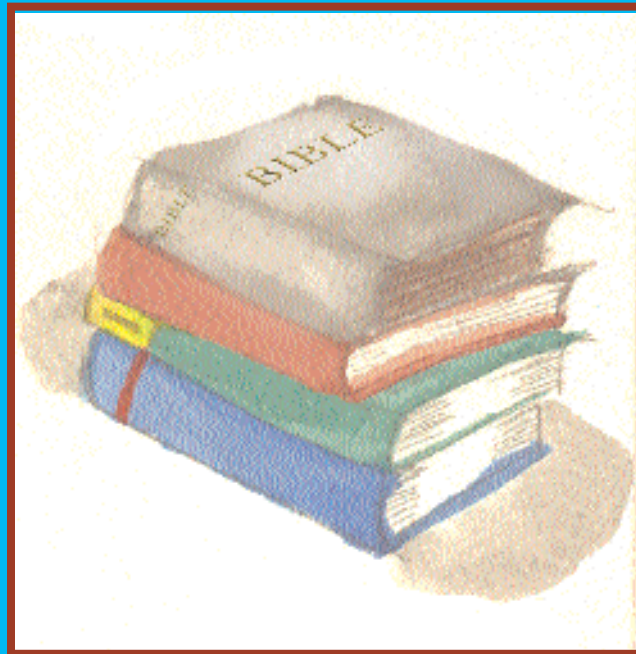


YEAR | BOOK |

# JUNIOR 2

Student Workbook



**THEME:**

The Four Gospels

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## Listen Up

*“As water reflects a face, so a man’s heart reflects the man.” (Proverbs 27:19)*

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There are two ways to learn a lesson: the hard way—through personal experience—and the easy way—by listening to advice from people who learned their lesson the way. Not all advice is good advice, but if the person who’s handling it out is someone you respect, and who has the experience behind him to back up his words, he may be worth listening to. Think of someone you know whose words of wisdom might make your life a little easier.

*“Get all the advice you can, and you will succeed; without it you will fail.”*

**Proverbs 15:22**

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## YEAR 1 BOOK 1

# The Four Gospels

## UNIT THEMES:

### unit 1: The King, His kingdom and His people

“Who is the Lord Jesus?” was a question that baffled the minds of many in Christ’s time. In the next three lessons you will be renewing your understanding of the Lord Jesus. Jesus Christ is no ordinary person. He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, who in a determined period of history became one of us. He came to the world on a mission; to die on the cross and to bring us to God. While on earth, the Lord Jesus roamed Palestine declaring the once-hidden mysteries of the kingdom of heaven. The kingdom that He spoke of was not an earthly one, determined by military might or political power, but a place where God’s principles and values are adhered to.

### unit 2: The Joy of Serving

When Jesus Christ came to the world, He did not act like the king or the type of Messiah the people were waiting for, but as a servant who was ready to serve and die for the sins of the people. The Lord Jesus taught an upside-down perspective on being important. The world views someone as great when that person is first and best in everything. He views someone as great when he serves and gives up his life for others.

### unit 3: Freely we receive, freely we give

Though He was God, the Lord Jesus came into the world in human form. Like all men, Jesus Christ went through a lifelong process of growing physically, mentally, socially and spiritually. Because He went through what all men go through in life, He understands and knows our needs. But His love for us is not limited to healing our diseases, blessing us materially, or helping us get out of tight spots. His love for us is so great that He willingly gave Himself up on the cross to deal with the root of all life’s problems, which is sin. Through His death, the Lord Jesus brought peace and salvation to all men regardless of race, gender, age or worldly status.

### unit 4: Truly Know God

In his gospel apostle John presents evidence and facts to convince the people that Jesus Christ was no ordinary man. Jesus is God Himself. During His ministry, Jesus Christ used signs and miracles, teachings, and His own resurrection to prove that He was indeed the Son of God. By using the “I am” phrase seven times, the Lord Jesus personally revealed that He was the almighty and everlasting God; He was fully man, and He was also fully God. Despite all the evidence, not everyone believed in Him. But John traces the progress of certain individuals who were able to overcome obstacles to come to a true knowledge that Jesus was indeed the Messiah the Son of God.

## MEMORY VERSES FOR SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

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1. "And she will bring forth a son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." (Mt 1:21)
2. "Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, 'The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, "See here!" or "See there!" For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.'" (Lk 17:20-21)
3. "Not every one who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven." (Mt 7:21)
4. "And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." (Mk 10:44, 45)
5. "And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, 'If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.'" (Mk 9:35)
6. "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."  
(1 Cor 15:58)
7. "For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin." (Heb 4:15)
8. "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."  
(Lk 19:10)
9. "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Gal 3:26-28)
10. "Who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the majesty on high." (Heb 1:3)
11. "And we know that the son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life." (1 Jn 5:20)
12. "Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." (Mt 11:28-29)



## Have you...

tried convincing people of something they don't believe in? How hard was it? How did you remove the obstacles? What was the stigma that prevented them from seeing the truth?

## Part 1: Who is Jesus?

### 1. The multitude thought..

- ... the Lord Jesus was a prophet (Mt 16:13-20; Lk 7:16; Jn 6:14; 7:40-43; 9:17)
- ... the Lord Jesus was a teacher (Mt 7:28-29; Mt 13:54-58; Mt 22:15-22)
- ... the Lord Jesus was a provider (Jn 6:26)

### 2. The Pharisees and the scribes thought...

- ... the Lord Jesus was a blasphemer (Mk 14:61-64)
- ... the Lord Jesus was a lawbreaker (Jn 9:16; Lk 13:10-17; Lk 14:1-6; Jn 5:1-16; Mt 15:1-6)
- ... the Lord Jesus was a threat (Mt 21:15)

### 3. The disciples of Christ thought...

- ... the Lord Jesus was an earthly Messiah (Mk 4:41; Mt 4:13; 4:40; 6:52; 8:33; 16:8)

## B. Who knew Jesus?

1. John the Baptist (Jn 1:29)
2. Simeon (Lk 2:25-35)
3. Anna the prophetess (Lk 2:36)
4. The wise men (Mt 2:2)
5. Demons (Mt 8:28-29; Lk 4:33, 34)

## Part 2: Who is the Messiah?

1. Lowly background
  - a. Born in a stable
  - b. Raised in Nazareth
  - c. Son of a carpenter
2. Without outward appearance
3. Without sins
4. Not like a king

Worksheet #2

Who did the multitude, the Pharisees and the disciples think the Lord Jesus was?

1

What can we learn from the way the Pharisees saw the Lord Jesus and the way we see and judge others?

5

When and how did you come to recognize the Lord?

2



How does knowing the Lord's background contribute to our understanding of the kind of Messiah He had set out to be?

6

What were the people's motives for seeking the Lord? What are our motives for following the Lord Jesus?

3

Which other characters in the Bible showed biased thoughts when judging others?

7

What were the things that prevented the Pharisees and scribes from recognizing the Lord's true identity?

4

## We Understand So Little

Once there were two brothers who had spent all their lives in the city, and had never even seen a field or pasture. So one day they decided to take a trip into the countryside. As they were walking along, they spied a farmer plowing and were puzzled about what he was doing.

"What kind of behavior is this?" they asked themselves. "This fellow marches back and forth all day, scarring the earth with long ditches. Why should anyone destroy such a pretty meadow like that?"

Later in the afternoon, they passed the same place again, and this time they saw the farmer sowing grains of wheat in the furrows.

"Now what's he doing?" they asked themselves. "He must be a madman. He's taking perfectly good wheat and tossing it into these ditches!"

"The country is no place for me," said one of the brothers. "The people here act as if they have no sense. I'm going home." And he went back to the city.

But the second brother stayed in the country, and a few weeks later saw a wonderful change. Fresh green shoots began to cover the field with a lushness he had never imagined. He quickly wrote to his brother and told him to hurry back to see the miraculous growth. So his brother returned from the city, and he too was amazed at the change. As the days passed, they saw the green earth turn into a golden field of tall wheat. And now they understood the reason for the farmer's work.

Then the wheat grew ripe, and the farmer came with his scythe and began to cut it down. The brother who had returned from the city couldn't believe it.

"What is this imbecile doing now?" he exclaimed. "All summer long he worked so hard to grow this beautiful wheat, and now he's destroying it with his own hands! He is a madman after all! I've had enough. I'm going back to the city."

But his brother had more patience. He stayed in the country and watched the farmer collect the wheat and take it to his granary. He saw how cleverly he separated the chaff, and how carefully he stored the rest. And he was filled with awe when he realized that by sowing a bag of seed, the farmer had harvested a whole field of grain. Only then did he truly understand that the farmer had a reason for everything he did.

(A Jewish folktale)

1. Coming from the city, the two brothers had no idea what the farmer was doing and sometimes ridiculed him for his actions. How do the brothers' responses reflect that of the people of the world today?

2. Compare the two brothers' actions. During the time of the Lord Jesus, only a few recognized who He truly was, whereas the majority missed the mark altogether. How do you see this in the people we preach to? How do you react when we do not understand God's will or His actions?

3. Today, we may take pride in the fact that we are baptized, attend church regularly, pray and know the Bible. But do we really know the Lord? How do we perceive Him? Do we perceive Him in the same way that the people of the world see Him? How much do we know Him? How can we see and know our Lord better?

D I S C U S S I O N

*What is your definition of “a kingdom”?*

*If you were to create a kingdom,*

*what would it consist of?*

*Why are these important?*

## The Characteristics of the Kingdom of Heaven

- ✓ In the kingdom of heaven, Christ is King
- ✓ The kingdom of heaven is from above
- ✓ The kingdom of heaven is full of power
- ✓ The kingdom of heaven is full of righteousness, peace and joy

## Where is the kingdom of heaven?

- ✓ The kingdom of God is in heaven
- ✓ The church is the kingdom of God
- ✓ The kingdom of God is in our hearts.

## Parables concerning the development of the kingdom of God (Mt 13)

- ✓ The parable of the sower
- ✓ The parable of the wheat and tares
- ✓ The parable of the mustard seed
  - ✓ The parable of the leaven
- ✓ The parable of the hidden treasure
  - ✓ The parable of the fine pearl
  - ✓ The parable of the dragnet





2. Where is the kingdom of God?

4. Can you trace the development of the kingdom of God? What do you notice about its beginning, advancement and completion?

1. What are the differences between an earthly kingdom and the kingdom of heaven?

3. Why did Matthew put so much emphasis on the kingdom of God being at hand?

5. How can we advance the kingdom of God?

## Is God the King of our hearts?



### Case 1

Simon already graduated from his undergraduate studies a while ago. He has been trying to look for a job for seven months but nothing seems to be working out, and now he is beginning to worry about his future. One day, he receives a call from a company he had previously interviewed with. They offer him a job, and the salary is good. The only drawback is that he needs to work on Saturdays. Feeling very confused, he begins to wonder whether he should take the job. Simon asks some brothers and sisters in church for advice. They congratulate him and say, "Thank God, you have been searching all this time, and now you got this job. It must be God's will". Simon decides to take the job.

- Do you think Simon made the right decision?
- How would you know if his decision was in line with God's will?

Jane has been waiting for this big event for a long time. Prom night. The night she could dress up to the nines, hang out with friends, and behave and be treated like an adult. And what is even more exciting is that Ian has asked her to be his date for the prom. She begins thinking about all the preparations she has to make. But her parents strictly refuse to let her attend. Jane just cannot understand why they would refuse this once in a lifetime opportunity.



### Case 2

- What's the harm anyway? Weren't Jane's parents always going on about getting life experiences?
- Do you think Jane's parents were right in not allowing her to attend? Discuss what God's will is in this aspect.

Draw up a list of things that make a person a good citizen of his or her country. How do these traits differ from citizens of the kingdom of God?

Beatitude	Write the beatitude in your own words	Name an example from the Bible that illustrates this attitude	What are the clashing worldly views	What blessings are promised?	How can we develop this in our daily lives?
Poor in Spirit					
Mourn					
Meek					
Thirst and hunger for righteousness					
Merciful					
Pure in heart					
Peacemaker					
Persecuted for righteousness					



**Poor in spirit**

1. Suggest ways we can be poor in spirit.
2. How does the kingdom of heaven begin here and now if we are poor in spirit?



**Mourn**

1. What things do we mourn over?
2. Have we ever mourned or grieved for our sins or the sins of others?



**Meek**

1. What does it mean to be meek?
2. How do worldly and biblical attitudes on meekness differ?
3. Have you ever been in a situation where you were treated unfairly? What did you do and what was the outcome?



**Thirst and hunger for righteousness**

1. What does "righteousness" in the beatitudes refer to?
2. What kind of attitude do the words "hunger and thirst" suggest that we should have?
3. Was there ever a time when you strongly desired God and His words?



**Merciful**

1. Who needs our mercy and compassion?
2. In what ways has the Lord been merciful to you?




**Pure in heart**

1. How can we be "pure in heart"?
2. Have you "seen" God in your daily life?



**Peacemakers**

1. How do you resolve conflicts?
2. Explain how we are sons of God by being peacemakers.
3. Who should we make peace with?



**Persecuted for righteousness**

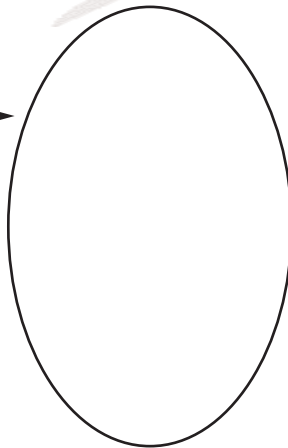
1. Have you ever had to stand up for what you believe in despite opposition?
2. Were you ever teased or slandered because of your faith? How did you feel? Did you take the easy way out?
3. The Bible tells us to rejoice and be glad when we are persecuted. How can we rejoice when being insulted or persecuted?

## Let Others See Jesus in You

Numbers 23:9 reads, "For from the top of the mountains I see him, from the hills I behold him; lo, a people dwelling alone, and not reckoning itself among the nations". Throughout history, the chosen people of Israel were a nation that was separate and different from the rest of the nations. They were God's own people and only to them were the laws and commands of God given. God called the Israelites so that they could bring God's qualities to the world. Similarly, God has called us so that we can be the salt and light of the world (Mt 5:13-16). He has asked us not to conform to the world, and has set us as a light to the Gentiles, that we may bring the salvation of God to the ends of the earth (Acts 13:47).

1.

Has there been a time when others could see that you were different - a citizen of heaven?



2.

Have you felt inclined to conform to those around you?

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3.

Do you feel proud or ashamed to be a citizen of heaven?

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5.

How can we be the salt and light of the world?

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4.

What are the difficulties of being God's citizens in this world?

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Imagine you are an employment agent seeking potential candidates for a job as an editor for a local newspaper and another job as the editor of our church publication. What things would you be looking for in both jobs? What differences would there be in the job requirements?

## The Characteristics of the Perfect Servant of God



- ✓ God's servant obeys and fulfills the will of God
- ✓ God's servant is humble
- ✓ God's servant will undergo suffering

Why would God choose to save mankind through a humble servant rather than a glorious king?



What does that tell us about the God whom we serve?

God often works in ways we don't expect. Has God worked in unexpected ways in our lives?

The prophet Isaiah prophesied centuries before the advent of the Lord Jesus. What does that teach us concerning the promises and love of God?

In what ways does the Lord Jesus fulfill the picture of God's servant spoken in the Book of Isaiah?

What was the mission of the Lord Jesus? What is our mission today?

How faithful have we been in fulfilling assigned duties in church? What can we learn about humility from the example of our Lord Jesus?

# To Be Like Jesus

## Obedience

**“You are my friends if you do what I command you.” (John 15:14)**

Having an obedient heart and doing the will of God are the primary qualifications for being God’s servant. However, we find that we like to have the freedom to do what we like. We often don’t like being told what to do. When God asks us to do certain things, we don’t listen. There are times when we may have to force ourselves to submit to what God wants rather than what we want.

1. Give an example of when you were unwilling to listen or unwilling to do something that you were told to do.
2. Why is obedience such an important quality for a servant of God?
3. Why can it be difficult to submit to God or others at times?
4. Suggest ways that can help improve our submission and obedience to God’s will.

## Humility

**“Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” (Mt 11:29)**

Often it can be difficult maintaining a humble spirit when school and society encourage us to have self-esteem, confidence and pride.

1. Reflect on a time when you felt proud of yourself, your work or accomplishments.
2. What are the characteristics of being humble?
3. How can we improve on being humble?

## Suffering

**“Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin.” (1 Pet 4:1)**

Since the Lord suffered for us, we should prepare to suffer physically, emotionally and socially for Christ.

1. Make a list of all the ways you feel you have suffered while serving the Lord.
2. How did you feel at the time? Did you give up?
3. How did you overcome your difficulties and problems?

## Qualities of a Servant

***“The Lord Jesus has called us to serve.”***

What is your understanding of this? How do you feel about serving others? Is it difficult or enjoyable for you? What motivates or deters you from serving others?

### **1** *Love and Compassion*

It takes a lot of love to serve God, His kingdom and His people. Only with love can we sacrifice ourselves, and our money, time and energy. This may seem very easy, but to love not in words but in deed and truth takes effort and practice. God did not just say that He loved us. He demonstrated it through sacrificing Himself upon the cross.

### **2** *Holiness*

In the house of God, there are many vessels of high or low value. In order to become a vessel for noble use, we have to first cleanse ourselves from sin. We must learn how to discipline ourselves, preserve ourselves from evil (2 Tim 2:20-22), have a clear conscience (Ac 20:33-34; 1 Sam 12:3-5; Eccl 12:14), and constantly increase in spiritual knowledge and keep our spiritual fervor.

### **3** *Humility*

- a. Humility comes when we realize just how insignificant we are. We are but sinners, yet we have a chance to serve the almighty God and Creator of the universe (1 Tim 1:12-17).
- b. James 1:17 tells us that “every good endowment and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights....” Since all gifts, abilities and opportunities are given by God, what have we to boast of? Let all glory, honor and praise be to our heavenly Father (1 Cor 4:7; Ps 115:1).
- c. Phillipians 2:3-8 reminds us that we should consider others better than ourselves.

### **4**

#### ***Ready to Face Difficulties and Challenges***

- a. Challenges within ourselves—As servants of God, our primary goal is to please our master and carry out His will. This often means laying aside our own will and doing what God wants rather than what we want.
- b. External challenges and suffering—External challenges may include pressures from the environment and from the people around us. Apostle Paul faced many such external challenges.

### **5**

#### ***Use Our Gifts***

- a. Recognize our gifts
- b. Do not belittle our gifts
- c. Do not compare our gifts with others’ gifts

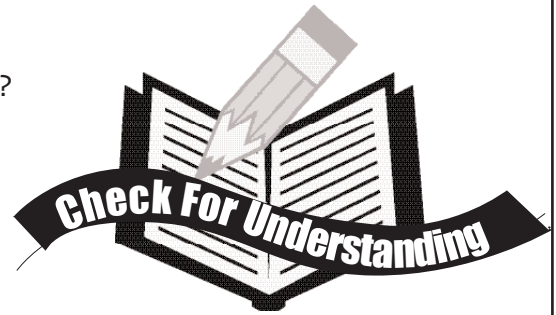
### **6**

#### ***Spiritual Cultivation***

- a. Why is spiritual cultivation important?
- b. Spiritual cultivation and service



1. How does not being holy ruin or affect the holy work?
2. In what ways was Jesus Christ humble and meek?
3. What are the characteristics of the humble?
4. Why is it important to be humble?
5. How can we develop humility?
6. When we want to serve God, it is important to arm ourselves with the spirit of suffering. How have we "armed" ourselves to do holy work?
7. What are some inner and external challenges that you have encountered or are encountering at present?
8. Share how you discovered or developed your gifts or talents.
9. What other gifts would you like to pray for so that you can help the church more?
10. What can you do now to prepare yourself in becoming a useful vessel for the Lord?
11. How much time do we spend in spiritual cultivation?
12. What are some of the difficulties or obstacles that we face in our spiritual cultivation?
13. What are some of the symptoms that may occur in serving God without spiritually cultivating ourselves?



Worksheet #3

**Love and Compassion**

One sister's grandma had, for a large part of her married life, been physically abused by her husband. However, the grandpa later suffered from an illness that resulted in the amputation of his arms and leg. During this ten years' time, he was also completely bedridden. However, throughout the length of this time, the grandma continued to be by his side. She continued to love and tenderly care for him despite her past sufferings. What great love and forgiveness this is!

1. Reflect upon moments where we were able/not able to show an act of love to others.
2. What inspires us to give to others?
3. What prevents us from giving to others?
4. How can we increase in love?

**Holiness**

1. What things may have negative influences on us spiritually?
2. How are they damaging to our faith?
3. Compare your mentality when you serve God after doing something you know you shouldn't with when you serve God with a clear conscience.

There was a brother who went onto the Internet to look at pornography one Friday night. The next day, he was scheduled to translate during Sabbath service. When he was up on the podium translating, a buzz sounded in his ear which he could not get rid of. The sound distracted him immensely. But as soon as the service ended and he stepped off the podium, the buzzing stopped.

**Ready to Face Difficulties**

Once, thirty truthseekers from another church came to seek the truth in a TJC in Taiwan. The pastor of the other denomination was not very happy with this. He did not want to lose them as each person paid around \$800 (Taiwanese dollars) per month for the pastor's salary. And so he hired some gang members to deal with Pr. X, our church pastor. One day, Pr. X was scheduled to visit one of the truthseekers. The truthseeker knew that the gang members were coming to sort out Pr. X and called to warn him. Pr. X had already left for the truthseeker's house. When Pr. X arrived, he saw an entire line of motorcycles and gang members with bats in hand waiting for him. Inside the car, the board member who had accompanied Pr. X was trembling with fear. Pr. X, however, thought, "If I need to fight, so be it," and he got out of his car. Turning to the gang members he asked them, "Is there a problem?" As soon as he said this, the gang members all fled for their lives. Pr. X had no idea why, but he guessed that God must have somehow frightened them off. Later, those truthseekers were baptized into our church.

1. What was the most challenging thing that you were asked to do?
2. How did you face your challenge?
3. What lessons did you learn from that experience?

**Use Our Gifts**

During an IA election where a chairman was to be elected to replace the existing retiring chairman, an elder rose to address the audience. This elder knew that many would vote for him as the next chairman, as he was well qualified for the job. However, the elder recognized clearly what his gifts truly were. In his speech, he explained that God had bestowed upon him the gift of writing and he hoped to devote the remainder of his time to write more books. If he became the chairman, he would not have the time to do what he was good at and what would be beneficial to future generations. He explained that if a hand is given the function of the feet, it can still walk, but it will feel uncomfortable, look strange, and it won't be able to walk for long.

1. List the talents that God has given you.
2. Do you think you have fully utilized your gifts for God and others?

**Spiritual Cultivation**

1. From the testimony, what do you see are some of the dangers that may arise from serving without continuous spiritual cultivation?
2. Reflect upon a time when your service was affected because of a lack of spiritual cultivation.

An elderly brother in his seventies had been serving in the church for a period of time. Although he was a board member, he began to grow complacent. He criticized others and did little for the church. The local preacher, who observed this, felt it was his responsibility to draw this to the brother's attention. So, during a house visit, the pastor courteously reminded the elderly brother of his contributions in the past. He also reminded the brother of certain aspects that he needed to improve upon. The brother thanked the pastor for his reminder but inwardly he was seething with anger. He thought, "I am much older than you and more experienced than you, what right do you have to teach me?" He decided that he would no longer do holy work. Later that evening, the brother was riding on his motorbike at around 70-80 mph, when all of a sudden he saw ahead of him, a huge figure dressed in white, holding a white stick. The elderly brother did not reduce his speed and as he came near the angel, the angel whacked him on the back with the stick. The brother fell to the ground and had to be taken immediately to the hospital. Later that evening, the pastor visited the brother in the hospital. He could not recognize him because he had been so badly injured. On seeing the pastor, the elderly brother wept bitterly and repented for his sins. After this lesson, the brother turned out to be a good worker of God.

Worksheet #1

1.

**Offering all we have**

- ✓ Offering what we possess
- ✓ Offering ourselves

2.

**Saving Souls**

3.

**Serving Our Brothers and Sisters**

4.

**Offering Intercessory Prayers**

1. What are some of the reasons why you serve God?
2. Can you identify the things that you can offer to the Lord?
3. What are the benefits of offering?
4. What percentage of your prayers consist of praying for your own needs and praying for the needs of brothers and sisters?
5. Can you share an example where you prayed for someone? What happened as a result?
6. Have you done anything to save souls?

## Reaching Out to a Stranger

Frank Daily stared down at the frozen ground. He kicked chunks of snow, blackened with car exhaust, to the side. He only pretended to listen to the chatter of his friends, Norm and Ed, as they all clambered aboard the number 10 bus after school. He spouted out automatic answers to their questions: "Yeah, I aced the Milton test.... No I can't tonight. I've got to hit the books."

Frank and his friends flopped down in the back of the Milwaukee City bus along with several other high school boys, some from other schools. The bus belched a gray cloud out the back and headed west on Blue Mound Road.

Frank slouched into his seat. His hands hung from his two thumbs stuffed in the center of his belt. It had been another cold, gray day just a month ago in November when his world had come crashing down around him. He knew that his basketball skills were as good as the other boys. His mother used to call him "the athlete of the season". When he was smaller, she had nicknamed him "Search and Destroy". He smiled at the memory.

The bus lurched away from the curb, and Frank instinctively braced his Nikes against the floor. It must have been my size, he thought. That had to be it. Five-feet-four. "Since I'm new at Marquette High and only a freshman, the coach must have taken one look at me and decided I was too small to make the basketball team."

It wasn't easy going to a new school, especially an all boys Catholic school. The older boys tended to be a bit clan-ish. It was especially hard for Frank because he had been a star athlete in all the sports in elementary school. Now, it seemed he was a nothing.

Not only had he excelled in athletics before arriving at Marquette; he had also excelled at politics and history in the fifth and sixth grades. He recalled the advice his teacher, Don Anderson, had given him; "Look, Frank, if you'd put as much time into books as you do into basketball, you could do great in both."

Well, Frank thought, Anderson was right about the books, at least. My grades have been A's and B's ever since. Basketball is another story.

A loud horn and a screech of brakes somewhere behind the bus startled Frank. He looked at Norm and Ed. Norm was leaning his head against the window with half-shut eyes, his warm breath creating a circle of fog on the glass. Frank rubbed his own eyes. He still remembered his stomach chilling into a frozen knot as he approached the locker room last month. He had read the team list posted on the locker room door, hoping, searching frantically for his name. It hadn't been there. It was missing. No name. He had felt suddenly as if he had ceased to exist. Become invisible.

The bus jerked to a stop at the County Institutions grounds. The bus driver called to some noisy boys at the back to settle down. Frank glanced up at the driver, who had been dubbed "Kojak" because of his bald head. A very pregnant woman hung onto the silver handrail and slowly pulled herself onto the bus. As she fell backward into the seat behind the bus driver, her feet kicked up, and Frank saw that she was in stocking feet.

As Kojak steered the bus back into traffic, he yelled over his shoulder, "Where are your shoes, lady? It ain't more than 10 degrees out there."

"I can't afford shoes," the woman answered. She pulled her fraying coat collar around her neck. Some of the boys at

the back exchanged glances and smirked. "I got on the bus just to get my feet warm," the woman continued. "If you don't mind, I'll just ride around with you for a bit."

Kojak scratched his bald head and shouted, "Now just tell me how come you can't afford shoes?"

"I got eight kids. They all got shoes. There's not enough left for me. But it's okay, the Lord will take care of me."

Frank looked down at his new Nike basketball shoes. His feet were warm and snug. Always had been. And then he looked back at the woman. Her socks were ripped. Her coat, missing buttons, hung open around her stomach, as swollen as a basketball and covered by a smudgy dress. Frank didn't hear anything around him after that. He wasn't aware of Norm or Ed. He just felt a warm thawing in his gut. The word "invisible" popped into his mind again. An invisible person, marginal, forgotten by society, but for a different reason, he thought. He would probably always be able to afford shoes. She probably never would. Under his seat, he pried the toe of one shoe into the heel of the other and slipped it off. Then the other shoe. He looked around. Nobody had noticed. He would have to walk three blocks in the snow. But the cold had never bothered him much. When the bus stopped at the end of the line, Frank waited until everyone else had emptied off. Then he reached under his seat and picked up his basketball shoes.

He walked quickly up to the woman

Worksheet #3

and handed them to her, looking down and saying, "Here lady, you need these more than I do."

And then Frank hurried to the door and stepped down. He managed to land in a puddle. It didn't matter. He wasn't at all cold.

He heard the woman exclaim, "Look, they fit me just perfect!"

Then he heard Kojak call, "Hey, come back here, kid! What's your name?"

Frank turned round to face Kojak. At the same time, Norm and Ed asked where his shoes were. Frank's cheeks burned in confusion at Kojak, his friends and the woman.

"Frank Daily," he said quietly. "My name is Frank Daily".

"Well, Frank," Kojak said, "I've never seen anything like that in the 20 years I've been driving this bus."

The woman was crying. "Thank you, young man," she said. She turned to Kojak, "See, I told you the Lord would take care of me."

Frank mumbled, "You're welcome." He smiled at the woman, "It's no big deal."

He hurried off after Norm and Ed. It seemed to him that the grayness had lifted. On the way home, he hardly felt the cold beneath his feet at all. (Barbara A Lewis)



### Questions to think about:

1. We are at our best when we are giving. In fact, we are most like God when we are giving and serving. Looking back over the past week, what have you done to serve God and others?
2. What change took place in Frank during the course of the bus ride?
3. At the end, Frank experienced a joy and delight that goes with loving and serving others. Have you had such similar experience? How do you feel when you are called to serve others?
4. Frank simply gave what he had at the time. What are the most prominent gifts or abilities that God has given you? In looking at your gifts do you feel you are using them?
5. Everyone on the bus heard the woman telling the driver of her plight, but only Frank came to her aid. Have you ever seen an opportunity to serve or help others, but failed to do anything about it? Looking around, is there anyone or any area in the church that needs our help now? What can we learn from Frank's actions?
6. If we are most like God in our giving and serving, think of how we can be "like God" this week. Whom can you bless with your service? How will you serve? What will you do that will make the moment extra special for God or that person? Plan your service and then carry it out before the end of this week.



Describe your relationship with the Lord Jesus. Do you see Him as friend, Father, an awesome God...? Why?

### ***Jesus Christ is Fully Man***

- *Jesus Christ had human connections*
- *Jesus Christ went through the process of growing up*
- *Jesus Christ had human needs and emotions*

### ***Jesus Christ Understands Our Needs***

- *Jesus Christ understands our physical needs*
- *Jesus Christ knows our emotional needs*
- *Jesus Christ knows our spiritual needs*



**1.** How did the Lord Jesus show Himself to be a perfect human being?

**2.** Why is it important that Jesus Christ came as a human being?

**3.** In your experience, how has the Lord satisfied your physical, emotional, or spiritual needs?

## "I Understand Your Pain"

### Testimony 1:

Hallelujah, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I testify about an experience I had during prayer on December 26, 1999 in Toronto Church Canada. During this prayer, I was thinking about my father who was in Taiwan, working hard to support my family here in Canada. The last time I saw him was over a year ago, and I really missed him. Even though my father is very strict, I still wanted him to come back and hug me, and I wanted to tell him how much I loved him. Thinking about him being so far away made me want to cry.

A few minutes after the prayer began, a bright light suddenly shone into my eyes and began enveloping me until it completely surrounded me. I saw a person dressed in a white garment coming toward me. Following Him were five or six people who were also dressed in white. I then realized that the first person was the Lord Jesus and the people following Him were angels!

The Lord walked toward me and placed His loving arms around me. At that moment I felt incredibly joyful, peaceful, and comforted. I felt totally safe and protected. Jesus hugged me for what felt like a long time. Then He said, "I am your Father, I am your God." Jesus was telling me not to worry. My father in Taiwan would be all right, and the Lord would look after him and me.

Out of curiosity, I looked up because I wanted to see what the Lord looked like. But I could not see His face, because it was shining so brightly – even brighter than the sun. The faces of the angels were also shining brightly like Jesus. The angels

formed a circle around the Lord and me, holding hands. They sang hymns in a spiritual language, praising the Lord. Even though I did not understand what they were singing, it sounded heavenly, harmonious and melodious. I had never heard such beautiful singing in all my life!

I then looked down where I was kneeling. The ground had turned pure white, and the whiteness started to spread gradually from the spot where the Lord Jesus and I were, radiating out in all directions until it covered the entire area. The church seemed to disappear and I felt that I was no longer in the world – I realized that I was in heaven! This was the first time I saw a glimpse of the heavenly kingdom with my own eyes. Words cannot describe the beautiful views that surrounded me. Everything was pure white, but it did not seem strange.

Then I heard the prayer bell ring. The Lord Jesus stood up and walked away, with the angels following Him. They all disappeared into a white light in the distance.

As the vision ended, I started to sense the presence of the other brothers and sisters who were praying beside me. I opened my eyes, and I realized that I was in church. I felt incredibly joyful that I had been hugged by my Heavenly Father and that I saw Him with my own eyes!

This was a wonderful experience that I will never forget. I now know that my Lord my God is also my dearest, most precious, loving Heavenly Father. He will take care of me, love me, and always be at my side. I feel very blessed to be His child.

(My Father in Heaven, Manna, Issue 34, Jan-Mar 2001)



Worksheet #3

## God Will Find A Way

The past couple of months will remain deeply imprinted on my mind as it allowed me to experience the love of brothers and sisters and the wonderful grace and mercy of God.

As part of my university degree, I had to spend four months in St. Petersburg, Russia. Those four months seemed the longest and hardest months of my life. Looking back, I am glad that I had that experience, although I hated it at the time. Before I left Russia, I knew that I would have a long and difficult time ahead, with a different language and culture. Most importantly, the absence of church members meant that it would be a test of my faith. The thought scared me - I didn't know whether I could sustain four months without spiritual support. But thank God for assuring me in my prayers, confirming that He would not leave me alone.

My first glimpse of God's assurance was through a Russian lady. This lady had been in Edinburgh (Scotland) for a couple of days and was supposed to return to London. Somehow, she missed the last train to London. Not knowing what to do, with nowhere to stay, she wandered in the streets of Edinburgh. Amazingly, she ended up at a church brother's take-away shop and asked him for help. The brother called my aunt, and later that evening, my cousins took the Russian lady to their home. They gave her food and offered her a room for the night. The next morning before this lady left for London, she exchanged addresses with my cousins. She told them that I should contact her once I went over to St. Petersburg. When I learned of the incident, I knew that it was God's providence.

Why did this lady from St. Petersburg appear in Edinburgh? Why did she miss the last train to London? And why, of all the take-away shops on that busy street, did she enter the one belonging to our church brother? I was deeply moved because I realized that God had answered my prayers. He was reassuring me that He would be

with me to hold my hand and lead the way. He would not leave me alone. I was much comforted by this incident. Later, I managed to meet with this lady in Russia and enjoyed her hospitality. We have become good friends and I hope that one day, she too will be able to experience the love of God. Truly, God had opened a way.

The second incident that I would like to share demonstrates the importance of prayer. After some time in Russia, I felt alone and depressed. The weather was not improving; I was not getting anywhere with the language. My faith was dwindling. I felt so weak that prayer was an arduous task. On many occasions I did not feel like praying even though my heart reminded me that I had to. Once, when my cousin called, I told her how difficult it was to get myself to pray and how lonely I felt. She reminded me that I should always pray no matter how weak I felt. If we do not even take the first step to pray, how will God help us? For Him to draw near to us, we have to first reach out to Him. After that call, I prayed for God's forgiveness and help - I could not do it alone. I desperately needed God, the only one who could help me. I realized then the importance of prayer. If I stopped, I would lose all contact with God. This would then inevitably lead to the death of my spiritual life. I did not want that to happen - I could not let it. Not after all that God had done for me. I owed Him that much at least.

Another incident that helped me in my struggling faith was a card I received from a sister. On hearing of my unhappiness and loneliness she wrote: "I just wanted to cheer you up and let you know that a lot of people are thinking about you and praying for you." As I read this, tears welled up in my eyes. I was very touched yet deeply ashamed. Brothers and sisters out there were praying for me. But I couldn't even find the strength to pray. It was so comforting to learn that members still remembered me. They have left an indelible impression in my heart and have enabled me to understand the importance of intercessory prayers.

(God Will Find A Way, Manna, Issue 30)

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1 From the two testimonies, how did the people deal with their problems? How do you deal with your problems? Do you bring all your joys and pains to Him? Do you turn to Him in times of trouble and need? Or do you run from them and use your own ways to resolve your problems?

2 How did the Lord answer their prayers? Think of a time when the Lord opened a way for you.

3 What did the people learn from their experiences? What did you learn from your experience(s)?

7 What does it mean to trust the Lord on a day-to-day basis?

**Questions To Think About**



4 How does knowing that our Lord once came as a man help you relate to Him?

5 The Lord Jesus is the perfect embodiment of God, who sees, knows and controls of everything. How will our attitudes and lifestyles change if we really believe and understand that Jesus can relate to how we feel? How will it affect our prayers?

6 Do you ever feel as though the Lord Jesus just doesn't understand you or your circumstances? Explain.

**WHAT IS LOVE?  
SHARE AN ACT OF  
LOVE THAT HAS  
TOUCHED YOU THE  
MOST.**

### A. The Lord Jesus' Trial

Before the Jewish authorities

- ✓ Before Annas (Jn 18:13-23)
- ✓ Before Caiaphas (Mt 26:57-68)
- ✓ Before the Sanhedrin (Mt 27:1)

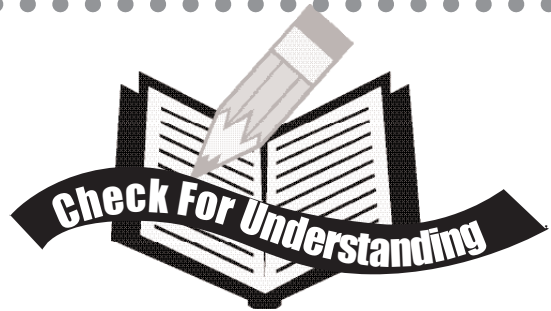
Before the Roman authorities

- ✓ First hearing before Pilate (Mt 27:2)
- ✓ Hearing before Herod (Lk 23:7-12)
- ✓ Last hearing before Pilate (Mt 27:15-26)

### B. The Lord's Suffering and Crucifixion

### C. The Lord Jesus' Death Means...

- ✓ Forgiveness of Sins
- ✓ Reconciliation with God
- ✓ Victory over the Power of Sin and Death



1. List why the Jews wanted the Lord Jesus executed.

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2. List the arguments between the Jews and Pilate.

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3. Why did the Lord have to come as a man to die on the cross?

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4. The Lord left His heavenly throne to come down in the lowliest form to suffer and die for us. What things have we given up that are dear to us?

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5. Jesus Christ resolved to die for us despite the suffering that He would encounter. What resolutions have we made for God?

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## HOW MUCH DO YOU LOVE ME?

One day I woke early in the morning to watch the sunrise. Ah, the beauty of God's creation is beyond description. As I watched, I praised God for His beautiful work. As I sat there, the Lord brought His presence to me.

He asked me, "Do you love me?"

I answered, "Of course God! You are my Lord and my Savior!"

Then he asked, "If you were physically handicapped, would you still love me?"

I was perplexed. I looked down upon my arms and legs and the rest of my body and wondered how many things I wouldn't be able to do the things that I took for granted. And I answered, "It would be hard Lord, but I would still love you."

The Lord said, "If you were blind would you still love my creation?"

How could I love something without being able to see it, I wondered? Then I thought of all the blind people in the world and how many of them still love God and His creation. So I answered, "It's hard to think of it, but I would still love you."

Then the Lord asked me, "If you were deaf, would you still listen to my word?"

Again I asked myself how I could listen to anything being deaf. Then I understood. Listening to God's word is not merely using our ears, but our hearts. I answered, "It would be tough, but I would still listen to your word."

The Lord asked again, "If you were mute, would you still praise my name?"

How could I praise without a voice? Then it occurred to me, God wants us to sing from our very hearts and souls. It

never matters what we sound like.

Praising God is not always with a song, but can also happen when we are being persecuted. We give God praise with our words of thanks. So I answered, "Though I could not physically sing, I would still praise your name."

And the Lord further asked, "Do you really love me?"

With courage and strong conviction, I answered boldly, "Yes Lord! I love you because you are the one and true God."

I thought I had answered well, but God asked, "Why then do you sin?"

I answered, "Because I am only human. I am not perfect."

"Then why in times of peace do you stray the furthest? Why are your prayers earnest only in times of trouble?"

No answer. Only tears.

The Lord continued, "Why only sing at fellowships and retreats? Why seek me only in times of worship? Why ask things so selfishly?"

The tears continued to roll down my cheeks.

"Why are you ashamed of me? Why are you not spreading the good news? Why in times of persecution do you cry to others when I offer my shoulder to cry on? Why make excuses when I give you opportunities to serve in my household?"

I tried to answer, but there was no answer to give.

"You are blessed with life. I made you not to throw this gift away. I have blessed you with talents to serve me, but you continue to turn away. I have reached out to you with my word, but you did not gain in knowledge. I have spoken to you, but your ears were closed. I have shown my blessings to you, but your eyes were turned away. I have heard all your prayers, and I have answered them. Do you truly love me?"

I could not answer. How could I? I was too embarrassed. I had no excuse. What could I say to this? When all tears had flowed, I said, "Please forgive me Lord. I am unworthy to be your child."

The Lord answered, "That is my grace, my child."

I asked, "Why then do you continue to forgive me? Why do you love me so?"

The Lord answered, "Because you are my creation. You are my child. I will never abandon you. When you cry, I will have compassion and cry with you. When you laugh with joy, I will laugh with you. When you are down, I will encourage you. When you fall, I will raise you up. When you are tired, I will carry you. I will be with you till the end of days, and I will love you forever."

Never had I cried so hard before. How could I have been so cold? How could I have hurt God as I had done? I asked God, "How much do you love me?"

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## Questions to Think About:

1. *What message(s) does this story convey?*
2. *Does the author relate to us in any way?*
3. *Has there been a time when we truly experienced the deep love of Christ? Describe that moment or experience.*
4. *What significance does the death of our Lord Jesus have in our lives?*
5. *The Lord gave His life for us, what can we leave at the cross for the Lord?*
6. *How can we help others to understand and feel the limitless depth of God's love?*
7. *When the Lord died, the curtain in the temple tore "from the top to the bottom". What is significant about this phrase?*
8. *To get a small impression of the enormity of what God has forgiven us through dying on the cross, write down every sin that we have committed in the last week. Try to leave nothing out – the harsh words, the uncaring attitudes, the selfish actions. Don't rush over the process; try to compile as thorough an inventory as possible. After this, ask God to forgive us of our sins and thank Him for His infinite love and forgiveness.*
9. *Even if you are far from being a poet, try to compose a few lines of poetry to describe your feelings about Christ's death. Emphasize what is most meaningful to you*

# Jesus Christ, the Savior of All Mankind

Worksheet #1

*What kind of people do we like to associate with? Are there certain types of people whom we would rather not be around or have in our lives?*

## Who did the Lord come to save?

- A. The Savior of Jews and Gentiles
- B. The Savior of sinners
- C. The Savior of the rich and poor
- D. The Savior of men and women

## How do we make the Lord our Savior?

- A. Believe in the Lord Jesus
- B. Repent
- C. Be baptized by water and the Spirit
- D. Lead a new life



Suggest ways to spread the gospel to different races and people.



How have we tried to open ourselves or the church up to enable people from other races to feel more at home?



What does the Lord teach us regarding our attitude towards other races and culture, particularly those we may have ill feelings towards?



The Pharisees separated themselves from impurity and impure people. How do we regard people whose ways are sinful and wicked?



What can we learn about the heart of the Lord Jesus with regard to sinners?



# Jesus Christ, the Savior of All Mankind

Worksheet #2

Does status, wealth or fame easily impress us?

Are we partial to those who are materially well off while ignoring those who are less fortunate?

What does the Lord Jesus teach us about salvation and material wealth?

In what ways have we treated others or have been treated as a second class citizen? How did you deal with the situation?

What changes do we need to make to treat someone like the Savior did?

What steps do we need to take to make Jesus our Lord and Savior?

Does our speech, thoughts and actions reflect Jesus Christ as the Lord and Savior in our life?

Share with each other how our lives have changed since knowing the Lord.



# Jesus Christ, the Savior of All Mankind

Worksheet #3

## The Watermaster

Years ago there was a village in a desert. Water was scarce, and the people treasured what little they had. It seldom rained, but when it did, people scurried about to capture it in buckets and pots. Every drop was a treasure, every cup was precious.

One day, a farmer was digging holes for fence posts. A few feet below the surface of the ground, he found a cavern - not large, but full of water. He immediately lowered a bucket, pulled it out and tasted, to his delight, cold, sweet water. He was so excited he filled all his buckets, loaded them in the back of his wagon, and hurried into the village.

"I have water! I have water!" he shouted. The villagers came running out of their houses. As the people gathered, the farmer explained how he had come upon the treasure. He joyfully announced that there was enough for everyone. "Drink all you want. There is plenty! Enjoy it!". The people rejoiced as for the first time as long as anyone could remember, there was enough water for everyone. The farmer then announced his plan. "I'll bring some water in every morning so each of you can have what you need".

And that's exactly what he did. The farmer became the watermaster. Every morning he loaded the buckets into his wagon, rode into town, and gave some water to the people. It was a great day. The water was free. The farmer was willing and the villagers were grateful. This was until one night when the farmer had a dream. In the dream he saw the

being thankful. They would walk up to the wagon, snatch the bucket, and march away without a word of appreciation. When he awoke he was troubled. As he rode into town, he resolved to give the water only to the grateful. He announced to the people, "From now on, I will not give water to those who aren't thankful." The people were surprised. Each person thanked him when he or she received the water.

All was well until the farmer had another dream. In this dream, some of the people who were drinking the water were unkind to their neighbors and mean to their animals. The next morning, he decided he would give the water to worthy individuals only. "If you are mean to your animals or unkind to your neighbors, you will get no water", he decreed. The people looked at each other and were silent. They knew the bad people among them. When the watermaster saw the looks of distrust, he had an idea.

"Each of you come and tell me who is unworthy so I will know who is mean and unkind". So one by one they came with their names, and he made a list. The list grew and grew. Finally after every villager had spoken, the farmer read the names. He was shocked. Every person in the town was on the list except one. The farmer.

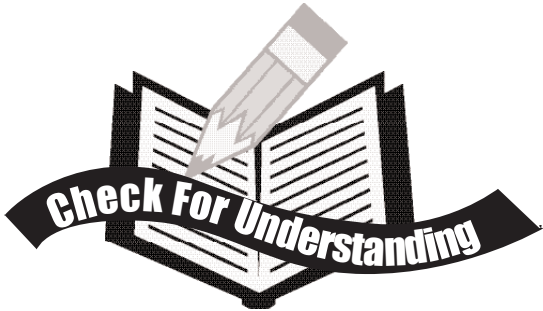
So he stood on the wagon and announced that since few were grateful and none were worthy, he would bring no more water into the village. And with that he turned his wagon of water around and rode off.

## Questions to think about:

1. How does this story teach us about the difference between giving what a person needs and what a person deserves?
2. Have we changed the way we treat others based on external factors, or based on whether a person is considered "good" or "bad"?
3. When we share the gospel with others are we selective about whom we speak to? Do we speak to those who appear to be deserving of the gospel, and ignore those who do not fit our personal views? How can we have the attitude of the Lord who chose indiscriminately, no matter how insignificant that person seems to be?







1.

What is the definition of "Son of God"?

2.

What is His relationship with God?

3.

What is the difference between us as "sons of God" and Jesus Christ as the "Son of God"?

## God and His Attributes

### God Has Control Over Nature

A brother once owned a fishing farm. One day, he woke up to find that all his fish had died and were floating on top of the water. When his neighbors saw this they laughed at him saying, "What is the use of believing in God?" Apparently, only his fish died whereas nothing had happened to their fish. The brother was saddened to see this, and wondered why God had allowed this to happen. He gathered up all the dead fish and sold them that day at the market for a cheap price. Not long later, a huge tidal wave swept over the fishing farm. The wave was so huge that it carried all the fish in the farm out to sea. His neighbors found that they had lost all their fish because they had been swept out to sea. The brother immediately realized God's good will for causing his fish to die. Although he had to sell his fish, he did not end up with nothing like his neighbors.

**Write about an incident or event in your life that attests to the mighty power of our Lord.**

### God Knows Our Thoughts and Intentions

An elderly brother and his wife had been believers in another church that worshiped on Sundays. While grocery shopping one day, a sister from the True Jesus Church preached to him and invited him to attend the evangelical service. During the seven days of spiritual convocation the brother experienced many wonderful visions and blessings from the Lord. He decided to get baptized, and during the Holy Communion he saw a vision. He saw the Lord Jesus appearing to him in white raiment, holding a big sheet of yellow paper with the Ten Commandments written on it. When the Lord came before him the Lord asked if he could recite the Ten Commandments. Usually the brother could recite them easily but this time he could not remember the 4th Commandment. Then a miracle happened at that instant. The 4th Commandment blinked three times, "Remember to keep the Sabbath day, to keep it holy". God is a God that knows and searches the heart. Deep in his heart the brother was intending to go back the day after the Sabbath to his old church where he attended Sunday worship. The Lord saw this and warned the brother in the vision of the importance of obeying completely the teachings of the Bible.

### God Has the Power to Heal Sickness

Since the birth of her youngest daughter, a sister - who at the time had not yet come to know the Lord - suffered constant bleeding. This sickness continued for twelve years. Despite the fact that her husband was a well-renowned physician, had contacts with the best physicians and the best hospitals, he could not find a cure for her. One day, the sister's sister persuaded her to go to the True Jesus Church. When she went, she received the Holy Spirit. During the prayer, she felt a force like a bolt of lightning come upon her and she began to vibrate strongly. She started to worry that the vibrations would cause her to bleed even more. However, she later discovered that she was healed of her bleeding at precisely the moment she received the Holy Spirit.

### God Can Cast Out Demons

In one village, there lived a renowned sorcerer who had such power that if he willed he could curse a person to death. As such, the entire village feared him and came to him to seek his healing power through witchcraft. On one occasion however, he passed by the TJC and stopped to look. As he stood there, he saw a white figure descending from heaven into the church. The next time he passed by, he saw in another vision the radiant man laying hands on the believers who were praying. There was light everywhere except the spot on which he stood. Not long later, he fell ill. He contracted a disease similar to arthritis. His whole body stiffened and it was difficult to move or bend his body. Almost every night, three devils came to disturb him, the very same demons whom he worshiped and depended on to practice witchcraft. They commanded him not to believe in Christianity. They would then beat him up, strangle him or take his blanket away so he could not sleep peacefully. He would stay in bed for more than two months. After this members from the True Jesus Church visited him and told him the truth. One night when the three devils came again, he shouted, "Hallelujah!" as taught. The three devils disappeared. From this incident, he understood God's power better. Later he was baptized. He had to be carried on a wooden stretcher and it proved to be a difficult task baptizing a man who could not bend his body. Still, after the baptism, he was miraculously cured of his sickness.

Worksheet #1



*What does it truly mean to “know” someone? What is the difference to “know of” someone and to “know” them personally?*

### Biblical characters who came to know the Lord

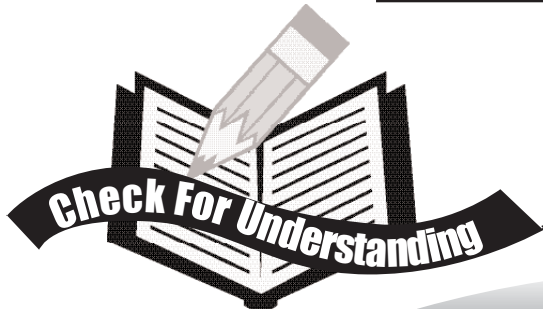
- ✓ Nathanael
- ✓ The Samaritan woman
- ✓ Martha
- ✓ Thomas
- ✓ John the Baptist
- ✓ Simon Peter
- ✓ The Jews

### Stumbling blocks to believing and accepting God

- ✓ Preconceived ideas and prejudices
- ✓ Lack of faith

### Sources of faith

- ✓ Hearing God’s Word and being enlightened by the truth
- ✓ Seeing God’s power
- ✓ Humbling oneself
- ✓ God gives the understanding and opens our heart to see Him



1. According to John, what does “knowing” God mean?

2. What are the obstacles that hinder a person from believing in God?

3. What are the sources of faith and belief in God?

4. From our study of certain characters that came to believe in the Lord, is there one that you can identify with?

## Worksheet #2

Dear Friend,

I thank God for you and our friendship all these years. I also thank God that you took time out of your busy schedule to attend the Saturday evening service of our biannual Spiritual Convocation at Garden Grove.

I understand how you felt that night because I felt the same way the first time I saw people pray in tongues at a family service that I attended with my parents and younger brother (he was about nine years old, and I was about ten). The prayer was not 30 minutes, but about 10 minutes long. Even so, I felt a little startled and uncomfortable. I thought it was such a weird way to pray. My brother and I even laughed, not out of malice but out of nervousness, as we looked around during the prayer. Later on, when I attended a spiritual convocation at Garden Grove, I felt that the long 30 minute prayers were unbearable because I didn't know what to pray about and my knees remained sore even long after I got up.

I remember the first time I went to the True Jesus Church in El Monte. I wandered around the premises and found an empty room across the hall from the main chapel. As I sat on one of the wooden chairs, I felt as if I had arrived "home". It was a distinctly warm, peaceful feeling (which, as you know, were not the feelings that I felt at my actual home).

I also remember the day I received water baptism (the river was freezing cold!) I simply did what the preacher instructed me in accordance with the Bible. I knelt in the water, bowed my

the preacher instructed me in accordance with the Bible. I knelt in the water, bowed my head, clasped my hands, closed my eyes and repented (I sincerely apologized to God for all the bad things that I had done and asked for forgiveness) while he baptized me in the name of Jesus Christ. After I dried up and changed clothes, we headed back to El Monte for foot washing and Holy Communion. As I sat in the back seat to the left of my brother in the burgundy-colored car and looked out the window, I suddenly felt as if a huge and extremely heavy burden had been lifted off my shoulders. I was only ten years old. What "burden" could I possibly have had? I praise God that the person I am today is very different from the pitiful little girl I am about to describe to you. The "burden" that was lifted off my shoulders was the burden of countless sins I had committed.

I had a very bad temper and was easily angered. I took out my anger and frustrations in a violent, physical manner similar to my dad's. Like my dad, I justified my actions and my right to be angry. I couldn't control my temper. I often ruthlessly punched and kicked my poor, helpless brother whenever he irked me. As if that wasn't bad enough, I was so mad at him one time that I scratched the entire length of his forearm and made him bleed. I knew I had a bad temper, but I couldn't correct myself. I became immensely aggravated, steaming mad, and at times I even threw a tantrum whenever my mom or other relatives told me what a bad temper I had. I just couldn't handle the truth about myself and was too proud to admit my shortcomings.

I had a filthy mouth (I picked up the

I had a filthy mouth (I picked up the habit from neighborhood kids). I casually and frequently used the "F-word", "s-word", "a-word" in my speech as well as in my school assignments.

I was extremely stingy and self-centered. I didn't like to share my belongings- I hoarded them. With regard to food or other material things, I always took the better portion for myself and didn't care about or consider other people's needs and wants.

I stole money from my parents and enlisted my brother as my accomplice so that we could play arcade games at the donut shop next to our parents' seafood restaurant. One time, my brother got caught and was severely punished by my parents while I remained silent.

On top of all that, I had a very low self-esteem. It was so low that I hated myself. Actually, "hate" does not fully convey how much I loathed and despised everything about myself. At school, I always felt left out - I didn't fit in anywhere. I was always one of the last to be picked on a team. My schoolmates mocked me because of my ethnic features and the unfashionable clothes I wore. Some boys even went so far as to trip me, cuss me out, throw stones at me, insult me, shove me, or cruelly beat me up without mercy and give me cuts, bruises, and a bloody nose. At home, I was often brutally whacked on the face, beaten and punished by my father whenever he had to vent his anger and frustrations. I felt that I was a worthless reject and a loner; whenever I looked at myself in the mirror, all I could see was an ugly, stupid, unlovable child who couldn't do anything right or good. Therefore, I often walked

# Knowing and Believing in the Lord Jesus

## Worksheet #2

riveted on the ground and head hung low. I felt that I did not deserve anything good. I even thought that my mom, of all people, hated me. Although I was miserable and felt that life was not worth living, I was too chicken to run away from home or to take my own life.

I rarely smiled. In fact, one day, my classmate candidly asked, "How come you never smile?" I pathetically answered, "because I have nothing to smile about."

What a contrast from the way I am today, huh? You and other people who know me would probably describe me as a fairly cheerful person. In fact, quite a few people have even given me the nickname, "Sunshine Girl".

Of course, I didn't change overnight nor by accident – it took many years. To this day, I still have many things to improve upon. As I grew up in the Lord, I discovered my depression, self-pity and self-hatred stemmed from the

way I viewed everything. My ability to rejoice now (no matter what situation I'm in) is not due to positive thinking, nor is it due to optimism, but it is because of God's words contained in the Bible. I didn't merely listen to and read God's words - I took them to heart and applied them to my life. I have never sought the help of a psychotherapist before, but I have some friends who have. Two of them told me that they actually got worse, while the other two remain either troubled or depressed. Why is it that they do not have genuine, lasting joy and peace in their hearts, while I do?

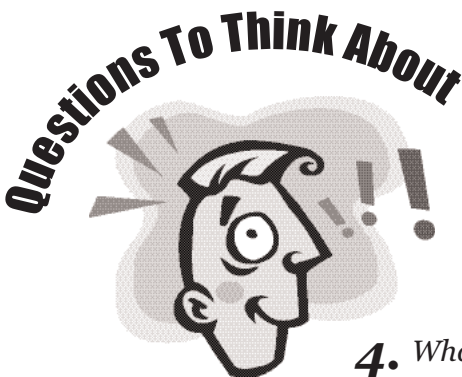
All I know is that God has provided me with the best therapy through His Word which is "living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow" (Heb 4:12). God's words have molded me and shaped me over the years and will continue to do so until the day I die. Although the scars from my childhood will always remain, they don't keep me from rejoicing in the

Lord because I have a purpose in life and hope of eternal salvation.

Moreover, I have experienced the love of God and the fulfillment of His promises to me as recorded in the Bible. The Bible is not an ordinary piece of literature full of historical accounts, stories and theories. God's words are neither irrelevant nor out-dated. They contain truth and life; I know from personal experience.

I have so much more to share with you, but I don't want to overwhelm you or make you feel like I'm trying to convert you. I merely want to share this treasure that I have found. I wish I could have shared all this with you years ago, but I was too worried about what you would think, especially in this politically correct era of ours. It goes without saying that I love and care about you. It would mean a lot to me if you could trust me enough to come to my church again to "taste and see that the Lord is good" (Ps 34:8). You're always welcome to come with me any time.

(Take A Step Closer To Following Jesus, Higher Ground, Spring 1998)



**1.** *How did you come to believe in the Lord?*

**2.** *How did you first "see" God?*

**3.** *What is the level of your faith in God?*

**4.** *What are the things or events that convinced you that Jesus is your Lord and personal Savior?*

**5.** *Were there any obstacles or doubts that you struggled with in your search for God? How did you overcome them?*



*When we encounter problems, who is the first person we usually turn to? Why?*

## I am the true bread from heaven (Jn 6:27)

1. Have you ever felt a void in your life?
2. Do you find that your life is weary and burdened and without meaning?
3. What have you done to try to bring meaning into your life? Was it effective?

## I am the light of the world (Jn 8:12)

1. How has the light of God shone into your life?
2. If the light of God shone on you what would it reveal?
3. Matthew 5:14-16 tells us to let our light shine on others. What does this mean? Reflect on whether your speech, conduct and the way you live your life have been a light to nonbelievers.

## I am the gate (Jn 10:7)

1. What does the gate refer to?
2. How do we enter this gate?

## I am the good shepherd (Jn 10:11)

1. How has the Lord provided for you in your life?
2. In what ways have you experienced that the Lord, the good shepherd knows His sheep, and His sheep knows Him?
3. Give examples (without mentioning names) of people you have encountered who have shown the qualities of being a good shepherd.

## I am the resurrection and the life (Jn 11:25)

1. How much do we believe in the resurrection power of the Lord?
2. Have we ever experienced the life transforming power of God in our lives?

## I am the way, the truth and the life (Jn 14:6)

1. How is Jesus Christ the way, the truth and the life?
2. In light of John 14:6, how would you respond to someone who says, "There are many ways to God?"

## I am the vine (Jn 15:1)

1. How can we test ourselves to see if we are connected to the main vine?
2. How can we bear fruit?
3. Have we borne much fruit in our lives?



# Jesus Christ, the Answer to Everything

Connect each case to an "I AM" truth and explain why.

## Case 1

It's a Saturday night, and Emma finds herself alone in front of the TV. There is really not much on but there is nothing else that she feels like doing. With remote in hand, she switches from one channel to another and continues this for a couple of hours.

## Case 4

Jess has just gotten out of RE class where her teacher has been talking about the importance of preaching to people around her. She plucks up the courage to talk to a friend who is a Buddhist. Her friend tells her that all religions are the same, as they all teach us to do good and leads us to eternal life. No matter what religion we believe in, we can still experience God. Jess begins to wonder if there is some truth in what her friend says.

## Case 5

Bob is thinking of settling down. Knowing that he should seek God's will in his choice, he prays and asks God, "Lord you know the kind of girl I like, big eyes, tall, slim and beautiful. Please help me find a such a girl". Meanwhile, some brothers and sisters in the church try to help him find a suitable spouse. He turns them all down because none of the candidates meet his requirements.

## Case 2

Mandy has a neighbor called Jan. One day the topic got around to religion, and they ended up having a heated discussion on Sabbath worship. Mandy had tried to convince Jan that Saturday is the Sabbath and not Sunday. Jan told her that worshipping God on Saturday or Sunday makes no difference. Every day is the same to God. Just as a thousand years is like one day to God, so is Saturday the same as Sunday to Him. It's not when we worship God that's important, but whether our hearts are right before Him. What can Mandy say to help Jan understand?

## Case 6

Rick has just started university. There are many things that are new and fascinating to him; new faces to meet, and clubs to join. He's also gotten himself involved in a Christian fellowship on campus. He finds the people there very nice and active in doing charitable works. He begins to wonder how members of his church are not even as devout or charitable as these people. His church talks a lot about love, but not much is being done. He wonders whether its worth going to church when a person can do just as much good or better without going to church.

## Case 3

Tracy is one of the leaders of the youth group. She often shows concern for the brothers and sisters by helping them out in various ways. One thing she likes to do is treat the youths by providing snacks and desserts after their weekly meetings. However, all this has begun to upset her husband who feels that she is spending too much time and money on others. He feels the youths are capable of dealing with their own problems. If not, other brother and sisters can help them out instead. He has even begun to restrict her from being too involved with the group. Tracy wonders what she can say to her husband to help him be more understanding.

## Case 7

Dave and his family were recently baptized into the church. They have been fervent believers since then. One day, however, Dave goes in for his medical checkup and discovers that he has cancer. Dave is emotionally devastated by the shocking news. Dave, who feels the news is as good as a death sentence, goes through a stage of serious depression. He begins to blame God for his misfortune. He decides that he will never go to church or worship God anymore.

Worksheet #1

**1. Who did the multitude say Jesus Christ was?**

They thought Jesus Christ was a. a prophet b. a teacher c. a provider

**2. Who did the Pharisees and scribes think Jesus Christ was?**

They thought Jesus Christ was a. a blasphemer b. a lawbreaker c. a threat

**3. Name examples of people who truly knew the Lord Jesus.**

**4. What were the various aspects about the Lord Jesus that prevented the Jews from accepting Him as their Messiah?**

**5. What are the characteristics of the kingdom of heaven?**

**6. Where is the kingdom of heaven?**

**7. Who are the "poor in spirit"?**

**8. How do worldly and biblical attitudes on meekness differ?**

**9. "Blessed are those who thirst and hunger for righteousness." What does "righteousness" here refer to?**

**10. How can we be "pure in heart"?**

**11. Why do we face persecution?**

**12. In what ways does Jesus Christ fulfill the picture of God's servant described in the Book of Isaiah?**

**13. How can we cultivate humility?**

**14. Why is spiritual cultivation important when doing holy work?**

**15. Name some of the reasons why we serve God.**

Worksheet #1

16. List some of the ways you can serve God and those around you.
17. In what ways did the Lord show that He was fully human?
18. The Lord Jesus is the "Son of man." What does this mean?
19. What is the definition of "Son of God?"
20. What is achieved through the death of the Lord Jesus?
21. How do we make the Lord our Savior?
22. How did the Lord Jesus show that He was God?
23. Name certain individuals in the book of John who progressed from a state of disbelief to total belief in and submission to the Lord Jesus.
24. What are some of the usual stumbling blocks that prevent people from accepting Christ?
25. What are the sources of faith and belief in the Lord Jesus?
26. According to John, what does "knowing" God mean?
27. In the book of John, there are seven "I am" statements. What do these statements refer to?
28. What does "the Lord Jesus is the true bread from heaven" mean?
29. What does "the Lord Jesus is the gate" mean?
30. How is the Lord Jesus the "good shepherd"?

“Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.”

Hebrews 12:1-2a



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

2 Timothy 3:16

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**J2 YEAR 1 BOOK 1**