. Naaman bathed in the Jordan River to cleanse his leprosy (II Kgs 5:1-14; Lk 4:17).

B. PROPHECIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

1. God will cast our sins into the depths of the sea (Mic 7:19).
2. God will open a fountain for the house of David to cleanse them from their sins and impurity (Zech 13:1).

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3. The redeemed will walk on a road through the depths of the sea (Isa 51:10)

C. THE BAPTISM OF REPENTANCE OF JOHN THE BAPTIST (MT 3:1-12; LK 3:7-17, 7:29; JN 3:23; LK 20:4)

D. BAPTISMS OF THE CHURCH IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

1. Jesus was baptized to serve as an example (Mt 3:13-16).
2. Jesus instructed his disciples to perform baptism (Mt 28:19; Mk 16:15-16).
3. The disciples followed the instructions of Jesus (Acts 2:41; 8:12, 35-36; 9:18; 10:47-48; 16:15-33; 18:8; 19:5).

II. THE PURPOSE AND EFFICACY OF WATER BAPTISM

A. FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS (ACTS 2:38; 22:16; I PET 3:21)

1. Men have original sin (Rom 5:12-16; Ps 51:5; 58:3) and personal sins (Rom 3:9-10,23; Ex 20:3-17; Jas 2:10-11; 4:17; I Jn 3:4; 5:17).
2. The consequence of sin is death (Lk 15:24; Eph 2:1,5; Col 2:13; I Cor 15:22; Gen 3:16-19) and

Basic Doctrine

everlasting punishment in hell
(Mt 25:30,41,46; Mk 9:48; II Thess 1:9;
Rev 20:13-15).

3. Baptism can wash away sins, which saves people from God's wrath and allows them to be reconciled with God (Rom 5:9-11).

B. BAPTISM OF REBIRTH

1. We need to be reborn to enter into the Kingdom of God (Jn 3:3-5).
2. We are united with Christ in his death, burial, and resurrection when we receive water baptism (Rom 6:3-4; Col 2:12).
3. We must live a new life after baptism (Rom 6:3-11).
4. The creation of Eve from the rib of Adam prefigured that Jesus' side would be pierced from which water and blood would issue forth to create new men through water baptism and establishing the church, the bride (Gen 2:21-25; 1 Cor 15:45; Jn 19:30-35; Eph 5:25-27; Acts 20:28).

C. SAVED THROUGH SANCTIFICATION

1. We are sanctified by the blood of Jesus (I Cor 6:11; Rom 5:9; 3:25-26).
2. We are saved from the power of sins and Satan, delivered from destruction through water baptism (I Pet 3:20-21; Acts 26:18; II Tim 4:18).

D. TO BELONG TO CHRIST

1. Formerly, we have no part with Christ

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- and his salvation (Eph 2:12).
2. We are to be baptized into Christ (Gal 3:27-29; Rom 6:3; Rev 5:9-10).
 3. We need to be reborn to regain the sonship of God and to receive his grace (I Jn 5:19; Gal 3:26; 4:4-6; Eph 1:4-5; 2:19; Mt 3:16-17; Rom 8:15-16).

III. THE METHOD OF WATER BAPTISM

A. FULL IMMERSION

1. "Baptism" in the original text means "immersion".
2. Jesus came up out of the water after he was baptized (Mt 3:16; Mk 1:9-10; Jn 3:23).
3. The early apostolic church practiced full immersion (Acts 8:36-39).
4. The flood in the time of Noah (I Pet 3:20-21) and the crossing of the Red Sea prefigured full immersion (I Cor 10:1-2; Ps 77:19; Isa 43:16; 51:10).
5. Baptism must be performed in rivers or oceans (Mic 7:19).
6. Spiritual meaning: Full immersion has the meaning of burial (Rom 6:4; Col 2:12).

B. IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST

1. According to the example set by apostolic churches:
 - a. In the name of Jesus Christ (Acts

- 2:38; 10:48);
- b. In the name of Jesus (Acts 8:16; 19:5).
- 2. Jesus is the only Savior. Our sins are forgiven by his name (Acts 4:12; 10:43; 22:16; 1 Jn 2:12; Mt 1:21; Col 3:17).
 - 3. The implication of Matthew 28:19 is "in the name of Jesus". In this verse, the name is singular, showing that God is not in three persons, but only one, and his name is Jesus.
 - a. Jesus is the name of the Father (Jn 17:11-12).
 - b. The Father and the Son are one (Jn 10:30; 14:7-11; Isa 9:6; 1 Tim 3:16).
 - c. The Holy Spirit is the spirit of Jesus (Acts 16:6-7; Rom 8:9; 2 Cor 3:17; 4:24; 1 Pet 1:11).

C. HEAD FACED DOWNWARD

- 1. We should be united with the likeness of Jesus' death (Rom 6:3-8; Jn 19:30). Head faced downward signifies our death in Christ; full immersion in water signifies our burial with Christ; to come up from the water signifies resurrection with Christ.
- 2. It demonstrates the proper attitude of sinners seeking forgiveness.
 - a. When sins rise over our head, we cannot face upwards (Ps 38:4; Ezek 9:6).
 - b. Burdened by sins, we cannot look

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- up (Ps 40:12; Lk 18:13-14).
- c. Sinners should be not stiff-necked (Acts 7:51; Job 10:15).

3. Revelation received by Paul Wei:

On April 8, 1917, while Paul Wei was praying, a voice from heaven told him "You must receive the baptism of Jesus" and he was led by the Holy Spirit to a river outside Beijing. There he knelt down and prayed in the river. The voice told him "You must be baptized face down." He obeyed that voice and was baptized. When he came up out of the water, he saw the glorious Savior before him and he felt that his body and soul were totally cleansed. The Lord appeared to him again and revealed that his name be changed to Paul. He was also instructed to correct the mistakes of other denominations and to preach the perfect Gospel.

IV. QUALIFICATIONS OF THE BAPTIST

- A. THE BAPTIST MUST HAVE RECEIVED THE CORRECT BAPTISM**
- 1. After we have cleansed ourselves, then we can baptize those who are unclean (Acts 2:38; Num 19:18).
 - 2. Before the priests are brought to the temple, they must first cleanse themselves (Ex 29:4).

Bible Doctrine

- 3. Jesus was baptized before he began his ministry (Mt 3:13-16).

B. THE BAPTIST MUST BE SENT BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

- 1. We must be sent by God in order for us to work for God (Rom 10:15; Jn 20:21-22; Lk 4:18; Acts 1:4-5; I Jn 3:24).
- 2. The efficacy of water baptism depends on the abidance of the Holy Spirit (I Cor 6:11; 12:13; Jn 20:21-22).
- 3. The Holy Spirit testifies that there is blood in the water (I Jn 5:6-8; Jn 19:34); sins are washed away by the blood of Jesus (Heb 9:22, 12; Eph 1:7; I Pet 1:18-19; Rev 1:5).

V. QUALIFICATIONS OF THE PERSON BEING BAPTIZED

A. MUST BELIEVE (Mk 16:16; ACTS 18:8)

- 1. Believe that Jesus is the only savior (Acts 4:12; 8:36-37; 16:31-33; 26:18).
- 2. Believe that our sins are washed away by the blood of Jesus during water baptism (Rom 3:25; Eph 1:7; Heb 9:13-14, 22).

Many illnesses were cured after receiving the baptism of our church, which proves that the correct baptism has the power to wash away sins (ref.: Mk 2:5-12).

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- 3. Believe that the True Church was established by the Holy Spirit and has the abidance of the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:12-13; Rom 8:9; Eph 1:23; 4:4; Jn 15:1-6; I Jn 2:19).
- 4. A person cannot be baptized if he believes in Jesus Christ yet not the efficacy of water baptism or if he believes the efficacy of water baptism yet fails to believe in the True Church.

B. MUST REPENT (ACTS 2:38; LK 24:47)

- 1. The word "repent" in the original text means "turn back"; that is, to admit our past mistakes and be determined to depart from evil (Mt 3:6; Acts 3:26, 19:18-19; Ps 32:3-5).
- 2. We must return to God and zealously do good deeds (Isa 55:7; Lk 3:7-14; Acts 26:20; Tit 2:14; Mic 6:6-8).
- 3. Those who have received incorrect forms of baptism must repent and be baptized with the correct mode of baptism according to the Bible (Acts 19:1-6).

VI. MAY INFANTS BE BAPTIZED ?

A. INFANTS ALSO HAVE SINS (PS 51:5) AND THEY HAVE NO CONTROL OVER THEIR DEATH (ECCL 8:8) SO THEY ALSO MUST BE BAPTIZED TO WASH AWAY THEIR SINS

B. BAPTISM OF INFANTS WAS PROMISED BY GOD (ACTS 2:38-39; LK 18:15-17; PS 115:13) AND BASED ON THE FAITH OF PARENTS (MT 15:28; JN 4:49-51)

C. PREFIGURATIONS

- 1. Infants of Israelites had to be circumcised on the eighth day (Col 2:11-12; Lev 12:3).
- 2. The Israelites crossed the Red Sea, children included (Ex 10:10; Num 14:31).

D. DURING THE APOSTOLIC ERA, ENTIRE HOUSEHOLDS WERE BAPTIZED, INCLUDING INFANTS (ACTS 16:15, 32-34; 18:8; I COR 1:16)

VII. AFTER BAPTISM

A. BE DETERMINED TO FOLLOW AND KEEP THE WORDS OF GOD UNTIL THE END (MT 24:13; LK 9:61-62; 14:25-33; ACTS 14:22; 20:24; I THESS 3:3)

B. A PERSON MAY ONLY BE BAPTIZED ONCE (EPH 4:5); HE/SHE CANNOT INTENTIONALLY COMMIT SINS AFTER BAPTISM (JN 5:14; 8:11; HEB 6:4; 10:26-31; II PET 2:20-21)

- 1. After committing non-deadly sins, one must humbly repent to ask for God's forgiveness (I Jn 5:16-17; 1:8-2:2; Ps 51:17).

C. PARENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR CULTIVATING THEIR BAPTIZED INFANTS (DEUT 6:4-7; PROV 22:6; EPH 6:4; II TIM 1:5; 3:15)

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VIII. QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- 1a. What are some references in the Old Testament that prefigure water baptism?
- 1b. What is the correct method of baptism?
- 1c. What are the requirements for the person administering the baptism?
- 1d. What are the qualifications of the person being baptized?
- 2a. Why is baptism necessary?
- 2b. What does true repentance involve?
- 2c. Wouldn't it be better for children to wait until they are mature to get baptized? That way, they can truly repent and believe. Do you agree or disagree?
- 2d. How does our water baptism bear the likeness of Jesus' death?
- 3a. Romans 10:9 states, "if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Nothing was said about baptism here. Does this mean that baptism is not related to salvation?
- 3b. Jesus said to "baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Mt 28:19). Then why do we only baptize in the name of Jesus Christ?

6. When the 15 minutes are up, regroup the students to debrief the role-play and also discuss any unanswered questions. Encourage everyone to participate.

7. Conclude and pray.

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Lined area for student notes on the right side of the page.



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Handwriting practice area with horizontal dotted lines for writing.



Bible Character

ABRAHAM

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Abraham is the ancestor of the chosen people, the father of faith. He set many good examples for others to follow. Jesus said, "If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham" (Jn 8:39). Since Christians believe in Jesus and are baptized into Christ, they are also the spiritual descendants of Abraham and will inherit the spiritual land of Canaan – the heavenly kingdom according to God's promise. We should also imitate the good deeds of Abraham (Neh 9:7-8; Gal 3:27-29).

I. BACKGROUND

A. ABRAHAM WAS BORN IN UR. HIS FATHER WAS TERAH AND HE WAS THE THIRD SON (GEN 11:26-32; 12:4). HE WAS BORN ABRAM BUT GOD CHANGED HIS NAME TO ABRAHAM, MEANING "THE ANCESTOR OF A MULTITUDE OF NATIONS" (GEN 17:5).

B. SONS

1. Isaac, by Sarah (Gen 21:1-4).
2. Ishmael, by Hagar (Gen 16:15).
3. Six sons by Keturah (Gen 25:1-2).

C. LIFE-LONG NOMAD

1. Abraham spent a good part of his life traveling. Often times, he journeyed to far and unknown places, placing his



trust completely in God's providence and protection.

2. He left his homeland in Ur (Acts 7:1-2)
 - to Haran (Gen 11:31-32)
 - entered into Canaan in Shechem (Gen 12:4-6)
 - between Bethel and Ai (Gen 12:8)
 - went down to Egypt (Gen 12:10)
 - in Bethel (Gen 13:3)
 - in Hebron (Gen 13:18)
 - in Kadesh (Gen 20:1)
 - in Beersheba (Gen 22:19)
 - in Hebron (Gen 23:2, 19, 25:7-10)

D. THE DAYS OF ABRAHAM'S LIFE WERE 175 YEARS. HIS TWO SONS ISAAC AND ISHMAEL BURIED HIM IN THE FAMILY GRAVE IN THE CAVE OF MACHPELAH IN THE FIELD OF EPHRON (GEN 25:7-10).

II. GOD'S RELATIONSHIP WITH ABRAHAM

A. GOD'S UNIQUE AND PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH ABRAHAM

1. God appeared to him seven times:
 - (1) Acts 7:2-4, Gen 11:31, Neh 9:7-8
 - (2) Gen 12:1-7
 - (3) Gen 13:14-17
 - (4) Gen 15:1-6
 - (5) Gen 17:1-8
 - (6) Gen 18:1-10
 - (7) Gen 22:1-2, 11-18
2. God was called the God of Abraham (Ex 3:6; Mt 22:32).
3. Abraham was God's friend (Jas 2:23).
4. Abraham was God's prophet (Gen 20:7).
5. Jesus said that we will see Abraham in God's kingdom (Lk 13:28).

B. GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM (NEH 9:7-8)

1. God promised that his descendants would greatly multiply (Gen 17:6, 22:17). This was fulfilled when Isaac was born to Abraham at the age of 100 years old. Isaac became the father of Jacob and Jacob in turn, had twelve sons (Acts 7:8). By the time of their exodus out of Egypt, it is recorded that there were more than 600,000 above the age of twenty and able to go to war (Gen 21:1-5; Num 1:45-46).

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2. God promised to give the land of Canaan to his descendants (Gen 17:8, 22:17, 15:18-21). This was fulfilled in the time of Joshua when he led the Israelites in conquering the land of Canaan and destroying thirty-one kings (Josh 21:43-45; 12:7-24).
3. God promised that all nations would be blessed because of his descendants (Gen 22:18, 12:3). This was fulfilled when Jesus came to the world to die, resurrect and ascend to heaven, thus accomplishing the work of salvation and enabling all people to receive the blessing of eternal life in the heavenly kingdom (Gal 3:16; Lk 2:10-11; Mt 1:1).

III. A MAN WHO LOVED GOD

A. HE WAS FAITHFUL

1. By faith, he obeyed God's command (Heb 11:8).
2. He believed in God's promise and kept his part of their covenant—circumcision (Gen 17:9-14, 22-27).
3. He believed that God's promise would be fulfilled (Rom 4:19-23).
4. He believed that God could revive Isaac from death (Heb 11:17-19).

B. SUBMISSIVE TO GOD

1. He left his homeland in obedience to God's command (Gen 12:1-5).

2. He obeyed God's command to sacrifice his only son Isaac (Gen 22:15-18).

C. HE BUILT ALTARS WHEREVER HE WENT, A TESTIMONY OF FAITH (GEN 12:7-8)

D. HE GAVE THANKS BY OFFERING TITHES (GEN 14:19-20)

IV. ABRAHAM'S VIRTUES

A. AN HONEST MAN

1. His heart was honest in God's presence (Neh 9:7-8).
2. He refused to take even the tiniest bit of other people's possessions (Gen 14:23).

B. HE WAS LOVING AND CARING

1. Out of love, he left the good land for Lot (Gen 13:7-9).
2. He personally led his people to save Lot (Gen 14:13-16).
3. He prayed to God for the sake of Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen 18:23-33).

C. HE RECEIVED STRANGERS WITH HOSPITALITY (GEN 18:1-8).

D. HE WAS A PEACEFUL MAN WHO AVOIDED CONFLICT. HE DID NOT QUARREL WITH ABIMELECH BUT RATHER MADE A COVENANT OF PEACE (GEN 21:22-34).

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V. HIS FAMILY

A. HIS WIFE, SARAH

1. She respected and obeyed him in all things (1 Pet 3:5-6).
2. He loved his wife and wept over her death (Gen 23:1-2).

B. TAUGHT HIS CHILDREN IN THE WAYS OF GOD

1. He obeyed God's will and focused on the education of his children (Gen 18:19).
2. He did not allow Isaac to marry a Gentile (Gen 24:2-9).
3. He taught Isaac to respect and be submissive to God by obeying His commands and loving all men (Gen 22:9; 24:4-6; 26:1-5, 15-22).

C. A KIND AND LOVING MASTER

1. He loved his servants dearly (Gen 15:2).
2. He trained them to know God and to trust in Him (Gen 24:11, 12, 56).

QUESTIONS

- 1a. God appeared to Abraham seven times. Study the reference verses given and find the location and purpose of each appearance.
- 1b. What was God's covenant with Abraham? How was it fulfilled?

Bible Character

- 1c. What were Abraham's good qualities?

- 2a. Would you say that Abraham was a good family man? Why or why not?

- 2b. How was building an altar wherever he went significant?

- 2c. In what ways do you think Abraham's faith was tested during his lifetime?

- 3a. How do you think Abraham felt when he was told to sacrifice his son, Isaac? Why do you think he did not complain?

- 3b. Why is Abraham called the "father of faith"?

- 3c. Do you possess any of Abraham's good qualities? If so, which ones? If not, what can you learn from him?

GROUP DISCUSSION/ACTIVITY

ABRAHAM IS LIKE A...

Objective: to demonstrate the students' understanding of Abraham by describing him using an analogy

- 1. Write the following phrases onto strips of paper and throw them into a paper bag.

ABRAHAM IS LIKE A TREE BECAUSE...

ABRAHAM IS LIKE A STONE BECAUSE...

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- ABRAHAM IS LIKE A STAR BECAUSE...

- ABRAHAM IS LIKE GOLD BECAUSE...

- ABRAHAM IS LIKE A HOUSE BECAUSE...

- ABRAHAM IS LIKE A _____ BECAUSE...



- 2. Divide the class into groups of three or four. Have one representative from each group draw a piece of paper out of the bag.

- 3. Each group has ten minutes to complete the sentence and supplement it with pictures.

- 4. After the ten minutes are up, allow each group to briefly present their results to the rest of the group. Discuss any similarities and differences.

- 5. Conclude and pray.

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. DATE AND AUTHOR

- 1. The story takes place in the days of the Judges (about 1375 BC), although it has nothing in common with the tales of warfare of that time period.
- 2. The book expresses a sympathetic feeling toward foreigners who submitted themselves under the protection of Israel’s God. For this reason, plus the similarity in both content and language with the postexilic period scriptures, many have assumed it to be a postexilic composition based on an older tale.

B. PLACE IN THE CANON

- 1. In the Bible, Ruth is placed after Judges to fit the chronological sequence.
- 2. In the Hebrew Canon, it appears under a group of five books called “Megillah” (Song of Solomon, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther). These books are read by the Jews at annual feasts or holidays.

C. MAIN PURPOSES OF THE BOOK

- 1. **Genealogy:** The book introduces a few of David’s ancestors, the royal lineage of Jesus Christ, the Messiah. The lineage even includes Ruth, the Moabitess, a

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- non-Israelite (Mt 1:1–6).
- 2. **Theology:** Underlying the entire book is its revelation of the characteristics and ways of God: his providence, sovereignty, grace, holiness, and his generous invitation for all people to receive salvation.
- 3. **History:** The book describes a few intimate experiences of a family from

II. ELIMELECH AND HIS FAMILY MOVE TO MOAB (1:1-4)

Bethlehem during the period of the judges.

A. A FAMINE IN THE LAND

- 1. A “Famine” served as a test of faith (Gen 12:10ff, 26:1–5) or as God’s chastisement to the disobedient (Deut 11:13–17; 2 Chr 6:26–31).
- 2. The family included Elimelech, Naomi and their two sons, Mahlon and Chilion (1:3).
- 3. They traveled from Bethlehem in Judah

to the country of Moab and remained there (1:3).

B. RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MOABITES

- 1. Friendly relations with the Moabites were discouraged. Moabites were barred from participation in the life of Israel, and the Israelites were forbidden to seek after their prosperity (Deut 23:3-6).
- 2. Mahlon and Chilion married Orpah and Ruth (1:4), which was against God’s commands as recorded in Deuteronomy 7:1-11, “Do not intermarry with them ... for that would turn away your children

III. DESTITUTE WIDOWS (1:5-22)

from following me, to serve other gods ...”

A. NAOMI LOST HER HUSBAND AND TWO SONS (1:3, 5)

- 1. “Do not call me Naomi. Call me Mara for the Almighty has dealt bitterly with me” (1:20).
- 2. “I went away full but the Lord has brought me back empty” (1:21).

B. LEVIRATE MARRIAGE

- 1. The obligation of a dead man’s brother to care for his widow (Deut 25:5-10). This law kept widows from living in poverty and allowed the family name of the dead man to continue.
- 2. Naomi encouraged Orpah and Ruth to

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return home since she had no more sons or relatives in Moab (1:11).

C. ORPAH AGREED TO RETURN HOME, WHICH WAS HER RIGHT SINCE SHE STILL HAD A CHANCE TO REMARRY (1:9, 14)

D. RUTH’S LOYALTY TO NAOMI

- 1. Ruth selflessly gave up her opportunity for security and future happiness by choosing to stay with her mother-in-law.
- 2. She convinced Naomi with her insistent and moving words, “Where you go, I will go and where you lodge, I will lodge, your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die—there I will be buried” (1:16-17).

E. NAOMI AND RUTH’S RETURN TO BETHLEHEM

- 1. Naomi heard that the Lord had provided for the Israelites through the famine (1:6).

IV. THE LOVE BETWEEN RUTH AND NAOMI (2:1-3:18)

- 2. They arrived at the beginning of the barley harvest (1:22).

A. RUTH’S LOVE FOR NAOMI

- 1. Ruth took the initiative to work in a foreign land. “Let me go to the field...” (Ex 20:12; Lev 19:32; 1 Sam 3:1-9;



Lk 2:51; Col 3:20-21).

- 2. Ruth's good reputation was quickly well-known. "All that you have done for your mother-in-law... has been fully told me..." (2:11-12).
- 3. Ruth's task was menial and tiring, gleaning from morning to evening (2:17).
- 4. She showed her mother-in-law what she had gleaned, and she also brought out and gave her what food she had left over (2:18).
- 5. Ruth faithfully followed Naomi's advice and observed an Israelite custom. To lay at Boaz's feet meant that Ruth wanted him to be her kinsman-redeemer (3:4).
- 6. Other women described Ruth as, "... your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons..." (4:15).

B. NAOMI'S LOVE FOR RUTH

- 1. "My daughter, I need to seek some security for you, that it may be well with you" (3:1; 1 Cor 13:5; Phil 2:4).
- 2. Naomi prepared a plan to secure Ruth's future (3:2-9).
- 3. Naomi instructed Ruth to patiently wait

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V. BOAZ'S TEMPERAMENT

for Boaz to take action on his promise to be her kinsman-redeemer (3:18).

A. GRACIOUS TO SERVANTS (COL 4:1)

- 1. Greeted his reapers (2:4).
- 2. Took care of Ruth, a newcomer (2:8-16).

B. LOVING AND CARING TOWARDS THE NEEDY (2:8-9, 14-16)

- 1. Provided food for Ruth, who was probably very hungry.
- 2. Instructed his reapers to purposely leave grain for Ruth.

C. PURE AND HOLY (3:6-11)

D. CONSIDERATE (3:13-14)

- 1. Was willing to become Ruth's kinsman-redeemer.
- 2. Asked Ruth to leave before others could see her to keep her name pure.
- 3. Gave her extra grain to take home.

E. RESPECTFUL AND RIGHTEOUS (3:13, 4:1-13).

VI. THE DESCENDANTS OF BOAZ AND RUTH (4:1-22)

4:1-13).

A. BOAZ'S PRESENTATION OF NAOMI'S CASE (4:1-12)

B. BOAZ AND RUTH’S MARRIAGE (4:13)

C. PEREZ’S DESCENDANTS

1. The descendants of Perez made Judah a prominent tribe. Boaz, David, and all the Judean kings were descendants of Perez.
2. God prepared for the births of David

VII. FINAL NOTES

and Jesus, the promised Messiah, through the birth of Obed (4:17).

A. WORDS OF GRACE (COL 4:6; JAS 3:17-18; ROM 12:14)

1. Naomi to her daughters-in-law: “May the Lord deal kindly with you ... ” (1:8).
2. Boaz to the reapers: “The Lord be with you!” (2:4).
3. The reapers to Boaz: “The Lord bless you!” (2:4).
4. Boaz to Ruth: “May the Lord reward you for your deeds, and may you have a full reward from the Lord... ” (2:12).
5. Naomi about Boaz: “Blessed be he by the Lord ... ” (2:20).
6. Boaz to Ruth: “May you be blessed by the Lord, my daughter ... ” (3:10).

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7. The people and the elders to Boaz: “May the Lord make the woman, who is coming into your house, like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the house of Israel ... ” (4:11-12).
8. Women to Naomi: “Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without next to kin ... ” (4:14-15).

B. MEANINGS OF NAMES

1. Naomi: “pleasant one”
2. Elimelech: “my God is king”
3. Mahlon: “sick”
4. Chilion: “pining”
5. Orpah: “neck” (i.e. “stubbornness”)
6. Ruth: “friendship”

QUESTIONS

7. Boaz: “in him is strength”
- 1a. List 5 things Ruth did to demonstrate her unfailing love for Naomi.
- 1b. Why did Naomi change her name?
- 1c. What are some of Boaz’s wonderful qualities? How were they evident?
- 1d. Look at the meanings of the names. Do you think the names were appropriate? Why or why not?

- 2a. Even though Naomi knew she would face enormous embarrassment, why did she decide to return to Bethlehem?
- 2b. Why did Ruth decide to follow her?
- 2c. What made Boaz say to Ruth, "...all my fellow townsmen know that you are a woman of worth" (3:11)?
- 3a. Even though God clearly forbade marriage between the Israelites and Moabites, why did Naomi’s sons marry Moabite women?
- 3b. Do you think that Ruth was just lucky to have met Boaz and was able to lead a much better life?

Why or why not?
- 3c. How did God provide for Naomi, Ruth,

GROUP DISCUSSION/ACTIVITY

and Boaz?

WE ADMIRE EACH OTHER

Objective: To verbalize the good qualities of the three main characters in the Book of Ruth and identifying the students’ own strengths and weaknesses.

- 1. Write the names of Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz several times on separate pieces of paper. Put them into a paper bag.
- 2. Have each student draw a name out of the

N O T E S



- bag.
- 3. Instruct them to form groups of three, each group with one Naomi, one Ruth, and one Boaz.
- 4. The students are to role-play their chosen characters. They have ten minutes to share what they admire about each other and explain why. For example, one person might say, "Ruth, I really admire your courage. If I had been in your situation, I may not have been able to do what you did...."
- 5. Gather the students into the large group again, and have them sit in a circle. Now they are to be themselves, no longer Naomi, Ruth or Boaz. They must turn to a neighbor and tell them one thing they are proud of and one thing they would like to improve about themselves. They should also give a concrete idea of how they will do so. (This can also be a written activity to ensure meaningful participation). Have some volunteers share their responses.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Book of Ephesians was one of the epistles that Paul wrote while in confinement. Although Paul was confined in Rome, he was neither saddened nor full of complaints; rather, he led many people to return to the Lord. In this epistle, Paul was not weary and disheartened, but was filled with peace and tranquillity.

This book completely explains the purpose of salvation:

- ◆ We were chosen before the creation of the world so that through the salvation of Christ, we are able to receive new life.
- ◆ Salvation tears down the wall between man and God.
- ◆ Salvation allows us to become one with Christ. As members of the house of God, we are spurred to grow and are united in the Spirit.
- ◆ The church is the body of Christ and Jesus works in the world through the church. Jesus is the head of the church and directs its activities.

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Ephesus was located in Asia Minor beside the Aegean Sea. It was a strategically-placed city, ranking in importance with Alexandria and

N O T E S



Antioch. It was the most important port linked to the Aegean Sea on the main route from Rome to the east.

II. SPIRITUAL BLESSING IN HEAVEN (CHAPTER 1)

A. GREETINGS (1-3)

1. Paul calls himself the apostle of Christ, who preaches the Gospel by the will of God.
2. He refers to the Ephesians as:
 - a. Saints
 - b. Those who are in Christ
 - c. Faithful
3. Wishes grace and peace, both of which are from the Father, for the saints.
4. Praises and gives glory to the Lord.

B. THE BLESSINGS THE BELIEVERS WILL RECEIVE (3-10)

1. Blessings come from the Father who gives freely in Christ (Ps 16:2; 34:10).
2. Characteristics of blessings:
 - a. Sent from Heaven

Bible Study

- b. Great variety
- c. Spiritual
- 3. The blessings from God allow us to:
 - a. Become his chosen people (Jn 15:16; I Cor 15:10)
 - b. Receive salvation (Acts 20:28; Rev 5:9-10) through the blood of the Son
 - c. Become the sons of God (Gal 4:5-6; Rom 8:16)
 - d. Understand the mystery so that we may know the ruler of the universe and the wonderful will of God.

C. INHERITANCE IN HEAVEN (11-14)

- 1. Jesus has accepted us as his children. We belong to him and are under his care and protection.
- 2. He has given us the Holy Spirit as proof that we are his children and will enter the heavenly kingdom to receive his eternal inheritance.

D. INTERCESSION OF PAUL (15-19)

- 1. Attitude towards intercession:
 - a. Continually give thanks.
 - b. Pray often. Prayer is not a formality, but a very important part of our spiritual life.
- 2. Contents of Intercession:
 - a. Pray for a specific person. Paul believed that it was his duty to care

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- for the believers.
- b. Pray for the Holy Spirit (the Spirit of wisdom and revelation) so that we may truly know him (Jn 6:66-69; Phil 3:8).
 - c. Ask God to open our spiritual eyes so we may see the greatness of his calling and hope.
 - d. Pray to see the great power of God, so we may depend on him in all that we do. This power also works in us in forgiving our sins and saving our spiritual life.

E. STATUS OF THE CHURCH (20-23)

- 1. God has given Christ the highest status and power in heaven. His power is beyond our imagination and all of the powers of the universe are under him.
- 2. The Church is the body of Christ and is filled with the spirit of God (Col 2:9; I Tim 3:15-16). The Church of God should have miracles, wonders and testimonies of the Holy Spirit to support the Truth.
- 3. The One True God manifests his power and glory through his church.

III. A NEW LIFE IN CHRIST (CHAPTER 2)

A. A NEW LIFE IS GRACE FROM GOD (1-10)

- 1. We were once sinners (1-3)

- a. Sin entered the world through Adam. Man has no resistance against sin (jealousy, hatred, greed, pride, pretentiousness; Rom 7:15-21). The consequences of sin is death; man was cursed ever since Adam sinned and was excluded from the life given by God (Gen 1:17; 3:9-10; 24; Rom 5:12-14).
 - b. Walked in the way of the world.
 - c. Obedient to the evil spirits whose power continually obstructs God's plans.
 - d. Conducted ourselves in the lust of the flesh: if we do what our flesh desires, Satan will work among us, causing us to sin (Gal 5:19-21).
2. The great mercy of the Lord (4-7)
- a. Unconditional love from God. We were sons of disobedience and anger but God showed his mercy to us by providing us with salvation.
 - b. Through belief in Christ, we do not face destruction; rather, we shall receive eternal life.
 - c. Those who are saved have their names recorded in the Book of Life. Our lives have become one with God.
 - d. God will not only give the salvation of Christ to this generation, but also to future generations.
3. By grace through faith (8-10)
- a. The power of God's grace can

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- forgive our sins and rid us of our bad habits.
- b. Faith is a medium through which God's grace enters our life. Faith is the way man shows his dependence on God. We allow God's commandments to work in us and are completely obedient to him.
- c. While grace and faith are given by God (Acts 3:16), we still need to do everything in love according to the commandments of God (1 Cor 15:14).

B. OUR LIFE BEFORE KNOWING CHRIST (11-13)

1. We were uncircumcised. Circumcision was the covenant between God and the sons of Abraham. The Jews took pride in this and despised the uncircumcised gentiles who were not the chosen ones of God (Gen 17:12-14). This segregation and disposition was abolished in Christ because of his sacrifice for us on the cross. So whether we receive circumcision or not is of trivial importance; rather, we must return to Christ and live a new life (Gal 6:5).
2. We were aliens and strangers to Christ. God made a covenant with the Israelites and blessed them. Originally, gentiles had no knowledge of the covenant, but thanks to God, it has been given to us through Christ.
3. We had no hope.

C. OUR LIFE AFTER KNOWING CHRIST (14-22)

1. We are able to draw close to God.
2. We may attain peace and hope.
3. We have become the citizens of God's nation.
4. We are like the spiritual rocks that are used to build the temple with Jesus as the cornerstone (I Pet 2:5-7).

IV. PAUL'S SPECIAL MISSION (CHAPTER 3)

A. PAUL'S POSITION (1-3)

1. Apostle of the Gentiles (Acts 9:15-16): He was the leader of the persecutor of Christians, but was chosen to spread the gospel to the gentiles.
2. Minister of the Gospel. The meaning of minister is "servant".
3. Ambassador in chains for the gospel.

B. UNDERSTANDING THE MYSTERIES OF THE GOSPEL (4-12)

1. It comes from the revelation of the Holy Spirit. The salvation of God is a great epic and it was prearranged by God long ago. Only through the revelation of the Holy Spirit could Paul and the congregation understand the mystery of the gospel.

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2. The salvation of Christ will not only be given to the Jews, but also to the gentiles through the gospel. The two shall unite to become one body under the promise of God. This way, the grace of God can also be upon non-Jewish believers.
3. It is manifested through the church. The church is the body of Christ, the ark in the last days. God founded the True Church to become the organization of salvation, and through the church he shall manifest this glory and power.

C. THE PRAYER OF PAUL (13-21)

1. The Heavenly Father is with the believers constantly. He is not a God who only dwells in a high place.
2. Paul bowed down and worshipped with humility and sincerity (Phil 2:9-10).
3. Prayer helps and enables us to:
 - a. Strengthen the power that is within us. Strength from within literally means "inner man" and refers to our spirit. The fortification of our spirituality depend not only on our own pursuit and intercession, but more on God's fullness and the assistance through the Holy Spirit.
 - b. Build a love with a strong foundation which will allow Christ to live in our hearts through faith.
 - c. Understand the greatness of the love of Christ (breadth, length, height, and depth).

- d. Give glory and praise to the Lord. We were created to glorify the one True God.

V. UNITY IN THE CHURCH (CHAPTER 4)

A. FOUNDATION FOR UNITY (1-3)

1. Members should manifest the Truth in their lives (Rom 12:1-2; Phil 2:15-16; Gal 5:13-16).
2. Be humble, meek and long-suffering in all things.
3. Forebear one another with love. Accept others' opinions with love and forebear the faults of others. Do not treat each other with hate (Mt 18:15-18; Prov 19:11).
4. Bond of peace: Communication and fellowship should be done in peace.
5. To achieve unity, we need the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

B. THE SEVEN CRITERIA FOR UNITY (4-6)

1. One body: The church is the body of Christ.
2. One Spirit: The church is established by the Holy Spirit. Without the Spirit of Christ, the church does not belong to him. If the church is guided by one Spirit, it will naturally be united (Rom 8:9; I Cor 12:4, 8-11).

N O T E S



3. One hope: Our hope is to pursue holiness so when the Lord comes again, we may be resurrected, transformed, and able to enter heaven.
4. One Lord: Jesus is the only Savior; without him there is no salvation (Acts 4:12; I Cor 8:5-6).
5. One faith: The common faith must be according to the Bible.
6. One baptism: Baptism is a prerequisite for entering the Blessed Gate. There is only one acceptable mode of baptism (Mk 16:16; Gal 3:27).
7. One God: There is only one True God and he is the Father of all people. He is beyond all of us, but is also among us and in us (I Cor 8:4, 6; Acts 17:24-27).

C. GROWTH OF THE CHURCH (7-16)

1. The church is one body. The believers are different members of the body with various functions. Christ gives different talents to every one of us. Everyone should utilize their talents by serving God in one accord. That is the way to stimulate the spiritual growth of the church and increase membership.
2. We must be completely obedient to the guidance of the Lord. We should speak the Truth with love and be closely interwoven in our actions, helping each other to become a church complete in wisdom, virtue, and love.

- b. Light can expose all things. Where there is light, there will be no darkness. All evils are exposed by the light of Christ.
 - c. Be alert; do not fall asleep.
3. Live Wisely (5:15-20)
- a. Be cautious and never do things blindly. Think of the consequences.
 - b. Utilize time wisely. Time that has passed cannot be retrieved.
 - c. Know the will of God because we are created to glorify the name of the Lord.
 - d. Be filled with the Holy Spirit. Only the joy of the Holy Spirit has true value. We should allow the Holy Spirit to rule in our hearts so that we can bear beautiful testimonies (Rom 5:5; 14:17).
 - e. Always praise God.

B. WORDS CONCERNING SPOUSES (5:21-33)

- 1. One body: The relation between spouses is not unequal, but rather they must coexist and rely on each other. To refer to the husband as the head is to indicate that his role is to protect and overlook the body.
- 2. Relationship of love: The husband must love the wife, as he loves his own body. He must care for her. The wife must love the husband, and give him support and assistance.
- 3. Christ and the church: The relationship between husband and wife is like the

N O T E S

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relationship between Christ and the church. Christ is the head of the church, and the church is the body of Christ. Christ demonstrated his love for the church in that he gave up his life for her. The church should be obedient to Christ. Likewise, the husband should love the wife and the wife should live for the husband.

C. PARENTS AND CHILDREN (6:1-4)

- 1. Children (1-3)
 - a. Be obedient to parents.
 - b. Be filial to parents. This is the first commandment with a promise. Being filial includes honoring them and taking care of them. To dishonor parents is to dishonor God (Ex 20:12; Deut 5:16; Mt 15:4-6; I Tim 5:4-8; Isa 1:2; Lk 15:21).
- 2. Parents (4)
 - a. Do not anger children or utilize brute force to make children obedient if you yourselves are hypocrites.
 - b. Discipline children according to God's words. Do not teach them using the trends and philosophies of the world (Prov 22:6; II Tim 3:16-17).

D. MASTERS AND SERVANTS (6:5-8)

- 1. Servants (5-8)
 - a. Be obedient and honest.
 - b. Be willing to serve masters as you would serve the Lord. Be a loyal



servant and the blessings of the Lord will come upon you (Dan 6:22).

2. Masters (9)

- a. Treat servants impartially. God does not show partiality to anyone, regardless of their status.
- b. Do not threaten servants. Do not use your authority to take advantage of them.
- c. Masters on earth must remember that there is a Master of the universe. The Lord will treat you as you treat your servants (Mt 7:12; Mk 4:24).

VII. THE SPIRITUAL BATTLE (6:10-19)

Believers are soldiers of Christ. Christ is our commander and the cross is our banner. Satan is our archenemy.

A. OPPONENT IN BATTLE: IT IS NOT THE MEN OF THIS WORLD, BUT SATAN

- 1. He is in control and oversees the world of darkness (Jn 14:30; 1 Jn 5:19).
- 2. He has many schemes (such as creating disharmony and temptations).
- 3. He brings woes to man (Lk 13:11-16; Mt 14-15, 18; Job 1-2).

B. WAYS TO VICTORY

- 1. With the power of the Lord. We cannot depend on ourselves alone. The Lord will give us the power to help us be victorious (Phil 4:13).

N O T E S

- 2. Put on the full armor. Spiritual armor and weapons are necessary if we want to win.
- 3. Resist with all your might. A Christian should not compromise with or run away from the challenge of Satan. We must face his challenges with courage in the Lord. Resist Satan and he shall flee from you (1 Pet 5:9).
- 4. Stand firm in the Lord. Let your faith be immovable. Do not allow the environment to change you.
- 5. Help each other through prayer.

C. WEAPONS FOR BATTLE

- 1. The belt of truth provides power to fight the battle.
- 2. The breastplate of righteousness protects the heart, which is the most important organ of the body.
- 3. The shoes of the gospel of peace will give us protection as we spread his Word.
- 4. The shield of faith resists arrows and temptations.
- 5. The helmet of salvation is used to protect the head. The head directs all of the activities of the body. If the head is injured, the body may die.
- 6. The sword of the Holy Spirit: A sword is an offensive weapon and is a deciding factor in battle. The Word of God is a



double-edged sword and it can penetrate through any scheme of the devil.

VIII. CONCLUSION (6:20-24)

A. PAUL WAS IMPRISONED FOR THE GOSPEL AND WAS SENT BEFORE CAESAR.

ALTHOUGH HE WAS IN PRISON, HE STILL THOUGHT ABOUT THE GOSPEL. HE BELIEVED THAT THE WORD OF GOD COULD NEVER BE BOUND AND HE PRAYED FOR COURAGE TO PREACH THE MESSAGE.

B. TYCHICUS WAS A CO-WORKER OF PAUL. PAUL OFTEN ASKED HIM TO CARRY MESSAGES TO THE BELIEVERS TO ENCOURAGE THEM.

C. THE BLESSING OF LOVE

- 1. Peace, love, faith be unto the brethren.
- 2. Love the Lord with sincerity and we will be blessed.

QUESTIONS

- 1a. What are the important aspects of prayer, according to Paul?
- 1b. What were our lives like before we knew Christ? What about after we came to know him?
- 1c. What does the renewal of our mind and actions include, when we become believers of God?

N O T E S



- 1d. What are the seven criteria for unity?
- 1e. What are the weapons we can use during our spiritual battles?
- 2a. Why does Paul say that we were all once sinners?
- 2b. How does prayer help us understand the greatness and love of Christ?
- 2c. How does living wisely imitate Christ?
- 2d. How is the relationship between Christ and the church like a marriage?
- 2e. Why is Satan our opponent in spiritual battles?
- 3a. Why is God's salvation a great mystery?
- 3b. Paul instructed parents not to teach their children according to the ways and trends of the world. What did Paul mean by this?
- 3c. How can all the believers utilize their talents to help the church grow? How can you help?
- 3d. Paul lists a number of ways to attain spiritual victory. Which one do you feel is the most important? Why?
- 3e. Why is our new life a grace from God?

GROUP DISCUSSION/ACTIVITY

THE ARMOR OF GOD

Objective: to demonstrate the students' understanding of the armor of God through a diagrammatic depiction and applying its usefulness in their everyday lives

1. Divide the students into groups of four or five.
2. Ask them to discuss the importance of the armor of God.
3. Provide each group with a large sheet of paper and have them draw all the armor.
4. Ask them to think about when each piece of armor would come in handy. They should provide specific examples. Fifteen to twenty minutes should be sufficient to complete this part of the activity.
5. Next, ask each group to designate two students to stay behind. They will be responsible for explaining their diagram to other visiting students. The remaining students not staying behind will do the traveling to visit other groups. A rotation will work best and a few minutes at each group should suffice.
6. Gather all the students together and discuss any questions.
7. Conclude and pray.

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Marriage is a union of two hearts, two minds, two souls in one God and one faith.

I. BOYFRIEND & GIRLFRIEND RELATIONSHIPS

A. THE RIGHT TIMING

1. Is it necessary to date?
2. What is the best age to have a serious relationship?
3. Should we wait until we are financially, emotionally, and/or spiritually stable?

B. THE PROS AND CONS OF HAVING A SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP

1. If a person never dated, what might he or she miss?
2. If a person never dated, what might he or she gain?

II. THE SELECTION OF A SPOUSE

A. ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT DECISIONS WE'LL EVER MAKE

1. Permanent bond; a lifetime commitment (Mt 19:6).

2. Intimate bond (Mt 19:5).

3. Honorable among all (Heb 13:4).

B. VIRTUES VS. OUTWARDLY APPEARANCE (PROV 31:10-31; GEN 6:1-3).

Internal beauty far outweighs external beauty.

C. DO NOT DEFILE THE MARRIAGE BED (HEB 13:4).

Jacob was engaged to Rachel for seven years, yet he kept himself apart from her until they were married (Gen 29:20-21).

God also gave specific guidelines about sexual behavior (II Tim 2:21-22; Ps 51:10; I Tim 5:2; I Cor 7:8-9; II Cor 13:7; Heb 13:18; Prov 16:2).

D. EQUALLY YOKED TOGETHER (II COR 6:14)

1. Marriage with a nonbeliever can lead to a downfall of faith, due to different core beliefs. Solomon sinned against God because he married pagan women (I Kgs 11:1-6; Neh 13:23-27).
2. God wants his chosen ones to emphasize religious education and the preservation of a pure race as a "holy nation, royal priesthood, chosen people belonging to God" (I Pet 2:9).



E. THE EXAMPLE OF ISAAC'S MARRIAGE (GEN 24:1-27)

1. Married within God's family (Gen 24:2-4).
2. Abraham's servant Eliezer prayed to God for guidance (Gen 24:12).
3. Although Rebekah had physical beauty, Eliezer looked for inner beauty (Gen 24:15-20).

III. THE UNION OF TWO INTO ONE

A. GOD INSTITUTED MARRIAGE

1. The meaning of husband and wife (Gen 2:18, 23, 24).
2. Monogamy—God created one man and one woman in the beginning (Gen 2:25; Mt 19:4-6; I Cor 7:2).
3. The Lord hates divorce (Mal 2:16).
 - a. Adultery violates the commitment inherent in a marriage (Ex 20:14; I Thess 4:2-3).
 - b. Only under one condition can believers be divorced—when one spouse commits adultery and the other remains faithful (Mt 5:31, 32; 19:8,9; Deut 22:20, 21).

B. THE PURPOSES OF A MARRIAGE

1. A "help-mate" to man (Gen 2:20)
2. Godly children (Mal 2:14-15)

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3. Continuance of the race (Gen 1:28)
4. Man's happiness (Gen 2:18)
5. To prevent fornication (I Cor 7:2, 9)
6. To understand the mystery of the Church and the relation of Christ to the Church (Eph 5:22-23). Christ will come back to marry his perfect Bride (Rev 19:7-9).

D. A LIFELONG PARTNERSHIP

1. Mutual understanding and support (Eccl 4:9-11)
2. Bearing consequences together (Gen 12:5)
3. Unity of the flesh (I Co 7:1-5)
4. Unity of thoughts (Phil 2:1-2)

E. HOW SHOULD A HUSBAND TREAT HIS WIFE?

1. The relationship is built upon love, care, and mutual respect (Eph 5:31-33)
2. A husband should love his wife as his own body (Eph 5:28-29).
 - a. A husband should honor his wife and he should be considerate of her weaknesses (I Pet 3:7).
 - b. Never mistreat your wife (Col 3:19; Mal 2:6).
 - c. Take your wife's opinions into account (I Cor 7:3-5).
 - d. A prudent wife is a gift from the Lord (Pro 18:22; 19:14).

F. HOW SHOULD A WIFE TREAT HER HUSBAND?

1. Wives should submit to their husbands (Eph 5:22-24; I Tim 2:13; I Pet 3:6).
2. The wife should respect her husband, just as Sarah called Abraham Lord (Eph 5:33).
3. Proverbs 31:10-31 highly extols a virtuous wife:
 - * She does her husband good all the days of her life (v.12).
 - * She is hardworking and efficient (vv. 13, 18, 19, 24).
 - * She is good at housekeeping (vv. 15, 16, 21, 24, 27).
 - * She is kind and tender (v. 20).
 - * She has wisdom (v. 26).
 - * She fears God (v. 30).

G. THE EXAMPLE OF AQUILA AND PRISCILLA (ACTS 18:1-3, 26; ROM 16:3-5A)

QUESTIONS

- 1a. What are the purposes of a marriage?
- 1b. What are the important factors when selecting a spouse?
- 1c. How should a husband treat his wife?
- 1d. How should a wife treat her husband?

N O T E S



- 2a. What are the pros and cons of having a boyfriend/girlfriend?
- 2b. Why is it important for a husband and wife to be "equally yoked together"?
- 2c. Do you believe that Christians should only marry Christians?
- 2d. Is physical beauty important at all?
- 3a. How do the lives of a man and woman change once they are married?
- 3b. If a believer marries with an unbelieving spouse, what problems would this couple face?
- 3c. God forbids divorce. What if we are stuck in a bad marriage? Is God too strict in his requirement? Why or why not?
- 3d. How will we know when we are in love and ready for marriage?

GROUP DISCUSSION/ACTIVITY

LOVE IS IMPORTANT TO ME

Objective: to identify the qualities that are important when selecting a lifetime partner in Christ and supporting those views with Biblical references

1. Divide the students into smaller groups of 3 to 4. Ask them to discuss the qualities that are important to them when looking for a lifetime partner. Encourage them to find examples of people from the Bible who

Christian Living

demonstrate these strengths. They may want to look at the relationship in terms of their social, emotional, and spiritual needs.

2. Provide approximately 15 minutes for this activity.
3. Then ask each student to individually rank the top three qualities. Why are these important to them? Have them write their responses down.
4. Gather the students back into a large group. Since this is a sensitive topic, allow time for discussion on any questions that arose during their small group activity or for any general questions they may have. It is also possible to divide groups up according to gender, depending on the nature and maturity of the students.
5. Conclude and pray.

N O T E S



PARENTS AND CHILDREN

I. THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTS

A. TEACH OUR CHILDREN TO FEAR GOD (GEN 18:19; PS 71:18; 78:3-8)

1. David charged Solomon to fear God and to walk in his ways (1 Kgs 2:1-4).
2. Cornelius guided his entire household to fear God (Acts 10:1-2).
3. Noah and Joshua worshipped God with their families (Gen 7:1; Josh 24:15).

B. BRING OUR CHILDREN UP IN THE LORD (EPH 6:4)

1. Children are a heritage from the Lord (Ps 127:3). They will inherit the grace of life from their parents (1 Pet 3:7).
2. Parents should have loving concern for their children, and educate, rather than provoke them (Col 3:21; Eph 6:4).
3. Parents are required to teach their children the Scriptures to help them build a strong foundation of faith (2 Tim 3:15; Deut 6:6; Prov 22:6).
4. Do not discourage our children (Col 3:21) and avoid favoritism (Esau and Jacob; Joseph and his brothers).

N O T E S



C. CORRECT OUR CHILDREN WHENEVER THEY ARE WRONG

1. Eli did not chastise his two sons and they died as a result of their transgressions (1 Sam 2:12-25, 29-34).
2. "Discipline your sons, and he will give you rest; he will give delight to your heart." (Prov 29:17)

D. PRAY FOR OUR CHILDREN AT ALL TIMES (1 CHR 29:19; LK 23:28)

1. The ultimate goal of raising our children is to make them sanctified vessels to be used by God.
2. They should learn to contribute to humanity and to glorify God (1 Sam 1:28; Rom 12:1; 14:7; 1 Cor 6:20; 2 Tim 2:21).

II. FILIAL OBLIGATIONS

A. TEACHINGS OF THE BIBLE

1. Children should honor their parents (Ex 21:12). It is the first commandment with a promise (Eph 6:1-3).

3. Abraham risked his life to save Lot (Gen 14:13-16).

QUESTIONS

- 1a. What are the responsibilities of parents?
- 1b. What does the word "filial" mean?
- 1c. How can we honor our parents?
- 1d. How should we treat our brothers and/or sisters?

2a. Why is there a promise given by God for keeping the fifth commandment of honoring our parents?

2b. How does studying and working hard honor our parents?

2c. How do our parents teach us to fear God? If they haven't been doing so, what can they do to teach us?

2d. The Bible contains numerous feuds between siblings. Look up the following relationships and discuss what went wrong. How could they have avoided their conflict?

- 1) Cain and Abel
- 2) Jacob and Isaac
- 3) Joseph and his brothers
- 4) Moses, Miriam, and Aaron

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3a. What kind of support do you get from your parents? What type of support do you give back to them? Be as specific as possible.

3b. Having a great relationship with our parents is often easier said than done. Answer the following questions as truthfully as possible:

- i) If you could, would you rather talk more, the same, or less with your parents? Why?
- ii) List one good memory you have of talking with your parents. How can you make that happen again?
- iii) Below is a list of things kids might want to talk to their parents about. Check off everything that you would like to talk to your parents about.

-
- My future My friends
- What my parents God
- expect of me
- My feelings My problems
- Temptations I face The way I dress

- Boyfriend/girlfriend issues
- Music and/or movies I like
- How I am doing in school
- Other: _____
-

- iv) Why do you think it is easy to talk to parents about certain things and not others?

- v) How can you improve communication between you and your parents and/or you and your siblings?

GROUP DISCUSSION/ACTIVITY

THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING

Objective: to help students focus on the positive aspects of their relationships with their family members by writing a letter to thank someone for their love and support

1. Divide the students into groups of 3 or 4. This activity focuses on the positive aspects of the relationship between children and their parents. Hopefully, it will allow the students to draw on these and build up an even better relationship with their parents (NOTE: This activity can also be done between siblings).
2. Have the students brainstorm all the things they want to thank their parents for. Provide each group with poster or chart paper for them to record their answers. They can draw or write their ideas. Encourage each member to share by giving each of them a marker to write with.
3. Using these ideas, have each student individually write a letter to thank their parents. It is personal and does not need to be shared. However, remind them that it is a letter of thanks so they should put some thought into it. Some starters might include:

Thank you for being there when...

Thank you for listening to me when...

Thank you for giving me...

Thank you for teaching me...

N O T E S

4. Provide each of them with an envelope and a stamp. Have them fold their letters and seal them in the envelope. Ask each student to write the home address on the front. Collect the letters and ensure that they are mailed the same day.
5. Conclude and pray.



A CHRISTIAN FAMILY

N O T E S

A Christian family is one where Christ is the head of the household. Besides supporting and loving each family member, everyone also has a special relationship with God. It is vital for everyone to build up their own personal bond with the Savior. As a family, it is our responsibility to help one another draw closer to the Lord and shine for him at all times. This duty takes on a larger scope if there is an unbelieving member within the household. By seeking after his will, others may see the wonderful love of God. Since our family also includes our spiritual family, the church and its believers, we must also extend our love to our brothers and sisters in Christ and to the community as a whole.

I. LOVE FOR GOD (DEUT 6:5; MT 22:37)

A. CHRIST IS THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY (JOSH 24:15; PS 128)

B. SEEK AFTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD (MT 6:33)

1. God intended the entire family to believe in Him (Gen 18:19).
2. Build on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Jesus Christ being the corner stone (Eph 2:20).
3. Practice the Word of God (Ps 101:2).
4. Be filled by the love of God (1 Jn 4:19).



5. Glorify God (Jn 2:11).
6. God rewards the God-fearing family (Ps 128:1-6).

C. BUILD UP THE FAMILY ALTAR

1. Abraham built an altar to call on the Lord (Gen 12:6-8; 13:18).
2. Religious education should begin during childhood (Deut 6:5-9).
3. Parents should set an example (2 Tim 1:5).

D. FAITH AND THE FAMILY (PROV 3:33)

1. Eli and his two sons (1 Sam 2:22, 29)
2. Samuel and his two sons (1 Sam 8:1-3)
3. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Ex 3:6, 16; Mk 12:26-27)
4. Philip and his daughters (Acts 21:8-9)
5. Guide the entire family to believe in the Lord (Gen 18:19).

E. FAMILIES ARE THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF THE CHURCH

1. Promote spiritual growth of the church (Acts 2:42, 46-47).

Christian Living

- 2. Increase membership
 - a. Cornelius (Acts 10:44, 48)
 - b. The jailer (Acts 16:31-36)
 - c. Crispus (Acts 18:7, 8)
- 3. Increase manpower and financial strength (Acts 2:44-45; 4:34-35, 36-37).

II. CARE AND CONCERN FOR THE CHURCH

A. OUR SPIRITUAL FAMILY

- 1. The household of God (Eph 2:19)
- 2. A spiritual house (1 Pet 2:5)
- 3. We are joined together into a holy temple (Eph 2:21-22).

B. CARE FOR FELLOW BRETHREN

- 1. Do good to all, especially those in the same faith (Gal 6:10).
- 2. Widows and orphans (Ps 68:5-6; Mt 9:36)
- 3. The sick (Mt 8:14-15; Mk 1:29-31)
- 4. The weak (Mt 12:20; Rom 14:1; 15:1-7)
- 5. The little (Mt 10:42)
- 6. The poor (Mt 25:35-40; Lev 19:9-10)
- 7. The lost (2 Tim 2:24-26; Gal 6:1-3)

N O T E S

- 8. The bereaved (Rom 12:15; Jn 11:35, 43; Lk 7:12-15)
- 9. The married (Rom 12:15; Jn 2:1-11)
- 10. Fellow holy workers (1 Tim 5:17; 1 Thess 5:12-14; Phil 4:15-17)

C. CONCERN FOR THE HOLY WORK

- 1. Jesus was concerned with the Father's business (Lk 2:49).
- 2. Dedicate time and effort to participate in holy work (1 Pet 4:9-11).
- 3. Preach the Word to all nations (Mt 28:19-20; Mk 16:16; Lk 24:47-48; Rom 10:14-15; Acts 1:8).
- 4. Shepherd the "sheep" (Jn 21:15-17; 1 Cor 3:6).
- 5. Pray for the holy workers (Eph 6:18-20; Col 4:2-4).
- 6. Pray for all men (1 Tim 2:1-3).
- 7. Learn to serve, grow strong, and be united in Christ's love (Eph 4:11-16).
- 8. Perform follow-up and pastoral work (Lk 9:1-6; 10:1-11).
- 9. Paul was deeply concerned for the church (2 Cor 11:28-29).



QUESTIONS

- 1a. How can we seek after the kingdom of God?
- 1b. Are Eli and his sons good examples for us to follow? Why or why not?
- 1c. What are the kinds of people we can show love and care to within our spiritual family?
- 1d. In what ways can we participate in the holy work?
- 2a. What does it mean to build a family altar?
- 2b. In what ways can we glorify God?
- 2c. Why do we say that the believers are also part of our "family"?
- 2d. Discuss one way you were able to help a brother or sister in church recently.
- 3a. How can we make Christ the head of our family in times of joy? What about in times of need or trouble?
- 3b. Should we only be concerned about the members of the church? What about those outside of church?
- 3c. Is there a family altar in your home? If yes, what is it like? If not, how can you encourage your family to begin building this altar?

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- 3d. One way of showing concern for the church is to participate in the holy work. How have you been actively participating? If you haven't been, how can you improve?

GROUP DISCUSSION/ACTIVITY

AM I A CHRISTIAN?

Objective: to allow students to examine their personal relationship with God and church

- 1. Provide each student with the following survey. This is tailored to encourage the students to answer as truthfully as possible.
- 2. Give them 5 minutes to complete the survey.
- 3. Now ask them this question: What surprises you the most when you look over your answers? (i.e. don't pray as often as I should; don't discuss God at home) Ask them to write down their responses on a strip of paper (anonymously); fold it, and put it into a bag.
- 4. Read the various responses aloud.
- 5. As a group, discuss how each of those situations could be improved or changed. Encourage every student to participate. If it is a large group, you could give one scenario to every two or three students. After 5 minutes, let each group briefly summarize their ideas for improvement. If there is a small number of students, discuss as a large group.
- 6. Allow some time for them to ask questions and try to provide the right guidance they need to tackle their problems.
- 7. Conclude and pray.

CIRCLE YOUR ANSWER

- | | | | | | |
|---|-----|----|--|-----|----|
| A. CHILDREN SHOULD ATTEND CHURCH EVERY WEEK. | YES | NO | E. I LIKE TELLING PEOPLE ABOUT GOD. | YES | NO |
| B. PARENTS SHOULD MAKE THEIR CHILDREN ATTEND CHURCH. | YES | NO | F. I PRAY WITH MY FAMILY EVERY NIGHT. | YES | NO |
| C. CHURCH IS USUALLY BORING. | YES | NO | G. I READ THE BIBLE EVERY DAY. | YES | NO |
| D. CHURCH IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS IN MY LIFE. | YES | NO | H. I USUALLY ONLY ASSOCIATE WITH MY FRIENDS AT CHURCH. | YES | NO |

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

A. WHAT WOULD YOU LOSE IF YOU COULD NEVER GO TO CHURCH AGAIN?

B. MY FAVORITE CHURCH ACTIVITY IS...

C. HOW OFTEN DO YOU PRAY OTHER THAN AT CHURCH OR BEFORE MEALS?

D. I USUALLY PRAY WHEN...

E. I LAST HELPED A BROTHER OR SISTER IN CHURCH WHEN...