

Teacher's Edition

Building Together, Part One

Foundations of Faith

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An Introduction

By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God, Hebrews 11:8-10.

For hundreds of centuries, men and women like Abraham and Sarah have been leaving everything behind to look for the city that God is building. Although the city of God is spiritual and must be seen through eyes of faith, it is also practical. Faith is the substance of things hoped for, Hebrews 11:1, and today we can touch the substance of the city Abraham only hoped for. It is called the Church.

This book is designed to help lay firm foundations in the life of a new believer, or a believer who is new to this local church. All the principles described here rest on the one unchanging foundation — Jesus Christ, the Solid Rock. As we commit ourselves to Him and to one another, we will see the city of God grow more glorious every day.

Objective

Upon completion of this lesson the student should be able to

1. Explain the purpose of the written Word of God—to reveal Himself to man.
2. Recognize that the scripture is divinely inspired and can give two points that support this fact.
3. Define these qualities of Scripture.
 - unity
 - infallibility
4. Support with scripture the fact that the Word is eternal and alive.

The Bible is divided into 9 major sections:

1. Books of the Pentateuch
Genesis–Deuteronomy
2. Books of History
Joshua–Esther
3. Books of Poetry
Job–Solomon
4. Major Prophets
Isaiah–Daniel
5. Minor Prophets
Hosea–Malachi
6. History–New Testament
Matthew–Acts
7. Pauline Epistles
Romans–Hebrews
8. General Epistles
James–Jude
9. Apocalyptic
Revelation



God's Word Loving the Father's Voice

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3: 16–17

Chapter One

Objective:

After studying this lesson, we hope that you will read God's Word and hide it in your heart. May you yearn for it, learn from it, follow it, and love it all the days of your life.

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DISCUSSION ACTIVITY

Discuss in class what will happen if only a part of the Bible came from God and the rest from man's imagination.

- A. Who would be the authority to determine which part was correct?
- B. What would be the criteria to give them that position?
- C. Could this decision be left with everyone to make up their own mind?
- D. Brainstorm with the class other problems.

Teaching Notes

I. God's Word

A. The Bible

1. Speaks directly to us.
2. Defines truth and sin.
3. Shows us our need of salvation.
4. Shows God's willingness to save.
5. Reveals Jesus Christ as Savior.
6. Brings a clear message of:
 - a. Hell
 - b. Heaven
 - c. Life to come
 - d. Living daily life

B. The Purpose

1. Reveal God
 - a. Jesus Christ
 - 1) Living example of God
 - 2) Met through the Word
 - 3) Access to the Father

John 8:37-38—I know that you are Abraham's offspring; yet you seek to kill Me, because my word has no place in you. I speak the things which I have seen with My Father; therefore you also do the things which you heard from your father.

John 14:9—Jesus said to him, Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how do you say, Show us the Father?

Important Note:

Jesus is first Fruits of the Kingdom – First born among many brethren
First Corinthians 15:20; Colossians 1:15-18; Romans 8:29

Notes

God's Word

Loving the Father's Voice

Introduction:

Children love the sound of their father's voice. Shortly after birth a baby responds to that sound and as the child grows, he begins to accept both discipline and direction from the same voice that brings delight. As children of God, we delight in His voice, which is easily heard through His written Word—The Bible.

The Bible is God's Word to us on earth. Although we can see evidence of God's work in His creation, that is an imperfect representation, *Romans 1:19-20*. Only God's written Word can fully show us the truth about sin, our need of salvation, God's willingness to save, and Jesus Christ the Savior. It contains the facts about heaven, hell, and the life to come—and clearly directs us in our lives today.

The Purpose of the Word

Although it is evident that the purpose of the Bible is to reveal God to us more perfectly, its more precise purpose is to reveal God's Son, Jesus Christ:

And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all, Ephesians 1:22-23.

...beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself, Luke 24:27.

Obviously, the New Testament is centered in Christ, yet Jesus is saying here that the Old Testament has as its central theme and

VOCABULARY

Correction — Act or process of correcting

- 1) something offered or substituted for a mistake or fault: made corrections in the report;
- 2) punishment intended to rehabilitate or improve;
- 3) The treatment of offenders through a system of penal incarceration through a system of penal incarceration, rehabilitation, probation, and parole, or the administrative system by which these are effectuated.

Doctrine — a principle or body of principles presented for acceptance or belief, as by a religious organization

Instruction — imparted knowledge

- 1) An imparted or acquired item of knowledge; a lesson
- 2) Often instructions, an authoritative direction to be obeyed
- 3) Instructions, detailed directions on procedure

Notes

purpose, the revelation of the coming Christ. The continuing thread of redemption, from Genesis to Revelation, illustrates the unity of a volume which contains 66 books, penned by 40 men over a span of 1600 years. In the midst of those circumstances, the unity of the Bible is easily explained. It was all written by one Author.

Divine Inspiration

The Bible is the Word of God. It does not "contain" the Word, and it is not "part of" the Word—it is the written Word of God. Therefore, we can read it as truth and believe it without any fear of error. Without the Bible, we would each be left to make God in our own image. If only part of the Bible were true, we would be left to the whims of man's constantly changing theories and thoughts about "which parts are true?" But, God has not left us in such shadows. He has assured us without a doubt that all of the Bible is Divinely Inspired. Paul, writing to Timothy, says that *all Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness. Second Timothy 3:16.*

The word "inspiration" used here does not refer to "being inspired" in the way artists, painters, and novelists tend to view it. Men were not moved by mere emotion or thoughts to pen words of their own creation. Nor was the Bible a mechanical dictation from God to man. Rather, men did research, had deep conversations, wrote down their own experiences, and received direct revelation, all overshadowed by the Creator God. In the end, the Word He intended before the foundation of the world was released in the earth. Because of this Divine overshadowing,

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2. Central Theme
 - a. Old Testament – Coming Christ
Luke 24:27—And beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

Important Note: *On the road to Emmaus Jesus taught His coming from the Old Testament.*

- b. New Testament – Christ Revealed
Ephesians 1:22-23—And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church which is His body, the fulness of Him who fills all in all.

C. The Unity

1. Continuing thread of redemption
2. 66 Books
3. 40 men
4. 1600 year span
5. The unity – one Author

D. Divine Inspiration

1. Second Timothy 3:16
 - a. "All scripture is inspired by God..."
 - b. ...and profitable for teaching,
 - c. ...for reproof,
 - d. ...for correction,
 - e. ...for training in righteousness
2. Infallible and inerrant (incapable of error)

Vocabulary (continued)

Inspiration —

the word inspiration does not mean being inspired

- 1) stimulation of the mind or emotions to a high level of feeling or activity; Songs and Poetry, etc.
- 2) Scripture - Divine guidance or influence exerted directly on the mind and soul of humankind.

Profitable – yielding profit; advantageous or lucrative.
See synonyms— beneficial.

Reproof – the act, an instance, or an expression of reproving; a rebuke, from reprover, to find fault with.

Righteousness

- 1) Morally and spiritually upright; without guilt or sin: a righteous person

3. Discrepancies Unfounded

- a. Ignorance of the Word
- b. Misinterpretation
- c. Limited authority
- d. Human reasoning

4. Jesus and the apostles

- a. Recognized inspiration
- b. Recognized His voice
- c. Believed; staked their lives on it.

John 10:35—If He called them gods, unto whom the word of God came (and the scripture cannot be broken)

Matthew 22:29—But Jesus answered and said to them, You are mistaken, not understanding the Scriptures, or the power of God.

5. Proof of Truth

- a. Christ's life
- b. Christ's death
- c. Christ's resurrection
- d. Christ's ascension
- e. Paul letters

First Thessalonians 2:13—And for this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received from us the word of God's message, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.

First Corinthians 14:37—If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord's commandment.

Notes

the entire written Word of God is both infallible and inerrant (incapable of error).

Any discrepancies arise merely from the minds and words of those who are ignorant of what the written Word says, or who have misinterpreted it, or who have limited its authority, subjecting it to human thought, decision, theology, or tradition. Jesus says of such people, *You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God, Matthew 22:29.*

We do not have to live in that kind of confusion, because we know that the scriptures speak life and strength into the lives of believers everywhere. The proper Biblical view is that the scriptures are the authority, given by inspiration of God, and they are our objective basis for faith and practice.

Jesus and the apostles recognized the Old Testament as the inspired Word of God, and they recognized that it was speaking of Jesus. They believed it and staked their lives on it. In fact, the Old Testament was the only Bible Paul had when he wrote to Timothy about the inspiration of God's Word. Referring to the Old Testament, Jesus said that it "cannot be broken" and it "must be fulfilled," *John 10:35; Mark 14:49; Luke 24:44.*

Besides these statements about the Bible, Christ's life, death, resurrection, and ascension prove it to be true. The apostolic writings of the New Testament were also recognized long before they were recorded in a book known as the Bible. Referring to his letter to the Thessalonians, Paul said, *...you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God... First Thessalonians 2:13.* Paul told the Corinthian church, *If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord, First Corinthians 14:37.*

Notes

Effective and Eternal

The Bible is the Word of Life. James 1:21 tells us to ...*receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls* That Word which is able to save our souls is also eternal. The New Testament writers make that point by quoting the words of Isaiah the Prophet—*All flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls off, but the word of the Lord abides forever, First Peter 1:24; Isaiah 40:6-8.*

The Word is Sure

And so we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation... Second Peter 1:19-20.

These words in Second Peter were recorded by men who had walked with Jesus on a day-by-day basis, yet they talk about a "Sure word of prophecy." The Word is to be acted upon and believed, beyond what we may see, think, or feel.

Every word of God is tested. He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. Do not add to His words lest He reprove you, and you be proved a liar. Proverbs 30:5-6.

The Word is Alive

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

E. Effectual and Eternal

1. The Bible is the Word of Life
James 1:21—Therefore putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted which is able to save your souls.

2. Salvation word is eternal

First Peter 1:24-25—For all flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls off, but the word of the Lord abides forever.

Isaiah 40:6—A voice says, Call out. Then he answered, What shall I call out? All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.

F. The Word is Sure

1. Eyewitness accounts
a. Walked with Jesus
b. Talked with Jesus
c. Touched Jesus

2. Sure word of Prophecy

Second Peter 1:16-20—For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased – and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. And so we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation.

G. The Word is Alive

1. Scripture – Alive

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

John 1:14—And the word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and Truth.

Hebrews 4:12—For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

2. Word at Creation

3. Word parted the Red Sea

4. Word of Resurrection

5. Daily Communication with His Church

Notes

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and Truth, John 1:14.

For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword... Hebrews 4:12.

The Bible is not a dry, dusty textbook. Nor is it an interesting historical account, although history and education can easily be found in its pages. Scripture describes the mystery of the fact that the Word is actually alive. It is the same Word that Jesus breathed forth at the creation of the world, the same Word that God spoke to part the Red Sea, the same Word that God uttered to call forth Jesus from the grave, and the same Word that God uses to communicate with His Church today. It is never old or dull. Rather, aged saints who have loved to turn its pages every day for many decades, testify that they continue to find fresh breaths of life with each reading. It can be the same for us when we learn to love the Word of God and devour it as our daily bread.

SELF-CHECK

This self-check quiz at the end of the chapter may be given before this lesson is taught. The results are often surprising and may show that a student is less familiar with the Bible or more familiar than they may think. Retaking the quiz at the end of this course of study will also help to show whether students have increased their knowledge of the people and places in the Bible.

An alternative activity might be to use this as a study guide and have the students use research helps in their Bible to locate any of the information they are unfamiliar with.

Check Yourself

This exercise is designed to help you measure your familiarity with and understanding of the Bible. The number of questions you can answer correctly is not a test of your spirituality or your love for God, but the results will help you target areas that need improvement for the sake of growth.

List as many books of the Old Testament as you can, in order.

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| <u>Genesis</u> | <u>Ecclesiastes</u> |
| <u>Exodus</u> | <u>Solomon</u> |
| <u>Leviticus</u> | <u>Isaiah</u> |
| <u>Numbers</u> | <u>Jeremiah</u> |
| <u>Deuteronomy</u> | <u>Lamentations</u> |
| <u>Joshua</u> | <u>Ezekiel</u> |
| <u>Judges</u> | <u>Daniel</u> |
| <u>Ruth</u> | <u>Hosea</u> |
| <u>I Samuel</u> | <u>Joel</u> |
| <u>II Samuel</u> | <u>Amos</u> |
| <u>I Kings</u> | <u>Obadiah</u> |
| <u>II Kings</u> | <u>Jonah</u> |
| <u>I Chronicles</u> | <u>Micah</u> |
| <u>II Chronicles</u> | <u>Nahum</u> |
| <u>Ezra</u> | <u>Habakkuk</u> |
| <u>Nehemiah</u> | <u>Zephaniah</u> |
| <u>Esther</u> | <u>Haggai</u> |
| <u>Job</u> | <u>Zechariah</u> |
| <u>Psalms</u> | <u>Malachi</u> |
| <u>Proverbs</u> | |

Check Yourself

List as many of the books of the New Testament as you can, in order.

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| <u>Matthew</u> | <u>II Peter</u> |
| <u>Mark</u> | <u>I John</u> |
| <u>Luke</u> | <u>II John</u> |
| <u>John</u> | <u>III John</u> |
| <u>Acts</u> | <u>Jude</u> |
| <u>Romans</u> | <u>Revelation</u> |
| <u>I Corinthians</u> | |
| <u>II Corinthians</u> | |
| <u>Galatians</u> | |
| <u>Ephesians</u> | |
| <u>Philippians</u> | |
| <u>Colossians</u> | |
| <u>I Thessalonians</u> | |
| <u>II Thessalonians</u> | |
| <u>I Timothy</u> | |
| <u>II Timothy</u> | |
| <u>Titus</u> | |
| <u>Hebrews</u> | |
| <u>James</u> | |
| <u>I Peter</u> | |

SELF-CHECK

Check Yourself

Match the following people from the Bible with appropriate people, places, or events.

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <u>E</u> Moses | A. Tarsus |
| <u>M</u> Abraham | B. The destroyed walls of Jerusalem |
| <u>L</u> Rahab | C. Mordecai |
| <u>N</u> Jacob | D. Barak |
| <u>O</u> Philip | E. Egyptian Plagues |
| <u>K</u> Joseph | F. Lions |
| <u>P</u> Ruth | G. Fiery Furnace |
| <u>C</u> Esther | H. Fifteen more Years of Life |
| <u>D</u> Deborah | I. Condemned Jesus to Death |
| <u>F</u> Daniel | J. Stoned to Death |
| <u>G</u> Shadrach | K. Coat of Many Colors |
| <u>H</u> Hezekiah | L. The Hebrew Spies |
| <u>B</u> Nehemiah | M. The Sacrifice of a Son |
| <u>I</u> Pilate | N. Angels on a Ladder |
| <u>J</u> Stephen | O. The Eunuch |
| <u>A</u> Paul | P. Naomi |

Check Yourself

Fill in the blanks.

- A. The earth was created in seven days.
- B. Noah built the ark.
- C. When he was three months old, Moses's parents hid him in a basket among the bulrushes.
- D. Mary and Martha were Lazarus's sisters.
- E. Among Jesus' disciples was Matthew/Levi, who was a tax-gatherer.
- F. The Holy Spirit came down with power in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost.
- G. God's plan from creation until now has been to build His Church upon the earth.

Objective

By the time this lesson is finished, the student should be able to explain the following:

1. Jesus is fully man and fully God.
2. He was capable of sinning, yet chose not to.
3. Our relationship to Him is heart-to-heart, not intellectual.
4. We can know Him just as we know one another.



Jesus Meet the Master of the House

Chapter Two

Objective:

Meeting and loving Jesus is a heart experience, not an intellectual exercise. However, through this brief over-view of His life and character, we hope to build within each believer an understanding of who He is and what He desires for His Church. The goal and objective of any discussion concerning the Savior is quite simple — that we might fall more and more in love with Him.

13

DISCUSSION ACTIVITY

Discuss with students the age-old mystery of Jesus being fully man and fully God.

The wilderness temptation in Matthew 4:1-11 illustrates that even Satan knew Jesus was God and man. He appealed to the man's need for food and watched to see if the Deity would reveal Himself to provide it. Jesus laid His Deity aside for thirty years and submitted Himself to the confines of humanity, yet remained totally God. As man, He was as easily compelled to sin as we are. The choice to refrain from sin came from Jesus the Man, not Jesus the Superpower above temptation. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.
Hebrews 4:15

Teaching Notes

A. Man fell into sin

Genesis 2:16-17—And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die.”

Genesis 3:6—When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make (one) wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

Genesis 3:24—So He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim, and the flaming sword which turned every direction, to guard the way to the tree of life.

B. Man had no ability to break the power of sin

Romans 5:12-19—Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—for until the Law sin was in the world; but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come. But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many. And the gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned; for the one who sinned; for on the one hand the judgement arose from one transgression resulting in condemnation, but on the other hand the free gift arose from many transgressions resulting in justification.

For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.

Romans 7:18-20—For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the wishing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not. For the good that I wish, I do not do; but I practice the very evil that I do not wish. But if I am doing the very thing I do not wish, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me.

Notes

Forgiveness in the Old Covenant was pointing toward the New Covenant that would cover once and for all.

Jesus

Meet the Master of the House

Introduction:

If we are intent upon becoming members of the household of faith or the family of God, it is imperative that we meet, come to know, and learn to love the Master of that House. No one can function as a family member if they are not well-acquainted with the Head of the House, recognizing His voice, and understanding His heart.

We Need a Savior!

In the beginning God created man in His own image and placed him in a garden which was perfectly arranged and appointed to provide full fellowship between God and man, *Genesis 1:26-31*. God gave a simple command to mankind in the garden which was to refrain from eating of the tree which held the knowledge of good and evil. They disobeyed, *Genesis 2:16-17* and as a result, they suffered death—separation from God, *Genesis 3:24*.

This knowledge of good and evil then polluted the lives of men and women. They became slaves to sin, with no ability to break free from its power, and this sin-nature was passed on to all of mankind from that day forward, *Romans 5:12-19*, *Romans 7:18-20*. Man became helplessly estranged from God—The Father and Creator of us all.

Jesus is the Answer

Early in the Bible, God begins to point to a way of salvation. He initiated a sacrificial system in the Old Testament which allowed

C. Jesus is the answer to our sin
Exodus 12:3—"Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying, 'On the tenth of this month they are each one to take a lamb for themselves, according to their fathers' households, a lamb for each household."

John 1:29—The next day he saw Jesus coming to him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

Hebrews 9:22—And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

D. Jesus was born a man.
Micah 5:2—"But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you one will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity."

Isaiah 7:14—"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel."

E. Jesus was born of woman, but His Father was the Holy Ghost, which made Him God
Romans 5:12—Therefore, just as through one man sin entered

into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.

Luke 1:35—And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy offspring shall be called the Son of God."

Matthew 1:18—Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit.

F. He was capable of sin, yet lived sinless
Hebrews 4:15—For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.

G. He was the pure sacrifice for our justification
Romans 5:9—Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.

H. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus defeated Satan and death
Colossians 2:15—When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.

Hebrews 2:14-15—Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil; and might deliver those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.

Revelation 1:5—Now I desire to remind you, though you know all things once for all, that the Lord, after saving a people out of the land of Egypt, subsequently destroyed those who did not believe.

Notes

men to make amends for their sin through the shedding of animal blood. Yet, that sacrifice was never pure enough to purge the sin of mankind. It merely set the pattern for a perfect sacrificial lamb which was to come, *Exodus 12:3; John 1:29; Hebrews 9:22*.

Jesus was born of the virgin Mary in the town of Bethlehem, just as the prophets had foretold, *Micah 5:2; Isaiah 7:14*. A member of the Triune Godhead (*see lesson number four*) Jesus left the glory of Heaven and emptied Himself to be born a man, pure and undefiled, able to take on the sins of the world and die so that we might live. His mother was an ordinary woman, under the same curse as Eve which made Him fully man. Yet, the original sin-nature of Adam did not pass through His bloodline, because His father was the Holy Ghost, making Him fully God, *Romans 5:12, 19; Luke 1:35; Matthew 1:18*.

He grew up like any other little Jewish boy in those days. Throughout His life, Jesus faced the same trials, tribulations, and temptations that we face each day—yet He lived without sin. As capable as you or I of choosing to sin, He chose not to, *Hebrews 4:15*. His human, sinless blood, therefore, was the pure price for our justification before God, *Romans 5:9*.

Through His death and resurrection, Jesus became the first-born of many brethren. He openly defeated Satan, stripped him of his power, and broke his authority over death, *Colossians 2:15; Hebrews 2:14-15; Revelation 1:5*. He also brought us back into the abiding relationship with God which was designed in the Garden of Eden, *Second Corinthians 5:21*.

We find His plan through prayer, His Word, godly counsel, etc.

I. The relationship lost in the garden is restored

Second Corinthians 5:21—He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

J. He is not only Savior, but Lord

Luke 6:46—And why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?

Notes

O Lord, Thou has searched me and known me. Thou dost know when I sit down and when I rise up: Thou dost understand my thought from afar. Thou dost scrutinize my path and my lying down, and art intimately acquainted with all my ways. Even before there is a word on my tongue, behold, O Lord, Thou dost know it all. Thou hast enclosed me behind and before, and laid Thy hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me: it is too high, I cannot attain to it.

Psalm 139:1-6 KJV

He is Lord

Many believers stop at this point and are satisfied to know Jesus the Savior. But the Bible describes another step in this relationship which brings us to a more intimate place with Him and allows us to fulfill the destiny He has prepared for us in this life. That step is called discipleship, and it involves coming under the Lordship of Christ.

And why call me "Lord, Lord" and do not the things which I say,

Luke 6:46.

If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it, Luke 9:23-24.

The term "savior" is used 37 times in the Bible, while the term "Lord" comes up 7,736 times. That makes it clear where God's emphasis lies.

Our Part

When we decide to come under the Lordship of Jesus, we surrender. We give up all rights, privileges, and expectations for our own lives and bow in total submission to Him. That means we are no longer free to make life choices that suit only our own interests or whims. Issues like where to attend college, what job to pursue, or which person to marry become matters that are prayerfully submitted to God—the One Who is in charge. His answer may come in a number of ways. He may speak through His Word, through a time of prayer, through the counsel of friends, or through a directional prophetic word. No matter what vehicle He uses, God

Notes

will make His will known in our lives if we pause to listen. As disciples, we follow the example of Christ, like children who want to be just like our father when we grow up. We not only believe what He says, but we do it without argument or complaint. Our lives become nothing, and His life in us becomes everything.

Those who refuse to submit to such Lordship are unruly children, bearing the family name but not carrying forth the family mission. It is like a teenager who decides to view his home as a motel and his parents as roommates so that he can “do his own thing” and pursue his own course. Coming under Lordship or the rule of Christ is not just a good idea—it is the gospel. Anything else is simply a watered-down salvation message which presents Jesus as a personal valet or celestial Santa Claus, rather than the ruling Head of His Body, the Church.

God's Part

Even though following Jesus Christ as Lord is a decision that we make, it is impossible for us to do so in our own human power. God provides both the grace and the ability for us to believe and follow Christ, *Matthew 19:24-26; Ephesians 2:8; Second Peter 1:3; Philippians 2:13.*

The grace of God makes it possible for us to abide in Christ at all times and to joyfully follow His principles, precepts, and pattern in all that we do, or think, or say. That grace calls us to sit at the feet of Jesus and bask in His presence until we finally are able to know as we are known, *John 10:14-15; Psalm 139.*

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K. God provided the way for us to know and serve Him

Matthew 19:23-26—And Jesus said to His disciples, “Truly I say to you, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” And when the disciples heard this, they were very astonished and said, “Then who can be saved?” And looking upon them Jesus said to them, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

Ephesians 2:8—For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.

Second Peter 1:3—Seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

Philippians 2:13—For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

John 10:14-15—“I am the good shepherd; and I know My own, and My own know Me, even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.

SELF-CHECK

Check Yourself	
Spend a Day With Jesus In Capernaum	<p>When you meet a new friend and want to get acquainted, it helps to know where they work, who their family is, and what they do for fun. We get to know Jesus the same way we become friends with anyone else, by spending time with Him. The following activity will take you on a spiritual treasure hunt to catch a glimpse of what one day in the life of Jesus and his friends might have been like.</p> <p>Jesus has just returned from his first ministry trip in Judea and Samaria and seems to have sent his six disciples back home for a time. During a meeting in his hometown of Nazareth, Jesus is soundly rejected by the people, who turn their backs on this "son of Joseph." Afterwards, Jesus loads up his mother and his family and moves them to the city of Capernaum in Galilee, which will become the central headquarters for his next preaching tour. We join him early in the morning shortly after his arrival, walking along the sea.</p> <p>With the early light of day, Jesus makes contact with some important people in his life once again, and he issues them a challenge and a command. Look at Matthew 4:18-22 to discover that <u> Peter </u>, <u> Andrew </u>, <u> James </u>, and <u> John </u> all got a new job description and life vocation before breakfast!</p> <p>Later in the day, Jesus and the four disciples made their way to the local synagogue, where Jesus immediately assumed the role of honored rabbi and began to teach. His teaching,</p>

SELF-CHECK

Check Yourself	
	<p>however, was interrupted by someone who recognized exactly who this new rabbi was. Turn to Mark 1:23-24 to find out that it was <u>an unclean spirit</u> who announced that Jesus was the Holy One of God.</p> <p>Jesus handled that interruption in typical fashion and went on with his teaching. A large crowd had observed this scene, and the news of Him began to spread. After this exhausting synagogue service, Jesus and the guys attempted to retire to Peter's house for lunch. But when they arrived they discovered that <u>Simon's mother-in-law</u> (Luke 4:38-40) was sick. Jesus dealt with this problem using the same authority He had exercised in the synagogue, and eventually the meal was served.</p> <p>The afternoon may have been spent visiting with friends, or communing with the Father, or simply allowing the physical man to rest briefly. But look at Mark 1:33 to learn that <u>the whole city</u> had gathered at the door by supper time!</p> <p>What a day! Yet Jesus didn't stop. Moved by the compassion of the Father, He walked among them as daylight turned to dusk and then to dark, healing their diseases and casting out their demons.</p> <p>And finally, in Mark 1:35 we find Jesus arising before daylight, going out into a lonely place, and was <u>praying</u> there. Come, let us follow Him.</p>

Objective

Upon completion of this study, the student should be able to do the following:

1. Recognize individual members of the Trinity in at least three scripture passages.
2. Explain that the Trinity is a mystery, believed by faith, and unexplainable in human terms.
3. Understand that any gospel which leaves out one or more members of the Trinity is false.



The Godhead

Discovering the Ultimate Relationship

Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

Chapter Three

Objective:

The goal of this lesson is to provide an overview of the doctrine of the Trinity and to see the importance of that relationship in the life of the Church.

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DISCUSSION ACTIVITY

Read and discuss or assign as a writing activity.

Conversations between the Father and Son:

- Psalms 2:1-9
- Psalms 45:6-8
- Psalms 110:1-5

Teaching Notes

The Godhead

Deuteronomy 6:4-5—"Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might."

Introduction

A. The God of Israel is One, is also three.

1. First relationship in existence

Colossians 2:9—For in Him all the fulness of Deity dwells in bodily form.

Romans 1:20—For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

2. Great mystery to scholars

- a. intrigued
- b. confused
- c. confounded

B. Doctrine of Trinity

1. Not a Preference

2. Basis of much heresy

- a. because it is incomprehensible
- b. takes true faith to believe
- c. requires an acceptance of scripture beyond human reasoning

3. Not an abstract truth

- a. tradition
- b. instruction

1 Corinthians 8:13—Therefore if food causes my brother to stumble, I will never eat meat again, that I might not cause my brother to stumble.

4. Conviction

Galatians 1:7-8—Which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you, and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed.

C. Inadequate Examples of Three In One

1. Egg—3 parts
2. Three leaf clover
3. Three states of water
4. Nature of Man — spirit, soul, body
5. Light
 - a. Chemical rays (invisible, not felt or seen)
 - b. Light rays (seen but not felt)
 - c. Heat rays (felt but not seen)

D. Only example of "Our God is One"

Deuteronomy 6:4—Hear O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord.

Isaiah 44:6—Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts; I am the first and I am the last, and there is no God besides Me.

1. The Father is all God
2. Jesus is all God
3. The Holy Spirit is all God
4. Truth yet unexplainable
 - a. All examples fall short
 - b. Based only on faith

Notes

The Godhead

Discovering the Ultimate Relationship

Introduction:

In Christianity there are preferences, things we are willing to compromise on for the sake of brotherhood. For example, I won't eat meat if it causes my brother to stumble, *First Corinthians 8:13*. Then there are convictions—things we are willing to die for. Paul said that anyone who preached another gospel than that of Jesus Christ should be cursed, *Galatians 1:6-8*. Among those convictions that we would die for is the doctrine of the Trinity. Nearly every cult or heresy which has arisen among mankind centers around a wrong interpretation of or total disbelief in the Three-in-One Godhead. The doctrine of the Trinity is not an abstract Biblical truth which Christians have chosen to believe out of tradition or instruction. Rather it is the deep conviction and revelation in which the Church places Her hope.

Three-In-One

God is one. *The Lord our God is one Lord, Deuteronomy 6:4. He is the first and the last; there is no God besides Him, Isaiah 44:6.* He is not an egg which can be divided into three parts, although that is the closest analogy our finite, human minds have been able to come up with. The analogy does not hold true because Jesus is all God, not just His yoke or His shell. The Holy Spirit is all of God, and God the Father is all of God. They are the mighty, mysterious Three-In-One, which we can not comprehend. Yet, we know that it is true. The same adoration, love, devotion, and confidence that we express to the Father we also ascribe to the Son and to the Spirit.

Notes

The Father, the Son, and the Spirit are three distinct Persons. They address one another in the Scriptures and refer to one another as “He” and “Him.” But they are still one, and they personify the ultimate relationship. Before the dawn of time, God Himself existed in relational form. He created the world in relationship, and He reigns on high in relationship. As the Mighty Three-In-One, God formed man from the dust of the earth and said, *Let us make him in our image. Genesis 1:26.*

Different Functions

Although the Three are one and are equal in power and glory, They do operate differently. The Father operates through the Son, and both the Father and Son operate through the Spirit. *Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works, John 14:10. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you, John 14:26.*

All three Persons of the Trinity are present when One Person acts. For instance, the Son created the world. So did the Father and the Spirit. *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being, John 1:1–3.* Even so, certain acts or conditions are associated with individual members of the Trinity. The Father calls, the Son redeems, and the Spirit sanctifies.

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E. Characteristics of the Trinity

1. Worthy of all
 - a. worship
 - b. adoration
 - c. confidence
2. Scriptures use pronoun—He or Him
3. Made man in His image
Genesis 1:26—And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.

4. Equal in Power and Glory
5. All present when one acts
John 1:1-3—In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

6. Distinctly different operations
 - a. Father calls
 - b. Son redeems
 - c. Spirit sanctifies
 - d. Father operates through the Son**John 14:10**—Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works.

7. Exemplifies Godly relationships
 - a. Jesus Baptized in Jordan**Matthew 3:16-17**—And after being baptized, Jesus went up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, and coming upon Him, and behold a voice out of the Heavens saying, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.”

- F. Both the Father and Son operate through the Holy Spirit.
John 14:26—But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

G. Old Testament passages -

1. Elohim, first name used for God is plural in form

Genesis 1:1—In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

2. The creation of man

Genesis 1:26—Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.

3. The expulsion from the Garden

Genesis 3:22—Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, lest he stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever..."

4. The confusion at Babel

Genesis 11:7—"Come, let Us go down, and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech."

5. The teaching of King Agur

Proverbs 30:4—Who has ascended into heaven and descended? Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has wrapped the waters in His garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is His name or His son's name? Surely you know!

G. New Testament Scripture regarding the Trinity

1. The baptism of Jesus

Matthew 3:16—And after being baptized, Jesus went up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, and coming upon Him, and behold, a voice out of the heavens, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."

2. The temptation of Christ

Matthew 4:1—Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

3. The teaching of Jesus

John 14:16—And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever.

John 14:26—But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

4. The baptismal formula

Matthew 28:19—Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

5. The apostolic benediction

2 Corinthians 13:14—The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

Notes

Ultimate Relationship

One of the most wonderful pictures of the Trinity in action takes place at the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River. When Jesus came up out of the water, the voice of the Father thundered with approval from the heavens, and the Spirit swooped down from on high in the form of a dove, as if He had been hovering in eternity awaiting the moment of reunion with the all-man, all-God Son, the Savior of the World, and Creator of the Universe. What a reunion! What a relationship.

And so by His very existence as a Triune Being, God has illustrated the need for relationship. Surely if the Father, the Son, and the Spirit are one—the Church ought to be the same. How can the Body be made of different stuff than the Head? Such unity will come only as we endeavor to know Him more perfectly, love Him more completely, and reflect Him more accurately in our lives. In the meantime, we stand firm by the conviction of the ages:

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, the Maker of all things visible and invisible; and in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, only begotten, begotten of the Father, that is, of the essence of the Father, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten and not made, consubstantial with the Father, by whom all things were made whether in heaven or on earth; who for us men and our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate and became man, suffered, and rose again on the third day, ascended into heaven, and will come to judge the living and the dead. And we believe in the Holy Ghost who is the Lord and giver of life, who proceedeth from the Father, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets...

— From the Nicene and Constantinopolitan Creeds

SELF-CHECK

Additional Scriptures:

The Father is God

John 6:44-46

Romans 1:7

First Peter 1:2

The Son is God

Isaiah 9:6

John 1:1

John 20:28

First Timothy 3:16

Titus 2:13

Hebrews 1:8

The Holy Spirit is God

Acts 5:3-4

Hebrews 9:14

Check Yourself

Answer the following questions in full sentences.

Write a brief essay explaining why you would not compromise your conviction that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are one.

Suggested Answer: The doctrine of the Trinity is a foundation of faith that defies human explanation. Trying to separate or deny the Trinity denies the scripture and leads to heresy.

At one point in time each of the individual members of the Trinity has "walked" among men. Describe these three different time periods.

- **Father in the garden of Eden with Adam & Eve before the fall, Genesis 2:8.**
- **Son during His earthly life with the disciples and multitude, John 1:14.**
- **Spirit from Pentecost on, John 16:7.**

Read Genesis chapter 1 and John 1:1-4. Explain the individual functioning of the three members of the Trinity contained in these passages.

**Genesis 1—
God the Father spoke things into creation in Genesis 1. The spirit was moving over the waters and was obviously at work. John 1:1-4, says that Jesus, the Word, was also at work in creation. This is one of the mysteries of the Trinity.**

SELF-CHECK

Check Yourself	
	<p>In the following scriptures decide which individual member of the Trinity is most clearly at work. Explain why you think so.</p> <p>Numbers 21:8-9 • The serpent in the wilderness</p> <p>Exodus 24:12-18 • Moses receiving the ten commandments</p> <p>Genesis 37:5-10 • Joseph's dreams</p> <p>Exodus 15:20-21 • Miriam singing a new song</p> <p>Genesis 14:17-20 • Abram meets Melchizedek</p> <p>First Samuel 16:23 • David drives the evil spirits from Saul</p> <p>Luke 1:64 • Zechariah's tongue is loosed</p> <p>Matthew 2:22-23 • Joseph and Mary return to Nazareth</p> <p>Matthew 27:51-53 • Graves opened at Jerusalem</p> <p>Genesis 22:1-14 • Abraham and Isaac</p> <p>Matthew 17:5 • Mount of Transfiguration</p> <p>Acts 1:8 • The day of Pentecost</p> <p>Acts 8:39 • Philip translated</p>

Objective

At the end of this study, the student should be able to do the following:

1. Recognize the need for repentance in his own life.
2. Support the foundation of repentance in a believer's life with at least three scripture references.
3. Understand that repentance is not a one time action, but a way of life.



Repentance and Forgiveness

Finding the Key To Enter the House

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

First John 1:9

Chapter Four

Objective:

As a result of this lesson, we hope you will discover how repentance and forgiveness work as vital elements in the life of a disciple.

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DISCUSSION ACTIVITY

Discuss with your students some of the excellent examples of repentance and forgiveness in the scriptures. For example:

1. The story of David and Bathsheba, Second Samuel 11 & 12, which shows that even with forgiveness, sin can have consequences. Yet through the mercy of God, good can result from a bad situation.
2. The story of Zaccheus in Luke 19:1-10, which shows restitution with repentance.
3. The story of Peter's denial of Christ in Luke 22:54-62, and Christ's forgiveness and restoration of Peter in John 21:15-17.

Teaching Notes

- A. Repentance is voluntary turning from sin
 - B. By God's grace alone
 - C. Vital element in the life of a disciple
- Mark 1:15**— "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

Matthew 3:1-8—Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet, saying, the voice of one crying in the wilderness, make ready the way of the Lord, Make His paths straight!" Now John himself had a garment of camel's hair, and a leather belt about his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem was going out to him, and all Judea, and all the district around the Jordan; and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, as they confessed their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Therefore bring forth fruit in keeping with repentance..."

Matthew 4:17—From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Mark 6:7-13—And He summoned the twelve and began to send them out in pairs; and He was giving them authority over the unclean spirits; and He instructed them that they should take nothing for (their) journey, except a mere staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belt; but (to) wear sandals; and (He added) , "Do not put on two tunics." And He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave town. And any

place that does not receive you or listen to you, as you go out from there, shake off the dust from the soles of your feet for a testimony against them." And they went out and preached that (men) should repent. And they were casting out many demons and were anointing with oil many sick people and healing them.

Acts 2:38—And Peter (said) to them, "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 20:20-21—How I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house, solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Notes

Repentance and Forgiveness

Finding the Key To Enter the House

Introduction:

Repentance is the voluntary turning away from sin. We begin to teach this concept to our children as soon as they are old enough to say the words "I'm sorry." Nothing mends a broken relationship between siblings faster than a sincere apology, some honest tears, and a promise to never tie the tail of your sister's cat to a deflating balloon again. By God's grace and His grace alone, we receive a gift of repentance which allows us to feel sorrow for our sin in the first place and then empowers us to turn from it. When we experience His forgiveness, a tremendous weight lifts from our hearts, and we rejoice in His mercy. Just as He has forgiven us, so we are commanded to forgive others. Repentance and forgiveness are foundational elements in our lives. *Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God...* Hebrews 6:1.

What Repentance Means

The first word of the gospel is "repent," and the second is "believe." *Mark 1:15*. It was the first message preached by John the Baptist, Jesus Christ, the twelve disciples, and the apostle Paul, and it was the first message given on the Day of Pentecost when the Spirit came in power and thousands of converts were added to the Church, *Matthew 3:1-8; Matthew 4:17; Mark 6:7-13; Acts 2:38; Acts 20:20-21*.

D. A change of heart

E. Things will change

1. Our thinking

Romans 3:20—Because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.

2. Sorrow

Second Corinthians 7:9-

10— I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to (the point of) repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to (the will of) God, in order that you might not suffer loss in anything through us. For the sorrow that is according to (the will of) God produces a

repentance without regret, (leading) to salvation; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

F. True salvation and forgiveness brings

1. Entire change in our life's purpose
2. Hearts set to fulfill that purpose

G. True repentance not between us and God alone but between us and our brother, also.

Matthew 6:14, 15— For if you forgive men for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.

Matthew 18:23-35— “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a certain king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. And when he had begun to settle (them,) there was brought to him one who owed him ten thousand talents. But since he did not have (the means) to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made. The slave therefore falling down, prostrated himself before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will repay you everything.’ And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt. But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and (began) to choke (him,) saying, ‘Pay back what you owe.’ So his fellow slave fell down and (began) to entreat him, saying, ‘Have patience with me and I will repay you.’ He was unwilling however, but went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed. So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened. Then summoning him, his lord said to him, ‘You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you entreated me. ‘Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, even as I had mercy on you?’ And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. So shall My heavenly Father also do to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart.”

H. A change in our confession

1. No longer justify attitudes
2. No longer blame others for our actions
3. Quick to repent

Notes

Repentance is a change of heart and mind from sin and selfishness, to devotion to God. It takes place when we realize that we are living in a totally hopeless life of sin, and we determine to turn from that to God. Repentance will cause change in a number of areas in our lives. It is an internal action which results in external consequences.

Things Will Change

Our thinking will change when we repent. We suddenly realize that certain behaviors, actions, and attitudes we once viewed as harmless are actually sinful and unacceptable by a holy God, *Romans 3:20*. That realization will bring sorrow or sick-in-the-pit-of-my-stomach feelings about the way we have lived, *Second Corinthians 7:9-10*. That sorrow, in turn, leads us to true salvation and the forgiveness of God. Then our entire purpose in life changes, and we set our hearts to fulfill God's plan and purpose, not our own.

Repentance causes us to understand that we cannot hold grudges against one another and expect God to forgive our own sins. If we come to worship God and remember that we have wronged someone, we need first to go and repent, *Matthew 6:14-15; 18:23-35*.

The final change as a result of repentance will come in the form of confession. Our words will change. We will no longer justify our wrong attitudes or blame others for our wrong actions. We will quickly repent of those sins and confess them to God, and if the Spirit prompts us, we will also speak to individuals about sins we have committed against them.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness, First John 1:9.

- I. What repentance is not
1. Conviction with no action
 2. Condemnation—a feeling of guilt with no way out.
 3. Sorrow only
 4. Performing a religious action
 5. Turning over a new leaf
- Matthew 5:3**—"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- J. How it shows
1. Fruit meet for repentance,
Matthew 3:8—Therefore bring forth fruit in keeping with repentance...
 2. Godly sorrow for sin
Second Corinthians 7:9-11—I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to (the point of) repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to (the will of) God, in order that you might not suffer loss in anything through us. For the sorrow that is according to (the will of) God produces a repentance without regret, (leading) to salvation; but the sorrow of the world produces death. For behold what earnestness this very thing, this godly sorrow, has produced in you: what vindication of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what avenging of wrong! In everything you demonstrated yourselves to be innocent in the matter.
 3. Confession of sin
Psalms 32:1-5—How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered! How blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit! When I kept silent (about my sin), my body wasted away Through my groaning all day long. For day and night Thy hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was drained away (as) with the fever heat of summer. Selah. I acknowledged my sin to Thee, And my iniquity I did not hide; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the

LORD"; And Thou didst forgive the guilt of my sin. Selah.

First John 1:9—If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

4. Forsaking of sin
Proverbs 28:13—He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, But he who confesses and forsakes (them) will find compassion.

5. Hatred of sin
Psalms 97:10—Hate evil, you who love the LORD, Who preserves the souls of His godly ones; He delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

Proverbs 8:13—"The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way, And the perverted mouth, I hate.

Revelation 2:6—Yet this you do have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

Amos 5:15—Hate evil, love good, And establish justice in the gate! Perhaps the LORD God of hosts May be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

Zechariah 8:17—"Also let none of you devise evil in your heart against another, and do not love perjury; for all these are what I hate," declares the LORD."

Notes

What Repentance Is Not

Repentance is not conviction or a feeling of guilt. A child may feel conviction when his father points out the broken window and that feeling may lead to repentance for the deed, but they are not the same thing. A person can feel guilty without moving to repentance.

Nor is repentance sorrow. Lots of people want to cry on the pastor's shoulder and tell him how sorry they are that life is going so badly. Yet they never repent. Abusive spouses tell their battered partners how sorry they are after every beating, but that never prevents the next explosion. The Bible tells us that many are sorry for their sins but never turn from them, *Second Corinthians 7:10*. True repentance brings change along with sorrow.

Deciding to "do better" is not repentance either. It does not work like an easily-broken New Year's resolution. Performing some religious action, like the scribes and pharisees did, is not the same thing as repentance, *Matthew 5:20*. Repentance is a spiritual condition of the heart, *Matthew 5:3*.

How It Shows

John the Baptist called for converts to show "fruits in keeping with repentance." In other words, if a child really repents about tying the cat's tail to a balloon, he won't do it any more! Some of those fruits include the following:

- Godly sorrow for sin—*Second Corinthians 7:9-11*
- Confession of sin—*Psalms 32:1-5, First John 1:9*
- Forsaking of sin—*Proverbs 28:13*
- Hatred of sin—*Revelation 2:6*
- Restitution where possible—*Luke 19:8, Leviticus 6:1-7*

Notes

Faith and Forgiveness

The gospel message is "repent and believe." These two elements cannot be separated; they are part of one another and take place together. As a believer repents and believes, he turns from a life of selfishness to a life of faith and trust in Jesus, who took our sins upon Himself and paid the penalty for them. The convert then partakes of Christ through repentance and faith and takes on His forgiving nature in relationship with others, *Matthew 6:12-15; Acts 26:18; Ephesians 1:7; First John 1:9; 2:1-2,12.*

6. Restitution where possible

Luke 19:8—And Zaccheus stopped and said to t

he Lord, "Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will give back four times as much."

Leviticus 6:1-7—Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "When a person sins and acts unfaithfully against the LORD, and deceives his companion in regard to a deposit or a security entrusted (to him), or through robbery, or (if) he has extorted from his companion, or has found what was lost and lied about it and sworn falsely, so that he sins in regard to any one of the things a man may do; then it shall be, when he sins and becomes guilty, that he shall restore what he took by robbery, or what he got by extortion, or the deposit which was entrusted to him, or the lost thing which he found, or anything about which he swore falsely; he shall make restitution for it in full, and add to it one-fifth more. He shall give it to the one to whom it belongs on the day (he presents) his guilt offering. Then he shall bring to the priest his guilt offering to the LORD, a ram without defect from the flock, according to your valuation, for a guilt offering, and the priest shall make atonement for him before the LORD; and he shall be forgiven for any one of the things which he may have done to incur guilt."

SELF-CHECK

Check Yourself	
	<p>Look at the life of King David and write a brief essay about one incident in which he experienced repentance.</p> <p>Now look at the thief who died on the cross beside Jesus. He experienced repentance, forgiveness, and faith also. Write a brief explanation of how his experience differed from David's.</p>

Objective

Upon completion of this study, students should be able to do the following:

1. Define the word "faith" from the scriptures.
2. Be able to explain that faith will result in specific actions of obedience.
3. Separate faith from wishful thinking by pointing to at least three Biblical illustrations of faith at work.



Faith Opening the Gift

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.
Ephesians 2:8-9

Chapter Five

Objective:

This lesson is designed to foster a greater understanding of what it means to have true faith toward God and to discover what happens when God's people rely upon that kind of faith.

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DISCUSSION ACTIVITY

Take a close-up look at Abraham's life and compare the following principles to events in the lives of your students.

Abraham did the following:

- Heard the Word.
- Found hope for the future in the present.
- Refused to accept the contrary evidences of his senses.
- Did not waver in his commitment.
- Rejoiced in the Word as an accomplished fact.

Point out that doubt is not the opposite of faith. Abraham doubted the promise at some moments in his life. Lack of faith is the opposite of faith.

Teaching Notes

- A. Saving faith has substance
 - 1. Things promised are true
 - 2. Things unseen are real
 - 3. Hope with utter certainty

- B. Faith is different than believing about something
 - 1. Demons believe, but do not obey **James 2:19**—You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.

 - 2. True faith is a conviction of the heart that results in corresponding actions and decisions

Notes

Question: Can we separate "Regular" faith from the Spirit Gift of Faith found in First Corinthians 12:9?

Faith

Opening the Gift

Introduction:

Faith is the foundation of Christianity and the basis of our relationship with God. Faith is not a "pull-yourself-up-by-the-bootstrap" mentality. Instead, it is a relationship word. It is a little girl jumping from the side of the swimming pool into her Father's arms. Having faith simply means that we believe *that God is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him, Hebrews 11:6.*

Saving Faith

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen, KJV Hebrews 11:1.

Faith links us with God and is the assurance that the revealed things promised are true and that the unseen things are real. Faith is certain that what it believes is true and what it expects will come. Like a child who knows that his father will come home at the end of the work-day, though he sees nothing to prove that. Faith is not wishful thinking—it is a hope that looks forward with utter certainty.

Yet, there is a faith or belief that does not save. The demons believe and tremble, but they are not saved, *James 2:19.* Many people have mentally agreed that God exists and even that His Word is true, but they refuse to obey Him or trust Him with their lives. So, just believing is not enough. Rather, faith is "...a certain conviction wrought in the heart by the Holy Spirit..." (Berkhof, *Systematic Theology*, pg. 503).

Notes

Finding Faith

Faith comes from the Word of God, *Romans 10:17*, and it is a free gift. The Holy Spirit working with the Word, gives birth to faith in our hearts, *Acts 8:26-39*.

It can come to us in a variety of ways, including the following:

- The Word spoken in creation—*Genesis 1; John 1:1-3; Psalms 19; Romans 1:18-20*
- The prophetic Word—*Second Peter 1:20-21*
- The written Word—*Luke 24:44*
- The Living Word, Jesus Christ—*John 1:1-14*

Abraham the patriarch is one of the most vivid examples of the faith that we can find. In fact, he is known as "the father of the faith." By studying his life, we can learn that he:

- heard the Word
- found hope for the future in the present
- refused to accept the contrary evidences of his senses
- did not waver in his commitment
- rejoiced in the Word as an accomplished fact

Hebrews 11:8-15; Romans 4:9-11

Faith not Feelings

Faith is based on the Word of God and not dependent on the way we feel. In fact, we should trust our feelings only when they agree with the Word. Although historical facts such as the Biblical genealogies or geographical information may be believed without any particular emotion, many faith experiences such as conversion include great outpourings of feeling. These emotions are not the

- C. Faith comes from the Word of God
1. At creation
Romans 1:18-20—For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.
 2. Prophetic
Second Peter 1:20-21—But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.
 3. Written
Luke 24:44—Now he said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."
 4. Living Word, Jesus
John 1:14—And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.
 5. Example of Abraham
 - a. heard the word
 - b. found hope for future in present
 - c. refused to accept contrary evidence of senses
 - d. did not waver
 - e. rejoiced in Word as accomplished fact
- D. Faith is not based on feelings
1. Based on and agrees with Word
 2. Faith experience may include deep emotion (conversion)

John 14:27—Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

E. Saving Faith is God-centered

1. Not false confidence in people, etc
2. Jesus is the Author
3. He completes it

James 1:18—In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we might be, as it were, the first fruits among His creatures.

Hebrews 12:2—Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Notes

evidence of faith. Rather, they are the product of faith, *Acts 16:34; John 14:27; First Thessalonians 1:3; Acts 2:44-46*. When the Holy Spirit moves within a person, there will be an appropriate response.

The Focus of Faith

Saving faith is God-centered. It is not a false confidence placed in people, things, events, or angels but in God alone. Jesus authors the faith in our hearts, and He completes it, always pointing to the Father of Lights in whom there is no shadow of change, *James 1:18; Hebrews 12:2*.

SELF-CHECK

Check Yourself	
	<p>To learn more about some fellow members of the Household of Faith, upon whom our lives have been built, turn to Hebrews 11 and fill in the blanks to discover what action faith took in these individual lives.</p>
	Abel <u>offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain—11:4</u>
	Enoch <u>taken up so that He did not see death—11:5</u>
	Noah <u>prepared an ark for the salvation of his household—11:7</u>
	Sarah <u>received ability to conceive beyond the proper time of life—11:11</u>
	Joseph <u>When he was dying made mention of the exodus and gave orders concerning his bones—11:22</u>
	Jephthah <i>(use a concordance or topical index)</i> <u>Became a great warrior in Israel—I Samuel 12:11</u>
	Barak <i>(use a concordance or topical index)</i> <u>Led a great battle with Deborah—Judges 4:6</u>

Objective

At the end of this lesson, the student should be able to do the following:

1. Understand why water baptism is necessary.
2. List two or three scriptures that support water baptism.
3. Explain that baptism is not only symbolic but also representative of how God wants us to live in Him today.



Baptism in Water

Identifying with Christ

Chapter Six

Objective:

This lesson is not designed to clear up all misunderstandings about baptism, nor to establish a new tradition. It is a brief introduction to and overview of the subject. The Holy Spirit will guide us in the rest.

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DISCUSSION ACTIVITY

Talk with students about water baptism as the ultimate form of submission. Submitting to a death experience at the hand of another person. If the baptizer does not lift you up, you will drown.

Discuss the various forms of baptism used today: immersion, sprinkling, pouring, and so forth. Look for biblical examples of baptismal methods.

Teaching Notes

- A. Jesus was baptized
 - 1. He was without sin
 - 2. His attitude was delight to do the Father's will
 - 3. Initiated His public ministry
 - 4. Showed His clear conscience

Notes

Baptism in Water

Identifying with Christ

Introduction:

Water baptism has been a controversial subject throughout most of the history of the Church. Early in the life of the Church, people began to add formula, ritual, and requirements to this event which were not present in the New Testament descriptions. Like family traditions which are passed down through generations until the original meaning and intent are forgotten, baptism became an elaborate ritual involving lengthy preparations and teachings.

Jesus was baptized. His constant attitude during His life on earth was reflected by the writer of Psalms who says *I delight to do Thy will, O my God: Thy Law is within my heart, Psalms 40:8*. Jesus restates that attitude several times in the scriptures, such as the time the disciples were urging him to eat and he said *my food is to do the will of Him who sent me, John 4:34*.

It was that delight in doing the Father's will that brought Jesus to the banks of the River Jordan where John was baptizing converts. John's baptism was coupled with repentance, and Jesus was without sin, yet he submitted Himself to it because, *it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness, Matthew 3:15*. That baptism and the experiences which followed were the initiation of His public ministry and the evidence of His clear conscience before God, *First Peter 3:21*.

Surely, if the Messiah Himself was subject to this rite, we should have no question as to whether or not the experience is valid and necessary. It simply remains for us to understand something of the reasons why.

Notes

Symbolic Meaning

Water baptism is a symbolic, yet real spiritual experience. It is an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace. We enter the waters of baptism and stand before God as those who are dead in our transgressions and sins, *Ephesians 2:1*. Then, as dead men, we are buried beneath the water, just as Jesus Christ was buried in a tomb following His death on the cross, *Romans 6:3-4*. But He doesn't leave us there! The hands of the brethren lift us up, and we break the surface of the water and begin to breath air once more. In that moment, we are experiencing the wonder of a resurrected life. Now we identify with Jesus in His resurrection on the third day, and we begin to live a new life in Him, *Colossians 2:12; 3:1*. Through baptism, we are identifying ourselves with Christ. The experience is not merely symbolic of His resurrection, but it shows that we have been raised to a new life now!

Who, How, When, and Where

Who should be baptized? All who believe! *But when they believed... the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized. Acts 8:12*. The book of Acts is filled with baptismal accounts, *8:36-38, 16:31-33; 18:8* and it was a regular part of daily life in the New Testament church. The apostle Paul, *Acts 9:18; Lydia, Acts 16:14-15*; the Philippian jailer and his house, *Acts 16:33*; and the Corinthian believers, *Acts 18:8* were all baptized. In fact, the apostles commanded it, *Acts 2:37-41; Acts 10:44-48*. Baptism was so clearly related to conversion in the New Testament that they were often thought to be one event.

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B. Symbolic Meaning

1. Yes, but a real experience
2. Dead and buried like Jesus
3. Resurrected to life in Him

C. Who, How, When, Where

1. All who believe
2. Baptismal accounts
 - a. Apostle Paul

Acts 9:18—And immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he regained his sight, and he arose and was baptized.

b. Lydia

Acts 16:15—And when she and her household had been baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.

c. Jailer

Acts 16:29-33—And he called for lights and rushed in and, trembling with fear, he fell down before Paul and Silas, and after he brought them out, he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved, you and your household." And they spoke the word of the Lord to him together with all who were in his house. And he took them that (very) hour of the night and washed their wounds, and immediately he was baptized, he and all his (household.)

d. Corinthians

Acts 18:8— And Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, believed in the Lord with all his household, and many of the Corinthians when they heard were believing and being baptized.

e. Commanded by apostles

Acts 10:44-48— While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message. And all the circumcised believers who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out upon the Gentiles also. For they were

hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God. Then Peter answered, "Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we did, can he?" And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay on for a few days.

3. Repentance, Faith, Confession
necessary elements

- a. An act of obedience, not means of salvation.
- b. Only the blood can cleanse sin,

Luke 23:42-43—And he was saying, "Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!" And He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise."

- c. Infants unable to repent, have faith, confess

4. Where and How

- a. Body of Christ divided on this.
- b. Scripture describes variety of situations

Notes

While it is apparent that this is an act of obedience necessary for believers, the scriptures are also clear that baptism is not the means of salvation. Only the blood of Christ can accomplish that. As Jesus hung on the cross, two men hung beside him. One was full of cursing for this "King of the Jews," but the other one rebuked the scoffer, saying that although they deserved the punishment of death, Jesus did not. Then with his dying breath the criminal said, *Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom, Luke 23:42*. In that moment, the man expressed repentance, faith, and confession—all the elements of conversion. Yet, it was impossible for him to be baptized. Jesus' response lays to rest any question about baptism and salvation, because He offered this assurance to His companion in death, *Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise, Luke 23:43*.

These elements—repentance, faith, and confession—are necessary for baptism. Since infants cannot participate personally in repentance, faith, or confession, the question of infant baptism is also easily answered. Children, however, can and do experience these things, often at an early age.

The where and how of baptism are questions which often lead to discussion and disagreement. In fact, the Body of Christ has been divided on this issue because some people see the "where and how" questions as essential to a valid experience. But scriptures describe a variety of situations and solutions. Philip was on a dusty, desert road when he met the Ethiopian eunuch and began to explain to him about the Messiah. After hearing these words of life, they came upon some water and the Eunuch asked to be baptized. Then the scriptures say that both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, *Acts 8:34-39*.

Notes

The account of this baptism, as well as the baptism of Jesus, would seem to indicate immersion as the method. But the most significant issue in this story seems to be the heart of the man who asked for baptism and the gracious provision of God who created water in the desert—that it might be fulfilled. We stand firm in our belief that the heart of a man's baptism is more important than his mode.

We practice baptism by immersion—But we do not invalidate other methods, since the real issue is a person's faith. Often people ask to be rebaptized because their faith and understanding have grown, and they want to experience a more meaningful expression of their faith. We are glad to accommodate that hunger. Yet, we do not require that everyone who wants to join our local church be rebaptized by our methods.

- c. Immersion seems to be the method
- d. God provided water in the desert
- e. Heart condition more important than mode

SELF-CHECK

Check Yourself	
	<p>Write a brief account of your own baptism experience. Be specific about the place, the people, the emotions, and the impact on your life. If you were very young, it may be helpful to talk with someone else who was there to recall details. If you have not yet been baptized, write about how this lesson has affected your thinking on the subject.</p>

Objective

By the time students finish this section, they should be able to do the following:

1. Give scriptural evidence that Jesus commands the Church to observe communion.
2. Be able to explain who is eligible to partake of communion.
3. List at least three heart attitudes necessary for those who participate in the communion table.



Communion Partaking With the Family

...the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread: and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way He took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

First Corinthians 11:23-25

Chapter Seven

Objective:

Like baptism, communion has become a point of division in the Kingdom rather than a place of unity. This lesson is not meant to add to that debate, but to discover what the Bible says about "The Lord's Table."

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DISCUSSION ACTIVITY

Talk with students about these questions and look for scriptural support for your answers.

1. Is communion more than a ritual of remembrance?
2. Does the taking of communion actually impart grace and life to the believer?

Teaching Notes

I. Passover of Israel

- A. God sent plagues
- B. Pharaoh refused to bend
- C. God gave Moses the commandment for Passover

Exodus 12:13-14—And the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; and when I see the blood I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy (you) when I strike the land of Egypt. Now this day will be a memorial to you, and you shall celebrate it (as) a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations you are to celebrate it (as) a permanent ordinance.

Notes

Communion

Partaking With the Family

Introduction:

The family dinner table is an almost-sacred place in many households. No one is allowed to miss supper because it is a time of reflection, refueling, and relating in the family. It reminds us of who we are and to whom we belong. The communion of the saints has similar purpose and significance. The book of Exodus describes a time when God sent horrible plagues on the Egyptian people in order to convince Pharaoh that he should release the Hebrew nation from bondage and allow the people to return to their land of promise. Pharaoh was unrelenting, however. So, before the final plague of death to the firstborn in every house, God spoke to Moses about a Passover Feast. He gave detailed instructions concerning the slaughter of a perfect lamb from among the flocks. Each family was to prepare the lamb for roasting, and they were commanded to smear the blood of the lamb on their doorposts.

And the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; and when I see the blood I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt, Exodus 12:13.

Then the death angel flew over the land, and the firstborn in the land were all struck down—from the first-born of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the first-born of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the first-born of cattle, Exodus 12:29. But, no one died in the Hebrew homes. They were covered by the blood of the Lamb.

Notes

A New Covenant

Centuries later, the Jewish people continue to celebrate this Passover, in remembrance of what God has done. Jesus and the disciples were in the midst of that Passover celebration during the Last Supper when He broke the bread, took the cup, and explained to them about His body and His blood, *First Corinthians 11:23-25; Hebrews 9:13-14*. Suddenly, a new covenant had been established, a new ordinance had been given.

When you do this, do it in remembrance of me. No longer the death angel, who could only spare for a season those who were under observance of the Law, but now *Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, John 1:29.*

That is why we observe communion. He gave us a command for these reasons:

- To remember Him, *Luke 22:19-20; First Corinthians 11:24-25.*
- To proclaim the Lord's death until He comes, *First Corinthians 11:25.*
- To remember our deliverance from sin, *Exodus 12:42; Hebrews 9:14.*
- To share in the body and blood of the Lord, *First Corinthians 10:16.*

At His Table

The Bible does not speak of communion as a private matter. Although believers experience a personal communion or relationship with God, the coming together at the table of the Lord for the breaking of bread and taking of the cup is a corporate experience. It

II. New Covenant

- A. Jesus and disciples celebrated Passover at Last Supper
- B. Now in remembrance of Jesus' blood, not the lamb
- C. Bread represents Body
First Corinthians 11:23-24—For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me."
- D. Wine represents blood
Hebrews 9:13-14—For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled, sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?
- E. We are commanded to partake:
 1. To remember Him
 2. To proclaim His death till He comes
 3. To remember our deliverance from sin
 4. To share in the Body and the blood

III. Method and Attitude

- A. Bible shows communion as corporate experience
 1. Personal faith, but also corporate faith

2. Corinthians admonished for their mishandling of the matter

B. All who repent and believe may come

1. With a desire to participate
Luke 22:14-15—And when the hour had come He reclined (at the table) and the apostles with Him. And He said to them, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.”

2. Through faith
Hebrews 11:6—And without faith it is impossible to please (Him), for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and (that) He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

3. Remembering Christ
First Corinthians 11:24-25—And when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, “This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” In the same way (He took) the cup also, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink (it,) in remembrance of Me.”

4. Giving thanks
Luke 22:17—And when He had taken a cup (and) given thanks, He said, “Take this and share it among yourselves

5. As a caring member of the Body
First Corinthians 10:17—Since there is one bread, we who are many are one body; for we all partake of the one bread.

First Corinthians 11:33—So then, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another.

6. With personal examination
First Corinthians 11:28—But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

Notes

has to do with both our relationship with God and our relationship with one another. The Corinthian believers were admonished strongly for their negligence and mishandling of communion, *First Corinthians 11:20-22*; and they were instructed to examine themselves and judge the body rightly, *First Corinthians 11:28-29*.

These scriptures indicate that, like baptism, communion is open to all who have repented and believed. The Bible actually has little to say about how communion should be taken. No matter how often we partake or what method we use, we are to approach His table in this way:

- with a desire to participate, *Luke 22:14-15*.
- through faith, *Hebrews 11:6*.
- remembering Christ, *First Corinthians 11:24-25*.
- giving thanks, *Luke 22:17*.
- as a caring member of the Body, *First Corinthians 10:17, 11:33*.
- with personal examination, *First Corinthians 11:28*.

SELF-CHECK

Check Yourself

Because it is necessary to come before the Lord with a pure heart, look at Matthew 5:23-47 and examine some of the traits such a heart displays.

1. If therefore you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you ... do these three things:
 ___ **leave** ___ your offering, be ___ **reconciled** ___
 then ___ **come and present your offering** ___.
2. ___ **make friends quickly** ___ with your opponent at law...
3. You shall not commit adultery, even in your ___ **heart** ___.
4. Let your ___ **yes** ___ be ___ **yes** ___ and your ___ **no** ___ be ___ **no** ___.
5. Love your ___ **enemies** ___ and ___ **pray** ___ **for** ___ those who persecute you.
6. For you are to be ___ **perfect** ___ as your heavenly Father is ___ **perfect** ___.

Objective

Objective: By the time students complete this study, they should be able to do the following:

1. Prove from the scriptures that the Holy Spirit is a living, moving member of the Trinity.
2. In a few sentences, give examples of how the Holy Spirit has been at work in their personal lives.
3. Explain that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is an experience distinct from the experience of salvation.



The Person of the Holy Spirit

Who He Is and What He Is Doing

And it will come about after this that I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; and your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. And even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.
Joel 2:28-29

Chapter Eight

Objective:

The book of the Acts of the Holy Spirit is still being written. The prophesy in Joel continues to be fulfilled, and will continue for generations yet to come. Because of that, it is vital that we understand Who He is and What He is doing in our day.

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DISCUSSION ACTIVITY

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is an experience distinct from salvation. As a class discussion, answer the following questions from Acts 8:12-17.

- a. What happened to the people when Philip preached?
- b. What happened to the people when Peter and John arrived?
- c. What does this scripture say about the importance of ministering in a team?

Teaching Notes

I. Holy Spirit at work since before time began

- A. Joel's prophecy fulfilled at Pentecost in New Testament
- B. Spirit seen in subtle light of O.T.
- C. Manifested at the baptism of Jesus

II. Description of His Person

A. Posses knowledge

First Corinthians 2:9-11—But just as it is written, things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and (which) have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those that love Him." For to us God revealed (them) through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. For who among men knows the (thoughts) of a man except the spirit of the man, which is in him? Even so the (thoughts) of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.

B. Exercises a will

First Corinthians 12:11—But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

C. Has a mind

Romans 8:27—And He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to (the will of) God.

D. Loves

Romans 15:30—Now I urge you, brethren, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God for me.

E. Gives instruction

Nehemiah 9:20—"And Thou didst give Thy good Spirit to instruct them, Thy manna Thou didst not withhold from their mouth, And Thou didst give them water for their thirst."

Notes

The Person of the Holy Spirit

Who He Is and What He Is Doing

Introduction:

This Old Testament scripture in the book of Joel was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost, when those who were waiting in Jerusalem for the Spirit received Him with power. The Book of Acts could easily be called the Acts of the Holy Spirit, because many of its chapters recount the activity of the Spirit in the life of the new believers. The Holy Spirit is seen throughout the Old and New Testament, often in a subtle light. One of the earliest New Testament accounts of His obvious presence comes at the baptism of Jesus, when John sees Him rend the heavens and rush down upon Jesus the man, bringing with Him the approving voice of God the Father. This is a thrilling account of the Trinity being reunited for the first time since Jesus came to earth as man.

It is also one of the key examples of the Holy Spirit as a person. A God-person, but a person nonetheless. Those who have experienced the indwelling of His life, the comfort of His presence, the wisdom of His counsel, and the surging of His power will gladly attest to this fact. The Bible itself declares Who He is and describes His personality in several distinct ways.

- He possesses knowledge—*First Corinthians 2:9-11*
- He exercises a will—*First Corinthians 12:11*
- He has a mind—*Romans 8:27*
- He loves—*Romans 15:30*
- He gives instructions—*Nehemiah 9:20*
- He grieves—*Ephesians 4:30*

F. Grieves

Ephesians 4:30—And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

III. Symbolic pictures of the Holy Spirit

A. Fire

Isaiah 4:4—When the Lord has washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and purged the bloodshed of Jerusalem from her midst, by the spirit of judgment and the spirit of burning,

Acts 2:3—And there appeared to them to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them.

Matthew 3:11—“As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”

B. Wind

John 3:8— “The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

Acts 2:2-3—And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent, rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them.

C. Water

John 7:38-39—“He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.’” But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet (given,) because Jesus was not yet glorified.

First Corinthians 10:4—And all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ.

D. Oil

Matthew 25:3—“For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them.”

Psalms 89:20—“I have found David My servant; With My holy oil I have anointed him.”

First John 2:27—And as for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.

E. Dove

Matthew 3:16—And after being baptized, Jesus went up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, (and) coming upon Him.

IV. Holy Spirit seen in life of Jesus

A. Conceived and born by the Spirit

Luke 1:35—And the angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy offspring shall be called the Son of God.

Notes

He is also seen in the Bible through a variety of symbolic pictures such as the following:

- Fire—*Isaiah 4:4; Acts 2:3; Matthew 3:11*
- Wind—*John 3:8; Acts 2:2*
- Water—*John 7:37-38; First Corinthians 10:4*
- Oil—*Matthew 25:3; Psalms 89:20; First John 2:27*
- Dove—*Matthew 3:16*

Seen In the Life of Jesus

As believers, we pattern ourselves after Jesus Christ, the Head of the Body. Therefore, we must understand how the Spirit worked in His life. Jesus Christ was conceived and born of the Holy Spirit, who overshadowed the virgin Mary, *Luke 1:35*. He was then filled with the Holy Spirit after His baptism in water, *Luke 3:21-22; John 1:32-34*.

He was also “led of the Spirit”—a concept we tend to associate with ooey-goopy feelings and unstructured, spontaneous reactions. Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted, *Luke 4:1*. The Spirit had a specific destination and purpose which had been set before the foundation of the world. He leads us in the same way.

Once Jesus returned from that experience, He began to minister by the Holy Spirit. Sitting in the synagogue, He addressed the people with this quote from Isaiah, *The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are downtrodden, to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord. Luke 4:18-19.*

B. Filled with the Spirit after baptism
Luke 3:21-22—Now it came about when all the people were baptized, that Jesus also was baptized, and while He was praying, heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, “Thou art My beloved Son, in Thee I am well-pleased.”

John 1:32,33—And John bore witness saying, “I have beheld the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him. And I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the one who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.”

C. Led by the Spirit into the wilderness
Luke 4:1—And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led about by the Spirit in the wilderness.

D. Ministered through the Holy Spirit
Luke 4:18—The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are downtrodden.

E. Cast out demons by the power of the Spirit
Matthew 12:28—But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

F. Offered Himself for our atonement through the Spirit
Hebrews 9:14—How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

G. Raised from death by the Spirit
Romans 8:11—But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.

H. Gave apostles commandments by the Spirit
Acts 1:2— Until the day when He was taken up, after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen.

G. Ordered apostles to stay in Jerusalem until the same Spirit came upon them

Notes

Much of Jesus' recorded ministry deals with casting out demons. When the Pharisees questioned the source of His power to do so, He told them, *I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, Matthew 12:28*. Even more awesome than casting out demons, Jesus offered Himself for our atonement through the eternal Spirit, *Hebrews 9:14*.

Following His crucifixion, Jesus was raised from the dead by the Holy Spirit—the same Spirit which dwells in us today, exercising the same power, *Romans 8:11*. Shortly before He ascended into Heaven, Jesus gave the apostles whom He had chosen commandments through the Spirit, *Acts 1:2*. Then He ordered them to wait in Jerusalem until they, too, had received the Holy Spirit, *Acts 1:7-8*.

Working of the Holy Spirit In Our Lives Today

Today the Holy Spirit continues to move and work in specific ways in the life of believers. The following is a partial list of His work.

- He convicts.
- He draws.
- He takes part in regeneration and salvation.
- He comforts.
- He teaches.
- He baptizes, empowering us to be witnesses.
- He bestows spiritual gifts, separate and distinct from salvation.

SELF-CHECK

Check Yourself

1. The Holy Spirit baptizes believers with Himself over and over again in their lives. Turn to Acts 4:31 to answer the following questions.
 - a. Who were the people gathered in this verse for prayer?
Members of the first church, which may have numbered in the thousands, and the disciples.
 - b. Was this the first time they had encountered the Holy Spirit? **In this form, yes. He was the helper Jesus had promised to send. However, he had been drawing them to Jesus all along.**
 - c. What did they begin to do as a result of the Holy Spirit making Himself known?
They preached with boldness.
2. The baptism of the Holy Spirit does not follow a traditional sequence of events. Read Acts 10:43-48 to answer the following questions.
 - a. To whom was Peter preaching?
The household of Cornelius—a gentile.
 - b. What happened first, water baptism or Holy Spirit baptism?
Holy Spirit baptism.

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Check Yourself

3. The baptism of the Holy Spirit brings a fruit that is obvious. Read Acts 19:1-6 to answer the following questions:
 - a. Why do you think Paul asked the question in verse 2?
It must have been obvious by their lives that they were not filled with the Spirit.
 - b. What visible manifestation took place when they were "baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus?"
Tongues and prophecy.
 - c. Compare this to Matthew 3:11-12. According to this scripture, what is the difference between John's baptism and Jesus' baptism?
John baptized with water—an outward sign of repentance, Jesus baptized with fire and the Holy Spirit—inward changes of the heart.

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Objective

By the time students complete this study, they should be able to do the following:

1. Give at least three scripture references that describe people being baptized in the Holy Spirit.
2. Explain in a few sentences the purpose of Holy Spirit Baptism in the life of a believer.
3. Begin to learn how to lead others into this experience.



Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Part One

Edifying the Family

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. And there are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

First Corinthians 12:4-7

Chapter Nine

Objective:

This study is designed to help each member of the Body recognize and rightly exercise the gifts of the Spirit in the context of the local church.

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DISCUSSION ACTIVITY

Speaking in tongues has been a controversy in the church world for many years. Talk with students about their own personal understanding of that manifestation before you begin this study. You might want to cover the following areas:

1. Speaking in tongues is not necessary for salvation, but resistance to the experience may indicate an unwillingness to give God full control.
2. Speaking in tongues is "speaking." God does not take control and wag the believer's tongue. It is a voluntary act just like prayer, worship, praise, or prophecy.
3. The enemy has targeted this area as a point of contention and division, making it a larger issue than the Bible indicates it should be.

Teaching Notes

I. Descriptions of Holy Spirit Baptism

A. Being filled

Acts 2:4—And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.

B. Receiving

Acts 8:17—Then they (began) laying their hands on them, and they were receiving the Holy Spirit.

C. Falling Upon

Acts 11:15—“And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, just as (He did) upon us at the beginning.”

D. Pouring out

Acts 10:45—And all the circumcised believers who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out upon the Gentiles also.

E. Coming upon

Acts 19:6—And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they (began) speaking with tongues and prophesying.

F. A gift

Acts 2:38—And Peter (said) to them, “Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

G. A promise

Ephesians 1:13—In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation —having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise.

II. Baptism referred to through the Bible

A. Prophesied by Joel

B. Foreshadowed by John the Baptist

C. Promised by Jesus

III. Purpose in believer's life

A. Power to be witnesses

Acts 1:8—But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

Acts 4:31-33—And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and (began) to speak the word of God with boldness.

Acts 4:32-33—And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one (of them) claimed that anything belonging to him was his own; but all things were common property to them. And with great power the apostles were giving witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all.

B. True worship

John 4:24—“God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

Notes

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Part One: Edifying the Family

Introduction:

In order for a household to function properly, each member must contribute their unique gifting. Mothers are gifted with the ability to nurture and “mother.” Fathers are gifted to lead and to mold. Each child then adds a personality and character, which all comes together to create a family. Local churches work the same way. God has bestowed specific gifts upon His people in order that His Body might be complete.

The Baptism In the Holy Spirit

Just as water baptism speaks of a total immersion of the body into the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, so the baptism of the Holy Spirit represents a total immersion of the believer. The Bible also describes this baptism as “being filled” *Acts 2:4*, “receiving” *Acts 8:17*, “falling upon” *Acts 11:15*, “pouring out” *Acts 10:45*, and “coming upon” *Acts 19:6*. He is a gift, *Acts 2:38* and He is a promise with which we are sealed, *Ephesians 1:13*.

The initial promise of the baptism was given by the prophet Joel, and He is foreshadowed in the teaching of John the Baptist in the New Testament. Jesus Himself talks about “the Promise of the Father” who will not leave the disciples alone after Jesus’ death and resurrection, but will abide with them forever, *Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4*.

First Corinthians 14:15—What is (the outcome) then? I shall pray with the spirit and I shall pray with the mind also; I shall sing with the spirit and I shall sing with the mind also.

C. Prayer life

Romans 8:26-27—And in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for (us) with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to (the will of) God.

D. New life in scriptures

John 14:26—“But the Helper,

the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.”

E. God’s guidance

John 16:13—“But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.”

Mark 13:11— “And when they arrest you and deliver you up, do not be anxious beforehand about what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in

that hour; for it is not you who speak, but (it is) the Holy Spirit.”

Romans 8:14—For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

F. More fruit

Galatians 5:22—But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

G. Spiritual gifts in operation

First Corinthians 12:7—But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

First Corinthians 12:11—But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

IV. Examples of Manifestations

A. Tongues

Acts 2:1-4—And when the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent, rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.

B. Samaria

Acts 8:4-25—Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word. And Philip went down to the city of Samaria and (began) proclaiming Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord were giving attention to what was said by Philip, as they heard and saw the signs which he was performing. For (in the case of) many who had unclean spirits, they were coming out (of them) shouting with a loud voice; and many who had been paralyzed and lame were healed. And there was much

<p>The Purpose of the Spirit In the Believer's Life</p> <p>Just as the Spirit came to Jesus with a Divine purpose, so He comes to us. When we have yielded to Him, and He has filled us, we will see remarkable changes in our life.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will discover power to be witnesses—<i>Acts 1:8, 4:31-33.</i> • Our worship will arise to another level as we are aided by the Spirit—<i>John 4:24, First Corinthians 14:15.</i> • He will help us in our prayer life—<i>Romans 8:26-27.</i> • We will find new life and understanding in the scriptures—<i>John 14:26.</i> • God's guidance will become clear—<i>John 16:13, Mark 13:11.</i> • Our ability to bear fruit will increase—<i>Galatians 5:22-23.</i> • We will be able to operate in Spiritual gifts—<i>First Corinthians 12:7-11.</i> <p>Manifestations</p> <p>Some people respond to the manifestations of the baptism in the Holy Spirit the same way they respond to a mother who puts spinach on their plate. Do I have to speak in tongues? This question sometimes arises because the convert believes that he was filled with the Spirit at conversion. Certainly it is true that no one can come to the Father unless the Spirit draws him, but according to gospel accounts, the baptism is a distinct empowering experience that is separate from repentance and believing in Christ.</p> <p>This is demonstrated in several passages, especially in the Book of Acts. During the initial outpouring on the Day of Pentecost, they all spoke in tongues, <i>Acts 2:1-4.</i> While many have attempted to</p>	<h2 style="margin: 0;">Notes</h2>
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rejoicing in that city. Now there was a certain man named Simon, who formerly was practicing magic in the city, and astonishing the people of Samaria, claiming to be someone great; and they all, from smallest to greatest, were giving attention to him, saying, "This man is what is called the Great Power of God." And they were giving him attention because he had for a long time astonished them with his magic arts. But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike. And even Simon himself believed; and after being baptized, he continued on with Philip; and as he observed signs and great miracles taking place, he was constantly amazed. Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For He had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they (began) laying their hands on them, and they were receiving the Holy Spirit. Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was bestowed through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, saying, "Give this authority to me as well, so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! "You have no part or portion in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. "Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you. "For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bondage of iniquity." But Simon answered and said, "Pray to the Lord for me yourselves, so that nothing of what you have said may come upon me." And so, when they had solemnly testified and spoken the word of the

Lord, they started back to Jerusalem, and were preaching the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans.

- C. Apostle Paul
Acts 9:17—And Ananias departed and entered the house, and after laying his hands on him said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight, and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

D. Always something visible or audible when people were baptized in Spirit.

V. The tongue

- A. Most unruly member
- B. God chooses to tame it
- C. We surrender that final member to Christ

Notes

explain this phenomenon away as a one-time outpouring, it continues to be described in the New Testament. The people of Samaria received the Holy Spirit when Peter and John laid hands on them, *Acts 8:4-25*. The apostle Paul was filled with the Holy Spirit three days after his dramatic conversion on the Damascus road, *Acts 9:17-18*. Although the scriptures are not clear what manifestation was present to make the filling known, it is clear in later writings that he often spoke in tongues. These accounts go on and on. In each instance something specific, visible or audible, takes place so that those who are observing have no doubt but that the Spirit has fallen.

The Problem With the Tongue

James describes the tongue as our most unruly member, unable to be tamed by men. Certainly we can verify that by experience. It is not surprising, then, that God would choose to tame the most unruly member of the body in the baptism of the Holy Spirit. It is the final surrender of ourselves to Christ. The question, then, is not, "Do I have to speak in tongues?" The question is, "Why don't you want to?"

Check Yourself

Use the time normally allotted for this self-test to pray with those who have not yet received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, or to instruct students in how to pray for others to receive.

Objective

By the time students finish this study, they should be able to do the following:

1. Explain the purpose for the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
2. List at least three gifts and give scriptural references for their proper use.
3. Have a clearer understanding of which gifts are at work in their own lives.



Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Part Two

Edifying the Family

Chapter Ten

Objective:

To discover the purpose for the gifts of the Holy Spirit in the Church, and to help each individual believer find their place and function in the use of these gifts.

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DISCUSSION ACTIVITY

Look at the list of the fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22. Discuss with students that love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control are necessary elements when a believer is exercising the gifts of the Spirit.

For instance, imagine the following scenarios:

- A prophet with no kindness.
- A word of knowledge with no love.
- Miracles without joy.
- Tongues without self-control.

Teaching Notes

I. Purpose and use of gifts

- A. For the common good
- B. In the local church

First Corinthians 12:7—But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

- C. Properly and in orderly manner

First Corinthians 14:40—But let all things be done properly and in an orderly manner.

II. Revelation gifts

- A. Word of wisdom

1. Insight given by God for specific situation.

2. Stephen before Sanhedrin

Matthew 10:18-20—And you shall even be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. "But when they deliver you up, do not become anxious about how or what you will speak; for it shall be given you in that hour what you are to speak. For it is not you who speak, but (it is) the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you."

First Kings 3:16-28—Then two women who were harlots came to the king and stood before him. And the one woman said, "Oh, my lord, this woman and I live in the same house; and I gave birth to a child while she (was) in the house. And it happened on the third day after I gave birth, that this woman also gave birth to a child, and we were together. There was no stranger with us in the house, only the two of us in the house. And this woman's son died in the night, because she lay on it. So she arose in the middle of the night and took my son from beside me while your maidservant slept, and laid him in her bosom, and laid her dead son in my bosom. And when I rose in the morning to nurse my son, behold, he was dead; but when I looked at him carefully in the morning, behold, he was not my son, whom I had borne."

Then the other woman said, "No! For the living one is my son, and the dead one is your son." But the first woman said, "No! For the dead one is your son, and the living one is my son." Thus they spoke before the king. Then the king said, "The one says, 'This is my son who is living, and your son is the dead one'; and the other says, 'No! For your son is the dead one, and my son is the living one.'" And the king said, "Get me a sword." So they brought a sword before the king. And the king said, "Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one and half to the other." Then the

woman whose child (was) the living one spoke to the king, for she was deeply stirred over her son and said, "Oh, my lord, give her the living child, and by no means kill him." But the other said, "He shall be neither mine nor yours; divide (him!) " Then the king answered and said, "Give the first woman the living child, and by no means kill him. She is his mother."

When all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had handed down, they feared the king; for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him to administer justice.

Notes

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Part Two: Edifying the Family

Introduction:

God has given many different gifts to His Church, and they are to be viewed as gifts, not talents. A gift is given purely by the grace of God, and it is bestowed upon the person of His choosing, through no merit of their own. Several different, though overlapping gifts are mentioned in Romans 12, Ephesians 4, and First Corinthians 12. In Romans 12 we see different "Body gifts" such as mercy, giving, and so forth. Ephesians 4 talks about five ministry gifts—apostles, prophets, teachers, pastors, and evangelists. This lesson focuses on a third category, which we call gifts of the Spirit.

The Place and Purpose

These gifts are given "for the common good." Although they are manifested in and through individuals, all mention of the exercising of these gifts in the Bible is given in the context of the local church, *First Corinthians 12:7*. This means that a believer must be properly fitted to the church, a part of the household of faith, in order to both minister and receive the full benefits of the gifts of the Spirit. God expects the gifts to operate and be governed in the church, which will strengthen the whole body. This also ensures that things are done properly and in an orderly manner, *First Corinthians 14:40*. The gifts of the Spirit are not the playthings of an independent ministry; they belong to the Church.

Acts 6:10—And (yet) they were unable to cope with the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking.

B. Word of knowledge

1. Specific facts given by God, not known by natural source.

John 1:45-48—Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and (also) the Prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” And Nathanael said to him, “Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!” Nathanael said to Him, “How do

You know me?” Jesus answered and said to him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.”

2. Jesus and the woman at the well.

C. Discerning of spirits

1. God-given ability to recognize spirits of God, man, or evil.
2. Paul & Timothy with the slave girl.

Acts 16:16-18—And it happened that as we were going to the place of prayer, a certain slave-girl having a spirit of divination met us, who was bringing her masters much profit

by fortunetelling. Following after Paul and us, she kept crying out, saying, “These men are bond-servants of the Most High God, who are proclaiming to you the way of salvation.” And she continued doing this for many days. But Paul was greatly annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!” And it came out at that very moment.

Matthew 7:15-20—Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn (bushes,) nor figs from thistles, are they? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit; but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. So then, you will know them by their fruits.

First John 4:1—Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

III. Vocal gifts

A. Tongues

1. God-given ability to speak in unknown language.
 2. For edification and intercession.
- First Corinthians 14:4-5**—One who speaks in a tongue edifies himself; but one who prophesies edifies the church. Now I wish that you all spoke in tongues, but (even) more that you would prophesy; and greater is one who prophesies than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may receive edifying.

First Corinthians 14:14-15—For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. What is (the outcome) then? I shall pray with the spirit and I shall pray with the mind also; I shall sing with the spirit and I shall sing with the mind also.

Notes

Revelation Gifts

If we can put the various gifts from First Corinthians 12 into categories, one such group would include gifts of revelation or special understanding. These include the following:

- **Word of wisdom**—insight given by God for the purpose of a specific situation, *Matthew 10:18-20; First Kings 3:16-28; Acts 6:10*. Example: Stephen speaking before the Sanhedrin, *Acts 7*.
- **Word of knowledge**—specific information given by God which is not known through any natural source, *John 1:45-48*. Example: Jesus with the woman at the well, *John 4:1-42*.
- **Discerning of spirits**—God-given ability to recognize whether the spirit behind an activity is of God, man, or evil spirits, *Matthew 7:15-20; First John 4:1*. Example: Paul and Timothy with the slave girl, *Acts 16:16-18*.

Vocal Gifts

Another category of gifts would include those which are audible to listeners and involve spoken language. These include the following:

- **Tongues**—the ability given by God to speak in a language unknown to the speaker, often called a prayer language. This gift is given both for private prayer and worship, *First Corinthians 14:4, 14-15, 28*. It also brings edification to the whole church when exercised with the complimentary gift of interpretation, *First Corinthians 14:5*.
- **Interpretation of tongues**—the God-given ability to explain what has been spoken in tongues or to interpret it into the language of the listener, *First Corinthians 14:13*.

First Corinthians 14:28—But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in the church; and let him speak to himself and to God.

B. Interpretation of tongues

1. God-given ability to explain an unknown tongue.

First Corinthians 14:13—Therefore let one who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret.

2. Tongues speak unto God, so interpretation should be Godward. For example, singing in Spirit then interpretation. A praise declaration in tongues, then interpretation.

C. Prophecy

1. God-given ability to speak a message from God.

2. Always agrees with Word of God.

First Corinthians 14:6—But now, brethren, if I come to you speaking in tongues, what shall I profit you, unless I speak to you either by way of revelation or of knowledge or of prophecy or of teaching?

Acts 11:27-30—Now at this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. And one of them named Agabus stood up and (began) to indicate by the Spirit that there would certainly be a great famine all over the world. And this took place in the (reign) of Claudius. And in the proportion that any of the disciples had means, each of them determined to send (a contribution) for the relief of the brethren living in Judea. And this they did, sending it in charge of Barnabas and Saul to the elders.

Revelation 19:10—And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said to me, "Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

IV. Power gifts

A. Faith

1. Miraculous assurance given by God for extreme situation.

2. Goes beyond daily faith.

Acts 3:3-6—And when he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he (began) asking to receive alms. And Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze upon him and said, "Look at us!" And he (began) to give them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, "I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene —walk!"

Acts 14:8-10—And at Lystra there was sitting a certain man, without strength in his feet, lame from his mother's womb, who had never walked. This man was listening to Paul as he spoke, who, when he had fixed his gaze

upon him, and had seen that he had faith to be made well, said with a loud voice, "Stand upright on your feet." And he leaped up and (began) to walk.

First Kings 17:14-15—"For thus says the LORD God of Israel, 'The bowl of flour shall not be exhausted, nor shall the jar of oil be empty, until the day that the LORD sends rain on the face of the earth.'" So she went and did according to the word of Elijah, and she and he and her household ate for many days.

B. Healings

1. God-given ability to impart physical healing.

Acts 9:17-18—And Ananias departed and entered the house,

Notes

- **Prophecy**—the ability given by God to speak forth a message from God to His people. Prophecy generally comes without forethought and in the language of the speaker. It often speaks of things to come or confirms things which are already happening. True prophecy will always agree with the revealed Word of God, *First Corinthians 14:6; Acts 11:27-30; Revelations 19:10.*

Power Gifts

The third category of spiritual gifts involves dramatic demonstration or works of power. The Bible says that these gifts are given to confirm the Word of God which is spoken, *Mark 16:20.* These gifts include the following:

- **Faith**—a miraculous assurance in God, given by God, during a time of extreme need or impossible obstacles. This goes beyond the daily faith we walk in, *Acts 3:3-6; 14:8-10.* Example: The widow with the unending oil, *First Kings 17:14-16.*
- **Healings**—the God-given ability to impart healing for the physical body in specific situations, *Acts 9:17-18; Acts 28:8-10.* Example: Peter's shadow falling on the sick, *Acts 5:15.*
- **Miracles**—the God-given ability to perform works contrary to the natural order of things, works which appear impossible to the human mind, *Acts 20:9-12; 9:39-41.* Example: Elijah and the consuming of the wet offering, *First Kings 18:36-38.*

Conclusion

The apostle Paul says clearly that all members of the church are to eagerly desire and to understand these gifts of the Spirit, *First Corinthians 14:1.* When we see the gifts operating properly, we

and after laying his hands on him said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight, and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he regained his sight, and he arose and was baptized

Acts 5:15—To such an extent that they even carried the sick out into the streets, and laid them on cots and pallets, so that when Peter came by, at least his shadow might fall on any one of them.

Acts 28:8-10—And it came about that the father of Publius was lying (in bed) afflicted with (recurrent) fever and dysentery; and Paul went

in (to see) him and after he had prayed, he laid his hands on him and healed him. And after this had happened, the rest of the people on the island who had diseases were coming to him and getting cured. And they also honored us with many marks of respect; and when we were setting sail, they supplied (us) with all we needed.

C. Miracles

1. Perform works contrary to nature

2. Impossible to human mind

Acts 20:9-12—And there was a certain young man named Eutyclus sitting on the window sill, sinking into a deep sleep; and as Paul kept on talking, he was overcome by sleep and fell

down from the third floor, and was picked up dead. But Paul went down and fell upon him and after embracing him, he said, "Do not be troubled, for his life is in him." And when he had gone (back) up, and had broken the bread and eaten, he talked with them a long while, until daybreak, and so departed. And they took away the boy alive, and were greatly comforted.

Acts 9:39-41—And Peter arose and went with them. And when he had come, they brought him into the upper room; and all the widows stood beside him weeping, and showing all the tunics and garments that Dorcas used to make while she was with them. But Peter sent them all out and knelt down and prayed, and turning to the body, he said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up. And he gave her his hand and raised her up; and calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive.

First Kings 18:36-38—Then it came about at the time of the offering of the (evening) sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, "O LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, today let it be known that Thou art God in Israel, and that I am Thy servant, and that I have done all these things at Thy word. "Answer me, O LORD, answer me, that this people may know that Thou, O LORD, art God, and (that) Thou hast turned their heart back again." Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.

Notes

know that God is at work, strengthening His Church and calling His people. As we begin to operate in these gifts, we must do so in all humility. We must remember that if the gifts of the Spirit are in evidence, but the fruits of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control—are lacking, then we have become nothing more than a noisy gong and clanging symbol on a drum set, *First Corinthians 13:1-3*. Both the gifts and the fruits are needed if the household is to grow strong.

Finding Your Place

Although we seek the Giver of the gifts and not the gifts themselves, God does want each believer to be equipped. Paul says that we are to seek the gifts earnestly for the building up of the Body. God does not deposit on us a gift of our choosing, but of His. As you begin to draw close to Him in worship and to make yourself fully available to Him for the function of any gift, He will begin to work in and through you for the perfecting of His Bride.

V. Used with Fruits of Spirit

- A. Love
- B. Joy
- C. Peace
- D. Patience
- E. Kindness
- F. Goodness
- G. Faithfulness
- H. Gentleness
- I. Self control

SELF-CHECK

Check Yourself	
	<p>Read First Corinthians 13:1-13 and contemplate the fact that the gifts must be exercised with love. Then rewrite verses four through seven in your own words, expanding on the meaning and application of the verses as they apply to the exercising of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.</p>