

The Mind of Christ



Student's Notes

THE MIND OF CHRIST MANUAL STUDENT'S VERSION

By Discipleship Ministries Australia

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Table of Contents

Introduction	03
Lesson One	04
Lesson Two	08
Lesson Three	11
Lesson Four	13
Lesson Five	16
Lesson Six	19
Lesson Seven	22
Lesson Eight	24
Lesson Nine	27
Lesson Ten	29
Lesson Eleven	31
Lesson Twelve	34
Lesson Thirteen	37
Lesson Fourteen	40

Introduction

*"For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?"
But we have the mind of Christ. – 1 Corinthians 2:16*

Much has been written over the years about Jesus the Christ. Many volumes line the bookshelves of both religious and secular libraries discussing and dissecting everything that can be said about the historical as well as the cosmic Christ. Many of these works are very valuable and will help the honest seeker in their quest to better understand Jesus, His place in our world, and their own relationship to Him.

This study manual and these resources are different than most in that they look at Jesus, the world He came to live in, and the people who inhabit it through the eyes of the Christ Himself. This is an examination of the Mind of Christ. And by examining His mind, we hope to transform our own.

This study could be broken into two parts. The first seven lessons deal with the "I Am" statements of Christ. These are the self-declarative, or self-identification claims of Jesus. Here Jesus explains in much detail exactly *who* He is. Lessons 8-14 examine the purpose statements of the Savior. These are the claims Jesus made concerning His reasons for coming to planet earth. Here Jesus explains *why* He is.

Our goal is to learn as much about Jesus as we can, and then to allow Him to transform our lives so that we start acting, and thinking, more like Jesus Himself!

The KEY VERSE can be used as a memory verse each week. The discussion questions at the end of each lesson can be used in class, as a small group meeting at another time, or for individual study.

LESSON ONE

I AM

KEY VERSE: "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" – John 8:58

"Friend, your sins are forgiven." – Luke 5:20

"Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" – Luke 5:21

"Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!" – Mark 4:41

"Who is this who even forgives sins?" – Luke 7:49

"I beheaded John. Who, then, is this I hear such things about?" – Luke 9:9

"The whole city was stirred and asked, 'Who is this?'" – Matthew 21:10

The Jews answered him, "Aren't we right in saying that you are a Samaritan and demon-possessed?" "I am not possessed by a demon," said Jesus, "but I honor my Father and you dishonor me. I am not seeking glory for myself; but there is one who seeks it, and he is the judge. I tell you the truth, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death." At this the Jews exclaimed, "Now we know that you are demon-possessed! Abraham died and so did the prophets, yet you say that if anyone keeps your word, he will never taste death. Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think you are?" Jesus replied, "If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me. Though you do not know him, I know him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and keep his word. Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad." "You are not yet fifty years old," the Jews said to him, "and you have seen Abraham!" "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "Before Abraham was born, I am!" At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds – John 8:48-59

1. "I AM" IS _____ WITH GOD

God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" – Exodus 3:14

"This is my name forever, the name by which I AM to be remembered from generation to generation." – Exodus 3:15

"Anyone who blasphemes the name of the LORD must be put to death. The entire assembly must stone him. Whether an alien or native-born, when he blasphemes the Name, he must be put to death." – Leviticus 24:16

Was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God. – John 5:18

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped. – Philippians 2:6

2. "I AM" IS _____ WITH GOD

"I tell you the truth, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death." – John 8:51

"Abraham died and so did the prophets...Are you greater than our father Abraham?...Who do you think you are?" Jesus replied, "Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad." – John 8:56

"You are not yet fifty years old," the Jews said to him, "and you have seen Abraham!" – John 8:57

"I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" – John 8:58

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. – John 1:1

(Jesus) existed in the form of God. – Philippians 2:6

In Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form. – Colossians 2:9

"For I have come down from heaven." – John 6:38

"You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world." – John 8:23

"I and the Father are one." – John 10:30

"Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began." – John 17:5

3. "I AM" IS _____ WITH GOD

"He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die." – John 11:26

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." – Acts 4:12

"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." – John 14:6

"I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand." – John 10:28

Discussion Questions

1. What is the fundamental question in Christianity?
2. Why is it so important to be able to answer the above question correctly?
3. If you were a Jew at the time Jesus claimed to be "I AM", do you think you would have tried to stone Him? Why or why not?
4. How would you explain Jesus' equality to God the Father to a non-Christian?
5. If Jesus was not fully God what would that say about the salvation of those who have placed their faith in Him?
6. Write out a short personal statement concerning what Jesus' eternal nature means to you:

LESSON TWO

THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE

KEY VERSE: Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." – John 14:6

"My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come." – John 13:33

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." – John 14:1-6

1. I AM THE _____

We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way..." – Isaiah 53:6

...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. – Romans 3:23

"...to seek and to save what was lost." – Luke 19:10

"You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand." – Psalm 16:11

2. I AM THE _____

For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. – Colossians 1:16-17

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word... – Hebrews 1:3

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form. – Colossians 2:9

"You diligently study the scriptures because you think by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me." – John 5:39

3. I AM THE _____

Dead in (our) transgressions and sins. – Ephesians 2:1

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." – John 10:10

"I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God." – Job 19:25-26

"...God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." – John 3:16

"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life." – John 5:24

Discussion Questions

1. How did Jesus' words in John 14:6 bring comfort to His disciples? How do they bring comfort to you?

2. Do you know of anyone asking a question similar to Thomas' (John 14:5)? Would Jesus' answer be satisfactory to that person (John 14:6)? Why or why not?

3. Describe in two or three sentences how Jesus shows us the "way" to be saved:

4. Explain what it means to say that Christ is, "the self-revelation of God":

5. How has Jesus imparted life to you? List some ways you can share that life with others:

LESSON THREE

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

KEY VERSE: *When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." – John 8:12*

"The true light that gives light to every man..." – John 1:9

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." – John 8:12

1. THE _____

A light to the Gentiles. – Isaiah 42:6; 49:6; 51:4

2. THE _____

"Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." – John 8:12b

3. THE _____

They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power. – 2 Thessalonians 1:9

Discussion Questions

1. In what way does Jesus use the Feast of Tabernacles as a teachable moment?

2. Why do you think sin is often described as *darkness*?

3. Describe some ways Jesus has illuminated your life?

4. Is it easier to run to the Light (Jesus), or from the Light? Explain your answer:

5. Name several ways you could use Jesus' illustration of light as a witnessing tool:

LESSON FOUR

THE GATE

KEY VERSE: Therefore Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep." – John 10:7

"I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice." Jesus used this figure of speech, but they did not understand what he was telling them. Therefore Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." – John 10:1-10

1. ENTRANCE TO _____

"Son, your sins are forgiven." – Mark 2:5

2 Corinthians 5:19

...if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! – 2 Corinthians 5:17

"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life." – John 5:24

"I tell you the truth, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death." – John 8:51

"They will go away to eternal punishment but the righteous to eternal life." – Matthew 25:46

But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy." – 1 Peter 1:15-16

"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life." – John 5:24

Our citizenship is in heaven. – Philippians 3:20

2. ENTRANCE TO _____

"I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture." (v. 9)

"When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice." (v. 4)

"I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one." – John 10:28-30

3. ENTRANCE TO _____

"He will come in and go out and find pasture" (v. 9)

4. ENTRANCE TO _____

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (v. 10)

Children of God. – John 1:12

Co-heirs with Christ. – Romans 8:17

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever been locked out of the house? How did you feel?

2. Does the picture of Jesus, our Shepherd, placing His body across the entrance to the sheep-fold help you to better understand His nature?
Explain:

3. Name some things we are saved *from*, and some things we are saved *for* when we come to Christ:

4. If you are a Christian, explain what it feels like to know you will never experience death:

5. Do you feel safe and secure knowing Christ is your Shepherd? If so, explain why:

6. Explain how you can have satisfaction in this life:

LESSON FIVE

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

KEY VERSE: *"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."* – John 10:11

We are his people, the sheep of his pasture. – Psalm 100:3

You led your people like a flock. – Psalm 77:20

Then we your people, the sheep of your pasture. – Psalm 79:13

We all, like sheep, have gone astray. – Isaiah 53:6

...saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. – Matthew 9:36

"Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom."
– Luke 12:32

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me-- just as the Father knows me and I know the Father--and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life--only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father." – John 10:10-18

1. THE GOOD SHEPHERD'S LOVE IS _____ ON A CROSS

"I did not bring you animals torn by wild beasts; I bore the loss myself." – Genesis 31:39

2. THE GOOD SHEPHERD'S LOVE IS _____ BY AN EMPTY TOMB

"I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again." (v. 18)

3. THE GOOD SHEPHERD'S LOVE IS _____ WITH OPEN ARMS

"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." – John 3:16

"I know my sheep and my sheep know me." (v. 14)

"I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel." – Matthew 15:24

"I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd." (v. 16)

There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." – Galatians 3:28-29

You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God..." – 1 Peter 2:9

Discussion Questions

1. Why do people need a Shepherd?
2. Name some ways that Jesus is unlike any other shepherd? How do you benefit from those differences?
3. In what way has Christ served as your substitute?
4. How can you show gratitude for what Jesus has done?
5. Jesus said, "I know my sheep and my sheep know me" (John 10:14). Explain how Jesus identifies with His flock:
6. What action is necessary to be one of the "chosen people"?

LESSON SIX

THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

KEY VERSE: *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies."* – John 11:25

But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ...If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men. – 1 Corinthians 15:12,19

If a man dies, shall he live again? – Job 14:14

"Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" – John 11:21-26

1. FROM THE _____ TO THE _____

1 Kings 17

2 Kings 4

2 Kings 13:21

"I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!" – Job 19:25-27

Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay. You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand. – Psalm 16:9-11

...will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces..." – Isaiah 25:8

...your dead will live; their bodies will rise. You who dwell in the dust, wake up and shout for joy. Your dew is like the dew of the morning; the earth will give birth to her dead." - Isaiah 26:19

And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven. – 1 Corinthians 15:49

Who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. – Philippians 3:21

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. – 1 John 3:2

2. FROM THE _____ TO OUR _____

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. – 1 John 1:1

3. FROM _____ TO _____

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies." (v. 25)

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. – Romans 6:4

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." – Galatians 3:20

"I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead." – Philippians 3:10-11

"Lazarus, come out!" And, "The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go." (v. 44)

Discussion Questions

1. Does it bother you to discuss the subject of death? Why or why not?

2. How is the truth of the resurrection made clearer in the New Testament compared to the Old Testament?

3. In what way is the resurrection of a Christian similar to that of the risen Christ?

4. Explain the difference between knowing the facts about the resurrection and living out the resurrection in your personal life:

5. Is more benefit gained by focusing on the future resurrection or the resurrection reality of the present? Explain your answer:

6. If you know that the resurrection is real, is there any reason to fear death?

LESSON SEVEN

THE BREAD OF LIFE

KEY VERSE: *Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty."* – John 6:35

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." – John 6:51

1. WE NEED _____ FOOD

"Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you..." – John 6:27

2. _____ CAN _____ OUR _____?

3. _____ OF JESUS

"Our forefathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" – John 6:31

"The bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." – John 6:33

"I am the bread of life. Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died. But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." – John 6:48-51

"For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day." – John 6:40

"If anyone eats of this bread He will live forever. This bread is my flesh which I will give for the life of the world." – John 6:51

"I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you." – John 6:53

Discussion Questions

1. Think of a time when you had to go without food for a long period of time – have you ever felt as hungry spiritually as you have physically?

2. List some people that you presently know who are spiritually hungry:

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

What can you do to help feed the people listed above?

3. In what ways does Jesus fill our spiritual needs?

4. Have you ever shut off your supply of “Bread” (Jesus)? Why or why not? If yes, what happened?

5. Explain in two or three sentences how a person can partake of Jesus?

LESSON EIGHT

THE LIGHT

KEY VERSE: *"I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness."* – John 12:46

Then Jesus cried out, "When a man believes in me, he does not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me. When he looks at me, he sees the one who sent me. I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness." – John 12:44-46

1. THE LIGHT OF _____

Truth 1: This Access is to _____

"He who receives me receives the one who sent me." – Matthew 10:40

Truth 2: This Access Only Comes _____

"No one comes to the Father except through me." – John 14:6

"Whoever enters through me will be saved." – John 10:9

2. THE LIGHT OF _____

"When he looks at me, he sees the one who sent me." – John 12:45

"Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father." – John 14:9

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. – 2 Corinthians 4:6

"This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God." – John 3:19-21

"Everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: 'Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'" – Ephesians 5:13-14

"I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness." – John 12:46

"Put your trust in the light while you have it, so that you may become sons of light." – John 12:36

"To all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, he gave the right to become children of God." – John 1:12

3. THE LIGHT OF _____

Fact 1: Jesus doesn't want you to remain _____ of the light

"I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness." – John 12:46

Fact 2: Jesus provides _____ for you to be saved

"Whoever believes in him is not condemned." – John 3:18

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." – John 8:12

"I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit." – John 3:5

Fact 3: There is no reason for any of us to _____ in darkness

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever felt “locked out” when it came to access to God the Father? If so, explain how you felt and why:

2. What do you think of Jesus’ exclusive claim to the only way to the Father (John 14:6)? Does it make you uncomfortable? Why or why not?

3. In what ways is knowledge gained when we come to the light of Jesus Christ? In what way are we benefited by that knowledge?

4. When you compare your own life to the light of Christ does it effect you in a positive or a negative way? If negative, what can you do to change that?

5. Consider the facts concerning Jesus being the light of salvation – how can knowing and acting on these facts change your life, your church, your world?

LESSON NINE

THE SAVIOR

Key Verse: "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." – John 3:17

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son." – John 3:16-18

1. GOD'S _____: _____

2. GOD'S _____: TO _____

"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." – John 3:17

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. – 1 John 3:16

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. – 1 Peter 2:24

God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. – 2 Corinthians 5:21

"Whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." (v. 16)

"Now this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." – John 17:3

3. GOD'S _____: _____

"Whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." – John 3:16b

"Whoever believes in him is not condemned." – John 3:18

Discussion Questions

1. In your own words, explain what it means to love unconditionally:

2. In what way(s) has God proven His unconditional love for humankind?

3. What did Jesus come to save us *from*? What did Jesus come to save us *for*?

4. Explain what it means to believe in Jesus?

5. How is obedience connected to belief?

LESSON TEN

THE CONVICTER

Key Verse: *"I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."* – Luke 5:27-32

After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. "Follow me," Jesus said to him, and Levi got up, left everything and followed him. Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and 'sinners'?" Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."
– Luke 5:27-32

1. WE NEED TO _____ OUR SIN

There is no one righteous, not even one. – Romans 3:10

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. – Romans 3:23

Just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned. – Romans 5:12

2. WE NEED TO _____ TO GOD'S CALL

3. WE NEED TO _____ TO OTHERS

Discussion Questions

1. Why is it difficult for some people to recognize their own flaws and sinfulness?
2. Explain what Jesus sees when He looks at our hearts:
3. According to the Bible, how many people have not committed sin?
4. List the two possible responses to Jesus' invitation:
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
5. What is the best way to lead someone to make the right choice?
6. How can you befriend non-Christians?

LESSON ELEVEN

THE WITNESS

KEY VERSE: *"You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." – John 18:37*

1. THE _____

Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place." "You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." – John 18:36-37

The King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God." – 1 Timothy 1:17

King of the ages. – Revelation 15:3

King of Kings and Lord of Lords. – Revelation 19:16

"The Kingdom of God is within you." – Luke 17:21

2. THE _____

"I came into the world to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." (v.37b)

The God of truth. – Psalm 31:5; Isaiah 65:16

The truth of God. – Romans 15:8

Romans 1:25

"I am the truth." – John 14:6

Full of grace and truth. – John 1:14

3. THE _____

"If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me?" – John 8:46

"We have no king but Caesar." – John 19:15

"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" – Mark 8:36

"He who belongs to God hears what God says." – John 8:47

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever sat on a jury? If so, what criteria was used to determine the credibility of a witness? Would Jesus meet that criteria?
2. If Jesus is King, what territory does He reign over?
3. What impact, if any, does the fact that Jesus was born into this world have on you?
4. Jesus is both the Message of truth and the Messenger of truth – what does that mean on a practical level?
5. What do people gain by rejecting Jesus? What do they gain by accepting Jesus?

LESSON TWELVE

THE SON

KEY VERSE: *"For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."* – John 6:40

"All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day." – John 6:37-40

1. _____

"All that the Father gives me will come to me." (v. 37)

"I shall lose none of all that he has given me." (v. 39)

John 17:2,6,9,24

"Whoever comes to me I will never drive away." (v. 37b)

2. _____

"I shall lose none of all that He has given me." (v.39)

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one." – John 10:27-30

I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day." – 2 Timothy 1:12

3. _____

"My Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life." (v.40)

He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.”– Ecclesiastes 3:11

Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.”– 2 Corinthians 5:1

Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed-- in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. – 1 Corinthians 15:51-53

*But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.
– 1 John 3:2*

Discussion Questions

1. Who gives us to the Son? Explain your answer:

2. How does it make you feel to know that Jesus Christ will not reject you?

3. What three Persons keep us saved? Explain each one's role:

4. What two gifts does God give those who believe in His son?
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____

5. How is God's will being accomplished?

LESSON THIRTEEN

THE SEEKER

KEY VERSE: *"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."* – Luke 19:1-10

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but being a short man he could not, because of the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a 'sinner.'" But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost." – Luke 19:1-10

"For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness".... "I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice." – Ezekiel 34:11-12,16

1. JESUS' _____ AND OUR OWN

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." – 1 Timothy 1:15

(Jesus) humbled Himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross." – Philippians 2:8

"But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." – John 12:32

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you and you will be my witnesses." – Acts 1:8

"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." – Matthew 28:19-20

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? – Romans 10:14

2. JESUS' _____ AND OURS

"Today salvation has come to this house..." (v. 9)

"There is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." – Luke 15:10

Discussion Questions

1. What similarities do you see between yourself and Zacchaeus?
2. How did Jesus find you?
3. Name some reasons that Jesus seeks for us:
4. How does it make you feel to know that Jesus is interested enough in you to seek you out?
5. In what way does the Holy Spirit empower us concerning Jesus' purpose?
6. How long will Jesus' purpose continue to be fulfilled?

LESSON FOURTEEN

THE DESTROYER

KEY VERSE: *He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. – 1 John 3:8*

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil-- and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. – Hebrews 2:14-15

He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. – 1 John 3:8

1. A _____ DEVIL

2. A _____ HUMANITY

All have sinned. – Romans 3:23

3. A _____ SAVIOR

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil--and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. – Hebrews 2:14-15

He has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. – 2 Peter 1:4

"Because I live, you also will live." – John 14:19

For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. – Philippians 1:21

O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? – 1 Corinthians 15:55

Discussion Questions

1. What does the Devil hold the power of?
2. Are you truly aware of the presence of Satan in this world?
3. How do humans exist in both the natural and supernatural realms?
4. What do we do that places us in bondage?
5. Why did Jesus share in our humanity?
6. How has Jesus completely delivered us?