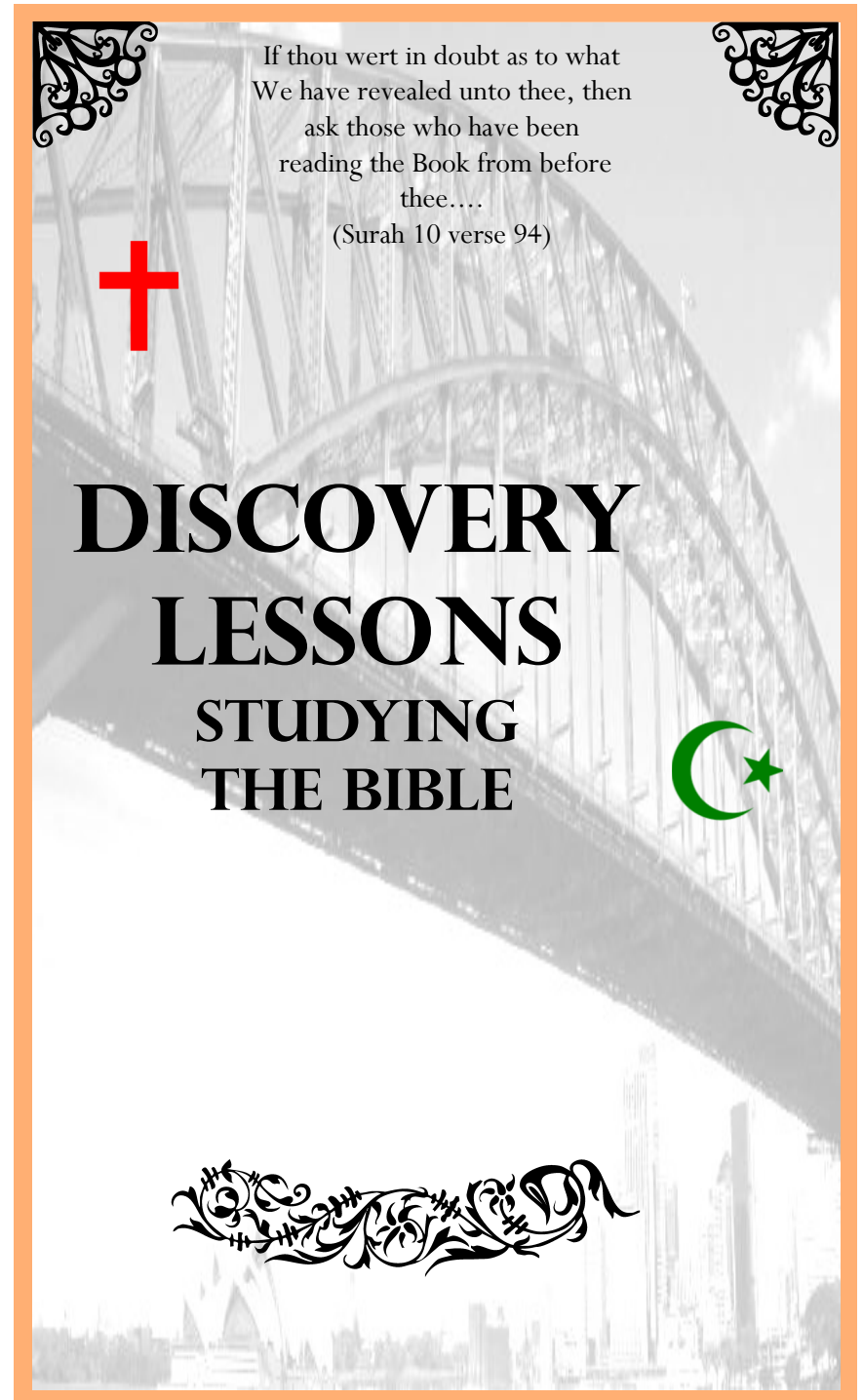




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NOTES

NOTES

Discovery 1

GOD, MAN AND CREATION

Bible Texts: Genesis 1 and 2**Introduction**

- 1) The Bible teaches that Jesus came to give us a better life (John 10:10). Everyone that I meet seems to want a new life. Jesus has promised us that life.
- 2) The goal of these lessons is to help us understand who Jesus Christ is, why He came, and what He can do for us.
- 3) In order to understand who Jesus is, we must understand what happened in the world before He came. To do this, we are going to take a closer look at a familiar story: the creation of the world.

The 7 Days of Creation/The Importance of the Word of God

1) READ: Genesis 1:1-2.

a) Was there anything in existence before the creation of the world?

b) When God began creating the world, what was its condition?

2) READ: Genesis 1:3-5.

a) What did God create on the first day? _____

b) How did He create it? Did He use tools? _____

c) The Word of God is the foundation to the existence of everything. Everything is built upon the Word of God.

3) READ: Genesis 1:6-25.

a) How did God create everything? _____

b) There was an order and a purpose to God's creation.

4) The expression ‘the Word of God’ does not refer to a book. It means the voice of God, the will of God, and the revelation of God.

Creation of Man/God’s Love for Man

1) READ: Genesis 1:26-27.

- a) Man was created in the image of God.
- b) Are animals created in the image of God? _____
- c) What does it mean that we are created in the image of God?

Do we resemble God physically? _____

d) What are some of the ways that man is created in the image of God?

- i) _____
- ii) _____
- iii) _____
- iv) _____
- v) _____
- vi) _____

2) READ: Genesis 1:28-31.

- a) Do you see anything that points to the value of man?
- b) Do you see God’s love for man?
- c) God said that creation was good what did He mean?

e) When we accept Christ He lives in us through the Holy Spirit.

Invitation

- 1) Have you considered the cost of following Christ? Do you understand the commitment?
- 2) Do you confess that you are a sinner in need of God’s grace and forgiveness?
- 3) Do you believe that Jesus is the Saviour who died on the Cross for you? Do you believe that He is the only way to God? Do you understand that He is much more than a prophet?
- 4) Do you want to accept Christ and allow Him to be your personal Saviour and Lord? Are you willing to follow Him?

READ: Romans 10:9-10.

- 1) According to these verses, what are the two things we must do to be saved? _____
- 2) What is the means of believing? _____
- 3) What is the means of confessing? _____
- 4) This faith must not be religious faith, but personal faith.
- 5) Would you like to pray now with me to receive Christ?

Salvation Prayer

Oh, Lord Jesus, I confess to you that I am a sinner needing your forgiveness. I believe that you died for my sins, and now I repent of them. I call on you to enter my life. I am putting my trust in you as Saviour, and I will follow you as Lord all of my life. Thank you, Master, Lord, because you have saved me. In the name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.

Repentance means that we confess we are sinners. We confess that we need the grace of God. We confess that we do not deserve God's love. Repentance takes humility.

3) Faith. READ: John 6:27-29, 40.

a) What kind of work should we do? _____

b) What is the work that God requires for eternal life? _____

c) Who is the one He has sent? _____

d) What does the word 'faith' mean?

i) _____

ii) _____

iii) _____

iv) _____

v) _____

vi) _____

vii) _____

e) There are two kinds of faith.

i) Religious faith: believing in the doctrines of a religion. It is possible to have religious faith and yet not have a personal relationship with God.

ii) Personal faith: opening your heart and life to God through Jesus. This is a personal relationship with God.

4) Receiving Christ READ: John 1:12-13.

a) What happens to those who receive Christ? _____

b) What does it mean to be a child of God? _____

c) To accept Christ means that we open our hearts to Christ and allow Him to give us a new life and to change us.

d) To accept Christ means that we have personally accepted the way of Christ for our life.

3) READ: Genesis 2:1-3.

a) What did God do on the seventh day? _____

b) Why did He rest? Was He tired? _____

c) It is very important that we notice the condition of creation at this time. It was perfect. It was complete. God rested because there was nothing else for Him to do.

d) Notice that God made the seventh day holy. To this day, man rests one day out of seven because God made this day holy. This points to the holiness of the relationship between God and man.

e) When a family moves into a new home, the parents want to prepare the children's room with a bed, toys, etc. In the same way, God prepared a beautiful world for us because He loves us.

The Garden of Eden/Man's Freedom to Choose

1) READ: Genesis 2:8-9.

a) Where was the Garden of Eden located? _____

b) How many kinds of trees did God put in the Garden? _____

2) READ: Genesis 2:15-17.

a) Which trees did God allow them to eat from? _____

b) This meant that they could eat from the Tree of Life. What was the importance of this tree? _____

c) What was God's command to them? _____

d) What would happen if they did? _____

e) Man has responsibility before God: responsibility of obedience.

f) Man has a choice, he has freedom. He can obey or disobey. Man has complete freedom to choose.

g) Was God's command difficult?

The First Marriage

1) READ: Genesis 2:18-25.

a) Marriage is a gift from God.

b) Marriage and sex within marriage are holy.

c) The will of God from the beginning concerning marriage is one man for one woman for life.

2) Why did Adam and Eve feel no shame even though they were naked?

Application

1) God created this world out of darkness and confusion. Because He is the Creator He can take the darkness and emptiness of our lives and give us new and beautiful lives. His Word is the foundation of spiritual life.

2) God created us to have fellowship with Him. Close fellowship. He created us so that we can glorify Him with our lives. God loves us. We have value.

3) The original condition of man in the Garden was perfect and complete.

a) He was physically complete (no sickness or death).

b) His relationship with God was complete (no separation because of sin).

b) What does He mean when He says that we must carry our cross? _____

c) What do you think Jesus is telling us in the story of the tower (vv. 28-30)? _____

d) READ: John 14:15. What is the proof that we love God?

The first thing you must do is to consider the cost of following Christ. Do not promise to give Him your life if you are not committed to obeying Him, following Him, and carrying your cross. If you start on this way and then turn back you will bring judgment on yourself.

2) Repent.

READ: Matthew 3:1-12.

a) Who was John the Baptist? _____

b) What was John's message? _____

c) What was his message to the religious leaders? _____

d) What were the religious leaders trusting in (v. 9)? _____

e) Repentance is the preparation for experiencing the presence of God.

f) When we repent we are emptying ourselves of our old life in order to receive a new life.

READ: Luke 18:9-14.

a) Describe the two men. _____

b) Which man repented? _____

c) Who did Jesus say was justified before God? _____ Why?

Discovery 6

THE PROPER RESPONSE TO GOD

Bible Texts: Various

Introduction

Review Lesson 5: Jesus is the Word of God, the Life, the Light, the Lamb, and the Son of God.

The lesson today begins with a story. A Jewish man named Saul persecuted the early Christians. He thought he was obeying God. He thought he was fulfilling the will of God. One day as he was travelling to Damascus to persecute the believers there, something very strange happened to him.

READ: Acts 9:3-9. As Paul travelled, he saw a bright light from heaven:

- a) Who was the light? _____
- b) What were Paul's two questions to Jesus? _____
and _____

There is an important question that we must ask ourselves today. In the first five lessons we have tried to answer the question, 'Who is Jesus?' In this lesson we will look at the second, 'What does He want us to do?' This is a very dangerous question because the way you answer it will affect your entire life on earth and your eternal life.

In today's lesson we will answer this question with four points. These are not four steps to arriving at salvation, but one step with four sides. Example: How do you show love to your wife? You are kind, don't hit her, provide for the family, etc. Are these many things? No. They are all expressions of love.

1) Consider the Cost. READ: Luke 14:25-30.

a) What do you think Jesus means when He says that we must hate our families and our life? _____

c) The environment around him was complete.

d) The marriage relationship was complete (respect between husband and wife, no divorce).

e) No sin, pain, suffering, sickness, death, or problems.

4) Man has complete freedom to obey or disobey God.

Closing

1) The things we see in the world today that are not right were not that way in the beginning. When we read about the perfect life in the Garden of Eden, we are reading about God's will for us. He wants us to have a perfect, complete life.

2) In the next lesson we will see how man destroyed the perfect world God gave him, and in the lessons that follow, we will see how God has made a way to restore us to our original condition with a perfect, complete life.

Discovery 2

THE FALL OF MAN / THE ORIGIN OF SIN

Bible Texts: Genesis 3

Introduction

1) The three main points to remember about last week's lesson are:

a) All of creation and man's relationship with God were complete.

b) God's will for man is that his life should be complete and perfect.

c) God gave man a choice. READ: Genesis 2:16-17. What was that choice?

2) The story could have ended here and man would have lived in the perfect will of God for eternity, but the world we live in today is not perfect or complete. Today we will see what happened. We can divide this lesson into four parts.

a) Satan's temptation of Eve (Genesis 3:1-6).

b) The sin of Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:7).

c) Punishment and consequences of that sin (Genesis 3:8-24).

d) Promise of reconciliation (Genesis 3:14-15; Genesis 3:21).

The lesson today has many new ideas. We will not be talking about Jesus yet, but this lesson will help us understand why we need Him.

Part 1: The Temptation

1) READ: Genesis 3:1-6.

a) Who was the snake? _____

b) What do we mean by the word 'temptation' ?

i) _____

from God.

4) After understanding these five titles for Christ, can we still think that Jesus was merely a prophet?

Application Rejecting and Receiving Christ

1) READ: John 1:10-11.

a) What does it mean that the world did not recognize Him? ____

b) Who were His own? _____

c) Did they accept Him? _____

d) Why do people today reject Christ? _____

2) READ: John 1:12-13.

a) What does it mean to receive Christ? _____

b) What happens to those who receive Christ? _____

c) What does it mean to be a child of God? _____

Closing

1) Do you understand what I mean when I say that Jesus is the Word of God, the Life, the Light, the Lamb, and the Son of God?

2) Do you understand how Jesus is Saviour? Do you understand how He is Lord?

3) There is one more thing that distinguishes Jesus from all of the other prophets: He is alive. Because of this, He is much more than a prophet. Prophets make bad people good, but Jesus makes dead people live. He is the source of life. MEMORIZE: John 14:6.

4) READ: Revelation 3:20. The decision is yours. Do you want to accept Christ and become His child?

Jesus is the Light. READ: John 1:4-9.

- 1) How is Jesus described here? _____
- 2) What are some of the things that light does?
 - a) _____
 - b) _____
 - c) Light helps living things grow.
- 3) How is Jesus like the light?
 - a) READ: John 8:12. _____
 - b) READ: John 12:46. Jesus overcomes darkness (sin).

Jesus is the Lamb of God. READ: John 1:29

- 1) What is Jesus called here? _____
- 2) Do you remember why Jesus is called the Lamb of God? _____
- 3) As the Lamb, what does Jesus do? _____
- 4) READ: Hebrews 9:27-28.
 - a) What was Christ's purpose the first time He came to earth? _____
 - b) What will be His purpose when He comes again? _____

Jesus is the Son of God. READ: John 1:30-34

- 1) What does John call Jesus here? _____
- 2) There are many misunderstandings concerning this expression.
 - a) It does not mean that He was born in the natural way with God as His father and Mary as His mother. Mary was a virgin. He was conceived of the Holy Spirit.
 - b) It does not mean that God adopted Him as a son. He was not born like the rest of humanity. Because of this He was righteous, without sin.
- 3) The meaning of this expression 'the Son of God' is that Jesus had a unique relationship with God and that He came directly

ii) _____

2) How did Satan tempt Eve? Read the passage verse by verse and notice the five steps Satan uses.

- a) _____

- b) _____

- c) _____

- d) _____

- e) _____

Part 2: Sin

1) READ: Genesis 3:6.

a) What were the three things that attracted Eve to break her obedience to God?

- i) _____
- ii) _____
- iii) _____

b) Are these things bad? _____

c) What did Eve do after she ate?

d) It is not only adultery, stealing, and killing that are sins. Anything that is disobedience to God is sin. Anything before

God in our lives is sin. The root of the problem is not disobedience, but lack of faith and confidence in the Word of God ('Don't eat from the tree or you will die').

Adam and Eve did not believe what God said about the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. If man's problem is bad works, what is the solution? _____ If man's problem is lack of faith, what is the solution? _____ The focus of the true believer is faith in God's word.

Part 3: The Punishment and Consequences of Sin

1) READ: Genesis 2:17: Punishment

God is holy. He cannot accept sin in spite of His great love for man. This does not mean that God abandons us.

- a) What is the punishment if man disobeys God? _____
- b) Death is the only punishment or recompense for disobedience and sin. But there are three types of death:
 - i) Spiritual death: Separation from God.
 - ii) Physical death: The age of man is limited.
 - iii) Eternal death: Damnation in hell for eternity with no hope for reconciliation with God. READ: 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9.

2) READ: Genesis 3:7: The Feeling of Guilt.

- a) What does it mean that their eyes were opened after the fall into sin? _____

- b) What did they do to try to cover their shame? _____

3) READ: Genesis 3:8-9: Destruction of the Relationship Between God and man.

- a) What was God's question? _____ This was not because God did not know where man was, but because the close relationship between God and man had been broken.

1) What are some of the attributes of God's Word we discover in these verses? (Read again if necessary.)

- a) The Word of God is _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____

2) If the Word of God became a person, who do you think that was? _____

3) What does it mean that Jesus is the Word of God? _____

4) The Word of God must have authority in our lives. This is why we accept Christ not only as Saviour, but also as Lord. He has authority.

Jesus is the Life. READ: John 1:4.

1) READ: John 6:35.

- a) Who is the Bread of Life? _____
- b) What does Jesus mean when He says that we will never be hungry or thirsty? Does He mean physically? _____

2) READ: John 6:51.

- a) Where did Jesus come from? _____
- b) What will we receive if we eat this bread from heaven? _____

- c) What is this bread? _____
- d) This is symbolic. It refers to accepting Christ as Saviour.

The important point here is that Jesus is Life. There is no eternal life apart from Jesus.

Discovery 5

WHO IS JESUS?

Bible Texts: John 1

Introduction

Review of lessons 1 -4.

Lesson 1: How did God create the world? _____

Lesson 2: How did the world become so bad? _____

Lesson 3: What was the purpose of the Old Testament Law and Prophets? _____

Lesson 4: What does the Law teach us about redemption? _____

What was the theme of the prophets? _____

The Bible tells us that the Messiah is the solution to all of our problems. But to understand the solution, we must understand the problem: sin. This has been our main focus. Man is not able to remove the guilt of his sin by religion or good works.

Today's lesson is a simple introduction to the Messiah. We cannot say everything. However, we must remember that the entire Bible, even what was written before the Messiah's birth, was written about Him. He is the focus and the center of the Bible. He is the focus and center of our faith. John 1 gives us five titles for Christ the Messiah. We shall study these titles today.

Titles for Christ in John 1

Jesus is the Word of God. READ: John 1:1-3, 14.

The most important word in this section is 'word'. A word is an important part of the way in which understanding is established between people. How could we understand one another without words? God communicates to us through His Word.

b) Why were Adam and Eve hiding? _____

c) Do you see anything that points to the value of man? _____

4) READ: Genesis 3:11-12: Blame in the Relationship Between Husband and Wife.

a) What was Adam's response? _____

b) Who else did he blame? _____

5) READ: Genesis 3:16-19: Some specific results.

a) What are the specific curses against men and women?

i) _____

ii) _____

iii) _____

b) Have these things affected you? _____

6) READ: Genesis 3:22-24: Banishment

a) What did God do to Adam and Eve? _____

b) Why? _____

c) By being banished from the Garden, man was being banished from three things:

i) The presence of God.

ii) The Tree of Life (eternal life).

iii) The perfect life/environment in the Garden of Eden.

Part 4: The Promise of Reconciliation

Compare the condition of the world before and after the fall. Everything changed. However, one thing did not change: God's love for man. There are two things that reveal God's love for man: a promise and a provision.

1) READ: Genesis 3:14-15: The Promise.

- a) What is the prophecy here? _____

- b) Who is the offspring of Eve mentioned? _____
- c) When did Satan strike Jesus? _____
- d) When did Jesus crush Satan? _____
- e) Notice that Satan will only strike the heel of the Messiah, but the Messiah will crush Satan's head.

This prophecy is a promise to all mankind that God will defeat Satan and overcome the effects of sin in our lives. It is a promise that even though we are far from God because of sin, God will reconcile us to Himself someday.

2) READ: Genesis 3:21: The Provision.

- a) What did God do for Adam and Eve? _____
- b) Why did God give them clothes made of animal skin rather than clothes made of leaves? Two reasons:
 - i) _____
 - ii) _____

Application:

- a) How many sins did Adam and Eve commit? _____.
- b) How many good works did God say they had to do to return?

The following prophecies from Isaiah help us to understand this:

- a) READ: Isaiah 52:13. Who is the servant? _____
- b) READ: Isaiah 52:14-15. How does Isaiah describe Christ's body? _____

- c) READ: Isaiah 53:1-3. Describe the physical appearance of the Messiah. Even today people do not recognize the greatness of the Messiah. They think He is only a prophet or teacher.
- d) READ: Isaiah 53:4-5. Why did the Messiah die? _____
- e) READ: Isaiah 53:6. How are we like sheep? _____
- f) READ: Isaiah 53:7-8. How is Christ like a lamb? _____
- g) READ: Isaiah 53:9. What is the prophecy here? _____
- h) READ: Isaiah 53:10. What is a guilt offering? _____
- i) READ: Isaiah 53:11-12. What are the results of the Messiah's suffering? _____

Homework:

READ: John 18 and 19. Notice the similarities between the prophecies of Christ's crucifixion in Isaiah 53 and the actual crucifixion as described in John 18 and 19.

Closing

- 1) Both the Law and the Prophets point forward to Christ.
- 2) The Law teaches us that without the shedding of blood there can be no forgiveness for sin. This is the justice of God.
- 3) The Prophets teach us that God will send a final, perfect sacrifice, Christ. This is the mercy of God.

a) What was the one act of disobedience that brought death to the world? _____

b) What was the one act of obedience that brought life to the world? _____

c) Through Adam all of the problems of sin entered our lives. Christ brought the solution.

5) READ: Hebrews 9:22.

According to the Bible, there must be the shedding of blood for forgiveness of sins. It is important to highlight the importance blood has in the Middle East:

a) When a group of people go out to greet the president or king of a middle eastern country, they yell with one voice, “By spirit, by blood, we redeem you, oh ...” Why blood? Why isn’t it said, ‘By money or by land?’

b) What erases a debt other than blood? Blood revenge still exists in Arab villages. If something shameful happens to a member of a family, especially girls, they take their blood revenge by killing. They will not be satisfied except by blood. Why?

c) Why do people sacrifice on the roof of their houses? Someone told me that it is so God will protect the house! Just as with the Passover, the blood is protection.

d) Where did these traditions come from? _____

6) Prophecies of the coming Messiah. The Law states that there must be a blood sacrifice for forgiveness. It also states that the sacrifice of an animal is not enough (this is why there must be continual sacrifices). But the prophets describe the final, perfect sacrifice.

c) Even today people believe that if they have more good works than bad they can go to heaven. This is not true.

d) John Bunyan: ‘One leak will sink a ship and one sin will destroy a person.’

e) Because of one sin, Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden. Only one sin will block the way to heaven for us as well. Only God can bring us back to our original condition.

Summary:

a) Satan tempts us by decreasing our confidence in the Word of God.

b) Sin has separated us from God.

c) All of the problems we see in the world have come as a result of sin.

d) God has promised to solve the problem of sin, reconcile us to Himself, and overcome death.

Closing:

READ: Romans 5:12; Romans 6:23.

Discovery 3

FUNDAMENTALS OF THE BIBLE

Bible Texts: Various

Introduction: The Purpose of the Lesson:

- 1) To give the student a comprehensive view of the Bible.
- 2) To present the idea of the inspiration of the Bible.

Remember that the goal of the course is to understand who Christ is; but to do this we must understand the Bible since it is the source of our knowledge of Christ.

Structure of the Bible

Some general statements:

- 1) The Bible is divided into two parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament was written before the birth of Christ. The New Testament was written after. Jesus is the link between them.
- 2) A testament is a promise from God. The Old Testament and the New Testament are the same promise but in two forms.
- 3) The whole Bible was written over a period of 1600 years by about 40 authors.
- 4) It was written in different situations: during times of war, happiness, sadness, etc.
- 5) There are different types of literary styles: songs, poetry, history, law, prophecy, and letters.

The Old Testament

- 1) The Old Testament contains the books of Moses, historical books about how God worked in and through the Jews, poetical books including Psalms, and books of the prophets.

Can good works save us? _____

b) READ: Romans 3:20. Can we become righteous through the Law? _____

3) The greatest problem in the world is sin. Because sin is a spiritual problem, we cannot solve it alone. We must depend on God. What is God's solution? This week we will look at the answer in the Old Testament and next week in the New Testament.

God's Plan for Salvation

The Law and the Prophets point forward to Christ.

1) All through the Old Testament we read about the men of God offering sacrifices, e.g. Noah, Abraham, Moses, David. Why are these sacrifices necessary? According to the Law, forgiveness and redemption from sin only comes through the shedding of blood.

2) READ: Leviticus 16:15-19; 29-34. The Day of Atonement.

- a) What was the sacrifice? _____
- b) Why was this sacrificed? _____
- c) What did the sacrifice do? _____
- d) Who was this sacrifice for? _____

3) READ: John 1:29. The Perfect Sacrifice. An animal does not have the same value as a man. Therefore we need a more perfect, final sacrifice.

- a) Who is the lamb that John is referring to? _____
- b) Why did he call Jesus the Lamb of God? Because Jesus Himself was a sacrifice like the Old Testament sacrifices.
- c) For whom was He a sacrifice? _____

4) READ: Romans 5:18.

How could one man be a sacrifice that purifies the whole world?

Discovery 4

REDEMPTION IN THE OLD TESTAMENT/THE NECESSITY OF BLOOD FOR SALVATION

Key Bible Texts: Leviticus 16:15-19; 29-34; Isaiah 52, 53

Introduction

Review Lesson 2.

- 1) What are the consequences of sin?
- 2) Do these things affect our lives today?
- 3) Are you pleased with the world today?
- 4) Man is always looking for a solution to the problem of sin. Today we will be looking at God's solution for the problem of sin.
- 5) We are not looking at a specific event today, but at a subject that can be found throughout the whole Bible from beginning to end: blood sacrifice.

The Problem of Sin

- 1) What God's Word says about sin:
 - a) READ: Psalm 14:3. Does this describe people today? _____
 - b) READ : Psalm 143:2. Who is righteous? _____
 - c) READ: Ecclesiastes 7:20. Who is righteous? _____
 - d) READ: Isaiah 59:2. What is the worst consequence of sin?

- 2) What are some of the things that man has done to solve the problem of sin? _____

 - a) READ: Ephesians 2:8-9. What does it mean to be saved? What are we saved from? _____

- 2) There are 39 books in the Old Testament. Each book is complete on its own.
- 3) The Old Testament was originally written in Hebrew.
- 4) The Jews refer to the Old Testament as the Law and the Prophets. All of the Old Testament books point forward to the coming of the Messiah. READ: Matthew 5:17; John 5:39-40.
- 5) The prophets prophesied details about the Messiah's life to prepare the world for His coming. We will study this later.

The New Testament

- 1) There are 27 books in the New Testament. Each is complete on its own.
- 2) The New Testament was originally written in Greek.
- 3) The New Testament includes the Gospels, Acts, Letters of the Apostles, and Revelation.
 - a) The Gospels give details about the life and teaching of the Messiah.
 - b) Acts tells of the growth of the church in the first century. The focus is on the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers.
 - c) Letters giving believers instructions on the Christian life.
 - d) Revelation: the Second Coming of the Messiah.
- 4) The meaning of the word 'gospel'.
 - a) The gospel is not a doctrine or religion that came down from heaven.
 - b) The gospel is not a means of communication or group of commands or laws about how to go to heaven.
 - c) The word 'gospel' is a Greek word meaning 'good news'. What is this good news? READ: 1 Corinthians 15:3-5. _____

Closing points on the structure of the Bible

- 1) The books of the Bible are powerfully united and arranged and their foundation is Jesus Christ Himself.
- 2) The Old Testament prophesied the coming of the Messiah with amazing detail.
- 3) As for the Gospels, they inform us ‘according to eyewitnesses’ about that coming of the Messiah which prove it to be true.
- 4) The rest of the books of the New Testament inform us about the establishing of the first church and the proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ by the apostles.

The Inspiration of the Bible

- 1) Many people stumble over this point because the language and style of the Bible is different from that of other religious books.
- 2) The main principle that Christians believe concerning the inspiration of the Bible is that God inspired the Bible through the control of the Holy Spirit over the writers who wrote the divine Word. Each of them wrote in his own language but under the direction of the Holy Spirit in facts and words.
- 3) The original Bible was written in Greek and Hebrew . It has been translated into thousands of languages. The English is not an original. It is a translation.
- 4) Has the Bible been corrupted or changed as some people say?
 - a) There are hundreds of copies of the Bible from the first and second centuries. Could all of them have been changed?
 - b) If there are mistakes in the Bible, this means one of two things:
 - i) God made a mistake (impossible).
 - ii) The Bible is not nor has it ever been the Word of God.
 - c) God protects His Word. READ: Isaiah 40:8.
- 5) How then was the Bible written? READ: 2 Peter 1:21.

- a) All of the writers wrote under the control of the Holy Spirit. Their words are the words of God.
- b) God respected the personality of the writer. Even though God respected the personality, the Holy Spirit led the writer.
- c) Each writer wrote in the language of the people because God was concerned that the people understand His Word.

The Purpose of the Bible

- 1) The focus of Christianity is not a book. It is a person: Jesus.
- 2) The Bible is the written Word of God, but Jesus is the living Word of God.
- 3) The purpose of the Bible is to lead us to Christ. The Bible is a door to a personal relationship with God because it leads us to Christ. It is possible to study the Bible for years and yet not have a personal relationship with God.
- 4) READ: Luke 24:44-45. Jesus ‘opened the minds’ of the disciples so that they could understand that the Scriptures taught about the Christ.
- 5) READ: 2 Timothy 3:16-17.
 - a) Who is the source of the Scriptures? _____
 - b) What is the purpose of Scripture? _____

Closing

READ: Hebrews 1:1-2.

True knowledge of God cannot come through books, but through Christ alone.