



First

Steps

Kids' Version



First Steps (Kids' Version)

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Lesson 1 – The Gospel – God’s Special Gift of Salvation

THE BIG DEAL! Your salvation is your choice

"God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son so that whoever believes in him will not be lost, but have eternal life." John 3:16 (NCV)

The word 'gospel' in the New Testament means "good news". The very first step in becoming a Christian is understanding the "good news" or the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Here are four important points of the GOSPEL...

- 1. God loves me.
- 2. I have sinned.
- 3. Jesus died for me.
- 4. I must decide to live my life for God.

To become a Christian you must believe in Jesus Christ and decide to live your life for God. You do not become a Christian because your mom or your dad is a Christian. You are not a Christian because of where you were born or what school you go to. You cannot be a Christian because you are a good person or because you do good things.

A real Christian is someone who believes that God loves them, believes that they have sinned and done things that are wrong, and believes that Jesus died for them.

Believing these things is called "FAITH". If you have faith in Jesus Christ and decide to live your life for God you have accepted God's free gift called "SALVATION".

- 1. If the gospel is the good news, what is the bad news for every living person?

Look in your bible at Romans 3:23 for the answer.

2. What happens to you because you sin?

Look in your Bible at Ezekiel 18:4 for the answer.

3. What does God want for your life?

Look in your Bible at 1 Timothy 2:3-4 for the answer.

4. What does God offer to you that you cannot do for yourself?

Look in your Bible at Romans 6:23 for the answer.

5. Read John 3:16

a. Why did God send his only son to die for you?

Look in your bible at Romans 5:8 for the answer.

b. What did God do so that we could be acceptable to Him and have His special gift of salvation?

Look in your Bible at 2 Corinthians 5:21 for the answer.

- c. How do you become God's child and at the same time get the gift of eternal life?

Look in your Bible at John 1:12 for the answer.

6. It is faith in Jesus Christ and not the good things that you do that saves you. Why?

Look in your bible at Ephesians 2:8-9 for the answer.

Salvation is a special gift from God. Anyone can have God's special gift if they believe in Jesus Christ. They must believe that Jesus is God's Son and that he paid for our sins by dying on the cross for us. No one can win salvation by doing good things. God will forgive us of our sins and He will give us eternal life in heaven if we believe in Him.

Some Important Things About Your Salvation

Repentance (ree-pen-ten-s)

Being sorry for the bad things you have done and deciding to live your life the way God wants you to.

Faith

Believing in Jesus Christ and that He saved you from your sins.

Justification (jus-ti-fi-kay-shun)

Your sins are taken away and God sees you as pure because you believe in Jesus' death on the cross.

Regeneration (re-jen-er-ay-shun)

The Holy Spirit makes you a new person on the inside and you become a member of God's family. You are God's new creation.

Now I Know: What Can I Do?

- ✓ Think about what God's special gift of salvation means to you.
- ✓ Learn and memorize John 3:16.
- ✓ Thank Jesus for the love he has shown you by dying on the cross for you and sacrificing Himself for you.
- ✓ Use your gospel booklet to explain the good news to someone this week.

Lesson 2 – How Do I Know That I Have God’s Special Gift of Salvation?

THE BIG DEAL! You can know you are a Christian

"Test yourselves and find out if you really are true to your faith. If you pass the test, you will discover that Christ is living in you. But if Christ isn't living in you, you have failed." 1 Corinthians 13:5 (NCV)

When you accept God’s special gift of salvation, you will be very joyful. Your sins have been taken away and you have begun a new life with Jesus Christ. It is a good thing if you want to tell everyone in your life about the great thing that has happened to you.

There will be times when you feel doubts about having God’s special gift. That is because we have an enemy named Satan. Satan is trying to take away your joy and make you doubt that you have God’s special gift of salvation. When this happens the Bible helps us to know for sure that you do have Jesus Christ living in your heart.

In the verse above, you are told to test yourself and see if you truly are a believer in Jesus Christ. Here are some tests to help you know that you are a Christian.

Test #1 You Believe God and His Word

1. What are some things a Christian does to make sure they have eternal life?

Read John 5:24 and fill in the blanks below.

1. _____ God’s Word and wants to _____ it.
2. _____ in Jesus Christ.

Hears Believes Obey

Test #2 The Holy Spirit Lets You Know

1. When you accept God's special gift of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit lives inside of you. What does he tell you?

Read Romans 8:16

2. What does the Holy Spirit help you to do in your new relationship with God?

Read Galatians 4:6

3. List some things that are now a part of your new life because you have faith in Jesus Christ?

Test #3 You Love Other Christians

Your opinion of other Christians does matter. Loving other Christians does not make you a Christian, but it helps others to see that you are a Christian.

"We know we have left death and have come into life because we love each other. Whoever does not love is still dead." 1 John 3:14

1. Why do you think it is important to God that you love other Christians?

2. How do you learn to love other Christians as members of God's family?

Test #4 You Have a Real Desire to Share Your Faith With Others

"I am proud of the Good News because it is the power God uses to save everyone who believes." Romans 1:16a

1. Why is a true Christian not afraid to tell others about the Good News?

2. What does it say about your salvation when you want to tell others about it?

Test #5 You Want to Live a Godly Life

Read 1 John 3:3, 6

1. What does the hope of eternal life in Christ make you want to do as a Christian?

2. Why would you not want to keep on sinning after you have become a Christian?

Always remember that no Christian is perfect. All of us can face challenges and doubts from time to time. When these come into your life, you can go back to the tests that you have learned and know that you are a Christian and do belong to Christ.

Also, there are other ways to tell if you are saved:

- You have a desire to serve others.
- You want to study and learn the Bible.
- You want your family and friends to have God's special gift of salvation.
- You believe for great things.
- You want to obey God's commands.
- You are joyful because you are a part of God's family.

When you become a Christian, you will experience good changes in your life.

Now I Know: What Can I Do?

- ✓ Take a moment to thank God for saving you.
- ✓ Learn 2 Corinthians 13:5. Be able to quote this verse by memory.
- ✓ Now ask God to help you see that you have passed all of these tests and that you really are a Christian who belongs to Him.

Lesson 3 – Studying the Bible

THE BIG DEAL! You can know God more through studying your Bible

The Bible is God’s special message to us as Christians. It helps us to know what pleases God and what doesn’t. It also tells us important true stories about God’s son, Jesus, and other important people who lived their lives for God.

By reading our Bible just a little bit every day we can know more about God. We can also learn how God wants us to live. And we can learn about some mighty men and women who chose to live their lives for God.

God designed the Bible and decided what it should say; however, he used some special men to put His words down on paper. God inspired each of these men and gave them the special words that He wanted them to write down. That is how we got the Bible.

"All Scripture is _____ and is useful for _____, _____, _____, and _____ in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV)

Another way to say this same verse is...

"All Scripture is given by God and is useful for teaching, for showing people what is wrong in their lives, for correcting faults, and for teaching how to live right. Using the Scriptures, the person who serves god will be capable, having all that is needed to do every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NCV)

1. Who gave us the Bible?

2. Unscramble the words to find four things the bible is useful for.

- ECAHTNIG _____
- BUKRIENG _____
- RRNCCIOEGT _____
- GTINAINR NI RSSSITUEOGNHE _____

3. What will knowing the Bible help you to do?

The Bible is different from every other book...

- The Bible tells us about God and who He is.
- The Bible was written by human authors, but God gave them the special words to write.
- The Bible is how God speaks to us every day; by reading the Bible we can learn about God and how He wants us to live our lives.
- The Bible does not lie.
- The Bible is completely true.
- The Bible is God's message to teach us. (Romans 15:4)
- By reading the Bible we can know what we are doing is right or wrong.
- The Bible is powerful. (Romans 10:17)
- The Bible is God speaking to us – we must learn to listen.

4. Why is it important for you to make the effort to read and study the Bible every day?

Read 2 Timothy 2:15

EVERYDAY:

In order to grow in your relationship with God, you must read and study the Bible every day. Over time you will get to know God and His ways more.

Now I Know: What Can I Do?

- ✓ Set aside some time to read your Bible every day. You might want to wake up a little bit earlier each morning to read your Bible or maybe you will read for a few minutes before you go to bed. Maybe you can read your bible each day after school.
- ✓ Learn 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Be able to quote these verses from memory.
- ✓ Thank God that He has given you the Bible that has the power to make you ready for everything that God has planned for you to do.

Lesson 4 – Talking to God

THE BIG DEAL! You can know God more by praying

"Do not worry about anything, but pray and ask God for everything you need, always give thanks. And God's peace, which is so great we cannot understand it, will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."
Philippians 4:6-7 (NCV)

God talks to us through the Bible. That is why it is so important to study our Bible each day. But God doesn't want to just talk to us; He wants us to talk to Him. Jesus wants to be our very best friend and that means that we have to talk to Him every day.

We talk to God by praying. We can talk to God about ANYTHING. When you pray you don't have to use fancy words or big, long sentences. It is important to set aside a special time each day when you can read your Bible and pray. But you don't have to only talk to God during that time. You can pray ANYTIME and you can talk to God in your mind or you can talk to God out loud.

When you pray, it is important to talk to God and to listen. God has very important things to tell you. You probably won't hear God talk to you out loud, like your mom or dad talk to you. Instead, God will talk to you by softly whispering something into your heart.

The more time you spend reading your Bible and praying each day, the more you will know when God is speaking to you.

1. Why is it important to learn to pray in faith?

Read Hebrews 11:6

2. What are three things that God wants us to do when it comes to prayer?

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17

- a) Be _____ always.
- b) Pray _____.
- c) Give _____ in all _____.

3. Read Philippians 4:6-7

a) Does God want us to worry? _____

b) What does God want us to do instead of worry?

c) What happens when we pray instead of worry?

4. Look up the following verses and rewrite them in your own words.

Mark 11:25

James 1:5-7

What are 3 things that get in the way of our prayers?

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Learning How To Pray

Praying is not hard. God made each of us and He understands us. So, tell God whatever you want when you pray. You don't have to use fancy language or any special words, just talk to God. If you are worried about leaving something out, here are five things to remember to do when you pray. If it helps, use the fingers on one of your hands to remember the steps.

When you pray, here are 5 things to remember:

- 1) **Praise** (thumb)
God is so great and He deserves your praise. Tell God how great he is.
- 2) **Give Thanks** (pointer finger)
Thank God for all the gifts and good things He has given you.
- 3) **Confess** (middle finger)
Tell God about your sins or the wrong things you have done and ask Him to forgive you.
- 4) **Pray for Others** (ring finger)
It is important that we pray for others, so before you pray for your own needs take some time to pray for those you know that might have needs.
- 5) **Pray for Yourself** (pinky finger)
Finally, take some time to pray for yourself. Ask God for things that you need and ask Him to help you in difficult situations in your life.

EVERYDAY:

If you want your personal relationship with God to grow you must set aside a special time to read your Bible and pray every day. Over time you will get to know God even more.

Now I Know: What Can I Do?

- ✓ When you have committed to reading your Bible every day?
When you read your Bible, take some time to pray. Make a commitment to read your Bible and pray every day.
- ✓ Learn and memorize Philippians 4:6-7.

Lesson 5 – Water Baptism

THE BIG DEAL! God blesses people who obey Jesus and His commands.

"Change your hearts and lives and be baptized, each one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:38 (NCV)

"Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:38 (NIV)

Water Baptism is a special time when you let people know that you have decided to follow Jesus. In some churches they baptize babies, but in our church we baptize older children, teenagers and adults. We wait until kids have made their own decision to follow Jesus. We also wait because we want people to understand what baptism is all about.

So What Happens to Me During Water Baptism?

When you are baptized, you will be completely immersed or dunked underwater for a few seconds and then brought up out of the water.

Immersing you underwater and then bringing you up again has a very special meaning. Going down into the water means that you are going to put your old life and sinful ways behind you. Coming up out of the water means that you are going to live a new life and follow Jesus. The reason you will go under the water completely is because it means that you are identifying with Jesus and His death, burial and resurrection.

Water Baptism cannot save you; only faith in Jesus can do that. So, before you are baptized in water you must place your faith and trust in Jesus Christ. When you do accept Jesus and you understand what baptism is, you should be baptized in water to show others that you want to live your life for Jesus Christ.

Why Water Baptism is Important

1. Water Baptism means that you are obeying Jesus' Great Commission.

Read Matthew 28:19

Why would water baptism be included in Jesus' command?

2. Water Baptism was done in the Early Church.

- a) Peter's Sermon at Pentecost – Acts 2:38

"Peter said to them, 'Change your hearts and lives and be baptized, each one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit'."

- b) Philip in Samaria – Acts 8:12

"But when Philip told them the Good news about the Kingdom of God and the power of Jesus Christ, men and women believed Philip and were baptized."

- c) The Ethiopian Officer – Acts 8:36

"While they were travelling down the road, they came to some water. The officer said, 'Look, here is water. What is stopping me from being baptized?'"

- d) Paul (Saul) after his Conversion – Acts 9:18

"Immediately, something that looked like fish scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he was able to see again! Then Saul got up and was baptized."

- e) Cornelius and his Family – Acts 10:46-48

"These believers heard them speaking in different languages and praising God. Then Peter said, 'Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we did!' So Peter ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days."

- f) The Philippian Jailer and his Family – Acts 16:32-33

"So Paul and Silas told the message of the Lord to the jailer and all the people in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took Paul and Silas and washed their wounds. Then he and all his people were baptized immediately."

What do these examples show you about the importance of Water Baptism?

3. Water Baptism confirms our identification with Jesus.

Read Galatians 2:20

How does identifying with Christ help you to live for Him every day?

4. Water Baptism is a statement to others that you now live a changed life.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Why is it important to testify or tell others about your new life in Jesus Christ?

Being baptized in water will help to strengthen your faith because it is an act of obedience to Jesus. Your baptism is a great time to show your friends, family, church family, and anyone else who might be attending that a change has taken place in your life.

Now I Know: What Can I Do?

- ✓ Talk to your mom and dad about water baptism. Ask them any questions you have about baptism. Are you ready to take this step? Discuss with your mom or your dad if they think you are ready to be baptized in water.
- ✓ If both you and your parents think you are ready to be baptized in water, talk to your teacher or your pastor about how to do this in your church.
- ✓ Learn and be able to quote Acts 2:38 by memory.
- ✓ Thank Jesus again for the forgiveness of your sins.

Lesson 6 – Communion (The Lord’s Supper)

THE BIG DEAL! Communion (The Lord’s Supper)

“For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.” 1 Corinthians 11:26

Water baptism only happens once during a Christian’s life, but the Lord’s Supper is supposed to be done regularly. Another name for the Lord’s Supper is “communion”. Just as water baptism is an act of obeying Jesus, so is participating in communion regularly.

Communion usually takes place during a church service. We use two symbols in communion. First, we have the broken bread, which is also sometimes a broken cracker, a wafer or a piece of bread. Second, there is the cup and inside the cup is grape juice. Some churches use real wine, but our church uses grape juice. We eat the bread and drink the juice to remember what Jesus did for us by dying on the cross.

Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-32

1. What does the bread represent? (v. 24)

2. What does the cup and the juice or wine represent? (v. 25)

3. What are you doing by eating the bread and drinking the cup each time? (v. 26)

4. a) What does it mean to “eat the bread and drink the cup in a worthy manner”? (v. 27)

b) Why do you have to eat the bread and drink the cup in a worthy manner?

5. What must you do before you participate in the Lord's Supper?
(v. 28, 31)

The Lord's Supper is not to be treated lightly. Jesus wanted us to meet regularly with other Christians; this is one of the reasons we go to church every Sunday. When we meet with other Christians, Jesus has commanded us to participate in the Lord's Supper regularly. By doing this we show respect for Christ and His Church by remembering and recognizing what He did for us by dying on the cross. We take time to remember Christ's death on the cross and thank Him for saving us from eternal death. We also have an opportunity to ask forgiveness from God for any sin we may have in our lives. We know that if we ask Jesus to forgive our sins, he will. (1 John 1:9)

The Lord's Supper is a powerful time when we can worship with other Christians as a whole church and proclaim Jesus' death until He comes back to earth for us.

Now I Know: What Can I Do?

- ✓ Talk to your mom or dad about communion. Ask them any questions you have about communion. Are you ready to participate in the Lord's Supper? Discuss with your mom or your dad if they think you are ready to participate in communion.
- ✓ Learn and be able to quote 1 Corinthians 11:26 by memory.
- ✓ Thank God for forgiving you of your sins and for dying on the cross for you so that you don't have to experience eternal death for your sins.
- ✓ When you and your parents think you are ready, make a commitment to participate in every communion service in a worthy manner in order to honour Jesus Christ.

Lesson 7 – Church – Devoted to Fellowship

THE BIG DEAL! God blesses people who obey Jesus and His commands.

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV)

"Let us think about each other and help each other to show love and do good deeds. You should not stay away from the church meetings, as some are doing, but you should meet together and encourage each other. Do this even more as you see the day coming." Hebrews 10:24-25 (NCV)*

***day:** The day Christ will come to judge all people and take his people to live with him.

The church is made up of every person who believes in Jesus Christ. This might also be called the Universal Church. As our Saviour and Lord, Jesus is the Head of the church. As you mature and grow as a Christian you also develop a stronger relationship with Jesus and His Church.

Because it would be impossible for all the Christians in the world to meet together in one building on a Sunday, there is also something called the local church. The local church is a smaller group of Christians that get together regularly. Where you do to church is known as a local church.

- 1. What are good reasons to be part of a local church?

Read Hebrews 10:24-25

We need to show other Christians love and do good deeds. We also need to encourage each other to persevere in our faith. Christ’s universal church is made up of millions of local churches to help members develop and mature as Christians. Become an active part of a Christ-centered,

Bible-teaching church is very important in helping you grow and develop your Christian life.

2. What two things are the church referred to as in 1 Timothy 3:15?

1) _____

2) _____

Notice that the church is the family of God and it guards the truth. We learn how to act as Christians by reading the Bible and by going to church. The Christian church is responsible for doing what God's Word says and for telling others about God's Word. When you go to church you hear God's Word and learn about how to live as a Christian. That is why it is necessary for Christians to go to a local church.

3. Read Matthew 16:18

a) What did Jesus say he was committed to doing?

b) What would try, but fail, to prevent Jesus from keeping his promise?

What Are My Responsibilities When I Belong to the Church?

4. What are some of your responsibilities as a church member?

Read each verse and write down your responsibility:

a) John 13:34-35 *"I give you a new command: Love each other. You must love each other as I have loved you. All people will know that you are my followers if you love each other."*

My Responsibility:

- b) Romans 12:1 *"So brothers and sisters, since God has shown us great mercy, I beg you to offer your lives as a living sacrifice to him. Your offering must be only for God and pleasing to him, which is the spiritual way for you to worship."*

My Responsibility:

- c) Romans 12:10 *"Love each other like brothers and sisters. Give each other more honour than you want for yourselves."*

My Responsibility:

- d) Galatians 6:10 *"When we have the opportunity to help anyone, we should do it. But we should give special attention to those who are in the family of believers."*

My Responsibility:

- e) Ephesians 4:2 *"Always be humble, gentle, and patient, accepting each other in love."*

My Responsibility:

- f) Ephesians 4:29 *"When you talk, do not say harmful things, but say what people need – words that will help others become stronger. Then what you say will do good to those who listen to you."*

My Responsibility:

- g) Colossians 3:13 *"Bear with each other, and forgive each other. If someone does wrong to you, forgive that person because the Lord forgave you."*

My Responsibility:

- h) 1 Thessalonians 5:11 *"So encourage each other and give each other strength, just as you are doing now."*

My Responsibility:

- i) James 5:16 *"Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so God can heal you. When a believing person prays, great things happen."*

My Responsibility:

- j) 1 Peter 4:9 *"Open your homes to each other, without complaining."*

My Responsibility:

- k) 1 Peter 4:10 *"Each of you has received a gift to use to serve others. Be good servants of God's various gifts of grace."*

My Responsibility:

- l) Hebrews 13:17 *"Obey your leaders and act under their authority. They are watching over you, because they are responsible for your souls. Obey them so that they will do this work with joy, not sadness. It will not help you to make their work hard."*

My Responsibility:

What Should My Church Look Like?

You should attend a local church that:

- Openly says that Jesus is Lord
- Teaches and preaches the Bible as God's Word
- Practices prayer
- Encourages and trains its members to serve in ministry
- Reaches out to the world with the gospel
- Worships the Lord together regularly

When you go to church, you should be involved and support the church's leadership and mission.

5. a) Who are some of the leaders in your church?

b) How can you support the leaders in your church?

Now I Know: What Can I Do?

- ✓ Take some time to think about and pray for your church.
- ✓ Learn Hebrews 10:24-25. Be able to quote these verses by memory.
- ✓ Thank God that He has given you a church where you can encourage others to grow in their Christian walk.
- ✓ Thank God for what you have learned from His Word, the Bible. Pray that the Lord will continue to help you understand and apply His Word to your life every day.
- ✓ **Find out what the mission of your church is and who the leaders of your church are.**

Lesson 8 – Power to Live the Christian Life – Meet the Holy Spirit

THE BIG DEAL! The Holy Spirit makes it possible for you to live the Christian life.

"I ask the Father in his great glory to give you the power to be strong inwardly through his Spirit. I pray that Christ will live in your hearts by faith and that your life will be strong in love and be built on love."

Ephesians 3:16-17 (NCV)

"I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith." Ephesians 3:16-17a (NIV)

There are times when Christians struggle to serve God. They don't want to displease God, but they try to live without God's help. It is very important to learn that growing as a Christian is not possible by yourself. Even if you are really determined to live for God, without His help, you will not succeed.

The good news is that God never planned for you to live your Christian life without help. When Jesus rose from the dead and then went back to heaven, He sent you the Holy Spirit to help you be all that God wants you to be.

The Holy Spirit is a person, although you cannot see Him. And just like God the Father and Jesus the Son are God, so is God the Holy Spirit. There are not three separate gods, but one God in three different persons; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

The minute you receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour, the Holy Spirit begins to live inside you and you become a dwelling place of God. The Holy Spirit has all that you need to live for Jesus Christ. If you are a follower of Jesus Christ, He lives in you.

You are not alone; God is at work in you and changing you every day.

1. a) What was a title that Jesus gives to the Holy Spirit?

Read John 14:16

The word Counsellor means helper. A helper is someone who is called by someone else to help them.

- c) How does it make you feel to know that the Holy Spirit is your Counsellor or Helper? Explain your answer.

2. a) What is another name for the Holy Spirit?

Read John 14:17

- b) The world does not have the Holy Spirit, but Christians do. Why is it important for Christians to have the Holy Spirit?

3. What major role does the Holy Spirit play as your Counsellor or Helper?

Read John 14:6

4. How else does the Holy Spirit help you?

Read John 16:13

The Holy Spirit is so important to you as a Christian. Every day the Holy Spirit will help you know what is right and teach you God's Word. You must let the Holy Spirit do this by listening for His quiet and still voice and by studying your Bible.

The Holy Spirit...

- Helps you know that you are a Christian and that you have God's salvation.
- Helps you do God's work.
- Helps you be a witness for Christ and share the Gospel with others.
- Helps lead and guide you every day.
- Helps you pray.
- Helps you learn what you need to know.
- Helps you build your character to be like Christ.
- Helps you serve Christ and His church.

Now I Know: What Can I Do?

- ✓ Admit that you need the Holy Spirit to help you live your life for Jesus Christ.
- ✓ Thank God for the Holy Spirit, who helps you grow and mature in your faith.
- ✓ Learn Ephesians 3:16-17. Be able to quote these verses by memory.
- ✓ Ask the Holy Spirit every day to give you the strength you need and to help you learn new things about God.

Lesson 9 – The Greatest Commandments – Loving God & Loving Others

THE BIG DEAL! Loving God and Loving Others is Our Priority and Privilege

*"...‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength’. The second command is this: ‘Love your neighbour as you love yourself.’ There are no commands more important than these.”
Mark 12:30-31 (NCV)*

*"...‘Love the Lord you God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself’. There is no commandment greater than these.”
Mark 12:30-31 (NIV)*

As a Christian, you know that God loves you. At the heart, or the very centre, of God’s message is that He loves every human being. When you asked Jesus into your heart you have accepted God’s love by making Him your Lord and Saviour. Now you want to serve God and show your love to Him because of His great love for you. How is this possible? What could you ever do to show your love for God?

As sinful people, we prefer to have a set of rules and regulations to follow. But the problem is that we cannot ever obey all of the rules all of the time. When we break a rule we feel guilty and frustrated and like we’ve failed.

Jesus solved this problem by pointing out how we as Christians can honour God. We must obey the Great Commandments – love God and love others.

Loving God – Mark 12:30

Love God with all your HEART (Who you are)

- 1. Proverbs 4:23 – What are you to do? Why?

2. Psalm 119:11 – How do you guard your heart from sinning against God?

3. Matthew 6:21 – What place should God have in your heart?

Love God with all you SOUL (Your emotions and will)

1. Psalm 25:1 – What do you do with your soul?

2. Psalm 42:1 – How do you develop and keep this focus?

3. Psalm 103:1-2, 22 – How should you express praise to God?

Love God with all your MIND (Your thoughts and attitudes)

1. Philippians 4:8 – What are the things you should think about?

2. Romans 12:2 – How do you prepare your mind for loving God?

3. Philippians 4:6-7 – What happens when you focus your mind on God?

Love God with all your STRENGTH (Your power and ability)

1. Nehemiah 8:10 – What will make you strong or give you strength?

2. Isaiah 40:28-31 – How do you keep God’s strength inside you?

3. 1 Peter 4:10-11 – What is the result when you serve God with the strength He gives you?

You love God by accepting God’s love. You let God love you and you love Him back. Your goal is to love God totally, with all your HEART, SOUL, MIND and STRENGTH.

Loving Others – Mark 12:31

Loving God is very important. But you show God how much you love Him by how much you love other people. In fact, if you don't love others, then you really don't understand that God loves you.

Read 1 John 4:7-8

1. Whom are you called to love?

2. Read Luke 10:25-37, the story of the Good Samaritan. Who does Jesus say is your neighbour?

Love for God means that you will love and act kindly towards others. You are a neighbour to anyone you show mercy to. The possibilities of loving your neighbour are endless.

3. How do you become a loving neighbour?

Read Ephesians 5:1-2

In order to be a truly loving neighbour, you must...

- Imitate God
- Live a life of love

Loving other people is a natural way for us to show our love to God. Imitating God's love means having compassion and showing kindness to the people around you. As you focus on loving others, you will learn to sacrifice yourself for their sake. This is possible when God's love is part of your daily life.

The Greatest Commandments are God's priority. All of the laws he has given us can be found in these two commandments – love God and love others. It is your privilege to love God totally and let Him love others through you.

Now I Know: What Can I Do?

- ✓ Learn Mark 12:30-31. Be able to quote this verse by memory.
- ✓ Take some time to praise the Lord with your whole heart as an act of your love for Him. Thank God that He loved you first.
- ✓ Now ask God to help you love other people the way He loves you. Ask God to help you see your neighbours the way He sees them.
- ✓ Pick one person who you will try to show God's love to this whole week.

Lesson 10 – The Great Commission – Reaching a Lost World

THE BIG DEAL! Every Christian is to tell others about Jesus Christ and His love.

"So go and make followers of all people in the world. Baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything that I have taught you, and I will be with you always, even until the end of this age." Matthew 28:19-20 (NCV)

"Therefore 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 (NIV)

A disciple is a follower and student of Jesus Christ and his teachings. Once we become Christians, we begin a journey of learning and growing to live life the way Jesus would live if He were in our place. The more we become like Jesus, the more we understand his love for the world, because he made the people who live in it. Jesus came and gave His life on the cross, not only to save you, but every living person.

Jesus continues to spread his message of love to the people who don't know him through disciples like you and me. God could have chosen any other way to share the gospel with the people in the world, but He didn't. With the help of the Holy Spirit, you and I have a responsibility to help bring people to faith in Christ. However, our work does not end there. We have been commanded by Christ to disciple those new believers in Christ how to live for Him.

A disciple of Jesus Christ is someone who can make another disciple.

1. Where does Jesus tell you to go and make disciples?

Read Matthew 28:19

As Christians disciples we are commanded by Jesus to go and tell others about the good news of Jesus Christ. Not only does a disciple-maker tell others about Jesus and the good news of salvation, but once a person has accepted Jesus, a disciple-maker will teach that person about water baptism and following God's commands.

It doesn't matter how old you are, if you are a follower of Christ you are a disciple of Christ. You don't need to have fancy answers to disciple someone. Once you learn about the gospel message and Jesus' commands you can tell other people.

2. Write down the names of people you know who need Jesus as their personal Lord and Saviour.

3. What is an important thing you can do to help reach others with the message of Jesus Christ?

Read Matthew 9:37-38

4. What is the first thing you have to do to obey the Great Commission?

Read Matthew 28:19-20 _____

The word "go" is an action word. Disciples of Jesus are not just born. You become a disciple of Jesus Christ when you obey the Great Commission.

Four things to remember when telling people the Good News...

- 1) God loves you
- 2) You have sinned
- 3) Jesus died for you
- 4) You must decide to live your life for God

So don't wait; start acting as a disciple of Jesus Christ right now!

Who can you tell Jesus' Good News to?

Now I Know: What Can I Do?

- ✓ Learn Matthew 19:19-20. Be able to quote these verses by memory.
- ✓ Thank Jesus that you are able to be His disciple. Ask Him to help you disciple others every day.
- ✓ Thank God for equipping you to go out and make disciples of Jesus.
- ✓ Ask God to show you who He wants you to disciple.